

# CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER

VOL. III - ISSUE VIII | APRIL 2024



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

### NEW DESIGNS FOR HOMER LIBRARY CARDS

April 7 - 13 is National Library Week, and we're celebrating big at Homer Public Library! In honor of this, we are unveiling three new library card designs. Choose from Forest, Mountains, Tidepool, or stick with the Classic design when you sign up for a new library card! If you'd like to replace your current card, the cost is \$5.

The new cards were designed by local artist Rachel Tussey and complement her existing artwork on BOB the Bookmobile.



- New Designs for Homer Library Cards
- Library Events
- Community Corner
- Community Recreation
- City Hall
- Clerks
- Community Development
- Port & Harbor
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Public Works
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and see the latest City project updates information! Learn about ways community members can get involved at City Hall and in the Homer community.

### CELEBRATION OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Come support the Friends of Homer Library for a Celebration of Lifelong Learning event at the Homer Public Library. Enjoy appetizers from Tickled Pear, live music, a trivia tree, a silent auction, entertainment, awards and desserts from BB's Bakery.

**When:** Saturday, April 20, at 6:00 pm

**Where:** Homer Public Library, 500 Hazel Ave.

**Tickets:** \$40, Available at the library's front desk starting April 1

### Follow us on Social Media

- City Hall: [@cityofhomerak](#)
- Parks & Recreation: [@homerparksandrec](#)
- Homer Public Library: [@homerpubliclibrary](#)
- Homer Police: [@homerpolice](#)
- Fire Department: [@HomerVolFireDept](#)

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# LIBRARY EVENTS

## VIRTUAL AUTHOR TALKS

Zoom in and listen to your favorite authors talk about their latest books. For a complete list of Upcoming Speakers, go to [libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming](http://libraryc.org/homerlibrary/upcoming).

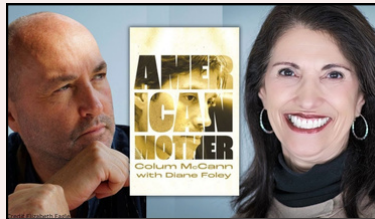
### April 2 at 10 am

The Foods, People, and Innovations That Feed Us—A Sweeping History of Food and Culture with Smithsonian Curator **Paula J. Johnson**



### April 9 at 10 am

From Murder to Atonement—Confronting My Son’s Killer with **Diane Foley & Colum McCann**



### April 17 at 4 pm

A Literary Examination of Power, Love, and Art with **Xochitl Gonzalez**



## SPECIAL & ONGOING EVENTS



### Councilmember Conversations

Noon to 1 pm, the second Tuesday of each month, September - May, at the Homer Public Library.

### April 9: Donna Aderhold

### Lit Lineup 2024

The Homer Public Library has created a community-wide initiative to read fifteen books throughout the year.

View the list and submit entries [here](#). You could be eligible to win the grand prize!



Check out more library programs and events



**Homer Public Library**  
500 Hazel Street - 907-235-3180  
[circ@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:circ@ci.homer.ak.us)  
[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library)



# COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

## 32nd Annual Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival May 8 - 12, 2024

Experience the joy of Spring's return and the migration of birds along the picturesque shores of Kachemak Bay during the Shorebird Festival.



Homer stands out as one of Alaska's premier locations for witnessing the awe-inspiring sight of thousands of shorebirds.

The four-day Festival embodies a cherished Homer tradition, celebrating the birds' return with many enriching activities. From seminars and workshops to children's activities and guided tours, there are birding opportunities suited for individuals of all ages and skill levels. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned enthusiast, there's something for everyone.

Explore further and secure your spot for festival events by going to [kachemakshorebird.org](http://kachemakshorebird.org).



[Register and Buy Tickets](#)



[Download a Program of Events](#)

## Homer Steps Up - May 1 - 28, 2024 - FREE Event Organized by South Peninsula Hospital

The City of Homer is proud to co-sponsor the Homer Steps Up challenge, again! You too can register in groups to help our community stay active and healthy.

**Registration opens April 1st** for this FREE event running from May 1st to 28th, open to all residents of the Southern Kenai Peninsula. Form teams of 5-25 members and track your steps using a fitness tracker, smartphone, or manual entry.

Walk to Win! Weekly drawings for prizes, end-of-challenge cash prize drawings, and \$500, \$300, or \$200 to donate to your team's local non-profit of choice!



For more information and to register, visit:



[homerstepsup.com](http://homerstepsup.com)

# COMMUNITY RECREATION

## INLET WINDS COMMUNITY BAND FREE CONCERT

A performance you don't want to miss! The Inlet Winds Community Band invites you to the Mariner Theater at Homer High School on Saturday, April 13 at 7pm for a FREE performance.

Under the guidance of Co-Directors Mary and Eric Simondsen, local adult and high school musicians have dedicated themselves to months of practice to prepare a captivating program of songs.

**When:** Saturday, April 13, 7:00 pm

**Where:** Homer High School, Mariner Theater

**Fee:** FREE

### Program

**Fanfare -HAYABUSA** -Satoshi Yagisawa

**Watchman Tell Us of the Night** -Mark Camphouse

**Rollo Takes a Walk** -David Maslanka

-Intermission-

**Armenian Dances** -Loris Chobanian

**The Rowan Tree** -Randall Standridge

**March from Symphonic Metamorphosis** -Paul Hindemith



## SUCCESSFUL PICKLEBALL INJURY PREVENTION CLINIC

Preventing injury in pickleball is important to enjoy the game and participate in the sport for the long term.

Staff from our local Summit Physical Therapy generously volunteered their time and expertise to instruct community members on injury prevention while playing pickleball. A total of 18 individuals attended the 2-hour clinic at the HERC gym and found it very beneficial. Summit Physical Therapy brought their own equipment and led participants through dynamic warm-ups, targeted stretches, agility exercises, and much more. They also provided portable cold wrap machines, kinesiology tape, massage guns, and other tools.



Pickleball Injury Prevention Clinic Attendees with Summit Physical Therapy Staff

A big thanks to Summit Physical Therapy, and we look forward to offering more preventive sessions in the future.

# CITY HALL

## SISTER CITY ART EXHIBIT AT THE PRATT MUSEUM



2024 marks the City of Homer's 40th Anniversary as a Sister City with Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan. Established April 7, 1984, Teshio and Homer have enjoyed a profound camaraderie and sharing of families, student exchanges, ideals, and memorabilia.

As part of our community's 40-year celebration, eighteen pieces of art that Teshio has generously gifted the City over the years will be on display in the Main Lobby of the Pratt Museum from **May 1 to September 7**.

This exhibit provides an opportunity to learn more about our Sister City, foster a stronger connection with Teshio, and view these cherished pieces that are part of the City of Homer's Municipal Art Collection.

A First Friday Exhibition will be held **Friday, May 3rd** at 4:00 pm and will be free to the public.

More info on the [Sister City Program](#) and the [Municipal Art Collection](#) can be found on the City of Homer website.

## TOMODACHI TAIKO DRUMMING EVENT

Mark your calendars for an exciting event as part of the 40th Sister City Anniversary celebrations! The City of Homer and the Alaska Japanese Club are thrilled to invite the Tomodachi Taiko Association to bring the rhythms of Japanese Taiko drumming to Homer High School's Mariner Theater on **May 4th**. Join us for a performance featuring 12 drummers from Anchorage and Japan and immerse yourself in the peaceful yet powerful beats of this ancient art form. Additionally, students from the Alaska Japanese Club will showcase their own skills in special Taiko performances throughout the day.

The Japanese Club students have been working hard to create drums since September. They have made 30 cardboard drums, a 50-gallon Taiko drum, and 30 pairs of Taiko drum sticks called bachi. They have been rehearsing twice a week to prepare for this special event. The students will also perform on **April 19th** for the Jubilee Youth Performing Arts Show at Homer Mariner Theater.



Taiko Drum



Japanese Club students with homemade Taiko drums participating in Homer's Winter Carnival

Japanese Taiko drums are traditional percussion instruments that originated in Japan centuries ago. They are characterized by their large size and deep, resonant tones, which are produced by striking the drumheads with wooden sticks called bachi. Taiko drumming is not just about the music; it's a cultural art form that embodies strength, unity, and spirited performances.

Don't miss the unique opportunity to learn how to build Japanese Taiko drums at our drum making workshop on **Friday evening, May 3rd**! Stay tuned for further event details, which will be posted on the City of Homer website and social media. Mark your calendars and get ready to experience the energy of Taiko drumming like never before!

# CLERKS

## HOW TO RUN FOR ELECTED OFFICE EVENT

Are you interested in running for public office this year? Or thinking about it for future elections? Maybe you are just curious about the process?

**On Thursday, April 4th, there is a free event on How to Run For Elected Office.**

The event will feature a presentation on how to run for elected office and a Q&A session with a panel of past elected officials. Application and filing materials will be on hand for review. Oh, and don't forget, there will be refreshments too!

**When:** Thursday, April 4th, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

**Where:** Homer City Hall, 491 E Pioneer Avenue

**More Info:** Facebook [@kpvotes](#), Instagram [@kpvotes](#), email [kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com](mailto:kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com), or call 907-299-2517

Thanks to Kenai Peninsula Votes and the League of Women Voters on the Kenai who are sponsoring this event with the City of Homer.

### Why is it important to run for Public Office?

Participation in public service is essential for a thriving society and community. Decisions and policies shape what our society looks like now and in the future.

### It's important for these reasons:

#### Representation:

It ensures diverse voices are heard and represented in decision-making.

#### Policy Impact:

Candidates shape policies that affect every aspect of society.

#### Driving Change:

Running empowers individuals to champion causes and drive meaningful change.

#### Accountability:

Elected officials are held accountable for their actions, fostering transparency.

#### Inspiration:

It inspires future generations to engage in civic leadership and public service.

#### Community Resilience:

Builds community engagement and resilience in addressing challenges.

#### Preserving Democracy:

Demonstrates a commitment to upholding democratic values and principles by choosing our leaders through voting.

Running for public office is not just a personal endeavor but a vital civic duty that shapes the future of our communities and nation.

## How to Run For Elected Office

### City - Borough - State

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters on the Kenai, Kenai Peninsula Votes, and the City of Homer

**Thursday,  
April 4th 2024**

Homer City Hall  
491 E Pioneer Ave.  
from 5:30pm - 7:30pm

#### What's covered during the event:

- Presentation on how to run for elected office
- Materials will be available for reference
- Q&A with panel of past elected officials
- Refreshments
- Networking period (time permitting)



For more information: 907-299-2517 - [kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com](mailto:kenaipeninsulavotes@gmail.com)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## HOMER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REWRITE



Community members noting on maps areas of importance.

The City of Homer launched its 2018 Comprehensive Plan at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center on March 28th, drawing a full house of 75-80 participants.

With support from the Anchorage-based consulting group Agnew::Beck, the city is updating its plan, sparking enthusiastic engagement from community members who offered valuable feedback. Shelly Wade, a principal/owner from Agnew::Beck, led discussions on walkability, recreational access, protection of green spaces, and preserving Homer's "small town vibe". Attendees stressed the importance of youth involvement in the rewriting process, as they will be the ones living in Homer in 20 years.

Moving forward, the consulting team plans to continue community engagement through surveys and future visits. Your engagement and ideas got the planning team off to a great start. Let's keep it rolling!

**For ways to get involved, contribute your ideas, and to receive updates, go to [homercomplanupdate.com](https://homercomplanupdate.com).**

## PORT & HARBOR U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY STUDENT VISIT

Homer's Port and Harbor welcomed four Midshipmen students from the Annapolis, Maryland U.S. Naval Academy for a three-day field study on harbor design. The students traveled to Homer as part of their capstone senior design project as ocean engineers. The team selected the Homer Harbor Expansion (HHE) as their final project and reached out through the HHE website to ask questions prior to scheduling the visit. In addition to meeting with our Port and Harbor team and HDR engineers, the students also gathered site-specific data, such as soundings to measure ocean depth, sediment samples, and information on other site characteristics.

The Ocean Engineering Program at the Naval Academy guides students to explore coastal, offshore, underwater, and environmental engineering to address challenges in ocean environments. Students design structures for shore protection, harsh ocean conditions, underwater living (submarines), underwater working systems (cables, pipelines, shipwrecks, etc.), while also tackling pollution and resource management issues.

Homer feels honored to have been chosen by these young professionals to support their studies. Our harbor's captivating and distinctive geography offers a truly special learning environment. We hope that collaborating with these students during their visit will lead to innovative methods that will benefit ours and many other harbors in the future.



Left to Right: Midn 1/C Tanner Cummins, Deputy Harbormaster Aaron Glidden, Midn 1/C Daniel Gantz, Port Director Bryan Hawkins, Midn 1/C Michael Lancaster, Harbormaster Matt Clarke, Midn 1/C Daniel McMann

**Click here to learn more about the U.S. Naval Academy Ocean Engineering Program:**



### Ocean Engineering Major

Ocean Engineering page for Naval Architecture & Ocean Engineering at USNA.edu. Updated Tue Feb 20 14:46:20 EST 2024.

 NavalAcademy

**CLICK HERE** 

# HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

## STUDY UPDATE



Great news for our community!

Federal continuation funds for the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation were included in the Fiscal Year 2025 Presidential budget, which was released to Congress on March 11. Though confirmation of the funding is contingent upon approval from Congress during the budgetary process, this is very positive news. The announcement underscores the USACE's commitment to advancing the General Investigation, as well as the support of the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

The General Investigation study allows us to identify sustainable solutions to meet the escalating demands of maritime transportation across the region and address safety concerns, while balancing environmental stewardship and economic vitality.

The US Corps of Engineers project team will be doing environmental fieldwork this summer utilizing remaining Fiscal Year 2023 study funds. The team's first visit will be in April to coincide with an ecological modeling workshop they are also hosting as part of the study. The City is presently contracting for geophysical survey work to map beneath the seafloor in

the area proposed for the harbor expansion. The survey is expected to begin later in the summer. Completing these two study components will allow the US Army Corps of Engineers to move forward with design work when study activities resume in full.



Keep engaged with the study at [www.homerharborexpan.com](http://www.homerharborexpan.com)

## ALASKA DOT HOMER AIRPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), in cooperation with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is currently engaged in a construction project to rehabilitate and improve Homer Airport runways and taxiways with the goals of extending the service life of the airport, improving safety, and improving airport perimeter access for airport security, maintenance, wildlife hazard management, and airfield rescue operations.



View closure schedule and details about the project on the City of Homer webpage, DOT&PF Homer Airport Improvement Project Info:



<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/airport/dotpf-homer-airport-improvement-project-info>

Stay up to date with DOT&PF's Airport Improvement Project. You can provide public comment via their online comment form.



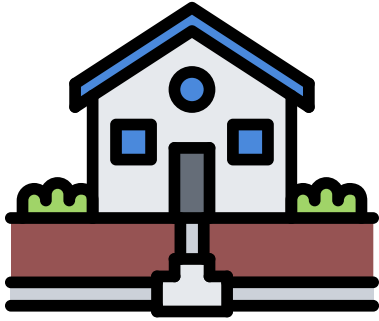
[Homer Airport Improvements - Public Involvement](https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml)

<https://dot.alaska.gov/creg/homerairport/involvement.shtml>

# PUBLIC WORKS

## WATER AND WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM CLEANING

The City of Homer's Water and Wastewater Collections Department needs your help to keep the wastewater collection system clean and operating smoothly! Homeowners and business owners are encouraged to regularly clean their water and sewer lines to prevent pipe damage and clogs, ultimately saving money on costly repairs. Cleaning out these systems pushes debris into the wastewater collection system, which can then be maintained by the City and transported to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



All drainage lines from homes or businesses are linked to the City's collection system. The system consists of water and sewer main pipes, manholes, cleanouts, siphons, lift stations, and key structures, organized into five routes, each receiving annual cleaning. Hydro Jetting is the method used for cleaning, which is a safe and eco-friendly technique utilizing pressurized water and air to eliminate undesirable substances from the system.

Whether from sinks, showers, or toilets, every drain connects to the sewer lines. By maintaining and regularly inspecting systems in your home or business, you contribute to the city's efforts to ensure everything runs well.

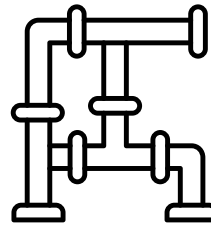


### What you can do:



#### Adopt Good Habits

- Dispose of grease in the trash.
- Use drain strainers.
- Run water regularly.
- Check for leaks.
- Maintain garbage disposals.
- Mindful flushing.
- Use quality cleaning materials.



#### Routine Maintenance:

- Schedule routine inspections every two years.
- Avoiding tree root intrusion on sewer and water lines.
- Install backwater prevention valves.
- Maintain septic systems.

## CITY OF HOMER AWARDED EPA AQUARIUS RECOGNITION

The City of Homer is incredibly proud to announce it has been awarded a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) AQUARIUS Recognition for the Seawall Armor Rock Installation Project. The AQUARIUS Recognition Program nationally recognizes Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funded projects for exceptional focus on six main areas. Homer was chosen for its "Excellence in Climate Change Mitigation and Resiliency."

In May 2021, the City completed a significant erosion defense project partially funded by Alaska's DWSRF Program. Focused on reinforcing an existing seawall with armor rock, the project aimed to combat accelerated erosion along the coastline that threatened property and utility infrastructure. Shoreline erosion rates estimated from historical air photos from 1951 to 2002 averaged about 3.5 feet per year. The seawall constructed in 2004 helps protect properties from erosion.

By enhancing the wall's defense with the installation of armor rock, the project ensures stability to utilities infrastructure, including wastewater in the area, and critical drinking water that supplies residents and businesses in Homer. Overall, the City of Homer took decisive action to prevent water supply failures that would have affected residents, tourists, retail businesses, the Alaska Marine Highway ferry terminal, the fishing industry, hotels, and outdoor enthusiasts that use the Spit as an access point to the wonders of Kachemak Bay.

This award reflects Homer's commitment to environmental stewardship and use of innovative designs to protect our shores from further erosion.



# FIRE DEPARTMENT

## HVFD FIRE ACADEMY

Have you ever considered a career as an emergency responder? The Homer Volunteer Fire Department is looking for dedicated volunteers who are eager to learn.

Be sure to register in time to **attend training from March 25th through July 20th.**

This program equips participants with the essential skills and knowledge needed to excel in firefighting and emergency medical services.

Training will consist of fundamental Fire Fighter I and Fire Fighter II techniques, as well as Hazmat awareness and operations. Recruits gain hands-on experience under the guidance of experienced instructors.

For those looking to start a career as a volunteer firefighter or EMT, this training will provide a pathway for you to make a meaningful impact on your community.

Stop by the Homer fire station located at 604 E. Pioneer Ave., or call 907-235-3155 for more information!



## 2024 Fire Academy Take The Next Step

Kick start your career as an emergency responder by becoming a volunteer firefighter or EMT.

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Receive free training when you become a volunteer. Stop by the Homer fire station or call 907-235-3155 for more information! Stop by today.

**Starting March 25th - July 20th**  
HVFD Fire Academy will consist of Firefighter I training, Hazmat awareness, Hazmat operations, and Firefighter II training.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NATIONAL RX TAKE BACK DAY APRIL 27, 2024

For over ten years, the HPD has participated in the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administrations (DEA) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. Last year, over 22 tons of medications were collected from the Pacific Northwest states (Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Idaho) alone.

The take back program aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs while also educating the general public about the potential for medication abuse. We encourage all families, friends and neighbors to participate. Unused prescription drugs can end up in the wrong hands, which can be dangerous and tragic.

At the Homer Police Department, every day is Take Back Day. There is a permanent collection box in the front entrance lobby. Help keep your family and community safe by turning in unneeded medications for proper disposal.





In this section, we aim to keep readers informed about the latest developments in public safety in the community. Whether it's news about crime prevention, emergency preparedness, or updates on local law enforcement activities, we've got you covered. Our goal is to promote a safe and secure environment for all community members and visitors of Homer, and we believe that staying informed is a crucial part of achieving that. Read on to learn more about what's happening in public safety in Homer.

## APRIL IS NATIONAL DISTRACTED DRIVING AWARENESS MONTH

During the month of April, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is raising awareness of the danger of distracted driving. Did you know that distracted driving claimed the lives of 3,522 people in 2021 alone? By being aware and changing habits while on the road can save you a ticket and can save lives.

According to the NHTSA site, “Distracted driving comes in many forms: adjusting the radio or GPS, applying makeup, eating and drinking. But it’s cell phone use — specifically, texting, talking, and social media use — that is the most common distraction. Texting, which includes messaging, is considered the most dangerous type of distracted driving because it combines visual, manual and cognitive distraction.”



### Here are some simple tips for a safer ride:

- Need to text? Pull over in a safe spot. No text or notification is worth risking a life on the road.
- Designate a passenger as your "designated texter" for calls or messages.
- Avoid scrolling through apps while driving. Put your phone out of reach until you arrive.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR MOOSE ENCOUNTERS



It’s that time of year when moose often come to graze where snow has melted. Keep these safety tips in mind if you encounter moose while out on walks, on the trail, in your neighborhood, or while driving.

The Alaska Highway Safety Office offers the following tips to help avoid a deadly confrontation with moose:

- Never feed a moose
- Give moose at least 50 feet. If it doesn't yield as you approach, give it the trail.
- If a moose lays its ears back or its hackles (the hairs on its hump) rise, it's angry or afraid and may charge.
- Moose kick with their front as well as hind feet so we suggest not confronting them directly.
- Don't corner moose into fences or houses.
- If a moose charges, there are few options available to you but it has been suggested by many others to simply get behind a tree. A theory stands that you can run around the trunk faster than the gangly moose.
- Never get between a cow and her calf.

# MEET THE STAFF

## Work Anniversaries

Thank you to the following staff members for your dedication, commitment, and service to the City of Homer!

### March

Names	Dept.	Years
Matt Clarke	Port	23 Years
Elton Anderson	Port	18 Years
Renee Krause	Clerks	17 Years
Mike Parish	Public Works	10 Years
Angie Kalugin	Finance	9 Years
Elizabeth Fischer	Finance	7 Years
Kurt Read	Port	7 Years
Matt Smith	Library	6 Years
Matt Steffy	Planning	6 Years
Amber Baldus	Fire	2 Years
Bill Jirsa	IT	1 Year
Michael de la Torre	Police	1 Year
Kane Graham	Police	1 Year



Roslyn Kriegh

Meet **Roslyn Kriegh** who joined the Port & Harbor in March as Port Property Associate.

Roslyn was born and raised on Kodiak Island. Her husband, Thomas Vanek, is from Ninilchik. They have spent the last 7 years in California and Washington state pursuing education and supporting their extended family.

Homer is where they always planned to return, she says, “near our families and in the state we adore. We couldn’t imagine a better place to establish our futures.”

Although Roslyn is still settling into her position, she has been enjoying her interactions with everyone and their excitement for the upcoming season! Outside of work she has several hobbies including a passion for ornithology, animal husbandry, freshwater aquariums, and chickens. Ask her to learn more!

## Welcome to the Team!



We want to extend a warm welcome to **Bradley Gullikson**, who joins the Homer Police Department as a Police Officer. Bradley comes to us from the Alaska State Troopers and brings valuable knowledge and experience to the team.

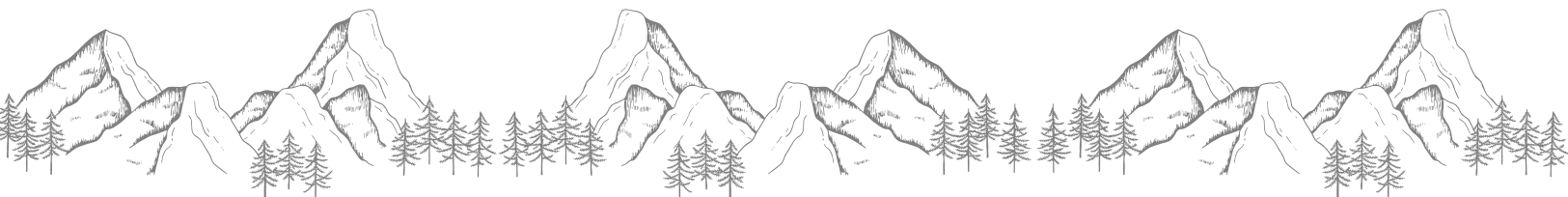


Stephen Overdorf

**Stephen Overdorf** joins Public Works as a full-time Equipment Operator Apprentice. Stephen has worked the last two seasons as a winter temp, working with Airport Building Maintenance.

Stephen came to Homer from Kenai in January of 2000 and was actually a part of the crew that built the Fish Factory in Homer. In his spare time, he works with his sawmill and maintains his hobby farm with goats and a garden.

When asked about what he likes most about Homer, he says, “It’s the best place on earth!” We can agree on that.



# CITY OF HOMER ROSTER

**Mayor** - Ken Castner (2024)

## City Council

Donna Aderhold (2024)

Jason Davis (2025)

Shelley Erickson (2024)

Storm P. Hansen (2025)

Rachel Lord (2026)

Caroline Venuti (2026)

## City Staff Leadership

Melissa Jacobsen, Acting City Manager, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy  
Director of Administration

Mark Robl, Chief of Police

Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer

Julie Engebretsen, Director of Community Development

Elizabeth Walton, Finance Director

Mark Kirko, Fire Chief

Dave Berry, Library Director

Andrea Browning, Personnel Director

Bryan Hawkins, Port Director

Dan Kort, Public Works Director

Ryan Foster, City Planner

Mike Illg, Community Recreation Manager

## Commissions and Boards

ADA Advisory Board

Economic Development Advisory Commission

Library Advisory Board

Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission

Planning Commission

Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

# MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Fireweed Wall Mural by Josh Nordstrom - City Hall



Pocket Pebble by Melisse Reichman -  
Boathouse Pavilion on the Spit

Learn more about the municipal art collection at:

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/  
prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/prac/city-homer-municipal-art-collection)

## STAY CONNECTED TO CITY COUNCIL

Go to [cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council](http://cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/stay-connected-city-council) to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### April

- |    |         |  |
|----|---------|--|
| 1  | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |
| 3  | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession                                      |
| 3  | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting                                  |
| 9  | 6:00 pm | Economic Development Advisory Commission Regular Meeting             |
| 11 | 4:00 pm | ADA Advisory Board   |
| 15 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |
| 16 | 5:30 pm | Library Advisory Board Regular Meeting                               |
| 17 | 5:30 pm | Planning Commission Worksession                                      |
| 17 | 6:30 pm | Planning Commission Regular Meeting                                  |
| 18 | 5:30 pm | Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission Regular Meeting |
| 24 | 5:30 pm | Port & Harbor Advisory Commission Regular Meeting                    |
| 29 | 3:30 pm | Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Regular Meeting                |



## JOIN OUR TEAM

- Find current job listings for the City of Homer
- Sign up for Job Alerts
- Apply Online at: [cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs](http://cityofhomerak.applicantpro.com/jobs)

**ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER**  
The City of Homer Newsletter is published monthly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at [citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us](mailto:citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us).

## City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603  
907-235-8121

[www.cityofhomer-ak.gov](http://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov)