

CITY OF HOMER NEWSLETTER

SUMMER | 2024



WHAT'S INSIDE?

NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

CITY HOSTS KEY LEGISLATIVE STAFFERS

The City was honored to welcome four distinguished legislative staffers on the afternoon of June 26. Our guests included Elaina Spraker, Regional Director for U.S. Senator Dan Sullivan; Tanya Lauteret, Regional Special Assistant for U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski; Jill Schaefer, Director of the Kenai Peninsula Office of Governor Dunleavy; and Liz Williams, Director of Correspondence and Constituent Relations for the Office of the Governor in Juneau.



(left) Bryan Hawkins, Port Director, Elaina Spraker, Jill Schaefer, Liz Williams, Tanya Lauteret, and Melissa Jacobsen, Interim City Manager.



(right) Bryan Hawkins discussing areas on the Spit experiencing high rates of coastal erosion.

These regional directors play a crucial role as liaisons between constituents and elected officials, ensuring that the voices of Kenai Peninsula residents are heard in Juneau and Washington, D.C. Their visit provided an opportunity to discuss topics of mutual concern such as housing shortages and to update the Directors on City initiatives like the Homer Harbor Expansion, the need for sidewalk facilities on State roads, Spit erosion mitigation and harbor float replacement, among others. Ms. Williams, who assists in drafting letters of support for the Governor's Office, took particular interest in learning first-hand about Homer's recent grant-related projects for which she helped write letters of support.

We appreciate the time together to strengthen our working relationships and, again, extend our thanks for their commitment to and on-going efforts on behalf of the entire Kenai Peninsula.

- City Hosts Legislative Staffers
- Library Events
- Community Corner
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- City Hall
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- Public Works
- Harbor Expansion Study Update
- Police Department
- Fire Department
- Public Safety Corner
- Meet City Staff
- Municipal Art Collection
- Stay Connected with City Council

Discover something new today and stay informed with the latest updates on city projects! Discover how you can engage with City Hall and get involved in our wonderful community.

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

SPECIAL & ONGOING 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 library.org/homerlibrary/upcoming.

TAKE THE LIBRARY SURVEY!

We want your thoughts. Take the Library Needs Survey, which is available through **July 31st**.

[Click Here to Take the Survey](#)

THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM IS UP AND RUNNING!

June 1 - July 26

There are dozens of events scheduled through the end of July. Adults and kids alike are welcome to sign up at the front desk in the library.

View upcoming events **HERE**:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library/summer-hpl-2024



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
www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/library



COMMUNITY CORNER

What's happening around the City of Homer

CITY OF PEONIES - HOMER, AK

July 1-30, 2024

Take a Walking Tour of Homer
Book a Tour at Local Participating Peony Farms

Experience magnificent peony blossoms and peony-themed art exhibitions, products, and special events.

www.homerak.org/events

HIGHLAND GAMES

Saturday, July 6 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Karen Hornaday Park
Admission: \$10 per adult
Kids under 16 enter FREE with a paying adult!

www.kachemakbayscottishclub.org

4TH OF JULY PARADE

Thursday, July 4 | 3:00 pm | Pioneer Avenue

The theme this year is "Historical Homer". Embrace the theme by dressing in costumes!

www.homerak.org/events

Come out for the July 4 parade and see BOB the bookmobile go by!



CLERKS ELECTIONS



Voting in local elections is essential for building a community that reflects your values and priorities. Your participation ensures that local leaders address issues like education, public safety, and infrastructure based on the needs of residents, making a tangible difference in your everyday life.

Homer Elections

The Mayor and two City Council seats will be on the October 1st City ballot this year.

City voting information can be found at:

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/cityclerk/election-information

July 22 - Candidacy filing forms will be available at City Clerks Office.

August 1 – 15 - Candidacy filing period (Forms must be received at the Clerk's Office by 4:30 pm on Aug 15.)

**** Register to Vote by September 1 ****

Register to vote online at www.elections.alaska.gov or in person at the City Clerk's office.

September 16 – Absentee in person voting begins at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers.

Ballot by Mail – apply online at my.kpb.us/vote or in person at the City Clerks Office.

October 1 – Election Day

State Primary and General Elections

**** Register to Vote by July 21 ****

Register to vote online at

www.elections.alaska.gov/voter-information, or in person at the City Clerk's office.

State Primary

August 5 – Start of Absentee and Early Voting period (Held at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers)

Ballot by Mail – apply online at

www.elections.alaska.gov/voter-information or in person at the City Clerks Office.

August 20 – State Primary Election

General Elections

October 21 – Start of Absentee and Early Voting period (Held at City Hall Cowles Council Chambers)

Ballot by Mail – apply online at

www.elections.alaska.gov/voter-information, or in person at the City Clerks Office.

November 5 – General Election

ELECTORAL AND PUBLIC INFORMATION SIGNS



Elections are coming up! And with that comes Election signs. It's important for candidates and their supporters to remember a few key points about displaying signs. We're also seeing other signs popping up with a similar appearance to electoral signs, but that are actually a public information type sign.

Homer City Code 21.60.095 guidelines are:

- An electoral sign is any sign used to advertise or promote a political party, or the election or defeat of a candidate initiative, referendum or proposition at an election. Signs need to follow these guidelines:
 - Can be placed on private property with the permission of the owner
 - Must not impede visibility for turning vehicles
 - Can be a maximum of 16 square feet in area (per side if double sided)
 - May be placed up to 60 days prior to an election and removed within 7 days after
 - Cannot be placed within 200 feet of a polling place
- A public sign is an off-premises sign that offers directions or information, identifies public facilities, or designates districts within the city. There are specific rules for public signs in **Homer City Code** 21.60.097.
 - No public sign is allowed without a permit from the City.

For more information, contact the Planning Department at planning@ci.homer.ak.us.

Alaska Department of Transportation also regulates the placement of political signs in State rights-of-way, which in Homer includes the Sterling Highway to the end of the Spit, East End Road, and Diamond Ridge Road over the ridge to East Skyline, as well as East Hill, West Hill, and Kachemak Drive. To learn the limitations of advertising along Alaska roads and highways go to <https://dot.alaska.gov/stwddes/dcsrow/campaignsigns.shtml>.

CITY HALL

SISTER CITY CELEBRATIONS

On the weekend of May 3rd and 4th, the community celebrated the 40th Sister City Anniversary between Homer and Teshio, Hokkaido, Japan, featuring a series of events highlighting cultural exchange and community unity.

The celebrations commenced on Friday, May 3rd, with the opening of an exhibit at the Pratt Museum displaying “40 Years of Gifts from Teshio.” This coincided with First Friday at the Museum. The museum exhibit will be on display from May 1st to September 7th. There was a good turnout, and many encouraging comments about the exhibit.



The Pratt Museum Exhibit of “40 Years of Gifts from Teshio”



Stretching of Drum Skin



Frank Jeffries, from Tomodachi Daiko, demonstrates building a Taiko Drum

On Saturday, May 4th, there were three different performances by Tomodachi Daiko at Homer High School Mariner Theater. Thirteen performers traveled down from Anchorage to participate. An interactive drumming workshop was also featured, allowing audience members to come up on stage to learn how to drum on the Taiko drums and participate in a performance with Tomodachi Daiko. Students from the Alaska Japanese Club in Homer also showcased their talents, using their handmade cardboard Taiko drums and performing a special song during the workshop.

The events were a big hit, thanks to the efforts of volunteers and community members. We look forward to more celebrations in the future!

After the museum event, there was a Taiko drum workshop at Kachemak Bay Campus led by Frank Jeffries and Jackie Holzman, who are members of the Tomodachi Daiko group from Anchorage. Attendees built traditional Japanese Taiko drums and enjoyed a potluck. There were over 30 attendees, and the children especially loved participating!



Tomodachi Daiko, Inc. Taiko Drum and Music Performers at Homer High School Mariner Theater

SPIT CLEAN UP DAY



On May 11th, the City of Homer staff participated in a Spit Clean-Up Day to promote picking up trash and beautifying the Port & Harbor area. Beautifying the Spit not only supports local tourism and recreational activities but also bolsters businesses and improves the overall quality of life in Homer.

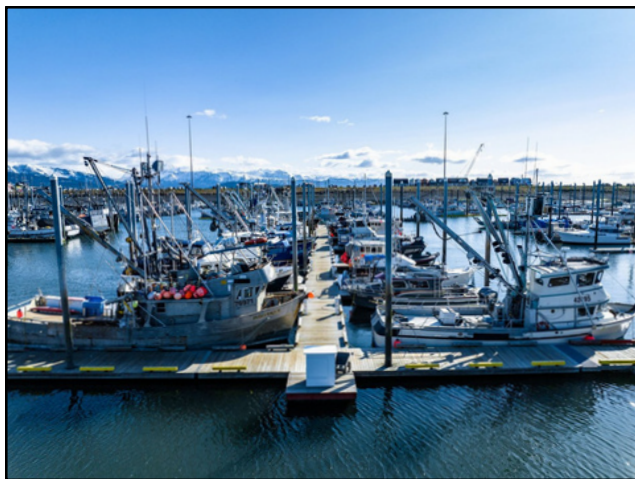
You can help too! If you see trash, pick it up! Every small effort makes a big difference in keeping our surroundings clean and welcoming for all.

Dan & Jill Kort with Neville, Mariah Hendricksen, Samantha Jacobsen, Melissa Jacobsen, Aaron Glidden, Sean Love, and Todd Cook

CITY MANAGER

COMMUNITY DESIGNATED SPENDING REQUESTS

A BIG Thank You to Senator Murkowski and Representative Peltola!



Homer Harbor Float Systems

The City thanks Senator Murkowski for selecting three of Homer's Community Designated Spending requests to move forward for Appropriations Subcommittee consideration. The Senator forwarded the Homer Spit Climate Resiliency Project to the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Subcommittee for funding consideration. The project develops resiliency data and evaluates a range of coastal erosion mitigation measures for the Homer Spit to inform and produce a climate resiliency action plan. The State of Alaska Department of Transportation would be lead investigator in the project with input from the and the US Army Corps of Engineers and City of Homer as partners. She also advanced the A-Frame Water Transmission Main Replacement project to the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and the Design and Permitting phase of the Homer Harbor Critical Float System Replacement project to the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Subcommittee.

The Homer Harbor Critical Float System Replacement project was also among the fifteen FY25 Community Project Funding Requests Representative Mary Sattler Peltola advanced. Funding would help offset the cost of preparing final engineering design, environmental review and permitting to bring the replacement of Float Systems 1 and 4 to shovel-ready status. We are very grateful to Representative Peltola for her support of the Homer Port & Harbor Critical Float Replacement project. By including it among her priority FY25 CPF requests, she has recognized the importance of sustaining the harbor's float systems, which support vital transportation connections and freight deliveries impacting vast expanses of Alaska.

Homer's project selections is great news, but is just one step in a long decision-making process. The next step is for the individual appropriations bills to be drafted, amended and approved by the Appropriations Committees. After that comes floor consideration and bicameral negotiations on final spending levels and individual provisions. Senator Murkowski's office said they would keep the City informed as they learn more about which Alaska projects are able to be funded, and at what level, towards the fall.

CITY MANAGER INTERVIEWS

City manager interviews have been underway. Candidates from diverse backgrounds and experiences were evaluated for their suitability to lead the City's administration.

Mayor Ken Castner gathered together a City Manager Hiring Advisory Committee comprised of community members who met on June 7th to review applications, evaluate candidates via a scoring system and make recommendations to City Council. After presenting their recommendations to City Council at the June 17th City Council Special Meeting, City Council narrowed the interview pool to three candidates.

We thank the community volunteers for their dedicated work on behalf of the City, and their valuable feedback to City Council to assist them in selecting the final candidates to be interviewed. On July 1st and 2nd, City Council held special meetings to interview the three selected candidates: Melissa Jacobsen, who is the City's Clerk and current Interim City Manager, Jefferson Dubel, and Randy Robertson. Council will go into executive session after the last interview to determine next steps in the hiring process.



Homer City Hall

COMMUNITY RECREATION

NEW - ONLINE RESERVATIONS



Community Recreation has recently launched a brand-new Parks & Recreation software and app! Now you can book your favorite recreational events and park pavilions, and even make payments online from your phone or computer. It's never been easier to plan your park outings and enjoy activities Homer has to offer.

Scan the QR code on the right or follow this link to check out the new tool! <https://secure.rec1.com/AK/homer-ak/catalog>




TRAIL AUDITS




Back Row: Chad Felice Parks Maintenance Coordinator, Community Walkable Advocate Pat Case, Bradley Parsons, ADA Board Member, Doug O'Brien, ADA Board Member, Front Row: GSI Technician Aaron Yeaton, Nona Safra, ADA Board Member, and Caroline Venuti, City Council/ADA Board Member



COMMUNITY REC'S NEW SOFTWARE IS LIVE!



- SCAN HERE TO ACCESS OUR NEW SOFTWARE.
- CREATE AN ACCOUNT AND SIGN A WAIVER.
- PURCHASE MEMBERSHIP OF CHOICE.
- "CHECK IN" EVERYTIME YOU JOIN A DROP IN CLASS.
- EASILY SIGN UP FOR YOUTH PROGRAMS REMOTELY.
- RENT AND PAY FOR A PAVILION HERE TOO!

SCAN ME

secure.rec1.com/AK/homer-ak/catalog

The City of Homer, in an effort to be accessible to all, is getting ahead of the curve by ensuring city-maintained trails are accessible to those with disabilities. A trail audit group performed final site audits on the Upper Poopdeck Trail and Calhoun Trail on June 18th, completing the Trails segment of the City of Homer Facilities Transition Plan.

Currently, regulations in effect relate to federal outdoor recreational trails only. The City's goal is to ensure that compliant choices are offered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The site audits included measuring width, slope, cross-slope, and identifying obstructions in accordance with ADA Guidelines and Standards for Trails 2023.

Trails audited included the Poopdeck, Beluga Slough, Calhoun, Lucky Shot, and Spit Trails. It was found that upper Calhoun and Karen Hornaday Park Trail were too steep, and it would not be reasonable to include them in the Transition Plan.

By ensuring ADA compliance on its trails, the City of Homer aims to create inclusive outdoor spaces where community members and visitors can fully enjoy recreational activities.

SAFE & HEALTHY KIDS FAIR

Homer's 31st Annual Safe and Healthy Kids Fair was held on Saturday, May 4th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Homer High School's parking lot. It was a free event designed for kids of all ages to promote safety, health, and fun during the summer months. This year's theme was, "May the 4th be with you!". The fair featured over 25 booths with hands-on activities and demonstrations, including a chance to enter a raffle to win a new bike! Attendees could bring their bikes for a free inspection, get fitted for a helmet, and enjoy riding through the bike rodeo course. Entertainment included music by the K.P. Brass Band, visits from Beary the Be Well Bear, a teddy bear clinic, stilt walkers, and more. The event was organized by local organizations and emphasized youth safety and wellness with the motto "Be safe, have fun, do good, and pass it on!"

Over 200 kids entered the bike raffle this year, and there were 4 BIG WINNERS! The bikes were generously donated from the Homer Volunteer Fire Department, Sprout Family Services, Seldovia Village Tribe, and South Peninsula Hospital. What an awesome turnout! We hope the winners enjoy their new bikes and stay safe during their summer adventures!



A huge thanks to the Safe & Healthy Kids Fair Committee!!

(from left to right)
 Annie Garay - South Peninsula Hospital
 Rudy Multz - South Peninsula Behavioral Health Center
 Amber Baldus - Homer Volunteer Fire Department
 Red Asselin - SPROUT
 Jonathan Raymond- Homer Community Recreation
 Mike Illg - Homer Community Recreation
 Kathy Vogl - Homer Community Recreation



Amber Baldus from HVFD helps to fit helmets.



Julie Engebretsen and Councilmember Rachel Lord hand out seed packets to "Help our community grow!"



BOB the Bookmobile



Win a Bike!



Homer Volunteer Fire Department and Kachemak Emergency Services teach kids about safety.

PUBLIC WORKS

CURRENT PROJECTS

Our Public Works Department has been hard at work these past few months! Despite facing late-season snowstorms and a challenging spring, they've been busy catching up on essential tasks beyond their usual duties of permitting construction projects, providing clean water, and managing wastewater.

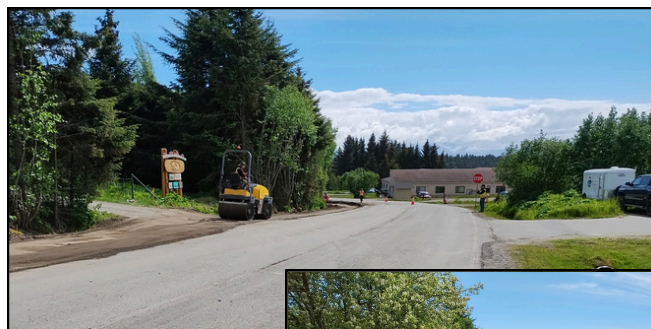
Here's what they've been up to:

- Sweeping winter sand off paved streets
- Grading roads
- Sealing cracks on roads
- Applying calcium chloride to gravel roads for dust control
- Cleaning storm drains
- Replenishing the salted sand pile for next winter

And they're not done yet! Planned work for the summer includes:

- Road and sidewalk painting
- Frost boil repairs on roads
- Storm drainage improvements
- Right-of-way clearing

We're grateful for Public Works and their hard work in maintaining our community!



Ben Walters Way
Sidewalk
Installation



WATER AND WASTEWATER COLLECTIONS SYSTEM CLEANING

Dates and Schedule

Water system flushing started in May and will continue through October 2024.

Areas Affected

Flushing will be systematically conducted throughout the city, including residential and commercial areas. During this period, please note that your water supply may experience temporary discoloration or a slight drop in pressure.

Impact on Water Supply

While we carry out the flushing process, you may experience brief interruptions in your water supply. However, these disruptions should be minimal and temporary, typically lasting for just a few minutes. We appreciate your understanding during this necessary maintenance activity.

Water Quality

The flushing process plays a vital role in removing sediment and mineral deposits that naturally accumulate in water mains over time. It is possible that the water may appear discolored or contain small particles during flushing. If your water becomes cloudy or discolored, flush water until color returns to normal. If water does not become clear, please contact the Public Works Department at 907-235-3170 or via email at publicworks@ci.homer.ak.us to report the matter.



HOMER HARBOR EXPANSION

STUDY UPDATE



We are pleased to report that the Homer Harbor Expansion General Investigation is coming to the end of its slow-down period, thanks to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) who secured Federal funding for the second year of the study through the USACE FY24 Workplan Discretionary Funds. The work plan funds allow the study to resume shortly rather than waiting until FY25 to begin the second year of study activities. Once the allocation is received in the Alaska District, the USACE will readjust the study schedule and re-balance Project Development Team members' work assignments accordingly. The study is projected to resume at regular pace in mid-to-late July.

We are also happy to report that additional State matching funds were included in the State's FY25 Capital Budget. Thanks to Senator Stevens and Representative Vance for their support of the study!



US Corps of Engineers conducting environmental fieldwork.

While we awaited word on Federal continuation funding, study activities slowed but didn't stop in the spring. Members of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Project Development Team were in town monthly beginning in April to conduct environmental fieldwork for the Homer Harbor Navigation Improvements Study. They conducted bottom trawling, beach seining and Environmental DNA (eDNA) sampling to document species in/around the study area. eDNA is the genetic material shed by organisms in the water column. eDNA samples help answer many questions about the water column and seafloor, like what species are present in a particular location, what the biodiversity of the area is, and if any invasive or endangered species are present.

The team will continue fieldwork into early fall to further enhance the understanding of conditions in and around the potential harbor expansion footprint, and compare findings with existing data to see if there is any variance.



The USACE also hosted a two-day Ecological Modeling Workshop (April 11-12) at the Islands & Oceans Visitor Center with Todd Swannack, the co-lead of the USACE Engineer Research Development Center's (ERDC) Ecological Modeling Team. Todd worked with local scientists and members of the Environmental Stakeholders Working Group to identify inputs for developing a modeling tool that will help the USACE analyze proposed Homer Harbor Expansion designs.

The ecological model is a conceptual tool that describes the general functional relationships among essential ecosystem components and tell the story of "how the ecosystem works. The ERDC team is currently refining the model. A big shout out to everyone who participated and for their valuable contributions and collaboration!



Ecological modeling workshop.

The City has been working with a subcontractor to schedule geotechnical investigative work, the results of which will also inform the proposed harbor designs. On tap in July is sub-bottom profiling and a bathymetric survey. USACE folks will also be in town in July to gather data necessary for ship simulation work.

Keep engaged with the study at www.homerharborexansion.com



POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS AWARDED MEDALS FOR BRAVERY



Officer Kellen Stock, Chief Mark Robl, Officer Charles Lee

Chief Robl awarded Officer Kellen Stock and Officer Charles Lee each a Medal for Meritorious Service in recognition of their bravery and swift response.

On the evening of March 6th, the officers responded to a report of a partially submerged vehicle at Bishops Beach. Two juveniles had become stranded after driving onto the beach, where the incoming tide was submerging their vehicle. Officers Stock and Lee located the truck several hundred yards from shore, with water rising over the hood and the vehicle drifting out to sea. They bravely rescued the 8 and 16-year-old occupants and brought them safely to shore, where they were evaluated by medics.

We are immensely grateful to our police officers for their courage in rescuing these individuals!

FIRE DEPARTMENT

June has been a very busy month for the Homer Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD)! We're proud to announce the graduation of two new members from our Fire Academy Course Training. We welcome new employee Paige Jones and volunteer Matthew Bullard to our department.

The HVFD team has been hard at work responding to various incidents, including a home structure fire, a vehicle fire at Homer Harbor, a fire on Lake Street, and a complex vehicle extrication.

Sending a huge thanks to our amazing staff, volunteers, and neighboring fire departments—Kachemak Emergency Services and Western Emergency Services—for their dedication and support in keeping our community safe!



Fire Chief Kirko, Galina Orlova, and Deputy Chief Knowles helping with Fire Academy Course testing day.



Volunteer on Testing Day



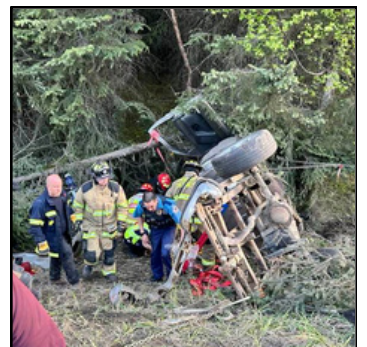
Derek Haws helping two volunteers on testing day.



Home Structure Fire



Vehicle Fire at Homer Harbor



Complex Vehicle Extrication



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.

WILDFIRE PREVENTION

As Summer arrives, higher temperatures and dry conditions make fire prevention especially important, given the increased risk of wildfires in our area.

Burn permits are required year round if you live within Homer city limits. Permits are free-of-charge, are issued for up to one year and can be obtained at the [Homer Volunteer Fire Department](#), Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm or call 907-235-3155.

If you live outside Homer city limits, Division of Forestry (DOF) burn permits are required only from April 1st through the end of August. The DOF small-scale burn permits are good for burning one brush pile, using one burn barrel, or the burning of maintained lawn. You can obtain a State burn permit on-line at the [DOF website](#) or at the DOFHomer office on Kachemak Drive, 235-7734.



Complying with Alaska's burn permit regulations ensures that safe practices are followed and helps protect our community from destructive, human-caused wildfires.



DOF Small Scale Burn Permits are required for burn barrels, burning a maintained lawn of less than 1 acre, and a brush pile of organic material not exceeding 10 feet in diameter by 4 feet in height.



DOF Large Scale Burn Permits are required for any burning of wooded debris that exceeds the size and complexity of the small-scale burn permit including agricultural parcels, land clearing, and logging operations. Additional equipment and site inspection may be required.



Campfires less than 3 feet in diameter do NOT require a Burn Permit.

If you are planning an open burn, please notify your local emergency services station to prevent firefighters being mistakenly dispatched to your controlled burn.

MEET THE STAFF

PROMOTION TO DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF



We extend heartfelt congratulations to **Aaron Knowles** on his well-deserved promotion to Deputy Fire Chief with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department! After a long career as a firefighter in Phoenix, Arizona, Aaron eventually relocated to Homer to slow down a bit and enjoy his time in a smaller community. His desire to help others and ensure his firefighters have the best training available for a safe, fulfilling work environment is reflected in his leadership. Outside of his duties, his hobbies include ice hockey, camping, attending live sports events, and traveling. We thank him for his continued commitment to excellence and look forward to his continued contributions to our community's safety and well-being.

Welcome to the Team!



Kaleb Harvey has joined the Homer team as a full-time Officer. He attended the Police Academy in Sitka for 17 weeks before starting his position with the Homer Police Department. Welcome Kaleb!

Galina Orlova is one of our newest Firefighter/EMTs with the Homer Volunteer Fire Department. She joined the team full-time in May after previously volunteering with the department. Galina moved to Homer in 2018 with her family. She says, "Homer has been so kind to me and my family. My two sons enjoy going to school here and have made lots of friends. It's safe, friendly, and unique, but what I like the most about Homer is its stunning views, of course."



Outside of work, Galina enjoys reading, painting, spending quality time with her family and friends, being outdoors, and playing the piano and ukulele. When asked what she likes most about her job, she says, "I am tremendously lucky to work with the team of wonderful people at HVFD. I love helping people and find comfort in the thought that my actions can make a positive difference in this welcoming, close-knit community." We are happy to have you on the team, Galina!

Work Anniversaries

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

April

Employee	Dept.	Years
Joe Young	Public Works	17
Rick Pitta	Police	15
Erica Hollis	Port	12
Jean Arno	Public Works	10
Jaclyn Arndt	Fire	8
Dave Berry	Library	5
Ricky Borland	Port	5
Aaron Yeaton	Public Works	5
Will Kern	Public Works	3

May

Employee	Dept.	Years
Pike Ainsworth	Port	16
Mike Gilbert	Public Works	10
Sean McGrorty	Port	8
Ralph Skorski	Public Works	6
Taylor Crowder	Police	3
Susan Jeffres	Library	3
Sean Love	Public Works	3
Brenden Fuson	Port	1

June

Employee	Dept.	Years
Melissa Jacobsen	Clerks	20
Mike Illg	Admin	18
Mike Szocinski	Public Works	12
Jessica Poling	Police	7
Bethany Christman	Public Works	5
Russell Anderson	Public Works	5
James Tingley	Public Works	4
Zach Pettit	Clerks	1

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, Interim City Manager, MMC, City Clerk/Deputy
Director of Administration
Mark Robl, Chief of Police
Bill Jirsa, Chief Technology Officer
Julie Engebretsen, Economic Development Manager
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
Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee
Economic Development Advisory Commission
Library Advisory Board
Parks, Art, Recreation and Culture Advisory Commission
Planning Commission
Port and Harbor Advisory Commission

MUNICIPAL ART COLLECTION



Evening Light, Mt McKinley, Alaska
Artist: Sydney Laurence
Oil Paint on Canvas

Located at the Homer Public Library

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 to find instructions on how to listen, provide testimony, and participate in the meetings via Zoom.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

View all meetings on the City's website.

<https://www.cityofhomer-ak.gov/meetings>

City Council: July 1, 2, & 22, Aug. 12 & 26, Sept. 9 & 23

ADA Advisory Board: July 11, Aug. 8,

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee: Aug. 5

Economic Development Advisory Commission: Aug. 13, Sept. 10

Library Advisory Board: Aug. 20, Sept. 17

Parks, Art, Recreation & Culture Advisory Commission: Aug. 15, Sept. 19

Planning Commission: July 17, Aug. 7 & 21, Sept. 4 & 18

Port & Harbor Advisory Commission: July 24, Aug. 28, Sept. 25

City Council Joint Worksession with ADA Advisory Board: Aug. 19



JOIN OUR TEAM

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

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The City of Homer Newsletter is published quarterly. For questions or comments, please contact the Office of the City Manager at citymanager@ci.homer.ak.us

City of Homer

491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer, Alaska 99603

907-235-8121

www.cityofhomer-ak.gov