

Fifty years experience in economic development of Homer

First Subdivision with all underground utilities-
Meadow Wood Place

Land acquisition for
High School
Post Office
College
Hospital

Built Office Building now
City Hall

4 Generations here now
ETC



ALASKA PERFECT

PEONY

We have an **APP** for your special event







Project

or

Policy

Open Mind

Agriculture impacts
Economics
in many ways

Emerald Ash Borer Infestations in the US
Causing devastating urban tree loss

Criminal activities increased with loss of trees

Significant increase in theft, breaking and entering, and property crime incidents, felony and small increases in felony assaults and violent crimes

Recommendation by Cincinnati Crime Experts

Add planting trees to city crime-fighting plans in addition to street lights, neighborhood watch groups and police patrols.

Crime deterrent = budget reduction

Statistics from 2012 Census
Western Kenai Peninsula

With only a tiny percentage of farm acreage compared to rest of state, we comprise 34% of farms selling food direct to consumer and 30% of the peony industry

Between 2007 and 2012 farms selling food direct to consumers and peony farms more than doubled

Flowers have overtaken hay as the Peninsula's most valuable crop, with the top category nursery, greenhouse and flowers followed by hay, livestock and vegetables. Peonies and vegetables are the fastest growing sector.

Increase in # farms selling food direct to consumers **111%**
Increase in # farms growing flowers/nursery crops **156%**
30,000 acres in Farming on Peninsula

UPDATE INDICATES HUGE INCREASES

- 2015 Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District Survey Indicated food producers including fruit, mushrooms, and honey, had increased sales and
- Value added products like salsa, jams and jellies also had increased sales and were making plans to further expend their businesses in 2016.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) have increased dramatically
- Sales to restaurants have increased dramatically
- Increase in # farms from 2007-2012 more than doubled
- Food Hub 2016 Established
- Homer Farmer's Market sold \$80,000 in Market Coins 2016



What will you find at the Homer Farmers Market?

Sprouts/Shoots	Cucumbers	Mustard Greens	Sempo Sai
Apples	Daikon Radish	Napa Cabbage	Sen Posai
Arrowhead Cabbage	Endive	Onions	Shallots
Artichokes	Fennel	Pak Choi	Shitake Mushrooms
Arugula	Flower basket/bouquets	Parsnips	Silver Beet
Asian Greens Mix	Garlic	Peas	Spaghetti Squash
Asparagus	Garlic Scapes	Peppers	Spicy Mesclun
Beet Greens	Green Beans	Portuguese Kale	Spinach
Beets	Green Garlic	Potatoes	Squash
Broccoli	Green Onions	Pumpkins	Squash Blossoms
Brussel Sprouts	Head Lettuce	Radicchio	Strawberries
Cabbage	Kale	Radish	Swiss Chard
Carrots	Kohlrabi	Raspberries	Tatsoi
Cauliflower	Leeks	Rhubarb	Tomatoes
Celeriac	Lettuce	Romaine Lettuce	Turnip Greens
Celery	Mixed Greens	Romanesco Broccoli	Turnips
Collard Greens	Mixed Lettuce Bags	Rutabaga	Zucchini
Corn	Mizuna	Savoy Cabbage	Zucchini Blossoms
	Morels	Savoy Greens	AND MORE...

The Kenai Peninsula Food Hub: Pilot Year 2016

- ▶ An online Farmers Market
- ▶ Producers post online, consumers order online
- ▶ Once a week producers deliver to drop-off location where customers pick up order
- ▶ Drop-off locations in Homer and Soldotna
- ▶ \$20 membership for customers
- ▶ \$40 membership for producers
- ▶ Benefits for producers include sale verified before harvest and group marketing
- ▶ Benefits for consumers include ease of shopping from home and quick and easy pick-up



Top "Sell Out" items

- ▶ **100% of the time sold out**
 - ▶ Carrots
 - ▶ Broccoli
 - ▶ Cucumbers
 - ▶ Spinach
 - ▶ Peppers
 - ▶ Radishes
 - ▶ White turnips
- ▶ **80-95%**
 - ▶ Sugar snap peas
 - ▶ Cherry tomatoes
 - ▶ White cauliflower
 - ▶ Cilantro
 - ▶ Celery
 - ▶ Mushrooms
 - ▶ Salad greens
 - ▶ Beets
 - ▶ Potatoes
 - ▶ Leeks



KENAI PENINSULA FARM BUREAU

2016 Activities

- Fairgrounds at Ninilchik \$1,000
Support FFA and 4H
- Homer, City of Peonies \$1,000
- Alaska Farm Bureau 400 members
\$200,000 budget



Revitalization of Pioneer Avenue, Peonies on Pioneer
Supported by:

- *City Of Homer
- *Bunnell Art Community
- *Homer Economic Development
- *Homer Chamber of Commerce
- *Parks and Recreation
- *Council on the Arts

Peony Festival July 4th
2017 will be in Visitor's Guide
Web site (3 reserved URL's including City of Peonies)
Signage representing Homer, City of Peonies

**Continuation of project started in 2013

New 4 Way
stop

Duncan House
48 Peonies
46 Perennials

Why Important to
Economic Development

Visitors









30 Peonies
Various Perennials

- 2016 addition



Aurora Gems and
Homer Council on the Arts

125 Peonies
Various Perennials

**Arrival/approach
to Pioneer**





Homer Chamber of Commerce
Added 26 peonies to garden started in 2013



Eleven Gardens Completed

Eleven Private
Gardens
Completed

Legislative Office
Duncan House
College
Theatre
Aurora Gems
Homer Council On
The Arts
Grog Shop
Homer Jeans

City of Homer
planted 250 peonies
On Public grounds



Final Design - "City of Peonies"
October, 29, 2016
Submitted by: Abigail Kokai
Email: abigailkokai@gmail.com
Phone: 614.404.0810

Font: Bell Gothic Std, Bold

Full Color



One-color



One-color decal



9/9/2016 Van Wert Peony Festival | 2017 EVENTS

PEONY FESTIVAL 2017

JUNE 2-4 IN FOUNTAIN PARK
VAN WERT, OHIO

HOME FUNDRAISERS 2017 EVENTS CONTACT VISITORS INFORMATION SPONSORS

2017 Schedule of Events

5K Color Run Peony Parade Queen Jubilee Pageant Peony Festival Garden Tours Car Show Registration Forms

Friday Schedule of Events	Saturday Schedule of Events
10:00 am - Festival Information Booth Opens Main & Jefferson Streets	9:00 am - 11:00 am - Kid's Free Fishing Derby YMCA Camp Clay
10:00 am - 6:00 pm - Optimist Youth Art Show Fountain Park	10:00 am - Festival Information Booth Opens Main & Jefferson Streets
11:00 am - 9:00 pm - Peony Festival Craft Show Fountain Park	10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Free Children's Activities & Inflatables Fountain Park
12:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Food Vendors Open South Jefferson Street	10:00 am - 3:00 pm - Girl Scouts Children's Games Jefferson Street
4:00 pm - Peony Festival Concession Stand Opens Fountain Park	11:00 am - 3:00 pm - Peony Festival Garden Tours Various Locations (brochure available at Information Booth)
4:00 pm - Car Show Registration Begins West Main Street	10:00 am - 8:00 pm - Peony Festival Art & Vendor Show Fountain Park
6:00 pm - Peony Festival Car Show West Main Street	11:00 am - 9:00 pm - Food Vendors Open South Jefferson Street
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Friday Night Concert	5:00 pm - Peony Festival Grand Parade Main Street
	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Saturday Night Concert SaMax - Fountain Park

Join us on after the parade for a
FREE
concert in the park - featuring SaMax!





Kenai Peninsula Farm Bureau

Suggested topics/speakers for meetings

Farm Insurance
 Ag in the Classroom
 Farm to School Programs
 Certified Naturally Grown Certification Information
 Farm Bill
 FFA and 4H
 Farm accounting and taxes
 Land tax exemptions
 NRCS and their services
 Using Pesticides—rules
 Growing Asian vegies (high ticket vegies)

Subjects of interest (immediate action)

Video conferencing
 Educating restaurants on how to buy from the farms
 Building a Grower co-op for the Peninsula (vegies)
 Keeping Ranchers connect with the modular slaughter house and MMM
 Support for farmers being threatened with Annexation
 Become more involved with input for the Borough Comprehensive Plan

PROJECTS

USDA GRANTS

Not available directly to end users but available for credited organizations such as Economic Development
 Homer EDC could oversee disbursement etc. for Agriculture related uses

- Public Gardens On City Land
- Sponsor Educational offerings such as Taxes, Accounting, Marketing and other business management subjects for farmers
- Training for forming co-ops—working with restaurants
- (ask your Mayor)

Supporting agriculture through *POLICY* OPPORTUNITIES

example

Today farmers can obtain a Farm Use Assessment for reduction in property taxes

Excellent program except if the land ever changes use from farm to anything else, all reduced taxes as a result of the Farm Use Assessment must be paid back. **Even if it is 100 years from now.**

Support for farmers being threatened with Annexation
Become more involved with input for the Borough Comprehensive Plan in relationship to zoning to protect farm lands

My Goal

Expand Your Horizons

Introduce a *Project* or

Stimulate a *Policy* Interest