

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

April 2023 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

Health and Safety Fair April 28th

- Borough staff is working with multiple partners to put together a comprehensive Health and Safety Fair at the Tri-Valley Community Center on Friday, April 28th. A complete schedule will be forthcoming, and reservations may be made for certain appointments.
- The following activities and information booths are being planned for this event:
 - Vaccination information for families and child immunization plans
 - Free COVID-19 at-home tests and information
 - Blood pressure, bone density scans, and blood panels (*the only service with a cost to participants*)
 - Tobacco cessation resources
 - Suicide intervention and youth mental health first aid
 - Narcan Kit training through Project Hope
 - CPR classes
 - Wilderness health and safety
 - Summer recreation opportunities for kids and adults of all abilities
 - Drunk driving prevention and education
 - Fire Wise and proper protection for spruce bark beetles
 - Emergency Preparedness

DOT Project List for summer 2023

- Parks Hwy. MP 231 Improvements:
 - Final asphalt lift on new travel surface.
 - Construction of new Wayside inside Denali National Park to include restrooms, parking, and trail access.
 - Trail connections and re-routing under the Crabbie's Crossing Bridge on both north and south sides.
- Healy Spur Road Rehabilitation Construction:
 - Resurface and add wide shoulders to both sides of Healy Spur Road from Parks Highway to Carbon Road.
 - Add ditching and drainage features.
 - Travel lanes go from 12 to 11 feet wide with a 35 mph speed limit.
- Parks Hwy MP 206-209 Reconstruction project is in design phase.

Antler Ridge Trailhead Updates

- The borough thanks local teen Izzy Brown who led a project to install a new Dall Sheep Interpretive Kiosk at the Antler Ridge Trailhead. The kiosk looks great and shares relevant information for ridge hikers.
- Summer construction plans for this season are to install the planned vaulted toilets.

Zero Landfill Initiative (ZLI) Update

- This is the last year of the initiative which means that it is also the last of the money to haul the recycling trailers at HTS and CTS. The borough will manage those funds with the hope and expectation that it will carry us through the summer season.
- The ZLI Board plans to transition to a working group and to continue collaboration and information sharing which has been so helpful.

Denali Education Center (DEC) and nearby Unstable Slope

- Borough and DEC staff attended a teleconference hosted by the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management which included other departments and partners such as DNR, DOT, and the National Weather Service.
- Moisture and material seeped down the slope last summer and investigations continue into land ownership, responsibilities, and potential impacts.
- The borough is working with DEC and DHS&EM to schedule a tabletop exercise, working through steps and contingencies should there be a larger hillside movement.

Staffing Moves

- Financial Clerk Sherry Shorey, who is a wonderful team member, is moving on and resigning her position effective early July. The position was posted internally and Administrative Clerk Nicole Dalton, who processes accounts receivables among other duties, expressed interest in the position. She possesses the skills, abilities, and qualifications and we are pleased to have Nicole transition to the duties of Financial Clerk. We will be posting the Administrative Clerk position soon to allow for crossing training time and opportunity.

Staff Trainings

- Emergency Manager Forest Shreeve will be attending the National Preparedness Symposium at the FEMA Institute in Emmitsburg, MD.

Financial Risk Exposure

- With troubles at select regional banks, I'd like to assure the Assembly (and the public) that the borough has an investment policy of holding CDs and Treasury notes below the FDIC insurance level; and for those deposit accounts above \$250,000, additional collateralization is required. Therefore, our risk exposure is minimal.

Attended Northwest Municipal Managers Conference in Fairbanks

- Fairbanks hosted this conference of municipal managers from across Alaska, Washington, and Oregon. I attended and provided a welcome to the group. Meeting topics included community hazard mitigation and adaptation strategies, organizational talent management and capacity building, and more.

Happy April, happy spring (it will come eventually, I promise 😊).

As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay