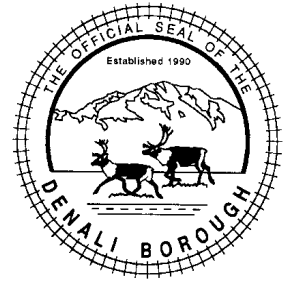


# DENALI BOROUGH

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*Chris Noel, Mayor*

## April 2024 Mayor's Report

### Administrative

- I recently returned from the fourth Annual Infrastructure Symposium in Anchorage; I took part in the housing track. A few takeaways:
  - Partnerships and cooperation are key to successful housing projects. Each agency, entity, or grant source brings resources towards the total “capital stack.” Picture a multi-layered cake where the finished cake (stack) is the total project funding. Each layer comes with certain ingredients, or rules and compliance requirements. The bakers, or different partners work together to create the finished project, growing housing in our communities.
  - The borough has resources (land, administrative capacity) to work on the housing challenge we face.
- We implemented a new tool, [The Denali Download](#), to share information on a weekly basis. Sign up for email news and announcements on the Denali Borough website. This is another tool to share timely and relevant public information.

### Solid Waste

- We signed an engagement letter with Shannon and Wilson to continue groundwater and landfill gas monitoring services for the 2025 season. One highlight is the requirement for a new gas monitoring well, to look for gas migration. A modest increase in monitoring costs will accompany the upfront well drilling cost.
- Cantwell Transfer Station hours change- May 1<sup>st</sup>. Hours will be Wednesday – Friday 3 - 7 PM and Saturday 10 - 4. Recycling hours will be posted separately.
- We have hired a seasonal heavy equipment operator. Jeremiah Chisholm will start April 16<sup>th</sup>.

### Land Planning and Community Development

- BLM Long Trail Public Meeting- The Bureau of Land management is soliciting public input at a community meeting in Cantwell on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-7 pm at the school gym. The Alaska Long trail feasibility study is analyzing the trails potential for inclusion in the National Trail System.
- Electric Vehicle Charging station in Cantwell- Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) solicited feedback on an Environmental and Historic Preservation survey of a proposed electric vehicle charging station to be installed on private property at the Jack River Inn, in Cantwell. I coordinated with Cantwell Assembly member Canale to provide feedback to DOT.
- Complete Streets Policy workshop- Complete Streets is fundamentally about shifting transportation planning to account for all users, including those on bike, foot, ATV, snowmachine, in addition to those driving traditional vehicles. DOT led a successful workshop with community stakeholders, and we will look forward to the draft Complete Streets policy later this summer. There will be more discussion and opportunity for public input regarding planned separated pathways, and the funded Healy sidewalk

project. Thanks to those who participated in the evening workshop, providing valuable feedback to the DOT project team.

- Street Addressing- A reminder that borough issued street address' cannot be used as a postal address.
- Denali Area Airport Study- Next Thursday April 18, the Airport Study team will be in Healy to collect public input. The goal of the study is to assess current public-use airports, to determine if they are meeting local needs.

### **Items of Interest**

- I enjoyed a phone meeting with Ahtna Vice President of Lands and Resources, Mr. Joe Bovee. We discussed the community wildfire protection planning project, fire management options in the Cantwell area, and brush disposal and drop off. I also had a follow up phone meeting with Mr. Bruce Cain, Acting Land Manager with Ahtna, regarding some of our mutual interests including grant opportunities, land use planning, and upcoming meetings.
- The Second Annual Health and Safety Fair will be held April 19, 8 am – 2 pm at the Tri-Valley School gym. Come check out a wide variety of booths and the chance to win prizes, and giveaways.
- Healy Hockey is celebrating it's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season. Kudos and congratulations to a generation of Denali Borough Hockey families who have kept up the facilities, ran the zam(boni) and hosted countless games and tournaments. The facility is truly a community resource, hosting league practice and games, high-school activities, and co-ed community hockey. There are even loaner skates available for local kids to give hockey a try. Here's to another 30 years of Healy Hockey.
- Dolly Partons Imagination Library is now available to kids ages 0 to 5 in the Denali Borough, who will receive a book a month (for free) until they turn five. Reading to kids is one of the best ways to support their growth in early childhood. Thanks to Kids in Motion for spearheading (and financially supporting) this effort.

### **Staffing**

- We hired seasonal heavy equipment operator Jeremiah Chisholm, he will start April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- I accepted the resignation of Community Development Director Teresa Floberg, her last day is June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Don't hesitate to call or stop by the Denali Borough office.

- Chris