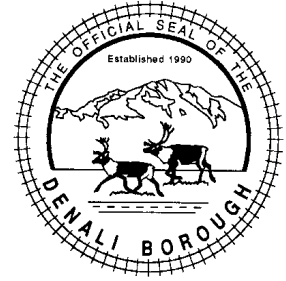


DENALI BOROUGH

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Chris Noel, Mayor

April 2025 Mayor's Report

This report primarily speaks to non-agenda items, agenda items will be addressed during the Assembly Meeting.

Items of Interest

- We've purchased a new Ford Expedition to replace the primary borough vehicle. It is a lightly used 2024 Expedition with very low miles and meets the needs of a safe and reliable full-size SUV capable of hauling four adults and meeting equipment around the borough.
- MP 235 At-grade crossing elimination and highway realignment- We had a couple of meetings about this important project in the last month. One meeting, coordinated by Senator Sullivan's office, allowed the borough to share a brief background on the project, and preview the stakeholders involved.
- A second meeting, coordinated by AKDOT, included participants from the Alaska Railroad (AKRR) and Denali National Park and allowed all participants to reengage and discuss a strategy for moving this project forward. All agree that a legislative solution permitting Denali National Park to perform an exclusive use easement swap with AKRR is required for the project to move forward.
- Real ID Deadline- Starting May 7th, Alaska Residents must use a Real ID compliant driver's license or state ID to fly on commercial airlines or visit or work on a military base. A currently approved federal ID (such as a passport) is also acceptable.
- The Denali Borough office continues to provide passport services, and we have seen a notable increase in folks coming down from Fairbanks to process their passport application.

Solid Waste

- Despite a late season burst of snow, we began accepting brush at the Landfill and Healy Transfer Station on April 1st. With spring conditions, it is best to call ahead to check on ground conditions. Collection will begin at the DNR pit in McKinley Village and in Cantwell at the Transfer Station, later this spring/summer.
- We posted a job announcement for the Seasonal Landfill Gatekeeper position at the Landfill. This position will provide full-time support for landfill operations from May until September. The application is available on the borough webpage.
- Summer Hours- Starting April 15 the Landfill will be open from 9-4 every Saturday for the summer season. Hours and holiday closures are posted at denaliborough.org/solidwaste.

Emergency Planning

- The backup generator at the McKinley Community Center and Fire Hall is hooked up. The next step is to test the generator and do a test transfer of the building to generator power. We expect the Cantwell fire hall generator connection to occur in the next few weeks.

Land Planning and Community Development

- The Bureau of Land Management released the draft feasibility study of a National Scenic Trail Designation for the Alaska Long Trail. Locally, the trail has not received support from Ahtna or the Native of Cantwell due to concerns around trespass and resource degradation. The draft Feasibility Study is open for public comments until April 14.
 - A reminder, a National Scenic Trail (NST) designation would lead to increased federal funding for trail maintenance. All identified segments would be eligible for trail maintenance money, even those crossing private lands.
 - A NST designation does not change ownership, so different entities may permit multiple uses depending on the segment. For example, much of the trail is identified to follow highway side separated pathways in the Denali Borough, allowing a variety of non-motorized users.

Healthcare

- Copper River Native Association Clinic (CRNA), Cantwell- CRNA provides primary care on a two week on- two week off basis at the Cantwell Clinic. Call 907-822-8463 to schedule an appointment.
- Due to a spring snowstorm and poor highway conditions Interior Community Health Center (ICHC) canceled the Denali Borough Community Needs Assessment scheduled for April 1st. It will be rescheduled to early May, with more details to come. All are welcome at this public meeting. Comments may also be shared with the ICHC board by emailing board@inhc.org.
 - ICHC is recruiting for a Denali Borough resident and current ICHC patient to serve on their board of directors.

Health and Safety Fair

- The Spring Health and Safety Fair was a resounding success with over 260 participants (including Tri-Valley school students) and over 40 blood draws, up from 30 last year. A huge thank you to the vendors who attended. While this event takes considerable staff time to coordinate, feedback from vendors was quite positive and reinforces the value of the fair towards community engagement.

Staffing

- We are happy to announce Trena Haugen has accepted an employment offer to serve as the next borough Land Planner. Trena previously worked as an Administrative Clerk for the borough and led several projects during that time including spearheading the Healy Separated Pathways project and initial grant applications for the highway side separated pathways.

Happy Spring, wait- it's spring right?

- Chris