

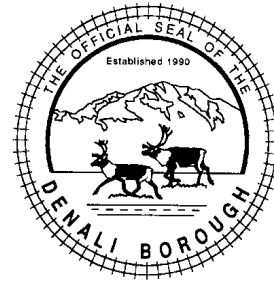
DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

February 2022 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

COVID Testing and Vaccination Schedule/ Test Kit Availability

- Horizon Medical, through a borough agreement paid for with federal funds, continues to provide regular COVID testing and vaccination services. Schedules are found on the borough website <https://www.denaliborough.org/covid19> and on the Horizon website (where one can also schedule an appointment) <https://www.horizonmedicalak.com/>.
- A limited number of free at home testing kits are available from Horizon and also available at the borough office in Healy. One kit (two tests) per family member at a time please.

Collaboration with UAF Engineering Senior Capstone Project regarding Dry Creek Flooding

- A Northern Region DOT Engineer put us in contact with a UAF Senior Engineering Class looking for a Capstone Project. We met with them and shared information, data, and photos relating to different Dry Creek flooding events. The student group has an emphasis in water resources and was very interested in studying the watershed. The end work product is not expected to be a fully designed mitigation project, but a partial design with recommendations for the community.

Denali Borough Consulting Party to Denali National Park - State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Programmatic Agreement (PA)

- The Denali Borough agreed to support and be a signatory to new PA between Denali National Park and SHPO which identifies and mitigates adverse effects upon the Park Road Historic District, necessitated by "routine maintenance, repair, operations, bridge and culvert replacement, geohazard monitoring, and emergency maintenance on the Denali Park Road Corridor."
- Specifically, the PA proposes to mitigate the effects of changes to the Park Road by the Polychrome Area Improvements Project and the East Fork Area Improvements and Use Project by conducting and documenting a series of oral histories by long term users of this Historic District including bus drivers and Kantishna inholders.

Winterfest and Community Service Award

- A fun full weekend of events and activities are planned for Winterfest Weekend February 26 – 27. Saturday activities include hockey games at the Healy Ice Pit throughout the day, snow block sculpting competition (10-3) and Denali Winter Games for Kids (1-2:30) at the Denali Park Winter Visitor Center.
- Saturday evening the Denali Borough hosts a Community Dinner (5- 6:30) followed by BINGO with prizes! (6:30-8:30) presented by the Native Village of Cantwell. Come out and enjoy fellowship and fun. Additionally, the Denali Borough Mayor's Community Service Awards (both 2021 and 2022) will be presented.

- On Sunday, the Tri Valley Community Library will host a Story Walk at 3:30 and a movie at 4:30. See the Park website for a full listing: <https://www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/winterfest.htm>

Encroachment Permit Update

- Following Planning Commission and Assembly approval of a new Encroachment Permit section of land use code, a permit application was developed. We are currently working with a lessee to approve a use of borough land (placement of structures) not expressly allowed within the existing lease, under the encroachment permit. Specifically, the state lease we inherited neighboring the Grande Denali Lodge is the area of attention.

Commercial Use Permit Update

- The borough recognizes the issues and questions regarding implementation of the Commercial Use Permit and has convened a staff working group to come up with potential solutions to questions such as “What is the intended use of these new fees?” and “How and when will implementation occur?” A change in the fee schedule is a likely recommendation which will come to the Assembly.

Notable Past Meetings

- On **January 16**, we met with **Ahtna, Inc representatives and Alaska Trails** to discuss possibilities, issues and next steps regarding the potential routing of the planned Alaska Trail through the south side of the Denali Borough. Currently, there is no specific proposed route, but this was a helpful meeting for all to identify issues and outstanding questions (such as ownership/oversight, maintenance responsibility, fees?) as the trail is planned.
- On **January 19**, the **Denali Borough Planning Commission** approved over 300 street names in the borough, which nearly completes the list. A few names are still in progress with DOT and other agencies. The Commission expressed gratitude in receiving public input along the way and was pleased with the over year long process reaching a conclusion. Pending any plat approvals, the Commission may forgo a February meeting.
- On **January 25**, I attended the **City of Anderson Council meeting**, in which I presented a report of borough activities and discussed a resolution on their agenda regarding street addressing within the City. The borough would like to clearly identify roles and responsibilities when it comes to the borough incorporating the City’s addressing system within our database, which will be shared with Dispatch.

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Legislative Conference. Juneau, February 16-18

- The borough delegation to the conference and legislative meetings next week will include myself and Assemblymembers Tallon Shreeve and Dominic Canale. The conference agenda has taken shape and is available here: <https://www.akml.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Draft-Agenda-Planning.pdf>
- We have a full few days there in Juneau with conference, scheduled legislative meetings, and a board meeting. We are scheduled in with our delegation (Rep. Cronk and Sen. Bishop), legislators to the south who may be representing our interests in the future based upon the current redistricting (Rep. McCabe and Sen. Shower), and other legislators.

Happy February, happy winter activities. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

-Clay