

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

February 2023 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

City of Anderson Wastewater System Issues

- On January 12, the piped sewer system in Anderson showed signs of excessive infiltration and the City of Anderson contacted the State of Alaska Village Safe Water Program requesting additional support. Groundwater infiltration, likely due to cracked or broken pipes, continued to overload the system, resulting in wastewater flowing over the containment of the sewage lagoon. The overfull system began backing up into the city, with several homes currently unable to waste water and many others under imminent threat.
- Concerns regarding potential groundwater contamination and potential impacts to upgradient public infrastructure such as City Hall and the K-12 Anderson School mount with every passing day.
- The city reached out to the borough and informed us that they are overwhelmed and are seeking support in the form of technical and operational assistance from the State of Alaska. The borough has been in contact with the city, Representative McCabe, and the State Emergency Operation Center.
- At a special City Council meeting Friday February 3, the City of Anderson issued a disaster declaration requesting assistance from the Denali Borough and the State of Alaska.
- On Monday February 6, I issued a Denali Borough Local Disaster Declaration requesting assistance from the State of Alaska and committing up to \$25,000 from the borough's Disaster Contingency Fund to help address the issue. We will continue to engage and support the City of Anderson and its residents and infrastructure.

Denali Area Airport Planning Study

- The Department of Transportation has issued a Request for Proposals for a Denali Area Airport Planning Study. The notice requests proposals for "Professional planning services to study the airport needs of the Denali Borough area to determine the most appropriate site or sites for future public investments. Recommendations from the Plan include evaluation of alternative airport sites to serve the Denali Borough areas. This special study will be conducted in accordance with FAA Advisory Circular 150/5070-7, The Airport System Planning Process."

Winterfest 2023

- Plan for another fun Denali Winterfest February 24-26. The full schedule will be available on the park website at: nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/winterfest.htm.
- The borough plans to host a Community Dinner, open and free to all, Saturday Feb. 25 at the Tri-Valley Community Center. After dinner there will be the presentation of the Community Service Award and BINGO! offered by the Native Village of Cantwell.

Street Addressing Project

- The borough is currently accepting requests for official street addresses! Both residential and commercial business street address applications can be found on the Denali Borough website at <https://www.denaliborough.org/addressing>. Paper applications are also available both online and at the borough office. The first letters informing residents of their official street addresses will be going out shortly.
- Staff has completed the field work gathering information for the street sign installation project.

Borough Budgets, Financial Statements and Audit

- Preliminary work on the FY 2023 Budget Amendment and the development of the FY 2024 Budget is ongoing.
- The drafting and auditing of the FY 22 financial statements is taking longer than anticipated primarily due to the retirement of our longtime auditor. The new audit team has new and different workflows and accounting support has experienced time lag. While we missed the state deadline (for which there is no penalty), we will be hitting the federal audit deadline of March 31.

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

- Clay