

# DENALI BOROUGH

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*Chris Noel, Mayor*

## January 2025 Mayor's Report

### Administrative

- Save the Date for Winterfest 2025- **February 21- 23**. As always, this will be a fun-filled and family-friendly weekend. A full schedule of events will be posted to the Denali Borough website.
- Denali Borough nonprofit grant applications will open in early January. Notification will be sent to all existing grantees, and available on the borough website.
- For all tax registrations, we now have a year round and seasonal registration option, and we are working with operators to complete registration for calendar year 2025.

### Borough Audit and Financial Update

- Audit work for the year ending June 30, 2024 (Fiscal Year 2024) was completed by the December deadline. Our auditor will present a summary to the borough Assembly at their February meeting.
- Our current financial statements reflect tax receipts for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2025. Summer 2024 (April – September) Overnight Accommodations Tax revenues are up 18% over the same period in 2023.

### Solid Waste

- Seasonal Heavy Equipment Operator Jeremiah Chisholm has accepted the open permanent Heavy Equipment Operator Position.

### Land Planning

- Land Planner Marsha Lambert is putting together survey instruction requests for remaining borough Municipal Entitlement Lands that have not been surveyed. From the request for survey instructions to receiving patent, it can take 5-10 years. In the meantime, the borough may continue to use and manage these lands, excluding subdividing and selling the land.

### Community Development

- 12/16 - Scenic Byways Grant submitted by AK DOT&PF in partnership with Denali Borough and the Alaska Municipal League (\$480,000; \$60,000 Denali Borough Match, \$60,000 AK DOT&PF match) A grant award would fund design and engineering costs for separated pathway segments in Cantwell, from the Jack River Bridge to the pullout at MP 211.5, and the Pull out at MP 214 to the Nenana River boat launch.
- 12/20 - Wildland and Urban Interface Grant submitted by the state Department of Forestry in collaboration with Denali Borough and volunteer fire departments (\$300,000, no Denali Borough match). This grant award would provide homeowner incentives for Firewise clearing and brush disposal, including resources and training for the local fire department.
- Continuing to explore multiple funding streams for design, engineering, and construction funding for the separated pathways projects including Congressionally Designated Spending, the Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Rural and Tribal Assistance Program, and match assistance from the Denali Commission.

Wishing each of you a healthy and fulfilling 2025,

- Chris