

DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743

Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340

Email: dbgovt@mtaonline.net

Website: www.denaliborough.org



Clay Walker, Mayor

March 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Legislative Meeting (Juneau, February 18-20)

- Assembly Members Tallon Shreeve and Krista Zappone joined me in this week of learning, listening, engaging and advocating.
- As a group, we heard from and engaged with House leadership, including Speaker Edgmon, Rep. Johnston, Rep. Ortiz and Rep. Johnson. We had a session with Senate leadership, including Sen. Coghill, Sen. Von Imhoff, Sen. Micciche, and Sen. Begich. U.S. Senator Murkowski visited and spoke and took questions as did Governor Dunleavy. Office of Management and Budget Director Neil Steininger, Legislative Finance Director Pat Pitney, Department of Transportation Commissioner John MacKinnon, and more, also presented to the group of ninety or so local government officials.
- Our borough delegation also participated in separate legislative meetings with Representative Talerico, Senator Bishop, the rest of the interior delegation, and a few additional meeting - for a total of ten meetings. I also joined City of Nenana Mayor Josh Verhagen in a meeting with Governor Dunleavy. Additionally, I participated in the AML Board meeting with the Governor.
- The meetings were filled with positive engagement, advocacy for the borough positions, and hearing the challenges upon the legislature as the options to address the fiscal imbalance shrink. Here is a link to the Finance Director's presentation, which helps illustrate the challenges: <https://www.akml.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/AML-Presentation-2-19-20-Pitney.pdf>

20th Annual Denali Winterfest (February 21-23)

- The Denali Education Center hosted a fun kickoff celebration Friday night at McKinley Community Center and Denali National Park reported strong attendance at their numerous Saturday events in the Park. Healy Hockey hosted games all weekend and the Tri-Valley Community hosted Bigfoot Fest on Sunday. The Denali Borough hosted a Community Dinner and Bingo Saturday night at the Tri-Valley Community Center, which was a success thanks to the many helpers and participants. Denali Preschool and Learning Center cooked and served a good spaghetti dinner with all the fixings, for a fundraiser. Holland America Princess donated the food and Doyon/Aramark donated the serviceware. The Tri Valley 5th grade class provided delicious deserts for a donation. And the Native Village of Cantwell brought the BINGO, which was a bit hit. The prizes were local gift cards and over 100 players, from near and far, enjoyed the games. Thanks to all for a fun weekend!

