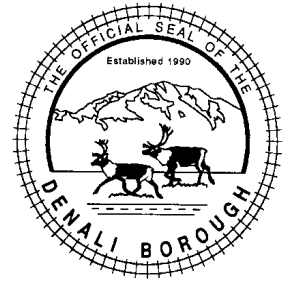


DENALI BOROUGH

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Chris Noel, Mayor

May 2024 Mayor's Report

Administrative

- Thanks to all the vendors who made the 2nd Annual Health and Safety Fair a grand success. A special thanks to the borough staff team led by Community Development Director Teresa Floberg and Emergency Manager Forest Shreeve who helped set up and tear down at the Tri-Valley School gym.
- We held an in-person kickoff meeting with Community Wildfire Protection Plan contractor Bintel Inc. and our volunteer fire departments, Denali National Park Fire Management, and Clear Space Force Station. The contractor will be back for on-site work in early June.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee is back in action. The group of community partners committed to gathering quarterly to pressing emergency management topics. The next meeting is May 7th, 6 PM at the Borough office.

Solid Waste

- Backhaul Alaska and the Denali Borough entered a working partnership in 2022 to dispose of end-of-life electronics. This led to the successful collection, transportation, and disposal of 2,165 lbs in 2022 and 3,758 lbs in 2023. We will renew the partnership this season, and we look forward to continuing efforts to safely segregate and dispose of this ever-growing waste stream.
- Community Cleanup: In an annual tradition, all borough solid waste facilities will again accept the yellow Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) cleanup bags at no charge. Thanks to the numerous volunteers who take time picking up litter along our roads and trails.
- The recycling Trailers will be back at the Cantwell and Healy transfer stations for the summer season, on or around May 15th. This service is again supported by the Zero Landfill Initiative, and Carlisle Transportation.

Land Planning and Community Development

- I attended the Alaska Long Trail National Scenic Trail hosted feasibility study public meeting in Cantwell, hosted by Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM is soliciting public comments [here](#), and the comment period is open until June 28th. Comments are welcome on the alignment of the Alaska Long Trail, and its suitability for inclusion as a National Scenic Trail. Comments are georeferenced and are available to the public.
- June 1st National Trails Day Celebration— The Denali Borough, in partnership with the National Park Service, and the Alaska Division of Parks and Recreation, will celebrate the borough's first municipal trailhead on June 1st, in honor of National Trails Day. Please join us.
- The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) was nominated for a national Presidential Partnership Award through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The nomination highlights the strong partnership that began in earnest with the finalization of the Planning and Environmental Linkage Study in 2022, leading to a funded separated nonmotorized pathway from the Antler Ridge trailhead to the Healy core, with more on the horizon. Kudos to the

borough staff team and our DOT partners for the ongoing work towards improving transportation opportunities in Denali.

- We have an open seat on the Planning Commission, Seat E. Planning commissioners serve “at-large,” and residents residing in Cantwell and Anderson are encouraged to consider participating. The Planning Commission performs planning, platting, and zoning in the borough, and has recently considered road standards for public rights of way, and the conceptual design of a residential subdivision on borough owned land. Anyone interested in serving may email me directly, cnoel@denaliborough.com.

Items of Interest

- GVEA Power Plant Tour – Borough employees Salena Mirasole, Nicole Dalton, Allison Johnson, and Marsha Lambert and I had the opportunity to tour the Golden Valley Power Plant here in Healy. Healy Operations Supervisor Allan Mortenson led a fantastic and eye-opening tour of both Healy Unit 1 and Unit 2. I left with a better understanding of the level of effort, skills, and expertise it takes to provide up to 88-megawatts of baseload power. Thanks goes out to the Healy Power Plant team of ~75, and the rest of the employees of our electric cooperative for their work to keep the lights on.
- Alaska Mining Day: Speaking of keeping the lights on, I look forward to participating in Alaska Mining Day, May 10th, put on by the Alaska Miners Association and hosted by Usibelli Coal Mine.
- Wishing warm congratulations to the Denali Borough School District and Denali PEAK Class of 2024. The future is bright and we are rooting for you.
- City of Anderson Sewer Report- The City of Anderson received a 95% Preliminary Engineering Report, drafted by KUNA engineering on behalf of the City and Village Safe Water. Mayor Hammond shared the report (posted to the city website under the “News” tab). While it is a technical report, the bottom line is that there are no inexpensive fixes to the problems that plague the Anderson sewer system. Kuna and Village Safewater will look for a Resolution from the City Council supporting one of the five alternative scenarios analyzed in the report. Kuna’s recommendation, following numerous meetings with the City, is Alternative 2: Private Septic Systems, including abandoning the sewer and providing every home with an on-site ADEC approved septic system.

Staffing

- The Community Development Director position is posted to the borough website, and we are accepting applications until May 15th.

Wishing you a safe summer.

- Chris