

Adak's Monthly Newsletter featuring Local News and Events

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Watch for Signs on the Road!

The Public Works Department has been busy placing signs at major intersections in anticipation of the busy fish processing and summer contractor seasons. Please obey all traffic signs for the safety of yourselves and others.

“It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas”

As we approach the snowy season on Adak we would like to take a moment to talk about the snow removal program in the City. As you know we have a small crew in our Public Works Department that has more responsibility than in other municipalities, however it is the City's goal to ensure that the public is safe and access to essential services can be provided. You should know that after a significant snow event, as we know this can also mean little snow but high winds, it is the City's intent to start plowing as soon as it is safe for our crew to operate the heavy equipment used to remove snow.

We start by addressing the main roads and arteries, to ensure there is access to the Clinic Emergency Room/School, Power Plant and Fuels and the Port. We then start addressing, sometimes at the same time as clearing the main accesses, the neighborhood roads. The neighborhoods take more time to clear, especially when there are obstacles that are left in the roads and snow storage areas. Please do your part to ensure that the streets and the snow storage areas (in residential areas these are where the dumpsters used to be placed) are clear so we can clean them quickly and easily. Please be patient with our crew, especially during prolonged storms and large snowfall amounts. Though we have newer equipment than we used to operate, the hazards of clearing roads in Adak require our crew to be very careful.

Please also keep in mind that this equipment is much more difficult to control than a regular car or truck. When approaching our operating crew, make sure you can be seen. A general rule of thumb is if you cannot see their mirrors, then they cannot see you. Please observe stop signs and general traffic rules to ensure your safety and the safety of our crew. We welcome your feedback and are continuously managing our program to provide safe and good snow removal for the City.

TDX Adak Generating is Granted Interim 24% rate Increase

It is time to watch our power usage. The Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) has granted TDX Adak Generating (TAG) a 24.21 % interim “refundable” rate increase, while suspending the actual tariff filing citing questions exist as to the reasonableness and propriety of TAG's filing a tariff increase. The 24.21% increase in tariff is effective January 1, 2014 and will be reflected on our January 2014 billings.

The phrase “refundable increase” means that TAG would have to reimburse all customers' monies paid in excess of the final tariff increase approved by the RCA after a hearing with an Administrative Law Judge. For example, after the hearing - perhaps next year, the RCA grants TAG a 14.5 % tariff increase. TAG would then have to reimburse all payments collected above the 14.5% threshold, plus 10.5% per annum interest.

The RCA has invited the Attorney General to be involved in the review of the filing and will issue a final ruling on the no later than February 7, 2015.

Adak Public School Seeks Donations for Music Program

The Adak School is hoping to raise at least \$1,000 dollars toward a sustainable music program for Adak students. The program includes recorder and ukulele lessons with Ivan Hodes and beginning keyboard lessons provided by Debbie Center who has volunteered to travel to Adak once a week to teach class. The school has applied for grants and funding but expects a budget shortfall of a little more than \$1,000. Please contact Lisa Spittler for more information if you would like to donate to the program.

Adak gets Grant to Downsize Water and Sewer Service Area

The City of Adak and Village Safe Water have been working together for several years to get the funds to downsize the water and sewer service area in Adak to the occupied areas of Sandy Cove and Kuluk subdivisions. The funds have been allocated from the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development and will be matched by the State of Alaska. “Downsizing is the first step toward construction of a water plant that meets the requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule”, according to a memo sent by Village Safe Water.

An Un-Adak Christmas

It was about 20 degrees when I awoke December 14, 2013 in Anderson California, everything was frosted white and the puddles were frozen solid. It was a very bright day without a cloud in sight. I was amazed that it was light at 7:30 am, while we wait until 9:30 am for light in Adak. By 12:00 pm it was close to 70 degrees and I could see that I was not well prepared for the unseasonably warm winter temperatures.

I had returned to the home of my teenage years. The custom built home on a piece of land that was once a part of the Circle Delta Ranch owned by my Grandparents, Edwin Ellsworth and Frances Ione Day. The Circle Delta Ranch, situated on year round Bear Creek about 1 mile from the mouth of the Sacramento River, is dotted in valley and scrub oaks with blackberry briars, wild grapes, buckeye and assorted other plants and trees that can handle the long dry months from May through October.

Mike Sharrah, my brother, decided that he should resurrect the Circle Delta brand, now associated with Selah Farms. Many of you may know Mike from the fishing industry and his boat the F/V Selah. Although he left Alaska, after selling the F/V Selah, to plant a walnut orchard on the old ranch, beef became his business after buying a couple feeder calves at the local auction yard in Cottonwood. Then came many more calves and heifers, some from the yard and some from the Shasta County Fair, until he had purchased 23 head of cattle.

Along with the branding there were vaccinations, worming, and ear tags that numbered each animal in the herd. The old squeeze chute that Mike was using came from a ranch equipment sale in Fallon, Nevada. There were two horsewomen, and 3 men to herd the cattle while coaxing them with the promise of a leaf of alfalfa hay, into a holding pen and sectioned walkway that attached to the squeeze chute. It only took a couple tries to figure how to work that squeeze chute, before you started to hear the bawling calves under the hot iron.

This Christmas was special. It is the first Christmas I got to spend with my grandchildren, and the first time a calf has received the hot iron with the Circle Delta brand on his left-hind quarter in over 30 years. Yes, the last time I remember a branding on the Circle Delta was in 1973, the same year I raised the 4-H Reserve Grand Champion Steer for the Shasta County Fair.

It wasn't long after the spring in 1973 that my Grandparents sold off all their cattle. They leased the ranch a couple years before listing 1,640 acres of prime ranchland, on a year round creek with a manmade lake in the Wall Street Journal. The ranch sold while I was traveling in Europe at the age of seventeen, but the memories remain. – Debra Sharrah – Happy New Year



Just branded



Mike Sharrah applies the hot iron



Son Tom and Grandkids

Once Again, Santa Chose Alaska Airlines to Deliver Christmas Goodies to Adak



Captain Rex and Santa's Pilot



Santa's List



Santa's Elves were onboard

Longtime Adak Residents Retire (from Adak anyway)



Joe and Cynthia Galaktionoff

Anyone who has lived in Adak for any length of time is familiar with the Galaktionoff name. This year we will lose Joe Galaktionoff, supervisor at Adak Petroleum and Cynthia Galaktionoff, Eastern Aleutian Tribes' Clinic Director; to the State of Oregon. The Galaktionoffs, have been preparing for their retirement by remodeling and landscaping their home in Oregon, during vacations from Adak. While their retirement is well deserved, we will miss their warm camaraderie and the ever smiling Cynthia. Once the word got around that Joe and Cynthia were returning to Oregon, it wasn't long before her previous employer hired her to work at the tribal clinic. Alas, so much for Cynthia's retirement. Many of us gathered to give them a proper farewell as The Aleut Corporation and Adak Petroleum provided ham, turkey and ribs while those of us who attended brought side dishes for a proper Adak Potluck.

Farewell, Chuck Mohn

Charles "Chuck" Mohn, former Mayor, Council Member and longtime resident of Adak passed away at his home in Anchor Point with his wife Kathy at his side. Mr. Mohn an Adak business man was part owner of Adak Development and Construction, Inc. (ADAC, Inc.) and the Aleutian Sports Bar and Grill (ASBAG). Chuck Mohn served on the Adak City Council from 2004 – 2013 and as Vice Mayor and Mayor in 2008 and 2009. Mohn was instrumental in many City projects.

Services will not be held at this time in Anchor Point, however a small memorial service was held in Adak at the ASBAG on Sunday, January 5, 2014 at 8:00pm. His longtime business partners Will Tillion and Ed McNall led the toast for Chuck Mohn with all attending having a drink.



Chuck at the ASBAG

JANUARY

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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 15 – City Council, 5pm Council Chambers
Public Hearing for Ordinance(s)

January 20 – Martin Luther King Day

Measure of the Month: TOBACCO CESSATION/INTERVENTION

2014 – Is this YOUR year to quit Smoking?

January is the time of resolutions – when we forget about the failures of the past and resolve to start fresh. How about making a pledge to stop smoking in 2014? Alaska's Tobacco Quitline: **1-888-842-QUIT (1-888-842-7848)**
National Toll-Free Quitline: **1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669)**

Congratulations to ALL our successful Adak non-smokers!

You show you care for yourselves and others. Thanks for doing a great job.

FLU SHOTS STILL AVAILABLE AT THE CLINIC – CALL 572-8383

Adak Clinic will see Robert Finlay, PA-C returning for itinerant coverage for January and February, while we are waiting for our full time provider to get ready to work in Adak. Come by and meet Bob if you didn't meet him in December!

BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR THE HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA. APPLICATIONS ARE ONLINE, OR AT THE CLINIC – STOP BY AND SEE ESTHER FOR AN APPLICATION.

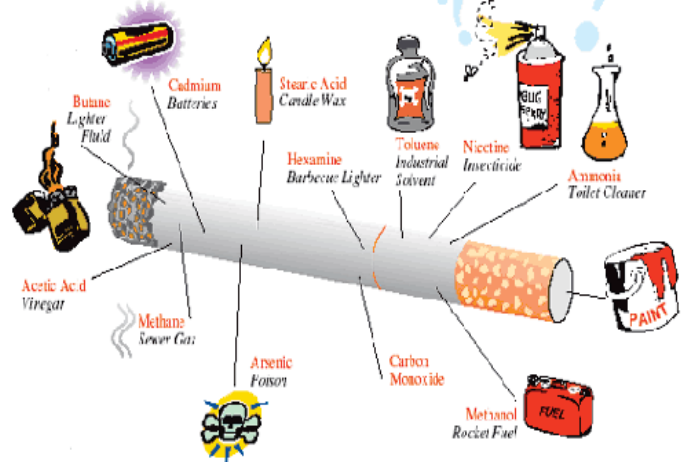
Thanks to everyone who helped make our Black Friday/Health Fair Event a success – we had 14 patient satisfaction surveys completed, and good time by all!



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

What's In That Cigarette?

There are over **4,000** chemicals in tobacco smoke.



Check out EAT's website for more information about our clinics and good health information and links:

<http://www.eatribes.org/>



Please Don't Feed the Eagles!

Adak is home to a large population of resident bald eagles. During winter the population increases when many eagles that nest on neighboring islands come to Adak. The reason for our popularity as a winter resort for eagles is unfortunate: they are drawn here for the easy meals our garbage provides.

Over the years, Refuge staff have responded to many calls from panicked Adakians. People were trapped in their houses or offices by obstinate eagles that refused to be shooed away from their door, or thumped on the back outside the Commissary by swooping eagles that subsequently snatched the unwary victim's dropped groceries. Parents concerned for their children's safety called about eagles lurking around the school. Frantic pet owners watched their small dogs carried off right in front of them.

Even more often we have responded to calls about eagles in trouble: trapped in buildings or dumpsters, crushed in the garbage baler, injured by forklifts or cars, waterlogged and floundering beside the dock, sick or dehydrated from eating inappropriate foods, unable to fly due to soiled feathers. Now the community burns its trash instead of compacting it, which brings its own set of dangers to scavenging birds--you probably saw Suzi's heart-breaking photos of the charred eagles currently being rehabilitated in Anchorage. Below is one who was not so lucky.



We have also collected hundreds of dead eagles, mostly electrocuted. Even with perches on the majority of live poles, birds still manage to span the wires with their wings and end up with toes and bills blasted off by the shock. Others have been hit by vehicles, drowned in fish totes, or died of malnutrition.

Towns and eagles are not a good combination. Once birds become habituated to humans, their natural defenses are lost, and they ignore the presence of dogs and cars, stubbornly hold their ground, even become aggressive as they defend territories they come to consider their own. At the very least, this poses a nuisance to residents, and at worst it is fatal to the eagles.

As a community we can make the town area less appealing to eagles, simply by reducing the amount of food that's available. The City is taking steps to make the garbage burning area less attractive to scavenging eagles and ravens. We will encourage the new fish processors to do the same in the dock area. But by far the most effective way to discourage eagles from frequenting town is to stop intentionally feeding them.

Feeding eagles is a bad idea for several reasons. First of all, it is very unhealthy for the birds. Our foods tend to contain high quantities of salt and little moisture. Eagles do not drink water, but rely on their natural foods to provide adequate water intake. A diet high in human food will cause dehydration and malnourishment. Even feeding eagles only natural foods such as bou scraps or fish heads is damaging, as it encourages dependence on humans and can lead to dangerous aggression



as birds conditioned to being fed fearlessly demand what they consider their due. (Just yesterday, right in the middle of town, I fended off a mob of 24 eagles swooping within a foot of my five-year-old son's head as they tried to steal a training dummy from our dog; obviously, they were used to having food thrown to them.) It is degrading for our national symbol (and one of the highlights of tourists' visits to Adak) to be turned into handout junkies. Worst of all, feeding eagles lures more birds into town, where they are vulnerable to all the threats described above.

It may also be illegal to feed eagles, if doing so results in an injury to the eagle or substantial interference with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior. This interference could be considered "disturbance", which is defined as a form of "take" and is prohibited by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. If you are feeding eagles often enough that flocks of them routinely congregate around your house, and their behavior is substantially altered as a result, arguably you could be in violation of the Act. The first criminal offense is a misdemeanor with a penalty of up to one year in prison and \$100,000 fine (\$200,000 for a business or organization). A second conviction could be a felony with maximum penalty of two years in prison and double the fine amount.

What can you do?

- Don't intentionally feed eagles. If you have carcasses to dispose of, take them out of town and well away from roads, streams and beaches, or to the City's designated area at the dump.
- Don't unintentionally feed eagles. Take your trash directly to the dumpsters--don't leave it in your truck or entryway for scavengers to tear into. If you take a large quantity to the burn area, be sure it has burned completely before you depart.

Please Don't Feed the Ravens, Either!

Town is no healthier a place for ravens than it is for eagles. Below is a photo of one who met an unenviable death in the sewage treatment pond. Please allow Adak's ravens to remain wild, dignified, and healthy: don't feed them!

