

Cast Your Ballot!
State of Alaska Primary Election on August 19, 2014
Absentee Voting Begins August 4, 2014 at City Office



The City of Adak will offer in person absentee voting for the State Primary Election.
 Offices up for election:

Governor
Lieutenant Governor
US Senator
US Representative
State Senator
State Representative

Ballot Measure 1 – Oil and Gas Production Tax Initiative will be on the Primary Ballot. All other measures will be on the ballot, November 4, 2014.

City Council Changes Commercial Utility Rates
Resolution 14-2014-011

Beginning August 1, 2014 the City of Adak will implement a new rate structure for commercial utility service fees. Under the old rate structure, customers were charged per inch of diameter for the water pipe servicing the property. The new rate structure is a flat fee for water and adds solid waste fees.

Non-Residential	Current Rates	Permanent Rates
Monthly Customer Charge	\$20.00	\$20.00
Water Service	\$30.00/inch pipe diameter	\$30.00
Sewer Service	\$30.00/inch pipe diameter	\$30.00
Garbage Service (volume <15 cubic yards)	\$0.00	\$20.00
15-Yard Dumpster	\$25.00/pickup	\$35.00/Pickup
30-Yard Dumpster	\$50.00/pickup	\$65.00/Pickup

FYI – Utility bills will have a new look come September!

Adak City Council

The City Council meeting held July 16, 2014 was attended by our new Local Government Specialist, Glenn Hamburg. Glen spent four days at the City Offices for the Rural Utility Business Advisor bi-annual inspection, as well. Glenn read the Adak Code of Ordinances while in the office, dispensing sage advice for future ordinances and resolutions, while complying with Title 29.



The City of Adak Wants to Know

Would you recycle your cans if there was a recycling program in place – even if you were not paid a redemption fee?

There is a program in conjunction with ALPAR called “Flying Cans”. Generally as part of the routine return flight from a location, air carriers would transport cans to Anchorage for recycling. We would like to know if our residents would participate in the program, before pursuing. **Call the City: 592-4500 to say yea or nay to recycling.**



Adak School starts September 2

The school year is just around the corner and changes are coming to the Adak Public School. A new high school teacher, Christopher Muir, will be joining the staff, replacing Ivan Hodes.

We will also have two international student teachers, one from Denmark, the other from Spain. How exciting for Adak children to learn of other cultures and languages while obtaining the basic education that will be the foundation of their lives through adulthood.

The “Artist in School” resident program continues when Eddie Wood of Homer, AK, visits Adak for two weeks in October. Mr. Wood is a mixed media artist with skills in percussion, music, theater, and dance.

Register to Vote by October 4, 2014 to in the November general election!



The Caledonia Sky pulled into the Port of Adak on their 2014 Fire and Ice Tour. The "cruisers" disembarked for guided tours with Cynthia Galaktionoff of Little Michael Lodges.



Some walked.
Some caught a ride.

Spill Response Drill with DEC

The Department of Environmental Conservation in conjunction with NUKA Research, Aleut Enterprise (Adak Petroleum), Eastern Aleutian Tribes and the City of Adak held a spill response drill last week at Clam Lagoon. Clam Lagoon was named as a priority site for Protection from petroleum contaminants in case of a vessel accident. A boom (oil collector) was strategically placed across the tide waters at Candlestick Bridge for practice. The drill utilizing two shore teams and two boat teams took approximately 2 hours from incident briefing to demobilization.



Responders at command center after demobilization



Patriots were seen all over town on July 4.

The weather cleared long enough for the parade, pot luck, beach events and fireworks.



Helene Sparks and Christopher Laguna



Our ETT graduates were presented with diplomas and tools necessary for the job. All graduates received a safety knife and head lamps for night time responses. Medical packs were sent by Apollo MT, and other medical equipment has been donated by Eastern Aleutian Tribes. We're in good hands now.

Front L) Hanna Hudson, Suzie Schwarz, Alicia Bennett, Elaine Smiloff, Rhonda Kelly, Esther Bennett
Rear L) Elliott Schwarz, Dustin Tannehill, Chief Tannehill, Mike Rainey

AUGUST 2014

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August 4 – Absentee voting in person begins.
August 18 – Absentee voting in person ends.
August 19 – Primary Election 7am – 8pm at the Community center.
August 20 – City Council, 5pm Council Chambers
August 23 – Movie night with Chief Tannehill, 6pm



Thar She Blows!

An introduction to the whales of Adak

If you were lucky enough to wander by Sweeper Cove on the 8th of July, you may have been one of the first people ever to see a humpback whale in Adak's harbor; the whale hung around for a couple of hours, making shallow dives and patrolling back and forth along the coast, just across from the jetty. Humpbacks are not commonly seen around Adak, but this year has been different. A humpback whale was also observed from shore by Aaron Lang's birding group in late May, and by the Refuge's research vessel *Tiglax* in Kuluk Bay in early June. Marine mammal researchers working off *Tiglax* noticed more humpback whales west of Samalga Pass (between Umnak and the Islands of Four Mountains) than usual this summer; Russian and Japanese researchers have also been recording more and more humpbacks even further west. It may be their range is shifting, and humpbacks will be a more common sight around Adak in future years.

Perhaps the most frequently seen whale around Adak is the Minke. These usually solitary whales are pretty small--about 23-33 ft (in comparison, humpbacks are 37-50 ft) and easy to distinguish from humpbacks by their curved dorsal fin (note the humpback's odd little blob of a fin in the photos at right) and their generally invisible blow (humpbacks have a bushy blow). Minkes (and humpbacks this year!) are the only baleen whales spotted regularly from Adak's shores.



Above: Minke whale--note falcate dorsal fin (photo by D. Risch/NOAA)
Below: Orcas--note tall, triangular dorsal fins and white patches (NOAA)



Solitary sperm whales can sometimes be spotted in the deep waters off the north coast; the old Loran Station is a good spot to sit and scan the horizon for distinctive forward-pointing blows. The whales we see are usually solitary males, or very occasionally small groups (like the pod at right, photographed by the *Tiglax* crew in Adak Strait); females, calves and juveniles remain year-round in warmer waters. Sperm whales are 36-59 ft long, and have huge square-shaped heads. They dive to over 3,300 ft, where they hunt for deep-water squid; sperm whales consume about a ton of food per day!



Above: Sperm whales--note dorsal bump rather than a proper fin

Beaked whales (Stejneger's and Baird's) occur in the area but are usually not seen from shore, except when they periodically strand or wash ashore. Other cetaceans you might observe include the lively Dall's porpoises that love to ride the bow waves of ships, speeding along with a dramatic rooster tail of spray; smaller and shyer harbor porpoises; and occasionally Pacific white-sided dolphins, leaping clear of the water in breathtaking exuberance.



Here are some great (and free!) resources which provide lots of interesting information about whales and include straightforward tips for identifying different species from a distance. Remember to take your binoculars next time you will be along the coast or out on a boat, and keep an eye out for our watery neighbors!

American Cetacean Society's fact sheets: <http://acsonline.org/education/fact-sheets/>

National Marine Mammal Laboratory species index (includes links to current research and heaps of photographs): <http://www.afsc.noaa.gov/nmml/species/>

Wild Whales BC cetacean sightings network (includes pages for the more common whales, comparison photos of different blows, dorsal fins, and behaviors, and a link to a printable species ID guide): <http://wildwhales.org/watching-whales/identifying-species/>



Humpback whale in Sweeper Cove, 8 July 2014.

Above: Mayor Spitler welcomes the whale to town

Below: Small, nubby dorsal fin and pronounced hump when diving are helpful identifying features

