

Mayor's Message



As 2019 closes I express my sincere appreciation for your support and renew my commitment to you in 2020.

We have accomplished a lot during these past few years. I think there is value in reviewing a few of our accomplishments in order to consider our priorities for 2020.

I think putting Borough residents first is my Job. My closing of off-slope public offices has resulted in a cost savings of over 1 Million Dollars a year. This was not easy, and I appreciate the cooperation of each borough department effected by this decision. We have continued to reduce our dependency on off-slope employment situations, and I feel very strongly that our residents approve of Borough Based Employment Situations wherever possible.

I have made listening to your concerns a priority. Thank you, Borough staff, for cooperating with

continued on page 2



Mayor Harry Brower with the Ipalook Elementary K3 and K4 students

Oh what fun it is to sing! Ipalook Elementary K3/K4 Carolers

On December 16, 2019 the Ipalook Elementary K3 and K4 students went dashing through the snow to spread the holiday cheer throughout our community. This is an annual tradition that brings joy to our residents young and old. The childrens enthusiasm for sharing their song with the community is a reminder that our children are our greatest treasure. We would like to express our appreciation to the North Slope Borough School District and the wonderful Ipalook Elementary teaching staff for continuing the tradition of Christmas Carolling in Utqiagvik.



P. 2-4

- Mayor's Message
- Guess Who
- Girls on the Run

P. 5

- Celebrating our Employees

P. 6-8

- Tips for Home Heating
- Holiday Greetings
- First Responder recognition

Mayor's message continued:

written responses to community concerns. These responses are read into the record each month during a regular public meeting with Assembly Representatives from your communities. This report in addition to detailed monthly progress reports demonstrate our sense of accountability and the importance of transparency in government as we promised. **I have applied our values in the way I govern** with "avoidance of conflict" when possible. I felt very strongly that the decision to Litigate issues with our largest taxpayers should be made only after meeting directly with the taxpayer and not merely on the advice of a lawyer or a consultant. The Borough has spent Millions doing this in the past and I questioned the necessity of conflict as a management strategy. As a result, all the Borough's outstanding tax claims with its largest taxpayers have been settled. This allows the Borough and the Taxpayers to proceed with financial planning without speculation that ties up revenue for potential losses, and to develop more positive and respectful relationships without legal interference. **We have demonstrated fairness and transparency in the administration of Borough Contracts.** Our Assembly and some business minded constituents expressed concern about what they felt was a monopoly in Service Area-10 contract awards. While the services provided through SA-10 Technical Services Contracts were of the highest quality, the negotiation of these contracts in the past had severely restricted any competition, because many SA-10 assets were owned by the contractor. In response to community and Assembly concerns, we disentangled those assets and advertised technical services for competitive bids. The incumbent retained the privilege to continue being the service provider based on their experience and competitiveness. This

was very challenging to accomplish due to many perceptions and special interests. Our focus was not on a predetermined outcome but to demonstrate fairness and transparency. We also brought the Borough back into compliance with our Code of Ordinances by shifting the day to day operations oversight and contract management back under the responsibilities of the Public Work Director. The appointment of a Business Manager for SA-10 was essential to making all this happen. **We are fulfilling the Borough's comprehensive planning obligations to its communities** and provided a unifying regional plan to communicate our goals and priorities to cooperating government agencies, consultants and contractors. In 2020 all of our communities will have completed community and regional planning documents for their use. **Like our founder Eben Hopson, I believe in Maximum Local Government.** I selected a modifier under the new tax cap formula to increase operating dollars for this purpose. The Borough is more than a service provider, it is the region's largest employer and economic driver. Increasing operating revenue has also afforded initiatives like the purchase of a new Medivac Jet to replace the aging Leer; using operating dollars instead of waiting for Capital Program Funding and administration. The new jet is gravel runway certified directly from the manufacture without re-certification and had an increased range of over 1,000 miles. We have been able to **budget regular contributions to the Permanent Fund.** I have required a **unified "Mayor's" budget** presentation to the Assembly for approval instead of allowing separate presentations by Department, that would have them compete instead of working together. In this way your

Mayor takes responsibility for the overall budget and makes available to the Assembly each Department to answer operational and technical questions. Thank you for the positive comments I have received on this change. I have insisted upon a **long-term fiscal strategy of reducing debt.** I now recognize the need to manage a large enough unassigned fund balance to provide a reserve for deficit spending and a contingency for emergencies, but annual budget savings should be put back into play for the people, not simply stored beyond their reach. We have successfully used **Lapsed Funding** provisions in the Borough's code of ordinances for the first time in the history of the Borough. If a need is budgeted and not expended, previous administrations typically let those funds accumulate in the unassigned fund balance. **This Administration has put those dollars to use for residents** by using year end dollars to fund projects that create jobs and improve living conditions for residents. **I have Increased community aid** by sharing increases from Payments In Lieu of Taxes with all the communities of the North Slope Borough; In our first year of office, we increased Economic Impact Assistance Payments by 35% – and we have continued increasing assistance to more than triple what the Borough has shared with local governments before. By doing this we are creating conditions for greater self-determination by our local governments. **I called for the Re-established Housing Department.** By funding Borough Housing Powers through a proposed supplemental funding ordinance, we are developing strategies to address the housing shortage across the slope. **The Emergency Residential Housing**

Wishing You All Happy Holidays



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our friends and family across the North Slope! Many blessings to all ~ The Adams Family



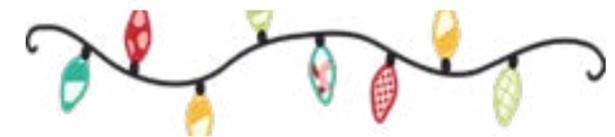
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all! ~ Penny Kennedy and Sheila Burke



I would like to wish everyone on the NS a very merry Christmas and a happy new year's.. May God bless you all and have a safe Holiday!
~ Raymond H Nashookpuk



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! ~ Frank Matumeak



Greetings and Salutations to ALL our residents in the or on the North Slope, we wish all the joy of Christ birth in your hearts as if you were there yourselves.....spread love and joy...give hope by helping, not by saying....pray to the Spirited Lord for thanks for being there for us as a Inupiaq peoples, we belong to the Land as it belongs to You Gracious Spirited Lord....keep us safe throughout and give us the Joy of the Lord which is our strength....Happiest Holidays To All, with Love and Joy and Gratitude and Endurance, From our Community to yours with love, like my tutaluq says," Taata we should say Merry Christ...mas instead of merry Christmas cause it is His day right?" Mayor Charlie Sollie Hugo City of AKP

Recognizing our NSB First Responders

The North Slope Borough Emergency Services responders in the Fire, Police and Search & Rescue departments have responded to over 6000 emergency calls this year. This includes; ambulance, fire, search and rescue missions, and emergency police calls.

Emergency response is a selfless act. Our NSB Emergency Services personnel respond 24/7, 365 days a year. They are our safeguard to life, health and safety of our North Slope residents. Through rain, sleet, and snow; in the middle of the night—oftentimes from the dinner table and on Holidays—our emergency personnel provide their service to our friends, family, and neighbors across the North Slope.

The work of our Emergency Services personnel is a valued and vital service that the NSB provides.

We would like to show our appreciation for our fine men and women of Emergency Services.

Thank you for your invaluable contribution to our communities.



North Slope Borough

PO Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723

U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 28
Barrow, AK

BOXHOLDER

Mayor's message continued:

Heating Upgrades project was created under my direction to address the most urgent needs of elders, and low-income single parents with children that were expressing concern during my first month in Office. This project has continued to be funded under the newly formed Housing Department and has **improved the living conditions in over 450 homes.**

We have stopped the repurposing of housing for office and itinerant use and began returning some of these units back to our communities. Construction and acquisition of itinerant housing has returned more homes to the housing market than could be constructed for the same budget and in less time. This was a fiscally responsible first step in addressing our housing shortage.

New Public Housing is being constructed for completion in 2020 for 5 of our 8 communities with the highest average number of occupants per home. This first of many new housing projects will reduce multi generation overcrowding, improve conditions for our elders and allow a new generation to become self-sufficient without moving off slope.

During the first few months of Office **we responded to community concerns over inadequate street lighting** that allowed large predators to roam our communities undetected. I directed the installation of old-style High-Pressure Sodium light fixtures until new LED technology could be proven to provide equal or better illumination in village streets for the safety of the communities. This is after a nearly a decade of complaints by the villages that the lighting installed was not adequate. **I have taken positive steps with faith-based organizations** to recognize the historical trauma that began with early missionaries and educators and begin the healing process.

When it was brought to our attention

that the nutritional needs of our Elders and children were not being met during the summer when school lunch programs were closed, we responded and **initiated the first summer elder and youth food program** that has continued each year since.

We have reduced Off Slope travel for training and conferences by 60%. We have increased the amount of training that can be provided on-slope and on-line. I believe that this demonstration of fiscal responsibility is important to our residents and I commend our staff for accepting this challenge.

We have **negotiated cooperative agreements with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Energy** to open communications on the development of North Slope Infrastructure and responsible development of our Natural Resources. The State's ASTAR Initiative with Millions of Dollars committed to On-Slope Planning Efforts is a product of this new dialog.

Seasonal Winter Access Trails started by this Administration are beginning to allow residents safe transportation alternatives for freight and vehicles. We ended a growing conflict with BUECI and committed to a long-term

relationship through a Public Interest Determination Agreement that will offer the utility provider and the Borough a process to improve services for the residents of our largest community.

This Administration is the first to offer DMV services for ID's, Class D & B licensing to all villages on the North Slope. This effort is possible through collaboration between my staff in the Villages, the Police Department and Ilisagvik College.

I am determined to prioritize funding of secondary and higher vocational education programs that will prepare residents for Jobs on the Slope.

I have stood against legislation proposed by our State Government that would take our taxing authority away. I have met with representatives of previous administrations for the purpose of sharing information and developing strategy.

I have also procured the services of the most knowledgeable lawyers on our State's constitution and **developed a strategy for defeating similar legislation if it comes up again.**

I traveled to Washington to express concerns directly over the effects of coastal erosion. These efforts resulted in the Corps of Engineers returning to the

Guess Who?

Can you guess who these two little boys are?



Mayor's message continued:

Slope to update previous studies that were unable to justify Federal Funding; this time with greater community involvement and this time resulting a real project for Barrow that has a high probability of receiving federal funding. This process is intended to continue for other impacted communities.

I directed our staff to work with the Law Department to create casual labor grants and make them available to Alaska Native Corporations that employ the "unemployable" (those who want to work but cannot get a regular job). These are people who have a history of poor performance but need a second chance though casual labor to work for a few days or a few weeks or more, to

re-establish job performance and become a contributor to our communities' success. I want this to be offered in all our communities in 2020.

I have aggressively promoted food security for our people by playing a key role as sponsor of research and presentation to the International Community in order to secure a whale harvest quota for perpetuity. I have also presented to the international community on the Inuit ecosystem approach to wildlife management. As a regular speaker at Arctic Policy forums I advocate self-determination for this region, in this region, as essential in planning development of resources or transportation systems successfully in the Arctic.

I promised to improve the confidence of the State and our investors in the Borough again. The restored confidence that we have achieved has us looking forward again and not backward, but we must not forget how important stability in our government is for our people.

Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year!! I am looking forward to 2020. I think there is much more that we can accomplish together.

May God bless you and comfort you into the new year.

Harry K Brower Jr., Mayor

Girls On The Run

Unleashing confidence through accomplishment



Our Girls on the Run Program held its celebratory 5k marathon on Saturday, December 7, 2019 at Ipalook Elementary School. Over the course of the ten-week program, the girls developed skills that will help them establish a lifetime appreciation for health and well-being. Our program culminated with a community service project where the group created thank you cards and gave the cards and cookies to the employees of the NSB in gratitude for their hard work and dedication to the North Slope Borough. The girls then completed the marathon with their families cheering them on; the event was a huge success.

Celebrating Our Employees



Bertha Akpik, is the Human Resources Investigator and conducts factual investigations, and provides assistance and guidance to all supervisors in the area of progressive discipline for all of the North Slope Borough employees. She has been with HR for 5 years, however she has combined total of over 18 years of service with the North Slope Borough beginning in 1979. Bertha's position is not easy to say the least, she provides quality professional customer service and always ensures the Rules and Regulations are adhered to. Her devotion and commitment in addition to her great attendance record is of priceless value. Quyanaqpak Bertha for all of your valued work!



Evangeline Villalon is an AWIC Client Advocate at the department of Health and Social Services. Eva has worked as a Client Advocate since 2011 and has been employed with the North Slope Borough for the past 9 years. She is creative, energetic and goes above and beyond to make everyone feel

welcome. and polite approach to our participants and their families help to put people at ease when experiencing a crisis situation. Eva's positive attitude and great work ethic shines through her volunteer work and place of employment. Eva provides quality care under adverse circumstances and shows discretion and good judgement at all times. Her devotion in addition to her kind and friendly manner is of priceless value.



Qinugan Vilchis serves our community as a Counselor II at our Health and Social Services - Integrated Behavior Health department. Qinugan is a compassionate, supportive, concerned advocate for our residents. Her advocacy of the individuals for whom she provides support, as well as all of her people of the North Slope goes unmatched at IBH. Qinugan has extended her skills to become a credentialed Tobacco Treatment Specialist enabling her to provide addition support in educating individuals about the consequential health effects of nicotine use. She is also a State of Alaska Fee Agent, extending her supports to assisting those in need of services with success to services beyond the North Slope through connection to State and Federal funded programs. We appreciate Qinugan for her dedicated work toward optimizing the health and wellness of the North Slope!



Allison Segevan serves the community of Wainwright as a Community Health Practitioner for the Health and Social Services Community Health Aide Program. Allison proves to be compassionate, organized. Since 2013, Allison has been making great connections with all her patients and always shows her compassion for the people of Wainwright. She maintains the clinic by ensuring that all the clinic supplies are ordered, stocked, and organized for quality patient care. Allison is known for her dependability and organization which is greatly appreciated by all who work with her. Quyanaqpak Allison, for all your esteemed efforts!



Maria Esparza is the NSB SAR Division Manager. Maria is self-motivated, hard-working, and creative, she often helps out colleagues on other projects as well. Maria's ability to strategize and implement accurately and quickly has contributed immensely to the recent successes in the Search and Rescue Department. Thank you Maria for your hard work and dedication to the residents of the North Slope and to the North Slope Borough Search and Rescue Department.

Tips for inspecting and maintaining a Home Heating oil fuel tank on the North Slope

As winter settles in across North Slope, residents and businesses are turning on the heat and preparing for the cold months ahead. To help residents stay warm this season, The NSB is offering important heating oil tank care tips and information. Read the summary below to learn how to inspect and maintain your above-ground heating oil fuel tank all year long.

Tip 1: Inspect and Maintain Heating Oil Tanks Monthly

Staying safe and warm during the cold months requires regular heating oil tank care. The North Slope Borough recommends that heating tank owners inspect and maintain their tanks monthly. Visual inspections of the tanks should watch for the following potential issues:

- Loose fittings and leaks
- A strong, persistent fuel odor
- Dead or dying vegetation around the tank
- Pitting or scarring
- Corrosion or a horizontal weep line, indicating internal tank corrosion
- Functionality of the on/off valves
- Filter and filter housing integrity and checking for water
- A clear vent/fill access
- Any lean or tilt of the tank
- The climate and seasonal conditions can change quickly in Alaska. Watching for early signs of problems early can ward off expensive and dangerous situations later.

Tip 2: Using the Gauging Chart

The amount of fuel remaining in a tank may be calculated by gauging the fuel level in inches and using a tank chart to determine the number of gallons remaining. Charts can be obtained online (O'Day Equipment, LLC Tank Chart Calculator) or by contacting your local NSB Fuels provider. To see the amount of fuel remaining in the tank, customers can dip a measuring stick into the tank, then compare the level to the chart. This simple trick can help fuel consumers plan and schedule refills. North Slope customers enrolled in the keep-full program* do not worry about fuel levels, as the NSB ensures there is always an adequate amount of fuel in your tank.

Customers can also check for water inside the tank by putting a water gauging paste on the stick prior to dipping it into the tank. If water is present, the colored-paste will change color.

Tip 3: Awareness of Obstacles and Hazards

When performing monthly inspections, heating tank owners should assess the areas surrounding heating oil tanks. Look for new obstacles or hazards around the tank, such as overhanging ice that could drop or snow causing damage. Keep access to the tanks clear. Be aware that unleashed pets can be at risk if allowed to roam near heating tanks.

Tip 4: Annual Makeover

Each year, during the warm months, owners should repaint and replace aging seals or valves to extend the life of heating oil tanks. Residents can worry less about condensation issues by regularly filling reducing the potential for accumulating condensation.

Remember, these are general guidelines about visually inspecting and maintaining an above-ground home heating oil tank. Inspect tank and filtration systems regularly as freezing temperatures may cause damage, cracks or ruptures. Always check with qualified maintenance authorities before replacing a heating oil tank. Local codes may be more strict than state or federal codes.

Should you have any questions you can contact North Slope Borough Fuels Division at 907-852-0346

