Mayors’ Message

There have been some exciting changes that have taken place at the North Slope Borough. The Assembly approved IHLC to be a stand-alone department. My administration and I are pleased to have been involved in this historic occasion which highlights the value the Assembly and this administration place on History, Language and Cultural preservation and revitalization. The IHLC Commission has placed priority on language revitalization efforts, which led to the decision to conduct an Inupiaq Language Summit in July, more details about that will be made available moving forward.

Kivgiq was a success; over 500 individuals participated either in drumming or dancing. The staff was committed to this being a drug and alcohol free event, and several community members commented that it improved the atmosphere. I want to commend all of the dance groups on their amazing performances, and to thank them for passing on our traditions by getting so many young people involved. I’d also like to thank those that participated in the Messenger Race, you represented your groups and communities well. The entire event reminded me of the rich culture of giving and togetherness we all share. This was the first time that we streamed Kivgiq live online, throughout the event there were over 21,000 logins to watch. Streaming allowed people who were unable to attend around Alaska, Canada and the world take part in this amazing cultural event.

The Departments and Administration have been hard at work developing a budget that meets the needs of the communities and we are excited to present that to the Assembly in March. It is our hope that this budget will reflect our commitment to all of our communities.

We continue to face challenges from outside forces that would potentially impact our communities for generations to come. In the face of these challenges, we stand committed to the theme of Kivgiq, “kiikaa atautchikun savaquitigiiksa – let us keep doing more together.” By remembering the values of our past and by working with each other, we will create a legacy that we will be proud to pass down to our children and grandchildren.

In this issue:

Employee of the Month  P. 2
Highlighting Our Youth  P. 3
Who is It?  P. 3
How to Lower your Property Tax  P. 3
Quyanaqpak Kivgiq Sponsors  P. 4
Leila Valencia, Counseling Technician
December 2014

Leila is a Counseling Technician for North Slope Borough Arctic Women In Crisis (AWIC) Program. Leila started in 2010. She manages to provide compassionate and thoughtful advocacy to the families. The children who stay there particularly appreciate Leila’s friendly and generous manner. Leila is sensitive to the participants and their families who are often experiencing a crisis situation. Leila performs above expectations. Leila invariably shows good judgment, and AWIC would not be the same without Leila’s calm and kind presence. Quyanaqpak Leila!

Clifford Benson, Search & Rescue Coordinator
January 2015

Clifford Benson is our January Employee of the month. Clifford has been a valued employee of the Department of Search and Rescue since 2012. Clifford has the difficult job of coordinating search efforts across the North Slope. He is calm and thinks critically in life threatening situations, and his knowledge of the land is invaluable. In the winter month’s Search and Rescue activities come with additional weather and time challenges. In December an individual’s snow machine broke through the ice soaking the person up to his chest. With no communications or PLB it wasn’t until he was overdue at his arrival that Search and Rescue was notified. Clifford was instrumental in coordinating search efforts from volunteers and various North Slope Departments, the search ran for several days. Ultimately, it was Clifford himself who found the individual and coordinated transport. The resident survived with frostbite injuries.

The North Slope is a safer place with employees and volunteers like Clifford who go above and beyond to make sure everyone comes home. Quyanaqpak Clifford!

David Ivanoff, Village Fire Chief
February 2015

David Ivanoff is our February EOM. David is a valued employee of the Fire Department as a Village Fire Chief for the community of Atqasuk. With minimal Volunteers, Chief Ivanoff often responds to EMS & Fire calls by himself and spent a significant amount of time running the administrative functions of the village station alone. In July of 2007, we were able to add an additional employee to assist him with the Fire and EMS operations, but Chief Ivanoff continues to be a pillar of the Department for the community.

David is currently an Emergency Medical Technician and a State of Alaska Fire Fighter 1. He has dedicated his carrier to helping his community of Atqasuk, and continues to serve them well. He is dedicated to training his members and ensures they maintain their certifications.

David is involved with his community and participates in a variety of events not associated with Fire or EMS. We are very proud of his dedication and service. Quyanaqpak Chief Ivanoff!
Selma Nadine Sirraq Khan is the oldest daughter of Naeem Khan and Clarissa Panningona. She is the late granddaughter of Thomas* and Dorothy* Panningona of Barrow.

Selma graduated from Barrow High School in 2009. She went on to pursue a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Anthropology from UAA. As a graduation gift to herself, she purchased her first home at the age of 21. Selma currently works at ASRC Energy Services as a Compliance Safety Manager in Anchorage. With the assistance of AES, Selma was able to obtain a Human Resource Management graduate certificate from the University of Seattle and is currently working on obtaining a Certified Safety Management certificate from ASSE. She is also in the process of continuing her education with UAA. Selma is planning on earning a Master’s Degree in Public Administration focusing on Public Management and Public Policy.

Selma was very fortunate to join groups like MYAC or the BHS Student Council where she gained the knowledge and skills needed in public service. MYAC opened the door to many opportunities that Selma was able to take advantage of as a teen. It sparked her to want to learn more and understand the structure and processes of public organizations, and the history and context of the field of public administration. Although Selma may not be in her hometown, she is planning on returning once she completes her educational goals.

Giving back to the community and region is one of her ultimate goals. Selma would like to say Quyanaqpak to her family, friends, and community members for supporting her throughout the years. Having the support makes a huge impact on accomplishing goals!

How to Lower Your Property Taxes

Do you want to save money? Do you own and occupy your property?

Check the criteria below if you qualify for one (or more) of the following exemptions.

- **Owner Occupied (Ad valorem) exemption** reduces taxable value by $50,000
- **Senior Citizens 65 or older /Disabled Veteran exemption** reduces the taxable value by the first $300,000 of their owner occupied home
- **Volunteer Fire Fighter/EMS exemption** reduces taxable value by $10,000 of their owner occupied home

For more information or to get a Property Tax Exemption form contact Linda Chrestman at the Assessing Division @ (907) 852-0355.

Who is it?

Guess who these two young men are?

Left photo: The Late Mike Rexford, with kids Esther Faye & Sarah Olive Rexford
Quyanaqpak Kivgiq Sponsors!

**Platinum Sponsors**
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation

**Gold Sponsors**
- Arctic Slope Community Foundation
- City of Atqasuk Bingo
- BP
- City of Barrow
- Jolly Rogers Designs

**Silver Sponsors**
- Alaska Frontier Constructors
- Arctic Slope Energy Services
- Arctic Slope Native Association
- Barrow Mechanical
- City of Kaktovik
- Conoco Phillips
- Kuukpik Corporation
- Ice Services
- Olgoonik Corporation
- Nunamiut Corporation
- RAVN Alaska

**Bronze Sponsors**
- Alaska Commercial Company
- Alaska Permanent Capital Mngmt.
- Arctic Chiropractic
- Arctic Grocery
- ASTAC
- Assembly of God Church
- Baptist Church
- Barrow Utilities & Electric Coop, Inc.
- City of Wainwright

**Bronze Sponsors (continued)**
- Cully Corporation
- East Coast Pizzeria
- Everts Air Fuel
- Exxon Mobil
- Gorilla Fireworks
- Hilcorp Alaska, LLC
- Ilisagvik College
- Native Village of Barrow
- New Beginnings Church
- NORDAQ Energy
- NSB Admin & Finance
- NSB Fire Department
- NSB Health Department
- NSB Human Resources Department
- NSB IHLC
- NSB Planning Department
- NSB Police Department
- NSB Wildlife Management
- Preventive Dental
- Sam & Lee’s
- Shell Oil
- Sysco
- Tikigaq Corporation
- Utqiagvik Warriors
- UIC Car Rental
- UIC Construction
- Umiaq
- WH Pacific

North Slope Borough
PO Box 69
Barrow, Alaska 99723

BOXHOLDER