



North Slope News

Issue 2, 2016

Mayor's Message



It was truly humbling to be appointed mayor by the North Slope Borough

Assembly at our April meeting. Even for someone who has spent over a decade [check on exact time] serving on the legislative body of Borough government, there is a steep learning curve associated with understanding all of the Borough's operations. That being said, I'm honored by this opportunity to further serve the community that I love and my door is always open.

In just a few months, Borough voters will have an opportunity to return to the polling booths to elect a new mayor. While these periods of transition can be distracting to some, my administration is committed to providing seamless Borough operations and sound fiscal management while demonstrating a high level of integrity and accountability. We will all work hard to ensure that the needs of our citizens and communities are met.

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National Guard visitors get to try some Uunaalik (cooked maktak).

National Guard gets a taste of Inupiat home cooking

IHLC hosted a cultural day event in Barrow during the Alaska Shield operation to both welcome the 297th BFSB Alaska National Guard to Barrow and to give them a taste of local culture. Traditional food sampling included: Tutu (caribou) soup and

Eskimo donuts; Akiqqaq (whale flipper); Raw Maktak (whale skin and blubber); and Uunaalik (cooked maktak).

Retired veterans Wesley Aiken, Sr. and David Leavitt, Sr. were recog-

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EMPLOYEES

of the Month

Rosario Ortila, Medical Records Clerk

March 2016

Rosario Ortila is our March 2016 Employee of the Month. Her original date of hire was in August 1982. She has worked for the North Slope Borough for over 30 years, and in that time has become a pillar for the Public Health Nursing (PHN) Program. She ensures that infants and children are scheduled for immunizations and treats every client with dignity and respect, making sure they understand the services they are receiving. Rosario goes the extra mile to contact and schedule clients for tuberculosis screenings and epidemiology contact investigations.

Rosario never complains about the heavy workload and offers to work when Public Health Nursing is having walk-in clinics or community events. The overall health of borough residents is a great concern for her. Rosario takes her personal time to translate radio shows in Tagalog so more people understand the health messages being aired. She is truly a PHN administrative professional who realizes the health of one affects the whole community.

Rosario has had, and continues to have, a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of the North Slope Borough. She is an asset to the NSB PHN office and the community.

Quyanaqpak Rhesse!



Robin Kaleak, Captain

April 2016

I am pleased and honored to present this month's employee of the month award to Robin Kaleak, a captain with the North Slope Borough Fire Department.

Robin's interest in this field started in high school with his participation in the Explorer Program in 2007. After graduating, he enrolled in the MJP program and worked at the Fire Department. Robin continued to enhance his skills by pursuing more and more education in the field. He became an emergency trauma technician and then enrolled in a Firefighter 1 course. He continued to pursue higher levels of training while working for the Fire Department and advanced to an emergency medical

technician 2 level as well as a certified fire fighter II.

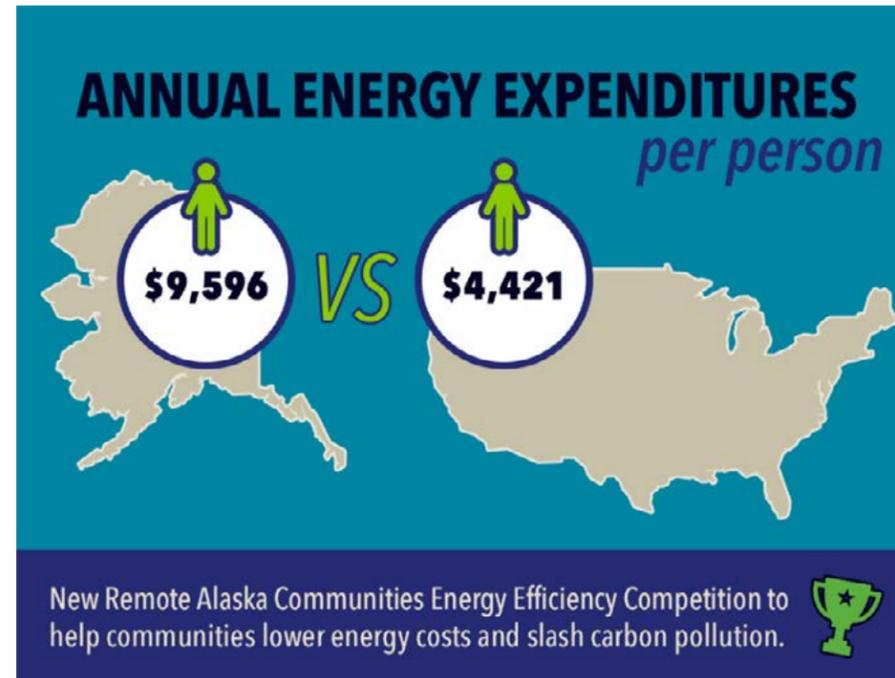
Over the years, Robin climbed through the ranks at the Fire Department and is now the captain of operations. Due to his desire to serve his community at the highest professional level possible, he is currently working to upgrade his skills even further by obtaining a fire service instructor and fire officer certification.

Robin is a wonderful example of how our young people can find the education they need to achieve their goals while staying close to home and providing service to their community. Congratulations, Robin. We are all



very proud of your accomplishments and your dedication to the welfare and safety of your friends, family and neighbors.

Quyanaqpak Robin!



3 North Slope Villages Recognized as "Community Efficiency Champions"

The last few months have been busy for the Housing Solutions Group. We have identified several grant opportunities to pursue in 2016 that will build capacity in Native villages to begin to solve some of our region's longstanding and difficult housing issues. Addressing concerns heard during the November Housing Summit in Barrow, we already helped one tribal housing department submit an application for the USDA Housing Preservation Grant. Other funding sources targeted in our strategy include HUD, USDA, HHS, DOE, the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

Among the most promising developments so far is the selection of three North Slope villages as "Community Energy Champions" for the U.S. Department of Energy's Remote Alaska Communities Energy Efficiency (RACEE) competition, announced by President Obama

during his visit to Kotzebue last September. At the direction of Borough CAO Jacob Adams, we are working with community leaders in Anaktuvuk Pass, Kaktovik, and Point Hope, who all pledged to reduce per-capita energy consumption in their villages at least 15% by 2020—which could open up substantial opportunities to improve housing. These villages were among 64 in Alaska praised by both Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Gov. Bill Walker for their leadership.

"We have some of the highest energy prices in the country, which is why it's so important to promote energy innovation," Murkowski said.

"By being designated as 'Community Efficiency Champions,' rural Alaska communities are one step closer to receiving the tools needed to further save money on energy costs."

In a March letter addressed to these communities, Gov. Walker acknowledged that energy costs in rural Alaska affect everything from the price of groceries to the success of small businesses. "Energy efficiency is low-hanging fruit," he said. "The cheapest kilowatt-hour or BTU is the one you do not have to use. By reducing the cost of energy, we can improve economic opportunity and keep our communities thriving."

Like teams in a March Madness tournament bracket, these villages are now eligible to compete for technical assistance from expert providers who will help them prepare project implementation plans for funding. A subset of these communities will advance to the RACEE "championships," where they will be able to apply for \$3.3 million in DOE grants.

The grants could help villages move forward with long overdue upgrades to community buildings and housing. They could also go toward improving inefficient infrastructure and energy systems. Using data provided by the NSB Assessor's office and Utility Accountants, and fuel records from village corporations, community leaders are preparing applications for the competition's second phase. Selection notifications are expected in late April.

You can learn more about the RACEE competition at energy.gov/AlaskaCompetition. Or you can contact Griffin Hagle at the North Slope Borough. (907) 852-2611 ext 5221 or email griffin.hagle@north-slope.org.

Wishing my mom...

Happy Mother's Day

This month we asked folks in our North Slope communities to share their love for their mom across the North Slope.



Above: Lorean Driggs with her mother Della Driggs

Happy Mother's day Mom! Thank you for always being there for me. From the littlest things, to the biggest things! You mean so much more to me than you think! I hope you have a great mother's day! I love you!!

— Lorean Driggs



Happy Mother's Day Mom, Lena K. Simmonds!

We Love You MOM! From your family near and far.

Happiest Mother's day to my mother Isabel Maasak Nashookpuk!

Thank you for all you have done from the day I was born.. thank you for always supporting me in anyway! I love you!

Happiest mother's day in Heaven Aaka *Lizzie Aguvluk. You are dearly missed!

— Raymond Nashookpuk



Anaktuvuk Pass mass casualty event shines light on vital health aide system

Nolita Madros, a Kaltag Tribal member, has been a Community Health Aide/Practitioner in Anaktuvuk Pass since 2005. She is often the only health aide in this community of over 250 residents. On January 2nd, 2016, as she waited for a flight at the airstrip, she was told a plane had gone down in the mountains nearby with a full load of passengers. Nolita immediately decided to stay and help. She quickly spread the word to responders and other helpers in the village. Nolita also informed her program coordinator in Barrow of the situation. The coordinator agreed to help provide any additional resources Nolita was not able to obtain on her own.

Nolita then helped to coordinate assistance for victims of the crash. She went to the crash scene, located six miles south of the village and on a mountainside, to provide care while casualties were removed from the wreckage. Nolita also took it upon herself to make sure that people who were not helping and only watching were sent away so responders were not hindered in their efforts in any way.

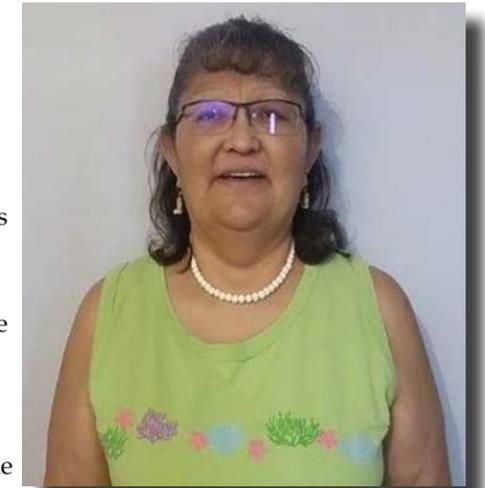
Along with other responders, Nolita identified the care that was needed to help and comfort the eight survivors of the crash. Although all suffered from some injuries, all eight on the plane survived.

Nolita and her health clinic team were on the job from approximately noon on January 2nd until the last medevac flew out the next day, 24 hours later.

Supplies like IV fluids and blankets ran low during the event. The press and others kept calling the clinic

for updates, interfering with patient care. Nolita realized this was a bad situation and cut them off so that full attention could be paid to survivor needs. Meanwhile, the Tanana Chiefs Conference sent in fresh supplies so the clinic could continue to provide care to crash victims as well as village residents who were in need of health care. Medevac carriers sent in medevac planes and additional medical personnel to assist with stabilizing the patients in the village clinic.

Nolita always helps, always has her patients' best interests in mind, and always finds a way to surmount obstacles. Her assistance with the January crash victims is one more example of a wonderful community health



Community Hero Nolita Madros.

aide in action. It is further proof, if any is needed, that our health aides are truly the backbone of Alaska's remote



Who is It?

Last issue "Who Is It"?
????

Can you guess who this groups of people are? Looks like they're enjoying the dinner company?





April was recognized as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Residents of all ages showed up for the walk in Barrow to show their support.

Child Abuse Awareness Month

On April 1, walks were held all over the state of Alaska to raise awareness of April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. In Barrow, AWIC coordinated a community walk in conjunction with the Alaska Children's Alliance, the NSBHD Children and Youth Services, Integrated Behavioral Health, and the Barrow Boys and Girls Club. Carrying a Go Blue banner, students walked from Laura Madison to the New Beginnings Church.

When the walk was completed, BHS Assistant Principal Ronnie Stanford, IBH Clinical Director Russell Bryant, NSBPD Chief of Police Travis Welch and AWIC Board Member and Early Childhood Learning Center Coordinator Cheryl Humme spoke with the students who had marched. All praised the students for the courageous participation in the march and their work to raise awareness of the tragedy of child abuse and how it can affect children for the rest of their lives. They gave students information on how to stay safe, seek safety if needed, and helped them become aware of community resources they can access if abuse is a problem in their lives.

If you or someone you know is being abused you can contact?

Mayor's Message (cont. from page 1)

My administration will also move forward with a revision of the North Slope Borough Code of Ethics. These revisions will provide clear guidelines for the mayor and Assembly and are needed to prevent many of the issues that we have seen in the past. It is my desire that they will also serve as a reminder of the ethical and moral responsibilities our elected leaders owe to the people that they serve.

As we move forward, I hope that we can find ways to come together as a community and heal some of the divisions that have arisen between us. Our state is facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis and the Borough will not be immune from feeling the pain caused by the current economic climate. It is essential that we rise up together to meet these challenges so that we can help ensure a bright future for our children and grandchildren. In unity there is strength and I know that we all are up to the task. Quyanaqpak!

National Guard visit (cont. from page 1)

nized for their service to the National Guard through their participation in the Alaska Territorial Guardsmen. They were both presented with awards of recognition from the 297th BFSB.

The event also included dancing from the Ovluaq Dance Group with Ernest Nageak showing the Guard a variety of motion dances. Everyone joined in with the dancing and seemed to have a fun and happy time.

At the end of the event, IHLC staff was given a Snow Shoe Plaque in appreciation of their work to make the event a success.

Healthy kids, Healthy Communities

While many young people are busy with subsistence activities across the North Slope in spring, some others are not. The Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC), in conjunction with the Healthy Communities initiative, has been busy all spring finding ways to keep youth involved in fun and healthy activities.

Keeping all our young people engaged in positive activities makes our communities and our families healthier and stronger. The pictures on these pages show some of those activities from Pt. Hope and Anaktuvuk Pass.

MYAC in Pt. Hope opted to sponsor the 2016 MYAC Ski Race thanks to ski poles donated by the borough Mayor's Office. Kids enjoyed the skiing with snacks to end the event.

In Anaktuvuk Pass, the kids chose sledding as their activity. The borough Mayor's Office provided the sleds and, as these pictures so clearly show, the kids provided the fun.



MYAC continue to educate youth across the slope.

North Slope Borough

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