North Slope Borough
Barrow, Alaska 99723

pipeline bill (SB138) that passed the House and Senate on the final night of the 90-Day legislative session.

On May 8th it was an honor to personally witness the signing of this historic legislation. Governor Parnell graciously asked me to say a few words at the signing ceremony. I told those in attendance we should all be proud as we witness the signing of this historic legislation and we move closer to our dream of bringing affordable, reliable energy to many of the residents of our great state. But after thanking the Governor for his efforts, I proudly told the audience, SB 138 is historic to the people of the North Slope Borough for another reason because it included our tax cap bill.

North Slope Borough has used a capital program funded primarily with general obligation bonds in order to develop public infrastructure. That infrastructure requires an ongoing maintenance and operations program in order to remain viable and useful. However, our Borough was facing an ever-increasing challenge of addressing these maintenance issues due to the restrictions that municipal tax statutes placed on how much revenue could be applied towards operations. HB 379 fixes this problem and gives my administration and future administrations, flexibility, control, and options which are best for the residents of the North Slope.

I also once again want to thank Representative Nageak whose tireless efforts got us to where we are today. Benny, you are truly a champion for your people and we are blessed to have you as our representative. Quyanaqpak, for your service to your people!

Sincerely,

Charlotte E. Brower, Mayor
North Slope Borough

Raymond Aqvaluk Atos selected as the 2014 Spirit of the Youth

Raymond Aqvaluk Atos was selected as 2014 Spirit of the Youth for Cultural Pursuits.

Ray is part of the Patkotak whaling crew in Barrow. He hunts for his family and community year round and is a part of the young generation that want to keep the Inupiaq traditions alive. He goes out camping and hunting with family and friends. Spirit of the Youth builds resiliency in youth through encouraging, recognizing and celebrating meaningful participation in the community.

Nominated teens ages 12-19 receive a letter of congratulations and commemorative keepsakes. A school board member or local official also recognizes them in a public forum and presents them with an official certificate of achievement signed by the Lt Governor of Alaska.

Once a year, the Teen Advisory Council selects two award recipients in each awards category who are honored at our annual awards dinner.
Maria Esparza
Employee of the Month
May 2014

Maria Esparza is our May 2014 Employee of the Month. Marie has been a great asset to the North Slope Borough Department of Planning and Community Services. She was hired as an Office Secretary position. Quyanaqpak Maria!

A new partnership between the North Slope Borough and the University of Alaska – Alaska Native Science & Engineering Program (ANSEP) began last December and NSB students are already reaping the benefits. ANSEP student Ianjon Brower is working with the NSB Department of Wildlife Management as a summer intern. This will be his third summer with DWM, and his first as an ANSEP intern. These internships are beneficial to students as they include a $5000 scholarship to be awarded to the student the following school year after successful completion of their coursework. Ianjon and other DWM interns gain valuable experience “training to be a biologist.” Their work with us will be highlighted in poster presentations at ANSEP meetings and other scientific meetings in Alaska. This is an important step in mentoring students into professional careers. Sam George, also a UAF ANSEP student, will be working with NOAA fish biologists near Barrow for a second year.

This year for the first time the NSB will fund North Slope students in ANSEP’s Summer Bridge Program, which is designed to help graduating high school students better prepare for college. The students spend 5 weeks at UAA where they take two summer courses in math and science in small group settings providing mentorship and support. They learn to navigate the university and experience life in the dorms, plus they receive trainings that help prepare them for the workforce, including CPR, gun safety, first aid, etc. Their summer program is capped off with a 4-week internship with a partner organization. The two NSB 2014 Summer Bridge students are Amy Leavitt, with interests in public health, who will work with the NSB Health Department, and engineering student Nathaniel Olemaun, who will intern with the NSB CIPM department. We look forward to supporting these students on their pathways to the careers of their choice, ensuring that they will become qualified, contributing residents of the NSB in the future. We encourage more NSB students attending UA campuses to join ANSEP in order to benefit from this wonderfully successful program.

Chief Boyea retires after nearly 11 Years on the North Slope

The North Slope Borough's Chief of Police is retiring on June 30, 2014 after spending nearly 11 years on the North Slope. While we are saddened by his retirement, we are appreciative of his commitment to home and family. As we all know, our Chief recently lost his father and his family members are depending on his leadership and assistance. Chief Boyea’s strong commitment to public safety and dedication to our communities will be dearly missed, and his strong and steady leadership will be emulated with the staff he leaves behind. We wish you the very best, Chief Boyea!

New Partnership Benefits North Slope Students

The North Slope Borough Health & Social Services Department partnered with the Arctic Slope Native Association to provide a health conference for the region. This conference was the first of its kind and was titled Healthy Living Summit: Sharing Knowledge – Strengthening Community and was held April 14-16, 2014. The conference focused on the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse in youth and provided three health tracks: Healthcare providers, youth and community members. This health summit was open to the public and there were over 200 attendees for the three day conference.

Participants were able to learn from national leaders and Alaska experts from the health and wellness fields who inspired participants, shared practical tips and useful techniques to help strengthen our communities to address drug and alcohol abuse. One national level speaker, who had local ties and inupiaq roots, was Dr. Daniel Dickerson, DO, MPH. Dr. Dickerson taught participants about using drumming and its benefits for prevention of substance abuse among Alaska Native People. Dr. Dickerson is the son of Kate Mary Segevan from Wainwright. The evening hosted an Eskimo dance and more drumming. The final plenary session allowed local panel participants to talk about the very real and harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse. This plenary session feathered our tribal court system, the State of AK System, and a local person who shared his story about the ramifications and effects of drug and alcohol use on a personal level. Mr. John Qaliqilini Ill’s personal story was inspiring to the youth and participants. Mr. Miller, who lives in recovery is very proud of his sobriety.

This annual conference could not happen without the sponsorship of individuals and agencies. Many thanks to Rasmuson Foundation, Arctic Slope Community Foundation, BP, Conoco Phillips, Southcentral Foundation, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Shell Oil, Ukpeagvik Ilipiat Corporation, University of California Los Angeles, ConocoPhillips, North Slope Borough Mayor’s Office and Health Department, Arctic Slope Native Association and many more for making this conference a reality! Quyanaqpak to all those that participated, supported and attended the 1st annual North Slope Healthy Living Summit!