MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Last month we hosted the 4th North Slope Borough oil and gas forum. It was exciting to hold this forum during the 50th anniversary of the creation of the North Slope Borough. We've come a long way over the past five decades but still have so much left to do to advance our people and region into its next 50 years and beyond.

We have designed this forum to bring together the Borough, state and North Slope residents to work together in planning for future development. When I mention the people of this Borough, I mean all of the residents and the organizations that represent them, including city governments, village tribal governments, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, village Native corporations, and organizations such as the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission. We reminded those in attendance that projects like Willow and Pikka are located on the ancestral lands of the Iñupiat people, but these are not Iñupiat or Borough projects. That's because continue on page 6....
"Thank you, Mr. Tom Opie, for the services that you provide to all of the North Slope communities, serving the people. It was not just focused in Barrow, it was all our relative villages. With Assemblyman Ahsoak’s recommendation, we (NSB) have a Certificate of Recognition awarded to Tom Opie for his dedication to the Fire Department efforts across the North Slope and lifetime commitment to the North Slope people.

I hereby, declare naming the Barrow Fire Department "Tom Opie Building" this 23rd day of July 2022."  

- Mayor Harry Brower Jr.
WHAT IS FENTANYL?
Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic.

WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?
Fentanyl was first developed in 1959 and introduced in the 1960s as an intravenous anesthetic. It is legally manufactured and distributed in the United States. Licit fentanyl pharmaceutical products are diverted via theft, fraudulent prescriptions, and illicit distribution by patients, physicians, and pharmacists.

From 2011 through 2018, both fatal overdoses associated with abuse of clandestinely produced fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, and law enforcement encounters increased markedly. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fentanyl analogues were involved in roughly 2,600 drug overdose deaths each year in 2011 and 2012, but from 2012 through 2018, the number of drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl and other synthetic opioid increased dramatically each year. More recently, there has been a re-emergence of trafficking, distribution, and abuse of illicitly produced fentanyl and fentanyl analogues with an associated dramatic increase in overdose fatalities, ranging from 2,666 in 2011 to 31,335 in 2018.

"The Drug Enforcement Administration has issued a Public Safety Alert warning Americans of the alarming increase in the lethality and availability of fake prescription pills containing fentanyl and methamphetamine. The Public Safety Alert coincides with the launch of DEA’s One Pill Can Kill Public Awareness Campaign to educate the public of the dangers of counterfeit pills and urges all Americans to take only medications prescribed by a medical professional and dispensed by a licensed pharmacist."

For more information: DEA One Pill Can Kill Social Media Campaign  www.dea.gov/dea-one-pill-can-kill-social-media-campaign

WILDLIFE PRESENT IN COMMUNITIES

- Foxes are a normal part of the ecosystem.
- NOT ALL FOXES ARE RABID.
- Signs of rabies include stumbling, aggression, and biting inanimate objects.
- Please call the NSB Veterinary Clinic at (907)852-0277 if you witness a fox exhibiting these abnormal behavioral signs.
- The rodent (lemmings, weasels, voles) population is increased this year resulting in foxes getting closer to town.
- Please vaccinate your animals for rabies every year! Thank you!
Lilly "Beeba" Kilapsuk has a strong work ethic and this reflects in the Land Management Regulations division. She just accepted the position of the Land Management Regulations Manager. Before, she had taken the lead as Acting APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: LILLY KILAPSUK

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Land Management Regulations Manager, filling in as the Manager while completing her regular job as Specialist. Lilly works well with the industry and is well versed in Title 19 of the North Slope Borough municipal code. She works hard on accurately reviewing the permitting and development correspondence in the time allotted for review. Lilly is fluent in Inupiaq and helps with community engagement and development reviews. She has also been involved with GMT 1, GMT 2, Nanushuk and Willow rezones and articulated the NSBMC Title 19 ordinance to residents. She is a dedicated worker, always the first one to work in the morning and the last one to leave after work. In Lilly’s personal endeavors, she Eskimo dances with the Barrow Dancers, sews Inupiaq regalia and is a member of the Saavgaq Whaling Crew.
The exercise is a small-scale search and rescue mission offshore of Utqiagvik named Operation Itqanaiyaq, meaning Get Ready or Get Prepared in Iñupiaq. The purpose of the exercise is for the Coast Guard and North Slope Borough Search and Rescue to practice procedures for maritime distress response.

“This search and rescue exercise provides a great opportunity for the Coast Guard to train alongside the North Slope Borough in an Arctic environment,” said Lt. Lindsay Wheeler from the 17th Coast Guard District. “We never know when we will need to respond with our aerial or surface assets to help find and rescue missing or injured people.” (USCG press release)
Sophia Segevan was hired by the NSB as a temporary office clerk back in 2002. She worked in the NSB Health/CHAP for 6 years before coming to the IHLC Department as an Oral Historian in 2019. Sophia positively impacts the students and the community with the work she performs.

Sophia’s job is to interview elders, to obtain histories, and is also responsible to assist the department with coordinating outreach classes for her residents in her community.

At the beginning of this year, Sophia again inquired of scheduling classes. They’ve held atikluk and qatignisi classes, and have plans for other types of classes in the future. Sophia even communicated with the school staff regarding a field trip, she can assist with, after completion of a niksik class, to have a coordinated fishing field trip. Arahaa, put those new tools to use, after making them.

Sophia never says no, when the NSB needs assistance in her village. She recently assisted the Health Department Staff with their healthy ways initiative.

Thank you Sophia for all your hard work to ensure the residents of Wainwright are busy with Inupiaq History, Language and Culture!

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING: AK DOT AND NSB

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) describes the terms of an understanding between the Alaska Depart of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) and the North Slope Borough (NSB) relating to common land use and transportation issues on the North Slope of Alaska, including coordination and permitting activity; land use planning and the accompanying surface management activities. In addition, the MOU encourages voluntary corporation between DOT&PF and the NSB on issues of common interests that extend beyond efficient permitting and project coordination. DOT&PF and the NSB may coordinate meetings with other state and federal agencies toward a goal of more efficiently bringing projects to development.

...Message from the Mayor continue from page one

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Borough is a unique example of native Americans using the municipal-government model to support themselves. We are able to do this because we have a tax base. We have a tax base because of the fossil-fuel industry.

Our job at the North Slope Borough is to defend the interests of our eight Inupiat communities, protect our ancestral lands and safeguard our cultural traditions. Subsistence—the ability to care for ourselves and our families—is one of those traditions. The environmental extremists seeking to stop all development of oil and gas in our region, subsistence hunting, and using the land to transport goods and services to build schools, homes, and clinics are trying to rob our people of our right to self-determination.

We also reminded those in attendance, some of our residents still live in homes that aren’t connected to running water and modern sewage systems. We have no roads connecting our communities because the federal government will not allow us to build them. This is not an excuse but a painful reminder of how little we still control. We must remain united in our resolve to change this; together. God bless you all and safe travels to our Whaling crews during the upcoming fall harvest and welcome to all the new school teachers on slope. -Mayor Harry Brower Jr.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS: FUN RUN

Dawn Clemons started working for the North Slope Borough in 2013. She goes above and beyond what is expected and requested of her. She takes initiative and always aims to deliver excellent results. Dawn is always willing to accept more responsibilities as shown in the progressive positions she has held.

From Accounting Specialist, Accounting Supervisor, CIPM Fiscal Manager, Government Accountant, and now assistant Controller for A&F Accounting Division, Dawn has demonstrated that with well-chosen additional responsibilities, she can create more value for the North Slope Borough.

Dawn is an outstanding employee and makes a positive impact on her team. In FY21, the North Slope Borough achieved a clean audit opinion, it was the cleanest audit we have had in a few years, as there were no findings, no significant deficiencies, or material weaknesses. Dawn played a key role in accomplishing this significant achievement.

We recognize and appreciate her hard work and contributions. Thank you, Dawn.
Happy to announce the Employee of the Month is Benjamin Hugo. He started his employment with NSB Public Works in 1992 as a Temp Laborer. He has shown an exceptionally high standard of work ethic as the Heavy Equipment Operator in AKP. In his 26 years working with the Borough, he has shown growth and leads by example.

Benjamin is an outstanding employee who is more than willing to learn everything he can about his profession. He is a hard worker and shows up every day with a good attitude. He doesn’t hesitate to share his knowledge of the environment and his day-to-day operations with others. He is a vital employee and someone we can depend on.

Quyanaqpak Benjamin, for your service!

Mayors Youth Advisory Council: Spotlight

To me, leadership looks like a person who doesn’t accept ‘No’ or ‘Can’t’ when the future is uncertain or tough. Great leadership is the ability to always bring out the best in others through leading by example, coaching, being accessible, and making smart decisions that steer others into the right direction. I’d also say my older sister is an example of a leader because whichever obstacle is thrown her way, she always finds a way to persevere and overcome. She’s a strong independent woman who has pushed me to my limits, and stood by my side during hard times. She also has led me to do and try better things in life. I’d love to pick up those skills and happily inform and pass it onto others.

- Bryanna Tunik

What does a leader look like to you?

A leader is similar to a role model, but they volunteer their time to help. They know how to keep things under control, they help identify problems and find resolutions to them. They are reliable, they can clarify goals, they can ensure good communication to others and that can be honest about their actions.

Some ways to practice these leadership qualities; understanding your style of leadership, finding out your weaknesses and finding ways to strengthen them, can practice communications skills by giving your honest feedback/opinion, accepting that you fail sometimes and you can learn from failures and being open minded towards people’s feedback.

- Frances Itta and Marlene Itta