MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Greetings fellow residents of the North Slope Borough. I am pleased to give you a few highlights of the Borough’s recent activities. Through a partnership with the Arctic Education Foundation and the Wainwright Jamboree committee, Healthy Communities supported a culture camp attended by students from across the North Slope for a three-day community celebration with visitors across the state. Joining in with the City Wide Clean up interns focused on cleaning up areas around town that are frequently visited by visitors and local attractions.

We also had a Communication Emergency when the sea ice gouged the ocean floor and cut a fiber optics line owned by Quintillion. This cut off from the internet and most phone services. The North Slope Borough has been in working with all phone and internet providers to re-establish connectivity. We've been adapting to adversity and challenges for thousands of years and even though this problem was no fault of ours, we are moving forward and adjusting to the new normal and hope to secure more future federal funding for broadband and telecommunications. As part of the beach erosion in multiple areas across the north slope Port Authority has been working with the Army Corp of Engineers

Continue on page 3....

Newsletter Highlights

A Message from the Mayor
Employee of the Months
Joint Assembly Meeting
NSB Employee Highlights
Aviation Day
IHLC Community Outreach
Village sewing & ruff classes
Walking Wednesday
Fiber cut- Quintillion
NSB Founders Day
APRIL EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: TOMMY NAGEAK

Tommy Nageak “Kunneak” is a lifelong resident of Utqiagvik, Alaska and comes from a long line of subsistence hunters and whalers. Kunneak is a long-term and very committed employee who works diligently on behalf of the North Slope Borough with government relations in the Local, State and Federal Sectors. A key aspect of Kunneak’s position at Planning and Community Services is investigating cultural and subsistence use sights during development review for any projects on the North Slope. Kunneak maintains the documenting in the Traditional Land Use Inventory of the North Slope Borough that is an integral part of any North Slope Development review. With Tommy’s work, our ancestral grounds are accurately identified, documented and preserved. This highly valued position is an integral mission of the Planning and Community Services Department to uphold the cultural resources sites and database while enjoying the Inupiaq subsistence lifestyle. Kunneak has been the ideal Cultural Resources Specialist and serves his best on behalf of our residents and is very deserving of this recognition and award. Quyanaqpak Kunneak!

MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: JOSEPHINE HOPSON

In Recognition of Qiilu for her skills as Principal Accounting Specialist for the North Slope Borough Planning & Community Services Department. She stays on task, gets her job done in a timely manner, and does not hesitate to help. In addition to her duties, she ensures the CWAT Program has the necessary supplies for each season. Our residents of the North Slope region thank you for your service. Quyanaqpak!

JUNE EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH: SIMEON KUNAKNANA

Simeon came on board with Public Works in 2019 and has filled the role of NSB Water Utility Systems Operator in Nuiqsut. In his 4 years working he has shown dedication and willingness to go above and beyond his job duties. Simeon is committed to his job, he shows up to work every day and works overtime when asked upon. Simeon has recently passed his water distribution 1 test and has proven to be an asset to the Nuiqsut, Water Treatment Plant for the North Slope Borough. Thank you, Simeon, for your efforts and dedication to ensuring the residents of Nuiqsut are safely being taken care of, Quyanaqpak.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE...

Mayor Harry Brower Jr. and Colonel Palazzini of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officially signed the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for the Barrow Seawall Project. This Federal project can now move into the construction phase and be put out to bid once the NSB officially joins the National Flood Insurance Program. The NSB has been involved with this project for over a decade and this historic signing will bring the largest USACE construction project to Utqiagvik. The seawall will be roughly five miles long and protect the Utqiagvik shoreline from the bluffs at the end of the runway to the beach at NARL by Dewline Road. Materials should start arriving during barge season during the Summer of 2024.

The Health Department facilitated the first meeting for their air quality study. This study was paid for by a grant from the NPR-A program; it will cover testing in several villages affected by the development of oil and gas in our region. As the contractor and NSB staff started traveling and gathering community input more updates will be available.

JOINT ASSEMBLY MEETING

The North Slope Borough and Northwest Arctic Borough held a Joint Workshop on April 6, 2023, and a Joint Assembly Meeting on April 7, 2023, at the Marriott Downtown, Anchorage. During this time they discussed issues such as Approving a Joint Arctic Vision, Food Security, and possible Inupiat-based management for food security, for timely completion of the Department of Interiors review for the Ambler Road in the NANA region, and working on collaborative efforts for planning Arctic Infrastructure. Mayor Brower, Mayor Moto, Assembly Members, and many staff for both Boroughs were able to make the meeting. This was the first Joint Assembly Meeting between the two Boroughs since July 2018 due to issues with COVID-19. The Joint Assembly's passed 4 resolutions which were updated by regional state and federal congressmen. Alaska Representative Josiah Patkotak, Alaska Senator Donny Olson, US Representative Mary Peltola were able to join the Joint Assembly Meeting on April 7 where they gave updates on the state and federal government activities as well as took questions from both Assembly's. This was a step in the right direction for both Boroughs working together to give guidance for each region and for having their local, regional, and federally elected officials listen to their concerns as well as accomplishments. The meeting was concluded with many goals to be accomplished and guided by the signed Joint Resolutions.

Both Administrations for the NSB and NWAB look forward to accomplishing these goals before the next Joint Assembly Meeting.

For any information on the passed resolutions please visit the NSB Clerks Office or the Mayor’s Office in Utqiagvik.
NSB EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS & HIGHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Ian Strod - Law Assistant

Ian has worked for the North Slope Borough since 2011, hailing originally from Madison, Wisconsin. Ian graduated with a B.A. from Auburn University in 2002, and a J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2005. Ian served as an Engineer officer in the United States Army, and was stationed in Alaska at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson starting in 2006, with deployments to Iraq, the Philippines, and South Korea. Ian reached the rank of Captain and was honorably discharged in 2010 after serving as the commander of the 56th Engineer Company.

Ian joined the North Slope Borough Police Department in 2011 as a patrol officer, serving later as a detective and canine officer with Canine Banjo. Ian worked for the Department of Public Works from 2016-2018 in project administration and compliance, and worked for CIPM in project management from 2018-2021. Since transferring to the Law Department, Ian has been primarily responsible for assisting the North Slope Borough Planning Department, as well as the activities of the North Slope Borough Planning Commission and the Utqiagvik Zoning Commission. Ian recently passed the bar exam in the State of Alaska and will be sworn in as an attorney at the Superior Court in Utqiagvik on June 2nd.

Mariam Valenzuela - Deputy Director of Health

Mariam Valenzuela has worked for the North Slope Borough since 2014 and during her years of employment has demonstrated knowledge in administration and policy. Mariam is the daughter of Jose and Tina Sanchez and was born and raised in Utqiagvik. Mariam recently graduated from Arizona State University Sandra Day O’ Conner School of Law with a Masters in Legal Studies, her degree has an emphasis in Tribal Self Governance. Mariam attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks and received a Bachelor’s degree in Justice with a minor in Business Administration in 2021. Mariam started her career off at the North Slope Borough working at the Mayor’s Office as an assistant in 2014 and was later appointed as an Advisor in 2016. She returned to work for the NSB Department of Health & Social Services 2021 as a Program Coordinator to help administer a grant and coordinate community events. Mariam now serves as a Deputy Director for the Health Department administering programs, grant projects, and contracts. In her free time Mariam enjoys traveling and spending time with her large extended family.

AVIATION DAY

SAR co-hosted on Aviation Day event on May 22, 2023, at the Barrow High School with a non-profit organization. UAF, US Coast Guard, Alaska Army Air National Guard, Alaska Excel, Barrow Fire Department Medevac Division all attended as presenters and booth exhibitors. Over 60 youth between ages 8-17 participated in the event.
IHLC COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Inupiaq Heritage Learning Center held outreach classes learning how to make Silver Fox isigvik and Sini & Amaguq isigvik and Sini. "It was nice seeing everyone working together" Some brought their own skins to work on.

Middle school kids learn how to cut, sew, and make their own atikluk patterns. Two girls with their finished product.

In wainwright- Wilson showing them how to match pieces to attach to make kids isigvik. Debbie brought her own skin and worked on it as a group to finish her granddaughters isigvik & sini. Quyanaqpak Sophie Segevan for your photos.
The City of Wainwright held the 1st Annual Frank Bester Jr. tournament in Wainwright, Alaska. The tournament was a co-ed tournament bringing two teams from Barrow with a total of 16 children and two coaches Kendall Conrades and Raquel Rexford. Wainwright had 3 local teams that played in the tournament ranging 3rd to 5th grade.

There was also two teams that played in the tournament that were K4 through 2nd grade. It was a successful tournament and we hope to see more teams make it to Wainwright for future tournaments. Quyanaqpak to the City of Wainwright for this wonderful opportunity for our children.

The North Slope Borough Area Wide Air Quality Study is funded by a grant from the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development. In coordination with the NSB Health Dept., Boreal Environmental Services will collect baseline air quality data in four villages, analyze overall air quality from the three-year study, and communicate results through in-person visits and virtual sessions from 2023 - 2026. Boreal will analyze the impact of air quality on health in Nuiqsut, and collect baseline air quality data for villages outside of the oil and gas influence: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, and Wainwright.

Please join the project team as they present the study, receive your feedback, and answer any questions you may have!

Location: Village School Gymnasium
Time: 10:30AM - 1:00PM
Tuesday, August 8 ................. Anaktuvuk Pass
Wednesday, August 9 ............. Nuiqsut
Thursday, August 10 .............. Wainwright
Friday, August 11 ................. Atqasuk

We look forward to seeing you!

If you have any questions related to the NSB Area Wide Air Quality Study, you can contact the North Slope Borough Health Department at 907-322-9544.

Participants across the North Slope enjoyed a walk during lunch to get some exercise. Did you know people who exercise come to work more regularly and miss less work? People who feel recognized and find time to relax are also better thinkers at work!

The North Slope Borough is working on ways to continue to be active during the summer. We encourage folks to get out and be active while practicing safety for themselves and community members.
We have had a Communications Emergency when sea ice gouged the ocean floor and cut fiber optics line owned by Quintillion. This cut us off from the internet and most phone services. The North Slope Borough has been working with all phone and internet providers to reestablish connectivity. We have some connectivity back but not at the level we had before the break. Space X had also been working with the Borough to get Starlink into each community and it is ongoing. We would like to thank everyone that came together to help in this crisis: ICAS, ASNA, ASRC, Ilisagvik, all Village and Tribe councils, and Village Corporations. Most of all we want to thank our residences that had Starlink in our communities that didn’t hesitate to become the link for their communities to communicate. Quyanaqpak!

June 13, 2023 - Quiltillion

"As you know, we have recently sustained a sub-sea system-wide outage. We understand the importance of uninterrupted service for our priority customers, and we are working diligently to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Here are the key details regarding the service outage:

The outage is a result of an ice-scouring event causing damage to our cable about 55 Km north of Oliktok Point. Our sub-sea system is currently out of service. Our dedicated team of experts is actively engaged in diagnosing and resolving the issue. They are working in coordination with our partners and undersea cable maintenance teams to restore the services at the earliest possible time. A repair vessel has been mobilized and is en route to the area. We will be working to coordinate the timing of the vessel’s arrival with the ice break-up around Point Barrow...

We understand the inconvenience this service outage may cause. We will provide regular updates (as there is substance to report) regarding the progress of the restoration efforts via email and our website."

Stakeholders report from Mac McHale, President of Quintillian (8.17.23) activity:

- The IT Integrity repair vessel arrived at the ice-standby location nearby Wainwright on Tuesday August 15th.
- Sea ice conditions have prevented further transit and repair operations – current forecasts indicate a possible window to transit to the site and begin repair operations on Tuesday August 22nd.
- See below National Weather Service sea ice concentration map from August 16th with the vessel standby position and approximate location of the fiber break identified. Note that sea ice has pinched off access beyond Wainwright and is also present nearby the fiber break location. Forecasts indicate a possible access window next Tuesday.
- Current estimate to restore fiber broadband services is 28-30 August, assuming safe access to begin final transit to the repair location on the 22nd.

More Information and Media Resources:
https://www.quintillionglobal.com/category/media/
NORTH SLOPE BOROUGH FOUNDERS DAY  JULY 2

“It is important to remember the lessons of the past. In addition, we must search and master the new changes if we are to continue to dominate the Arctic. We have demonstrated we can survive the trespasses which have been perpetuated upon us…” – Eben Hopson

Happy Founder’s Day to the North Slope Borough. Founders’ Day holds a special significance to each of us. It is a time to honor our history, celebrate our present, and contemplate the bright future of our Borough. We recognize those who walked before us and how a desire for freedom and self-determination led to the creation of our home-rule government that we are blessed to call home today. Thank you to all those who have walked before us and those that continue to carry the torch today. -Mayor Harry Brower