



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 14, 2021
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Arctic Winter Games: On Friday, April 9, 2021 the MSB Arctic Winter Games Bid Committee held a virtual tour for the International Committee. At times there were up to 35 participants online participating in their portion of the meeting. The tour began with statements from Alaska Lt. Governor Kevin Meyer, followed by Borough Mayor Vern Halter, Borough Manager Mike Brown as well as City of Palmer Manager John Moosey and City of Wasilla Mayor Glenda Ledford.

Included in the meeting were representatives from MSB, MSBSD, City of Wasilla, City of Palmer, MSCVB, Wasilla and Palmer Chambers of Commerce, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council, Skeetawk, Rotary International, Mat-Su College and the Alaska State Fair. The tour lasted over 4 hours and provided a unique opportunity for the Bid Committee to share not only information related to the facilities and plans for the games, but also put on full display the enthusiasm and excitement being generated by our local government, business and civic organizations. Messages received following the tour were very positive in particular mentions were made regarding the enthusiasm displayed by all the parties involved.

During the next two weeks, the Bid Committee will field any questions received from the International Committee with the expectation that the final decision will be made by the end of April.

Sale of Borough-Owned Property for Youth Shooting Range: Resolution Serial No. 21-038 on the April 20, 2021 Assembly meeting agenda is to direct staff to start the process of acquiring the land.

Less than fair market value sale process: The process for a less than fair market value sale to the Alaska Scholastic Clay Target Program (AKSCTP) includes issuing public notices, preparation of a best interest findings report, consideration by the Planning Commission, and final decision for the Assembly.

After the land is conveyed, in accordance with MSB 17.68 (Outdoor Shooting Facilities), a permit must be acquired prior to the operation of an outdoor shooting range within the Borough. AKSCTP will need to submit an application to the Development Services Division requesting the permit. Prior to the approval of the permit, certain general and operating standards must be met. Some of these standards

Providing Outstanding Borough Services to the Matanuska-Susitna Community

include: a certified site plan, certification by a professional engineer or other qualified professional that design standards are met, a site specific environmental stewardship plan in accordance with EPA best management practices, and the surface danger zones must be determined by a professional engineer registered in the State of Alaska. The application process involves a public notice process and within 45 calendar days of a complete application, the Planning and Land Use Director shall approve the permit upon determination that the standards have been met.

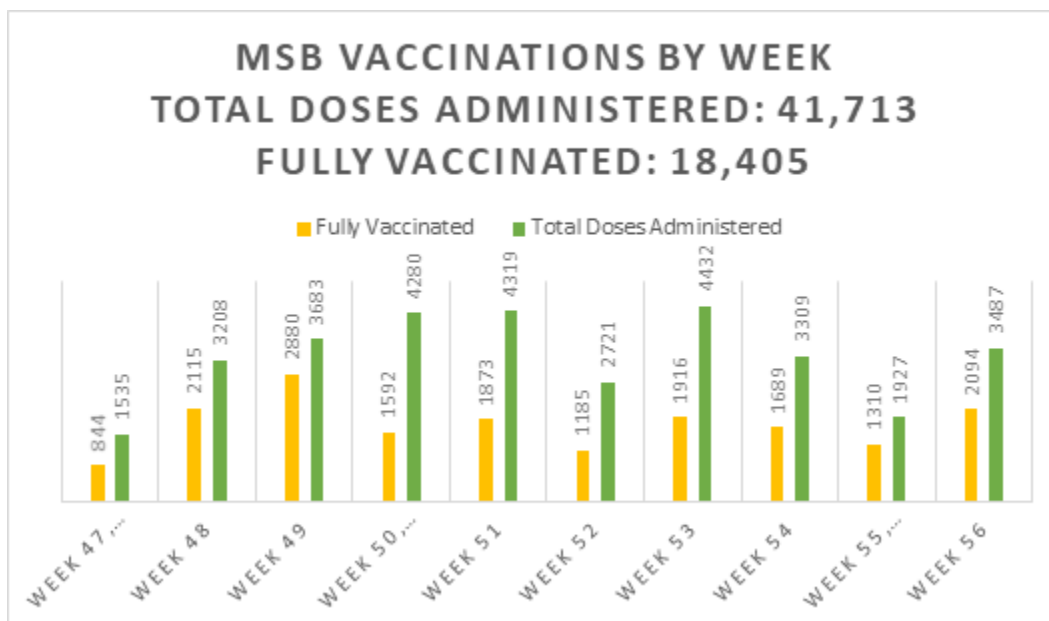
Hazard Tree Felling at Alcantra Sports Complex and Crevasse Moraine Trails System: The Borough is presently mitigating hazard trees along public trails at Alcantra Sports Complex and Crevasse Moraine Trail System. The Borough marked trees along these trails likely to fall across the trail in order to have them removed in April and May. Trails will be closed while felling operations are underway. Felling operations will run 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., six days a week. Temporary trail closures will be signed on the ground and the public is asked to keep their distance from the sawyers running the chainsaws for their safety.

Once the trees have been felled, the wood will be available for personal use as firewood. Retrieval may only be done without the use of ATVs or other motorized vehicles. Wood remaining on-site will be retrieved by Borough Recreation Services staff to be made available as firewood at Borough campgrounds.

The schedule, that may need to be updated as necessary, is as follows:

Crevasse Moraine Trail System - Start Date 04/10/2021 Finished by 04/28/2021
 Alcantra Trail System - Start Date 04/29/2021 Finished by 05/09/2021

Vaccination Weekly Update: According to the State dashboard, 21.5% of Mat-Su Borough Residents have received at least one dose, and 17.2% are fully vaccinated.



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

State

- Governor Big initiative for marketing Alaska tourism
<https://mustreadalaska.com/dunleavy-big-initiative-will-market-alaska-tourism-and-he-may-sue-the-cdc/>

COVID-19

- Cases are rising again, but Alaska's rate of vaccination is slowing
<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/04/09/not-good-enough-health-officials-urge-alaskans-to-get-their-covid-19-vaccines-as-demand-slows/>

Schools

- Houston Middle School project out for bid
https://www.frontiersman.com/news/houston-middle-school-project-finally-out-for-bid/article_33d9c73e-9849-11eb-9c24-c7a42f2194cd.html
- Masked Athletes discussed at School Board Meeting
https://www.frontiersman.com/news/masked-athletes-the-hot-topic-of-discussion-at-school-board-meeting/article_b02303cc-9845-11eb-a874-9749fd360429.html

Fisheries

- Hatcheries: Trading high value sockeye, coho and king salmon for pinks
<https://craigmedred.news/2021/04/12/ever-fewer/>
- Public comments on Board of Fisheries appointees
http://www.newsminer.com/kodiak/public-comments-open-this-weekend-for-board-of-fisheries-appointees/article_05401dd1-1237-571e-879d-06a4df1c7f9b.html

Avalanche Danger

- Alaska DOT: Epic avalanche cascade shuts down Hatcher Pass Road for days
<https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/04/06/alaska-dot-epic-avalanche-cascade-shuts-down-hatcher-pass-road-for-days/>

Borough Business

- Borough begins budget presentations
https://www.frontiersman.com/news/borough-begins-budget-presentations/article_8246bea2-9913-11eb-b722-afb376a23988.html
- Proposed trail parking fine of \$40 for those who do not pay trail head fees.
https://www.frontiersman.com/news/firefighters-safe-wasilla-residents-from-burning-homes-over-the-weekend/article_eaff6542-9135-11eb-b10a-cb36cdae098b.html

Public Affairs Video

- Mayor Vern Halter talks about the 2024 Arctic Winter Games
<https://youtu.be/4qqDXKcm-5I>
- Mat-Su Borough Overview 2024
<https://youtu.be/bwJqx-LAyx>

On the radio

- GIS tools: How the borough and citizens can use these online tools
<https://www.radiofreepalmer.org/2021/04/13/inside-the-borough-gis-2021-4-13>