
GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Human Resources

Cynthia Gray, Human Resource Manager

FY 2025 GOALS

- Update Personnel Polices
- Update onboarding Process-checklist for all categories of Employee hire (temp, PT, FT)
- Update Job Descriptions -based on department staffing needs/changes
- Benefits Summary sheet-provide more dissemination to employees, more resources handouts/email (health coverage, benefit summary details) supplemental benefits available
- Update Standard Operating Procedures-Business office practices:
 - a. Hiring process-recruitment from start to hire-City staff/NPD difference
 - b. Supervisor training/bootcamp -interviewing/PAF completion
 - c. Termination checklist
 - d. Evaluation process
 - e. Employee Training
 - f. Employee moral/functions/awards

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- N/A for FY 2024

The mission of the Finance Department is to ensure the fiscal integrity of financial operations of the City.

The Finance Department is responsible for the administration of all financial record-keeping and reporting functions including the preparation of the annual budget report and audit reports. The Finance Department is also responsible for revenue forecasting and budget development; procurement and purchase orders; general accounting (processing and reconciling payroll and payroll tax filing, accounts receivable, accounts payable and general ledger); financial analysis and management; grant accounting and reporting; fixed asset accounting; treasury functions including cash management, investment and debt management; maintenance of the City's financial records and financial systems; administration of purchasing card program, and to ensure compliance with all relevant financial and budgetary regulations, including local, state, and federal laws governing financial information.

FY 2025 GOALS – FINANCE

- Prepare records for an error-free FY2024 audit
 - Measure: Unmodified annual auditor's opinion received - an indicator of a well-run financial operation
 - Measure: Number of adjustments proposed auditors – an indicator of how well the financial statements are prepared to align to GAAP, generally accepted accounting principles
- Process grant reports and account for grants timely and accurately for the Single Audit of Federal and State Awards
 - Measure: number of grants processed timely and correctly – an indicator of how well the City complies with grant requirements
- Support departments in the management of their FY2025 budgets, including an analysis of fiscal needs for the mid-year budget amendment
- Assist departments with the development of their FY2026 budgets
- Continue with staff training and cross-training in Accounts Payable, Payroll, Accounts Receivable and General Ledger
- Prepare and complete, in conjunction with the office of the City Manager, the proposed FY 2025 operating and capital budgets
- Continue to identify City-wide financial policies that need to be developed, expanded or clarified and begin to prepare drafts for review
- Continue to explore Invoice Cloud, Xpress Bill Pay, and Wells Fargo Bill Presentment as an electronic bill presentment and online payment solution; looking for a robust system that allows import/export functions with Caselle, as well as provides a positive customer experience

- Research staff training opportunities for continuing education in fund accounting and specific applications, such as Microsoft Excel
- Continue to digitize records and files
- Continue to ensure that vendor invoices are supported by adequate documentation, approved by the appropriate person and paid within 30 days of the invoice date
- Explore implementing ACH payments as a vendor payment option in accounts payable and payroll
- Develop an employee handout as a HOW TO GUIDE to understanding their Statement of Earnings and Deductions (pay stub)
- Participate in the SFY24 SEMT reporting program through the State of Alaska
- Investigate ACH payment terms for ICMA Deferred Compensation Payments
- Implement Doculivity by National Payment Solutions (a Caselle Partner), which is an online solution to provide pay stubs and W2s to employees through a secure portal
- Review and revise Finance procedures in Accounts Payable with regard to Travel, Purchase Orders, and Reimbursement requests; Provide a review/training for departments heads on these processes

FY 2024**ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FINANCE**

- ✓ Participated in the GFOA's Treasury Management Best Practices
- ✓ Supported the City Clerk on the reconciliation of Property Taxes and Cash Receipting, and the Port of Nome in Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Cash Receipting and Grant Reporting
- ✓ Completed the Management Discussion and Analysis for the FY 2023 audited financial statements
- ✓ Participated in bi-weekly meetings with FEMA for DR-4672 regarding damages from Typhoon Merbok.
- ✓ Managed the financial/budget administration and the reporting of the Arctic Deep Draft Port Design grant, the NSEDC Community Benefit Share program funds, ARPA grant fund, SART reimbursement program and the financial reporting for multiple FEMA projects
- ✓ Successfully submitted FY23 SEMT ambulance reporting to the State of Alaska
- ✓ Assisted departments with the development of their FY2025 budgets
- ✓ Participated in the Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection System (GADCS) and submitted data as required
- ✓ Successfully digitized records in Accounts Payable
- ✓ Successfully transitioned to Timekeeping, an electronic payroll solution
- ✓ Explored a digital pay stub and W2 solution for employees, and presented the solution to department heads
- ✓ Successfully submitted Tax Year 2023 W2s and 1099s electronically through the Federal systems: Filing Information Returns Electronically (FIRE) and Business Services Online (BSO)
- ✓ Implemented another level of fraud security with Wells Fargo to assist in preventing fraudulent attacks against local government
- ✓ Participated in Caselle Business Tax training for new users, as well as a deeper dive into account reconciliation

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Information Technology

"Connecting Nome to the World"

FY 2025 GOALS

- Purchase and install projector systems for each major building, Old St Joe's, Mini Convention Center, etc.
- Continue to create City IT Policies and assist with Nome's Emergency Plan
- Continue to develop A/V technology as requested.
- Explore door access readers for other city buildings to reduce physical key count.
- Go out to bid for Managed Services.
- Maintain inventory and keep equipment updated and in warranty.
- Assist the Nome Police Department with new Dispatch Desk replacements.
- Transition to either MS Office 365, or the latest version of MS Exchange/Standard Office Suite
- Train a new IT Specialist to be primary contact for Managed Services provider.
- Continue to maintain hardware in each city building and ensure the integrity, security, and warranties.

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Moved from MS Teams to Zoom platform for department heads due to ease of use.
- Explored options with Old St Joe's A/V system. Updated the sound system with assistance of NJUS's on staff technical expertise.
- E-Wasted machines and devices that are no longer in use or out of warranty and used Kawerak's E-Waste program.
- Moved those dept heads to a single PC/laptop instead of a desktop + laptop to save money and resources.
- Installed Camera systems at the Nome Rec Center to enhance security, visibility, and safety.
- City of Nome website now has ADA compliant accessibility option integrated.
- IT Specialist job posted.
- Assisted Public Works with their heavy equipment software and upgrades.
- First Net iPads and work iPhones working successfully and managed and inventoried.
- Switched from various software platforms due to the new managed services provider and lead the City through the changes.
- Assisted in the Nome Police Department's radio project which was successfully awarded to Artic-Com.
- Added onto the Mini Convention Center upgrades with additional TV's for use/presenting capabilities.
- Assisted the Nome Police Department's in successfully installing two (2) In Car Video System's as a pilot program.

GCSiT Solution was acquired by LMJ Consulting our new Managed Services Provider effective Dec. 1, 2023. Worked through the transition to provide best effort to maintain services throughout the City of Nome.

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
City Clerk

The Clerk's Office is the hub of the city, the direct link between residents and their local government. The Clerk's Office strives to provide information to the community consistent with applicable laws, to merit public confidence in the public process, and to promote maximum citizen participation in government.

FY 2025 GOALS

- Ongoing development of the Clerk's and the Deputy Clerk's skills and work towards Certification by attending the Municipal Clerks Institute training Yearly.
- Cross Training of Deputy Clerks and Shared Finance Clerk in day to day operations.
- Share in responsibilities of organizing agendas, packets and running meetings for the different committees.
- Organization and cleaning of workspace to declutter and increase efficiency.
- Reinstitute weekly Clerk Meetings to review Expectations, Responsibilities and Needs of the department.
- Discuss and work on professionalism in the workplace and with interactions to the public.
- Learn reconciliations in Excel and work on getting the data up to date to be able to provide accurate reports in Caselle.
- Set Depreciation values in Mars and work with Mars to possibly get an appeal form made and uploaded for Nome Properties.

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Hiring of new City Clerk to fully staff Clerks office team.
- Successfully process and mail Real Property and Personal Property Assessments.
- Implementation of LocalGov and working with them to get Licenses up to date.

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Works – Building Inspection

Cliff McHenry, Building Inspector

FY 2025 GOALS

- Provide inspection services to the citizens of Nome to ensure Nome’s housing stock is safe and up to code.
- Work on continuing Abatement process. Perform outreach with building incentives as a ‘carrot’ alternative to the abatement ‘stick’.
- Work with tablet computer to accomplish Abatement duties in the field.
- Work on tightening requirements for Vacant Property Registrations.
- Continue work to improve use of My Gov permitting database.
- Work on updating street addresses for prompt Fire and Police response.
- Continue working with Police and Public Works on Right of Way violations.

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued working with My Gov permitting software to issue permits.
- Renewed five International Residential Code Certifications.
- Attended one-week FEMA Flood Plain Training in Anchorage with Angie
- Accompanied Alaska Fire Marshall during site visits.
- Performed inspections as needed for permits issued.
- Assisted clients with questions on permit requirements and pertinent Building Code requirements.
- Worked with Public Works and Maintenance staff on bid for City offices and Recreation Center ventilation and fire alarms system.
- Assisted Public Works and Police with Right of Way issues.
- Worked closely with new owners Nugget Inn to re-open.
- Finalized Abatement paperwork.
- Met with contractors regarding 3 D Housing.
- Study of Building Codes to implement 3D Housing.

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Public Works – Building Maintenance
Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor

FY 2025 GOALS

- Work on repair of Public Works Building
- Repair the “FOSTER” lights
- Improve security of Museum
- Improve storage of Library
- Work on propane regulator freeze up issues with Rec Center & XYZ
- Build closet/pantry at Rec Center
- Improve the Morgue viewing area
- Pursue a generator with auto start/auto transfer switch for Icy View Firehall
- Continue to pursue outdoor basketball court

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Stained/finished exterior of Morgue
- Rebuilt steps to Morgue
- Brought the siren system back up to 50%
- Refinished Foster Building floors
- Ongoing work at swimming pool to keep the contractor moving
- Repaired fire pump at Visitor’s Center
- Assisted in relocating the ice rink
- Installed new kitchen appliances at Rec Center
- Repaired and repainted bus shelters
- Complete demo of public works building 3rd floor

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Works – Landfills

Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor

FY 2025 GOALS

- Refurbish portable litter fences and bulls
- Hydroseed the bare topped off areas, and bare dirt areas which are not in use for dust control
- Shred tires
- Seek ways to reduce fugitive litter

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Installed and made operational the used oil furnace.
- Installed 2 methane wells
- Replaced gas powered welder and can crusher with electric for occupational health
- Repaired burn pit with chain link fencing to eliminate the spread of burning material
- Refrained from tearing down the seemingly permanent and still untouched and unrefurbished Seppala house
- Shredded estimated 2000 tires

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Public Works – Roads

Cole Cushman, Public Works Supervisor

FY 2025 GOALS

- Maintain all City roads to best of our abilities
- Continue to do U-Call, We Haul
- Continue road repairs from storm damage
- Continue dust control. Look for alternative methods of dust control
- Continue to try to improve drainage throughout the city

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Continued Maintenance on all City and port roads
- Excavated and resurfaced Causeway and docks from storm damage
- Assisted in the relocation of the ice rink
- Repaired the hole at the bottom of the barge ramp left over from the ramp replacement
- Reorganized the storage conexas at Thornbush
- Completed the storm repairs at East End Park
- Started the construction of the Buck and Rail fence at the cemetery
- Replaced all tires on the 966H and 160M
- Through March 18, moved 10,485 truckloads of snow from city streets for an estimated 178,000 yards. An additional estimated 25,000 yards moved with a push blade.
- Assisted Port with fueling activities and floating docks

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Nome Recreation Center

It is the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department to offer recreational and cultural services consistent with the needs of our community.

FY 2025 GOALS

- Purchase a new work truck;
- Continue development of outdoor ice rink;
- Remodel the western part of the front hallway into a storage room;
- Have main gymnasium painted.
- Continue to pursue funding for our heating and air handling project.

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Relocated ice rink from Third Avenue to Sixth Avenue directly east of the Nome Recreation Center;
Includes:
 1. Purchased and installed of new dasher boards;
 2. Had NJUS install new Utility/Light Poles;
 3. Purchased and installed new light fixtures;
 4. Relocated the hockey shed from the original site;
 5. Installed new stairs and ramp off of the shed.
- Installed new monitoring cameras throughout the interior and exterior of the facility;
- Purchased and installed a Starlink satellite receiver to provide internet for the weight room tv's;
- Purchased 2 new pieces of cardio equipment or sauna heaters (TBD);
- Using grant funds purchased new food service supplies for use during emergency sheltering operations;
- Using grant funds purchased additional tables and chairs for use during emergency sheltering operations;
- Hosted Special Events:
 - Pool Work (July-August);
 - National Night Out (August 1st);
 - Injury Prevention CAMP/NPD (August 18th);
 - Berry Festival (August 19th);
 - Stan Anderson Celebration of Life (September 23rd);
 - Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration (October 9th);
 - NVFD Winter Carnival (December 2nd);
 - Nanook Varsity Basketball vs. Seward (January 19/20);
 - Howard Farley Funeral Service (February 2/3);
 - Nome Pre-School Auction (February 10th);
 - 51st Annual LOIBC Tournament (March 10-16);
 - 52nd Annual ITC Finishers Banquet (March 17th);
 - Kawerak Child Abuse Prevention Month Free Kids Day (April 6th);
 - Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Awareness Event (May 5th);

- Hosted Leagues/Programs;
 - Summercise (July);
 - Coed Youth Softball League (July-August)
 - Fall Coed Volleyball (September-October)
 - City League Basketball (November-March)
 - Spring Coed Volleyball League (March-April)
 - Coed Bowling League (February-March);
 - Coed Youth Softball League (June);
 - Sumercise (June).

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS**Nome Swimming Pool**Chip Leeper, Recreational Director

It is the goal of the Parks and Recreation Department to offer recreational and cultural services consistent with the needs of our community.

FY 2025 GOALS

- Stay open the whole year!
- Continue replacing corroded fixtures on deck.
- Purchase and install a Starlink satellite receiver to provide internet for DDC/SCADA Panel.

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The facility has been closed since the summer while it undergoes a major renovation performed by Polar Pools. Below is a log of events related to the project:

- 2/2/23 Zoom Call: DDC integration meeting between John Mortenson, Kenny Eichler (Electrician with TechPro), Bob Walker (Polar Pools) and City of Nome Staff (Chip Leeper, Cole Cushman and Matt Barone) to discuss DDC integration of the new pool systems and Nome Public Schools' newly installed Siemen's system;
- 4/2/23 Zoom Call: Discussed Pool Job Timeline and a change order to address flow control during the backwash process. Attending the meeting were Bob Walker (Polar Pools) and City of Nome Staff (Glenn Steckman, Cole Cushman, Matt Barone and Chip Leeper);
- 4/4/23 Zoom Call: Follow up of the previous meeting. Attending were Bob Walker (Polar Pools) and City of Nome Staff (Glenn Steckman and Chip Leeper);
- 7/10/23-7/20/23 Team Visit: Entire team arrived to begin work on the project;
- 8/10/23 Electrician Visit: Edward Washington came up to relocate the sump panel;
- 9/18/23 Team Visit: Plumber, Mainline Mechanical, and Bob Walker (Polar Pools) came to Nome to attempt to complete the plumbing install and mounting of the DCM!2 pool water chemistry controller.
- 10/6/23 Email: Polar Pools and TecPro make a new determination that the existing flex boots might not hold once the new pumps are brought online. Recommend new ones be ordered and the old ones replaced. Gave an estimate 6-8 weeks for new ones.
- 10/10/23 Electrician Visit: Edward Washington began wiring in the panel;
- 10/14/23 Polar Pools Email regarding job status:

Here is where we are as of this writing;

- A decision needed to be made by the client regarding the flex boots that isolate the pool pump discharge from the HDPE 6" piping system. The old flex boots are in such a poor condition that their continued use will doom the project for premature failure.
- Main Line Mechanical is getting pricing and availability for obtaining the two (2) flex boots we need. The intake flanges are metal and can be cleaned up for continued use.

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- Main Line Mechanical still needs to install the remainder of the HDPE piping system, heat loop, temp probe, analyzer flow connections, electro-mechanical valve actuators for the filters.
 - The DeNora Miox system has been plumbed as directed, photos to DeNora will follow.
 - Haakenson Electric has power to the Miox unit, pool pumps, ProMinent pool controller, Telchine Ozone unit, Oxygen generators and booster pump, chemical feed pumps, TecPro PLC, hoist power and Brine tank lighting. Haakenson will need to complete the wiring of the filter actuator valves, the pressure transducers and the additional float switches for the sump pit.
 - Polar Pools needs to repair and patch one of the Mer-Made Strainer drain ports that has fallen out of the fiberglass body.
 - Polar Pools needs to exercise the backwash system once flow can be reestablished in the piping system. This is in support of TecPro automating the backwash system.
 - TecPro has suggested we try to get one or two additional float switches wired into the sump pump and relayed to the PLC to terminate the backwash if the sump pit floods.
 - TecPro has their PLC panel installed and are continuing to work with Polar Pools regarding programming correct functioning of pool systems.

It was suggested that we have TecPro, DeNora, Telchine, Haakenson Electric Electrician and Main Line Mechanical Plumber be onsite together for the commissioning process. I honestly do not know how realistic this plan can be. There is still a sizeable amount of work to be completed before commissioning can be entertained. Shortages of HDPE plumbing pipe and fittings has hampered our efforts to get the system installed in a timely fashion.

Our tentative completion date was the beginning of November 2023, considering the amount of work remaining and the coordination of the commissioning process makes that date unobtainable. I myself have travel plans scheduled for the 9th of November 2023 till the 20th of November 2023 that cannot be altered. We are going to press on to have the entire system installed and the main piping system flow tested before my departure on the 9th of November 2023. My best guess as to the date of commissioning would be after Thanksgiving.

- 12/18-22/23 Plumber and Bob (Polar Pools) Visit: This was supposed to be the final visit to complete the plumbing and install the flex boots (one new and the other original). Unfortunately, there were problems as outlined in a 12/19/23 email:

When we retrieved the Main Line Mechanical plumbing freight from Lynden, we found that they had managed to snap off three of the fused fittings off the pipe during transport. These are not small fittings and on HDPE pipe that required some force. So where are we now....

- Two of the fittings are specialty items, HDPE and 303 Stainless Steel (for use in a chlorinated system), they are at least two weeks out from the manufacturer.
- The third fitting is here in Alaska and available for purchase.
- Until these fittings are obtained and installed, we cannot put water through the system nor heat the pool.

- We are still thirteen (13) weeks out for a second new pump isolation flex boot.

What are we doing now?

- The plumbers are hanging the new pipe and when the replacement parts arrive, they will be fusion welded onsite. We are going to move as forward as we can.
- We will use the old flex boot to get the system running.
- We have a Mer-Made hair and lint strainer that has a bad drain valve in the fiberglass housing, these units are expensive, and we intend on patching this with a new fitting and epoxy resin.
- We have brought with us all the piping labels and will be installing them this trip. We also have valve tags that will help the staff to understand the O, & M procedures and process.
- The plumbers have installed the new filter valve actuators for all four filter valves.
- Edward Washington our electrician from Haakenson Electric will be here on Thursday of this week to run wiring from the actuators to the PLC panel.
- We have modified the acid pump as needed for this application and will be hoisting a drum of Muriatic Acid into the pool mechanical pit.
- We will be sending the photo documentation to the DeNora Team for their approval of the installation of the Sodium Hypochlorite generation system.

Where does that leave us with the completion of the project?

- We are at least two weeks out getting the replacement piping parts.
- We continue to have issues with the sump pit, and this will severely impact Backwashing. I will go over this element with selected members of the team and not the whole audience.
- We are going to need at least a week to heat the pool to proper temperature for water chemistry purposes.
- We need a day to commission ProMinent Pool controller.
- We need at least three to four (3-4) days for the SCADA Tech to program everything into the PLC and the Pool Managers Office computer.
- Automatic Backwash testing and verify the system will function automatically.
- The Telechine Ozone and DeNora people need at least two days to commission and verify equipment.
- We need to generate enough Sodium Hypochlorite to operate the system.
- Crew training on the system will take at least two days.

UPDATE: The majority of the work has been completed and all factory representatives will be travelling to Nome on April 15th, 2024. While here they will inspect the work performed by Polar Pools and their subcontractors. If everything is installed to their specifications, they will sign off on the project and allow for the reopening of the pool to the public.

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum

The Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving and showcasing the Gold Rush, Bering Sea Eskimo, dog mushing, aviation, maritime as well as contemporary history and culture associated with Nome, Alaska and the Bering Strait region of Western Alaska. The Museum exists to promote and provide education and research to everyone from elementary school children to international visitors and researchers. The volunteers and staff continue to succeed in the goal to heighten local citizens' awareness and pride of Nome's unique history.

FY 2025 GOALS

- Make significant progress on the IMLS Grant to put parts of our collection on-line and develop ideas to spend any excess money left over after that part of the project has been completed.
- Continue to work with the tour companies and cruise ship industry to make sure the Museum is accessible and open when needed and appropriate.
- Coordinate with Laurant Dick so he can bring all of his Iditarod Tour guests to the Museum at once.
- Try to coordinate with the school during sports tournaments for visitors to be able to see the Museum and know that it exists. We got visitors this year, but mostly people who already knew about us.
- Make it possible to once again sell copies of our historic photographs. Many photos in our collection have already been scanned but we have worked with our new IT company to get our scanner back in service. For many projects a high-resolution scan is all that is necessary for a sale. The next step is to plan to purchase a new photo printer eventually, but in the mean-time, work with a fellow city office to share a printer that exists.
- Accession and catalogue, including thank you letters, for objects that have been donated to the Museum since the absence of a Director. Continue to keep up and encourage donations going forward.
- Acquire Scotty Allen's 1909 dog sled that is currently available. There has been no price determined at this point. This is an important part of Nome's history as Scotty Allen won the 1909 All Alaska Sweepstakes Sled Dog Race and we also have the beautiful trophy that was awarded to him for winning.
- Acquire a camera system for more security for our collection.
- Install something like a 'door-bell' seeing-eye to allow staff to work away from the front desk at slower times but still know when someone has entered the Museum.
- Begin to change some of the exhibit cases to make them more interesting on a personal level and add more items to the displays from our collection.

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- Work with Formations, the exhibit designers when the Museum was built, to make a few small appropriate repairs and reinstate the digital information that was available in some of the displays. They have already been contacted and are willing.
 - Welcome any school groups and others that might like a tour or to learn specific information related to our exhibits and collection. Continue to make the general public feel welcome in the Museum and realize that it is their Museum also.
 - Continue to work with film crews and authors to tell accurate stories based on our collection and history.
 - Continue to research and respond to family history and Nome history questions as we are able.
 - Help decorate Old St. Joes and organize the Christmas Extravaganza event in December.
 - Organize tours and events during Iditarod week.
 - Research and build exhibits in the Special Gallery space that feature objects and subjects contained in our unique collection.
 - Generate interest in people volunteering in the Museum
 - Attend the Museums Alaska (Fairbanks) and the Alaska Historical Society (Cordova) Conferences

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Made the Museum ready and available to our cruise ship guests on their schedule and helped Kawerak host crafters for two days in the Foster Room when there were two cruise ships back to back.
- Helped a film crew working on a story about Ada Blackjack.
- Attended the Alaska Historical Society conference in Kenai/Soldotna.
- Hired Richard (Rick) Anderson as Collections Assistant part time. Excellent employee with a good interest in Nome history, longevity in Nome, and great skills from his work in the aviation field.
- Assisted Aleksander Pechen to put up his exhibit of photos from a sled dog race that he started in Russia. When run in its entirety, it was the longest sled dog race in the world. His exhibit also featured the various native cultures along the route. We also hosted a public talk about the exhibit. It was well attended including 15 to 20 members from NACTEC.
- With help from the Nome Historical Society, acquired a 41-ounce gold nugget found at Gold Run by Jano and Michael Kralik
- Spent an entire weekend packing up a previous exhibit on loan from a professor in Germany. This contained many marine mammal objects which are subject to strict rules of transport from one country to another. The currier (and friend), had procured all the paperwork needed, but we made sure all the objects were identified and in order and carefully packed to return home intact. All was successful.
- Participated December 21st in a Family Fun Night organized by Marguerite with the Library and Cultural Center. It was a huge success with about 80 people attending overall, with 50 into the Museum.

- Took down and returned the Russian dog race exhibit.
- Hosted author Trisha Brown for a day, to research the story of sled dogs from Nome who went to France during World War I to supply front lines up in the mountains.
- Helped decorate Old St. Joes and organize and host Christmas Extravaganza.
- Hosted Girl Scout Troop # 354 for a “Night at the Museum” sleepover. The girls, the chaperones, and I all had a great time!
- Repaired nail holes in Special Gallery walls to get it ready for a new exhibit.
- Set up a dog mushing exhibit featuring the All Alaska Sweepstakes or mail/ freight hauling, arctic clothing, and beautiful jewelry and beadwork made in Nome. We also have a tribute to Howard and Julie Farley who both passed this last year, including other important mushers who have gone on also.
- Gave Museum tours with explanations of our history and exhibits, everyday during Iditarod week.
- Stocked the Museum gift shop with out of print and Nome centric books, some used, which turned out to be successful.
- Hosting the Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference in April for their opening event and get to know the Museum

GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kegoayah Kozga Public Library

We strive to inform, enrich, and empower every citizen and visitor in Nome, Alaska, by creating and promoting free and easy access to a vast array of ideas and information and by supporting lifelong learning and love of reading. We acquire, organize, and provide relevant library materials, ensure access to other collections and information sources throughout the nation, serve our public with expert and caring assistance, and reach out to all members of our community.

FY 2025 GOALS

- Continue to seek additional funding through grants and private donations to provide excellent library materials and programming to the community, surrounding region and visitors;
- Continue to offer the regularly scheduled summer reading program and preschool story hour and develop additional programs for all patrons infant through adult
- Continue to work with the Alaska State Library to provide additional library opportunities to the public;
- Continue to partner with our community partners including the schools to offer special library programming;
- Continue to partner with local organizations to bring Alaskan Authors to Nome for programming;

FY 2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Alaska Public Library Assistance Grant through the Alaska State Library (\$7,000):**
The library applied for the FY2024 Public Library Assistance grant during the fourth quarter of FY2023. The Kegoayah Kozga Public Library was awarded a grant in the amount of \$7,000 to purchase library materials and received the funds during the first quarter of FY2024. The Library Director prepared and submitted the FY2025 Public Library Assistance Grant;
- **Grant Duties for Other Departments by Library Director (\$342,916.00 total over 4 years) :**
In addition to writing and maintaining the grants for the library, the Library Director was tasked by the Finance Director and the City Manager with the following grants:
DHSS Healthy and Equitable Community Funding 2023 grant Amendment #1 (\$103,317.00):
The Library Director submitted a new grant request last year for funding to the Alaska Department of Health and Safety. This reimbursement grant in the form

of Amendment #1 to our current Memorandum of Agreement was awarded in the amount of \$103,317. The Library Director continues to report quarterly on this grant. Prior awards have been successfully completed and all reports submitted which were: DHSS Community Funding 2021 grant (**\$171,049.82**) and Community Funding 2022 grant (**\$68,549.87**). Since 2020, the City of Nome has been awarded **\$342,916.00** under this grant program.

- **Rasmuson Foundation Grant (\$15,000):**

The Library Director applied for a Rasmuson Grant and was awarded \$15,000 to the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library for Non-Fiction and Early Reader Collection Refresh and Display Updates. The library is very grateful to the Rasmuson Foundation of their support for the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library.

- **Juneau Community Foundation Book Hook Fund grant (\$1,000):**

The Library Director applied for a Book Hook grant and received the \$1,000 grant to purchase Children's Picture books, YA books, Beginning Chapter Books and Juvenile Chapter books. We are very thankful to this organization for supporting our Rural Alaska library.

- **Alaska State Library Continuing Education Grant (\$1,250):**

The Library Director applied for a Continuing Education grant to fulfill the Library Director's requirement to obtain Continuing Education under the Public Library Assistance grant. The Library Director attended the American Library Association's Young Adult Services Symposium focused on library services to teens and young adults.

- **Libraries in Community Systems and Northern New York Library Network Public Outreach Project (\$4,000 over a two-year period)**

The Alaska State Library encouraged the library to participate in a rural library research patron outreach program. In total, there are 17 rural libraries nationwide participating in the research. The Library Director and Library Assistant attended a series of zoom instructional meetings monthly over a 15-month period to learn more about research strategies and community outreach and engagement. The final project was completed during March of 2024 in which the library staff interviewed approximately 20 library patrons regarding community and the library. The funds were used to help support the Michaela Goade visit to Nome and to purchase books to giveaway to youth during our holiday and summer reading programs.

- **Library Events and Programming: Library Programming:**

The library had an amazing year of programming. During the FY2024 calendar year, we offered a variety of programs including a weekly preschool story hour, school class visits, the Summer Reading Program, Iditarod movie programs,

Trick or Treat at the Library, the Family Night at the Foster Building, holiday programming and the Michela Goade visit to Nome including an adult book workshop. During the FY2024 year, the library offered over 100 programs (estimate) and welcomed over 2,000 (estimate) patron visits to this programming. It was a busy year!

- **Iditarod Programming:**

Musher Jessica Klejka spoke at the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library after she finished the 2024 Iditarod. Jessica was raised in Bethel, she went to UAF for her college degree and then became a veterinarian. She is also the winner of the 2008 Junior Iditarod. Dr. Klejka is an extremely knowledgeable musher and an amazing story teller!

The library also offered three youth programming events over the school break including a movie morning, a story hour and a make station afternoon. The library had special Sunday hours from 12 to 4:30 p.m. on the Sunday of the banquet.

- **Holiday Programing and Christmas Extravaganza:** Over the December school break, the library offered 7 holiday programs for youth and their families including the first Family Night at the Foster Building (described below). Our programs were very successful. The Library Staff also assisted City of Nome Staff to promote and plan the Christmas Extravaganza this year. It was a great event attended by many in our community.

- **First Family Night at the Foster Building:**

We were happy to organize with the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum and the Katirvik Cultural Center the First Family Night at the Foster Building on December 21, 2023. The event started at 5:30 pm and ended at 7:30 pm. Youth and their adults were treated to activities at each of the three organizations. The library offered a viewing of a movie about a “Green Grump & His Loyal Dog” under our movie license. We also offered a Max the dog craft in the library. Families played in the little kid area and read books to their kids. The youth were free to wonder all evening into each of the organizations. At the end of the evening, the library sponsored a stocking stuffer gift bag. The library was happy to partner with the Bering Sea Lions Club to give a free new book to each youth that attended our program during that evening. They were so happy to bring home a brand new book to read during the school break. One library patron sent an e-mail to the library the next morning stating: *“That was such a great event. The kids came back here and started reading and playing with their all kinds of goodies. Thank you so much.”*

- **Caldecott award winning Illustrator and author Michaela Goade visited**

- **Nome:**

The Library Director organized a visit by Children's book illustrator and author Micheala Goade. The partners in this visit included the Nome Arts Council, the Katirvik Cultural Center, the Bering Sea Lions Club, the Nome Public Schools and Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. During her visit, Ms. Goade attended a public meet and greet including reading from her award winning books *Berry Song* and *Salmon Boy*. She also signed copies of books generously donated by the Bering Sea Lions Club and a copy was given free to each youth that attended the meet and greet. The next day, Ms. Goade visited the Nome Elementary School and read from her books and presented age appropriate presentations about the process of making books. She presented to 13 classes at the Nome Elementary School. In the evening, she offered a free workshop entitled Writing and Illustrating Books for Children to 30 registered attendees. On her final day, Ms. Goade visited both the High School and the Anvil City Science Academy. As part of her visit to the High School, Ms. Goade made a special presentation to the Educators Rising class. This group of students have the option in their Educator's rising competition to make their own children's book and they were very interested in meeting with Ms. Goade to learn more about how to create books. Educators Rising is a national movement that offers paths for students to begin careers in education by offering resources and workshops. This group of Nome students competed in Fairbanks at UAF last year and many of those students went on to compete at the Florida National competition. Ms. Goade met with three classes at the High School and offered a presentation to the entire Anvil City Science Academy of 60 kids. Overall, we had 550 people attend the Micheala Goade events. The Katirvik Cultural Center graciously partnered with us and donated their space for the meet and greet and the workshop and they generously provided refreshments to the attendees. It was Michaela Goade's first visit to Nome and it was a very successful visit.

- **2023 Summer Reading Program:**

The themes for the summer reading program this year were "Find Your Voice" and "All Together Now". The library registered 140 youth for the summer reading program this year. We have welcomed class visits including a summer school class visit and offered youth programming including a story hour recommended for ages 3 to 7 and a youth craft and library activity program recommended for youth ages 8 to 13.

- **Anvil City Science Academy Back to School Craft Day:**

The Library staff visited ACSA to instruct the students on how to make a duct tape wallet. The wallets are used to store their reward creative money throughout the school year.

- **Family Lego Night:**
The Library hosted an evening lego building night. We brought out our library legos and everyone enjoyed an evening of building. This was a very popular event and we will plan additional lego nights in the future.
- **Valentine's Day Maker Station:**
The Library hosted a two-day maker station for Valentine's Day. Youth and their family members stopped by the library during our open hours and made their own cards. It was our first time offering a maker station and it was very successful.
- **I Spy Family Adventure Night:**
Search the library for I Spy Clues and win a prize while exploring the library and completing the I Spy challenge.
- **Literacy Development Family Night Stations:**
Move from station to station and develop literacy skills. Activities designed for early Elementary School.

Library Staff:

The Library Director has worked for the City of Nome for over 22 years and as the Library Director since 2009. Janet Steppe, is completing her 15th year of service to the Kegoayah Kozga Public Library. In addition, the library has been very lucky to have seasonal/casual staff to support the library when needed during the school year and especially during the school breaks to help with youth programming. The library has an open permanent part time position which requires working Evenings and Saturdays.