



**Borough Manager's Report  
Assembly Meeting 17 April 2023**

- ❖ The 2023 Junior FF program just wrapped up, thank you to the 3 students that stuck it out to the finish.
- ❖ Aaron completed his EMT-2 Certification, He is one of 5 active EMT-2's
- ❖ We tested the sirens on March 29<sup>th</sup>. After discovering some damaged wiring, the tests went well.
- ❖ The Fire Dept will be holding a Family Fun Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please bring your family and come hang out with the volunteers! Firefighters, EMT's and Search and Rescue personnel will be showing and presenting equipment and Papa Bear's will be providing Root Beer Floats.
- ❖ Using funds raised by our chili competition, the Police dept, Harbor dept, and the Volunteers have come together to purchase a night vision camera for the Harbor Security boat. This will allow the boat to safely be used for nighttime response, whether responding to distressed vessels, police night-time operations or Fire, EMS or SAR missions. Thank you to Chief Kerr and the SAR crew for their research into this equipment.
- ❖ Thank you to Petersburg Rotary and the many community members that assisted with the Sandy Beach cleanup event on April 8<sup>th</sup>, your involvement is greatly appreciated!
- ❖ Parks and Recreation is partnering with USCG and Petersburg School District to promote the Kid's Don't Float campaign for kids ages 5 – 12 on Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 8a – 11a at the Community Center. Information and registration are available on Parks and Recreation website.
- ❖ PMPL and Public Works responded to storm damage on Easter Sunday. PMPL successfully replaced two cross arms on Mitkof Highway to restore power to customers except for Crystal Lake Hatchery. On Monday, staff continued storm damage work at the end of the distribution line and was able to clear two spans of line of downed trees, repair and straighten two poles and restore power to the hatchery by approximately 4pm. The storm also brought down several trees on the slope behind the Public Works building. This has further emphasized the need to do some detailed stability analysis at the Public Works site. The Borough's proposed FY24 budget will include some funding for this study.
- ❖ In March the library had a water leak in a telecommunications conduit that caused groundwater to back up into the facility. The problem has been resolved by APT. Thank you to everyone at Public Works who helped find a timely solution to the problem.
- ❖ Over 100 people participated in the Build A Better World Challenge, over 65,000 minutes were read. Winners were able to choose a local non-profit to donate to as their prize. The winners were Jody Severson (\$500 for Humanity in Progress (HIP)) and Quincy Rice (Petersburg Humane Association, 7th grade science underwater ROV program, and the Friends of Petersburg's Libraries). This program is sponsored by the Friends of Petersburg's Libraries.

- ❖ Upcoming programs at the library include Kathy Rouso, a master basket weaver from Ketchikan, who will give an artist's slide show & presentation followed by a three-day basket weaving class, Lisa Schramek-Adams is teaching a series of art classes for adults, and Orin Pierson will be holding a writing workshop. These programs are funded by the Alaska Community Foundation's Healthy Communities grant and the Petersburg Art Education Endowment.
- ❖ Harbor Staff attended the annual spring meeting with the USCG Captain of the Port, Captain Darwin Jensen, and fellow Borough department and waterways agency representatives. Topics included emergency response, homeland security, marine communication, tourship activity, drug trafficking, cyber security and personal changes. The community appreciates the annual in-person information exchange with Sector Juneau & the 17<sup>th</sup> District Administration.
- ❖ Tour ship schedule has firmed up (111 stops) with the first stop on May 8<sup>th</sup>. We have 2 new vessels Hanseatic Nature 456 ft. 200 – 230 passengers and Starbreeze 522 ft. that are affiliated with Cruiseline Agencies/Lindblad each stopping a couple times this year.
- ❖ Rock N Road was successful in dredging & disposing of the sediment in the Middle Harbor. They are working to replace the damaged section of the waterline and re-route it away from the original area in hopes of reducing the siltation. The Harbor Department greatly appreciates their efforts completing this before the environmental window closure April's set of minus tides!
- ❖ Sanitation Supervisor Aaron Marohl is working with disposal company Clean Harbors to set a date for the Borough's upcoming Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) event.
- ❖ The Borough's solid waste disposal contract with Republic Services expires this summer, and we are currently discussing a renewal of this contract. Early figures they have provided indicate a disposal rate increase of approximately 25% with annual 5.5% increases thereafter. This scale of increase is well outside of what was anticipated during the last rate study and if we are not able to find a better option, we may need to look at additional rate increases to help offset the added cost.
- ❖ The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) met on April 5th and is going to be looking at ways to reduce waste disposal costs for the region. Denali Commission is offering a regional solid waste planning grant that SEASWA will likely be applying for – this would facilitate some in-depth study of regional solid waste issues and hopefully point the way toward reducing or at least controlling the cost of solid waste disposal in Petersburg and other Southeast communities.
- ❖ Totemic Solutions, an organic waste and resource recovery firm, recently visited Petersburg to look at opportunities for organic waste disposal alternatives in the community. They are having some discussions with PIA about composting operations and are putting together a presentation on potential organic waste solutions for Petersburg. With our disposal costs set to sharply increase soon, we will certainly take a close look at this and any similar opportunities that may arise.
- ❖ With assistance from the Streets Dept, the building maintenance crew replaced a failed set of beach-access stairs on North Nordic Drive.
- ❖ Livescan installer will be in town on May 4&5 for installation and training on the new fingerprint system.
- ❖ Sgt. Ayriss will be attending the USCG sponsored active shooter drill hosted in Ketchikan. The drill will take place on one of the Alaska State Ferrys.