



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 2, 2022
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Gravel Extraction Update: On July 20, 2021, the Assembly approved funding for the Solid Waste Division to procure gravel removal services in Resolution 21-056. Solid Waste Division is planning to execute these funds by leveraging existing contracts and temporarily renting required equipment. As part of this material disposal plan, the Operations and Maintenance Division will negotiate a contract for screening and rock crushing to produce enough sand and crushed rock to meet RSA traction material needs for three to five years. The material excavation will complete construction of the Construction and Demolition (C&D) cell area. This work is authorized under existing permits allowing material extraction and cell construction at the Central Landfill. The process is expected to save approximately \$1.3 million dollars in excavation costs.

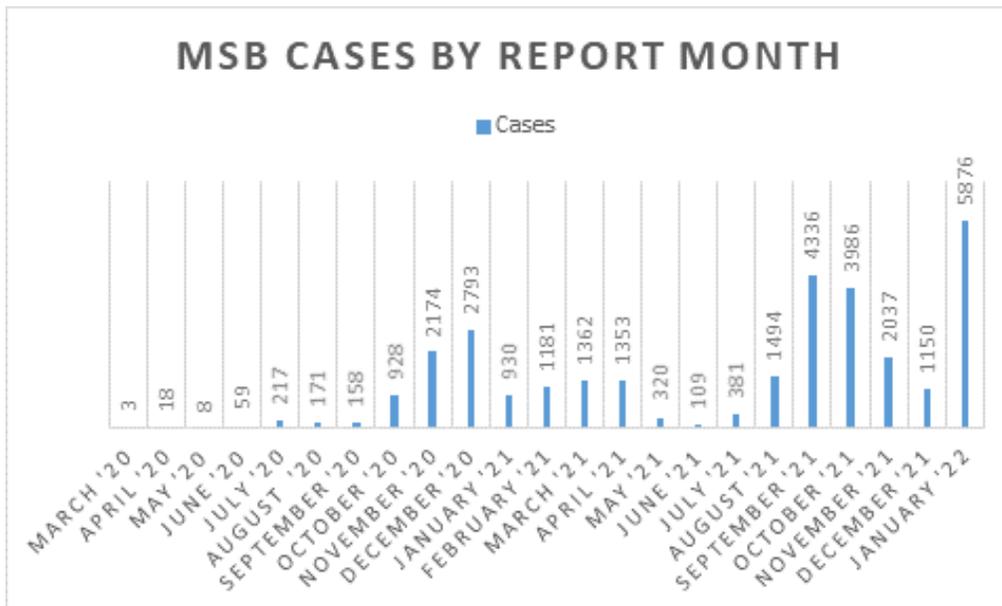
This project will take place in the Spring/Summer of 2022. It will run Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. The screening operation will be established at the back of the landfill to minimize noise and nuisance for the neighbors and will have no impact on the existing Crevasse Moraine Trail System.

Borough Swim Lessons: This is in response to recent inquiries from Assembly members.

1. At the last swim lesson sign-ups, 409 students were placed in classes out of the 454 who applied, resulting in 90% of applications being placed in lessons.
2. Our main lessons allow for 8 swimmers per session. The number of sessions offered each time varies based on age level, skill level and availability of instructors. We tailor our lessons to the ability, age and number of registrants and we work to keep ages and skills together so the schedule changes with each new set of sessions.
3. The process of registering is more of an application than a registration. Once an applicant fills out the form, the pool staff will work to place swimmers into either your 1st choice or 2nd choice class if available. Students who are enrolled within the previous 60 days have priority to be placed in a class in order to keep students continuing to advance in their skills. Once a student is placed, the parent will receive an invoice by email to pay for the class, which finalizes the registration.
4. We offer as many lessons as possible each session. We are not at our maximum capacity of lessons however, for several reasons. First, like many employers, we have experienced difficulty in finding

and keeping qualified employees. A swim instructor is required to go through additional training and must be able to be a good instructor, have personal responsibility, and the desire to see the children succeed. Secondly, we do have a high turnover of staff annually, even pre-COVID-19. Many of our staff are of high school or slightly older age and often leave the area to pursue higher education. Third, we regularly experience staff staying home due to exposure to COVID-19. If we were to offer the maximum number of lessons available and an instructor becomes ill, we do not have “extra” instructors to step in and teach classes. Rather than cancel a session and have to offer refunds or credits, we have reduced the number of classes we offer at this time. We hope that this is a temporary situation and as the COVID-19 case counts decline, we can offer additional sessions.

Monthly COVID-19 Update: Borough staff are continuing to coordinate with the Mat-Su Health Foundation and other partners to distribute additional home test kits for public use.



Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Schools

- [Mat-Su district ends mandatory masking for schools even in medium-risk zone - ADN](#)
- [Dr. Weiss among those arguing to legislative panel for inflation proofed school budgets - KINY](#)

Economy

- [Cyberattacks have rattled Alaska governments. A Mat-Su lawmaker is trying to have them ...](#)

Infrastructure

- [Merging ports in Alaska to address infrastructure needs comes with questions - Railway ...](#)
- [Gov. Dunleavy wants to link \\$175 million in funding for Anchorage and Mat-Su ports. It may ... – ADN](#)
- https://www.frontiersman.com/news/mat-su-assembly-decides-to-sell-off-parts-of-port-mackenzie/article_1f575b8e-7feb-11ec-8fb6-8b549034a8bb.html

Arctic Winter Games

- [Contract signed to officially bring the Arctic Winter Games to the Mat-Su in 2024](#)