



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 2023
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Tax Bill Inserts: At a recent Assembly meeting, there were questions regarding our ability to send a survey along with tax bills or assessment notices. Below is a summary of postage costs for both assessment notices and tax bills.

Assessment Notice Postcards (6 x 4.25 in.) go out annually in January. This mailing costs approximately \$32,000. The Post Office prescribes where items can be placed on the postcard, and with the current assessment notice, it would be difficult to find space on the postcard for additional information, such as a survey or a Landfill coupon. If we went with the larger postcard, postage goes to the first-class rate. This would result in a 39% increase in postage cost, or roughly \$10,000, plus the price difference in the card stock.

Annual tax bills go out at the end of June each year. This is roughly 76,000 bills. This mailing costs approximately \$60,000, which includes printing costs. Staff recommend a separate flyer for anything not tax related. Adding a single page 8.5 x 11 in. flyer does not increase the cost of mailing since we are already at the first-class postage rate. This could include an annual Landfill fee coupon. However, any flyer would need to be at the printer no later than June 15.

Anything printed on assessment notices or included with the tax bills goes to every Borough taxpayer. We cannot limit it to specific groups such as residential only. Borough residents who rent would be excluded since they do not receive assessment notices or tax bills.

Junk Vehicle Program Update: The private vehicle towing program is off to a strong start. Since the beginning of the program, over 100 junk vehicles have been removed from private properties by the two authorized contractors. We are quickly approaching the halfway point of available funding.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

MSBSD

- Mat-Su School District investigated teachers over student-led protest
ADN

Elections

- Wasilla Mayor sworn in to second term
Frontiersman
- Houston Mayor, Deputy Mayor elected and sworn into office
Frontiersman

AWG

- Alaska CHARR convention comes to Mat-Su, one event will help raise funds for Arctic Winter Games
Frontiersman
- New rules make Arctic Winter Games team selection harder
CBC

Books

- School District's Library Advisory Committee makes recommendations for three challenged books
KTNA

Roads

- Road Maintenance Experiment in Talkeetna
KTNA

Benka Lake

- Friends of Benka Lake file official complaint
KTNA

Future Events:

- Tsunami Study Community Meeting, Wed., Oct. 18 at 6pm, Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer
- National DEA Drug Take-Bay Day, Sat., Oct. 28 from 10am to 2pm, Fred Meyer in Wasilla and Palmer