



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 6, 2023  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Joint Assembly/School Board Meeting, December 12 @ 6:00 p.m.**: The agenda for the upcoming joint meeting will have the School District provide an update on their preliminary budget, discuss major maintenance needs, and charter school construction. As we begin the annual budget process, Borough Administration expects the School District to communicate an operating budget request and share their top maintenance priorities by the end of January. By mid-February, the Manager will communicate what he intends to include in the Manager's Proposed Budget to the School District for their planning purposes. Included is a [link](#) to the major maintenance priorities the School District has prepared for School Board consideration. Additionally, the Manager intends to include the annual retiring education debt service in the Borough's capital budget for school maintenance. Over the next three years, that would produce approximately \$6.7 million to fund major maintenance needs. Please contact the Manager or Finance Director if any members have questions or want to discuss these topics in more detail before the meeting.

**ARWA Wastewater System of the Year Award**: The Borough received the Alaska Rural Water Association 2023 Wastewater System of the Year award for the Talkeetna Sewer and Water system. Talkeetna operates a facultative wastewater lagoon system that treats up to 60 MGD using three facultative lagoons, two anaerobic digesters that hold up to two days of average daily flow per cell, a chlorine contact chamber that provides a 30-minute contact time, and a reaeration basin before final discharge. They de-sludged their lagoons in 2019 and added baffles to improve their process. Their recent improvements included removing the old weed bed cell, adding the two anaerobic digesters, a treatment building, and the chlorine contact chamber with the reaeration basin. The dedicated operators attend training to enhance their knowledge and maintain their certifications and have proactively conducted sewer camera inspections to locate inflow and infiltration issues. Congratulations to our three staff who operate and maintain this utility.

## **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

### **Libraries**

- [Discussion of library books, material for children and young adults](#)  
Frontiersman

### **Mat-Su Borough School District**

- [Lawsuit against Mat-Su District alleges excessive restraint, seclusion of students with disabilities](#)  
Frontiersman
- [Students file lawsuit against Mat-Su school district, cite violations of free speech](#)  
Frontiersman
- [Mat-Su school board elects new president, officers, during special meeting](#)  
Frontiersman

### **Spruce Beetle Kill**

- [Spruce beetles' expansion into Denali poses question about future changes in the forest](#)

### **Fisheries**

- [Ice fishing and annual Fish Meeting](#)  
Frontiersman

### **CERT**

[Mat-Su CERT teams expand with new members](#)  
KTNA

### **Assembly**

[Assembly sets 2024 Legislative Priorities](#)  
Frontiersman

### **Facebook Posts**

- [Temporary road closure](#)  
Reach: 12,021 / Reactions: 21 positive, 0 negative / Shares: 6

## **Future Events:**

- Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan Meetings:
    - Friday, December 15, from noon to 2pm, 1<sup>st</sup> Virtual meeting
    - Wednesday, December 20, from 6pm to 8pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Virtual meeting
    - Thursday, January 11, 2024, from 6pm to 8pm, Su-Valley Jr./Sr. High School
- For more information see [MSB Comprehensive Plan Update \(matsugov.us\)](#) or [Kelsey.Anderson@matsugov.us](mailto:Kelsey.Anderson@matsugov.us)