



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 14, 2024
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Solid Waste Landfill Coupon Program: The community was eligible to obtain coupons through May 31. The coupon can be used through March 31, 2025. We will re-open applications for new coupons in March/April 2025. The coupons are for one-time use up to \$25. There are several benefits to this system. For example, if someone loses their coupon and contacts us, we can look it up and reissue it, assuming it has not been used. It is also easier to obtain, is worth more, and has a longer timeline to use.

There were 6,055 coupons issued. To date, 2,393 coupons have been used, saving residents \$48,985. In Big Lake, 276 coupons were used, saving \$5,515. The average savings per household per coupon is approximately \$21.

Private Citizen Firearms Training Program: The Purchasing Division sought proposals from providers to conduct a recurring training program for local citizens within the Borough. In response to the RFP, we received four proposals. Three proposals were from Alaska-based firms, and one was from a Texas-based company.

The requested program required the selected firm to provide all materials needed to conduct both the classroom education as well as live fire training. The selected firm is responsible for providing the venue as well as handling all scheduling for classes and participants. An evaluation of proposals was conducted by a diverse group of staff and the selection is Phalanx Academy LLC out of Anchorage.

Phalanx Academy LLC provided a proposal that included all the required elements including the firearms and ammunition for training purposes, allowing citizens to use their own firearms if desired, and having students as young as 16 participate when accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Tentative locations for classroom training are Sheep Creek Lodge, Northern Regional Training Center (9530 W Business Park Drive, Wasilla), and Matanuska Valley Sportsmen Shooting Range, Palmer.

Live fire training will be held at Upper Susitna Shooting Association, Northern Regional Training Center (9530 W Business Park Drive, Wasilla), and Matanuska Valley Sportsmen Shooting Range, Palmer.

Training is tentatively scheduled to begin in September, with classes running through June 30, 2025, depending on funding availability. The program will allow up to 300 individuals to participate in the classes based on available funding. If you have any questions, please contact Russ Krafft, Purchasing Director, for more details at Russ.Krafft@matsugov.us.

Central Landfill 2024 Inspection Report: On June 26, 2024, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Solid Waste Program representatives inspected the Palmer Central Landfill (PCL). The facility received 325 points out of 335 possible points for an overall score of 97%. A few highlights from the report have been included. Landfill personnel demonstrated a good understanding of the operational requirements outlined in the solid waste permit. Spotters stationed at the municipal solid waste (MSW) tipping wall and the construction and demolition (C&D) cell ensured that materials were properly segregated and disposed of. Brush and tires were shredded as alternative cover material (wood chips) or trench construction material (tires). Groundwater sampling and gas monitoring were conducted regularly in compliance with the permit requirements. Improvements to be made include:

- Mitigating the amount of birds at the landfill.
- Windblown trash was a factor. After removing fences for construction, this became a greater problem this year than normal.
- Improvement in monitoring of C&D loads. We will explore our options during the next year. We don't want to make it cumbersome for customers.
- Timely gas reporting: this has already been improved.

Overall, this is good news and reflects the work our Solid Waste Division has put into operating and maintaining the landfill. While there will always be opportunities for improvement, this inspection indicates the Central Landfill complies with ADEC's Solid Waste Program requirements.

Government Finance Officers Association Award for FY2025 Budget: The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) announced that the Borough received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for its budget. The award represents a significant achievement and reflects the commitment of the governing body and staff for meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive the budget award, the Borough had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, a financial plan, an operations guide, and a communications device. Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and in the fourteen mandatory criteria within those categories to receive the award. Congratulations and gratitude to our Finance staff for their continued efforts in setting and achieving high standards.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Fisheries

- [Warning: Unsustainable salmon management has impacts](#)
Frontiersman
- [For Cook Inlet gillnetters life is not easy in EEZ](#)
National Fisherman
- [Map Shows Most Popular States for Fishing](#)
Newsweek
- [Public speaking and poor hunting and fishing expectations](#)
Frontiersman
- [Alaska celebrates 9th Alaska wild salmon day \(video\)](#)
Alaska News Source

Transportation

- [Houston looks to establish municipal airport](#)
Alaska News Source
- [Caswell lakes access a priority of residents](#)
KTNA
- [More equipment added at Port MacKenzie](#)
Frontiersman
- [Houston's airport land resolution delayed as public input is ordered](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Assembly

- [Borough clears new charter school bonds for Nov. voter approval](#)
Frontiersman
- [Mobile home parks no longer allowed](#)
KTNA
- [MSB Assembly passes ordinance banning new mobile home park development](#)
Alaska News Source
- [After contentious debate MSB bans new mobile home parks](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel
- [Citizens won't wait as long to testify at meetings](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Schools

- [Some Anchorage and Mat-Su Schools opting cellphone free classrooms](#)
Alaska News Source
- [Mat-Su Schools set to block students from all cellphone use during school day](#)
Mat-Su Sentinel

Recycling

- [Last weekend for recycling electronics](#)
Frontiersman

Trails and Parks

- [What's new in Mat-Su parks](#)
Alaska Public Media
- [Backcountry access increased at Denali State Park](#)
Alaska Sporting Journal

Health

- [State issues public health alert over rising rates of whooping cough](#)
Alaska News Source

Utilities

- Widespread outages leave thousands without power in Anchorage and Mat-Su
ADN
- Cause of massive railbelt outage remains unknown (video)
Alaska News Source

Library Books

- Library Board recommends first book removal
KTNA
- Mat-Su Borough School District ordered to return banned books before school starts
Alaska News Source
- Federal Judge orders Mat-Su School District to reshelve books
Alaska News Source

Future Events:

- Wed., August 14 at 2 p.m., Jay Nolfi Fish Creek Park Playground Groundbreaking, 4132 S. Casey Drive, Big Lake
- Mon., August 26 at Noon, Annual State Fair Joint Chamber Luncheon. For advance ticket purchase: <https://business.palmerchamber.org/ap/Events/Register/aZFOemYUvCqCZ>
- Sat., September 28 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., 16th Annual Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, Menard Sports Complex, 1001 S. Clapp Street, Wasilla