



## MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

### Office of the Borough Manager

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### **MEMORANDUM**

DATE: August 13, 2025  
TO: Mayor and Assembly  
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager  
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

**Motor Fuel Excise Tax Informational Open Houses:** We are scheduling Open House events to provide information about the fuel excise tax proposition that will be on the November ballot. Tentative open house dates and locations are below. If an Assembly member desires additional meetings or locations, please contact the Manager's office.

- Wed., Sept 17 @6pm – Butte area TBD
- Tues., Sept 23 @6pm – Willow Area Community Organization Center
- Mon., Oct 6 @6pm – Meadow Lakes Elementary Gym
- Mon., Oct 13 @6pm – Knik Elementary Gym
- Wed., Oct. 22 @6pm – Mat-Su Central School
- Thurs., Oct. 23 @6pm – Northern Valley, Talkeetna area TBD

**Healthcare Update:** The Borough received its most recent employer healthcare quarterly experience report. With this report, we have the first half of the 2025 plan year costs. For context, total plan year costs for the 2024 plan year were 9% lower than the previous plan year. In 2025, halfway through the plan year, total plan costs are trending slightly lower than the 2024 plan year costs. These trends are primarily due to a decrease in large claims over the current and previous plan years. The plan continues to benefit from very good generic brand prescription utilization, which is a significant cost savings. Additionally, direct primary care through Capstone continues to see strong utilization. The Borough is working through the Pacific Health Coalition to negotiate with Mat-Su Regional Medical Center for additional discounts for hospital utilization.

Since filling the Healthcare Concierge position in November 2024, our concierge has assisted more than 140 employees with a combined total of over 500 documented requests submitted via email, in addition to numerous phone calls and walk-in visits. From an insurance perspective, she has addressed questions on billing discrepancies, interpreting insurance documents, understanding covered services, resolving HRA reimbursement issues, guiding employees through insurance portals, locating in-network providers, and coordinating with provider offices to ensure appropriate care is covered.

Additionally, she is the primary point of contact for employee communications, produces a healthcare-focused newsletter, provides presentations at both the department and division levels, and plays a key role on the wellness committee, supporting initiatives that promote and encourage overall health and wellness throughout the organization.

### **Public Affairs Media Flyover:**

#### **2025 Arctic Edge Video @ Port MacKenzie**

- <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=KX6TjRRtY8Q&pp=0gcJCa0JAYcqIYzv>

#### **Resource Development**

- [Alaska road project to connect Whistler gold-copper site moves forward](#)  
Investing.com

#### **2025 Election**

- [Proposed senior, veteran property tax tweak to appear on Mat-Su Ballots](#)  
Mat-Su Sentinel
- [Proposed Fuel tax will be on the November Ballot](#)  
KTNA

#### **Trails**

- [Curry Ridge Riders searching for equipment storage](#)  
Frontiersman
- [Proposed pathway would provide pedestrian access to Talkeetna Library](#)  
Frontiersman

#### **Transportation**

- [Coalition pitches winter commuter rail runs between Anchorage and Mat-Su](#)  
ADN
- [Caswell Area road projects nearly complete](#)  
KTNA

#### **Community**

- [Alaska State Fair's Award-Winning Produce donated to MATSU Food Bank](#)  
Your Alaska Link

#### **Animal Care**

- [Animal Control now determining risk classification of dog that mauled Wasilla boy](#)  
Alaska's News Source

#### **Education**

- [Back to School: Coaches weigh in on balancing schoolwork and sports](#)  
Alaska's News Source
- [Mat-Su district may keep some new cuts despite restored state funding](#)  
Mat-Su Sentinel

#### **State of the Borough**

- [Mat-Su Forward: State of the Borough](#)  
Frontiersman

#### **Fishing/hunting**

- [Sockeye Boom](#)  
Craig Medred

#### **Future Events:**

- Sat., Sept. 20 from 10am to 3pm, Mat-Su Emergency Preparedness Expo, Menard Center