



Currents: July + August Edition

Promoting Kodiak's Forward Movement

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Upcoming Events

August 24th
Community Forum

September 29th
Business After Hours:
Threshold Recycling

Chamber Board

Officers:

President - Rick
Kniazowski, Matson Lines

Vice President - Julie
Bonney, Alaska Groundfish
Data Bank

Secretary/Treasurer -
Cheryl Blondin

Message from the President

Dear Community Members,

In June, Hospice and Palliative Care of Kodiak hosted an informative and well attended Business After Hours. Many thanks to their staff for putting on a great event! Hosting a Business After Hours is an opportunity to promote your business. It is a way of inviting Chamber members and the community to a fun evening event, focused on sharing information on your organization. There are still opportunities available to host one this year so be sure to contact the Chamber office if you have interest in participating.



The Summer months are in full swing! It is a busy time for our local businesses, as we welcome seasonal visitors to our island. Don't forget that the Chamber is here to support you! Have an upcoming event? Looking to hire some summer help? [Contact](#) our staff to get your news shared on our website and social media, or to be featured in our weekly radio segment News + Views.

Thank you to our Chamber Members for all that you do to maintain a successful business and to promote your Chamber of Commerce. I would also like to thank our [PIKE sponsors](#), whose contributions allow us to better promote a healthy local economy.

Sincerely,

Rick Kniazowski
Chamber President

Past President - Lindsay Knight, Kodiak Athletic Club

Board Members:

Aaron Walton, Midtown Auto

Ellen Simeonoff, KVOK & Hot 101.1

Susan Johnson, Best Western Kodiak Inn

Jeff Sanford, Wells Fargo

Brian Lickfield, Samson Tug & Barge

Stacey Simmons, Koniag

Board Representatives:

Michael Powers, Kodiak Island Borough Representative

Aimee Kniazowski, City of Kodiak Representative

Darron Scott, KEA Representative

Captain Jeffrey Good, USCG Representative

Captain Mark Morin, USCG Representative

Aimee Williams, Discover Kodiak Representative

Chamber Staff:

Trevor Brown - Executive Director

Dana Haynes - Community Relations Director

Haley Forman - Administrative Assistant



City of Kodiak Financial Update

At their June 19th Board of Directors meeting, Board members received an informal update on the City's financial situation from City Council members, John Whiddon and Randy Bishop. They discussed the City's challenges and some options in closing the City's \$3M budget gap for the fiscal year 2017-2018. The City's expenses are currently budgeted for 39.5M whereas budget revenues are only \$36.5M, leaving a \$3M budget deficit. This is despite a 2% decrease in budgeted expenses from last year and a 23% decrease over the last 3 years in the City's operating expenses.

Also noted by John and Randy was Kodiak's 50 year old or greater infrastructure that needs maintenance and replacement; for example, the pump stations need to be rebuilt on Shelikof Street and City water lines are old cement/asbestos pipes that are subject to fractures and cracking. St. Herman's Harbor and several floats in Dog Bay need rebuilding/replacing. A rough cost estimate on infrastructure repairs and replacements over the next 10 years is over \$180M.

Adding to these issues, the State of Alaska, also in dire financial straits, has reduced Community Assistance and/or revenue sharing effecting both the PERS and TERS programs. The city of Kodiak's sales tax revenues are currently trending down compared to last year.

John and Randy noted that the City Council has explored and is considering several options to increase revenue such as:

1. Increase the sales tax cap from the current \$750 limit
2. Eliminate 2% discount for businesses submitting their sales tax receipts early to the city
3. Modify tax exemptions for seniors
4. Marijuana tax
5. Review all current exemptions

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The City Council has discussed and is cognizant of the impacts of increasing the tax cap on businesses at a time when sales tax revenues are showing a declining trend. They are also discussing how to further reduce operating costs. The current deficit is tentatively being funded from the Fund Balance but that will bring the Fund Balance below the desired 3 month emergency fund level goal of the Council.

The long-term goal is to establish a blend of cost reductions/service level cuts plus revenue increases to result in a long-term fiscal plan that will be sustainable over time.

Chamber members are encouraged to send comments/suggestions for long-term solutions to City Council members or to contact Chamber Director, [Trevor Brown](#) directly for ways to close the city's funding gap.

Thank You!

To our new and renewing members

- Arctic Physical Therapy
- Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association
- Consumer Direct
- Petro Star, Inc.
- Credit Union 1
- Shelikof Lodge
- Harvey Flying Service
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station
- Kodiak Athletic Club
- U.S. Coast Guard Base Kodiak
- Kodiak Fish Market

Chamber Welcomes New Staff Member

This July the Chamber welcomes a new member to its team. Dana Haynes joins the staff as the Community Relations Director, taking over for previous director, Stephanie DeLaGarza.



Dana has been a Kodiak resident for the past two and a half years, previously working as the Gallery Director of the Alutiq Museum. "In this new position I am looking forward to serving Kodiak and getting to know more community members. I hope to help make a positive economic impact for our local businesses and non-profits.", says Dana.

In her role at the Chamber, Dana will manage the Chamber's Membership program, assist with advertising, and most importantly oversee planning for events including CrabFest 2018. She can be reached [here](#), or drop by the Chamber and say hello.



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[Click here](#) to read minutes from last month's Board Meeting!



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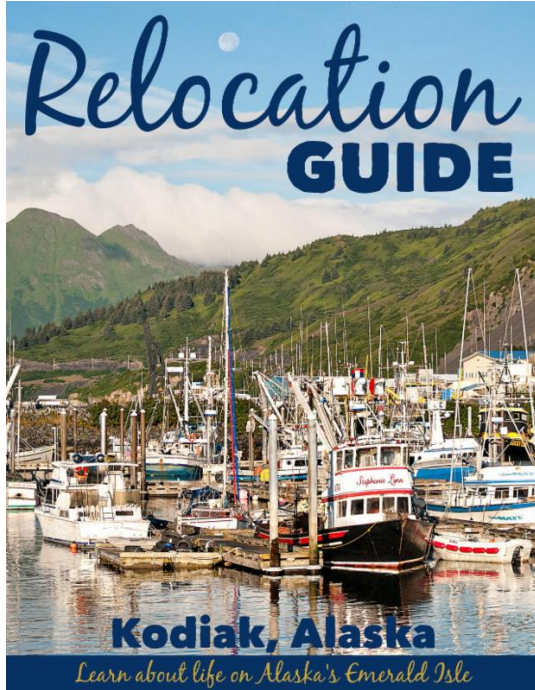


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Pull Tabs at Henry's



The Chamber's 2017 Relocation Guide is Now Available!

Featuring articles and info to get you started exploring Kodiak. From contact information on moving companies to tips on wildlife encounters, it is your go to guide to your new home! Pick up a copy today at the Chamber, located below the ferry terminal, or take a look at the full guide available [online](#).

