



# Senator Cathy Giessel

## District N

Northeast Anchorage, Anchorage Hillside,  
Indian, Bird, Girdwood and Portage

July 8, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Wearing a face mask costs each of us nothing. But it provides a level of security to others...and to us, as they reciprocate.

We are challenged by many issues: fear of an unknown future, noisy confusion, isolation. But Alaskans have persevered through earthquakes, floods, forest fires and record cold temperatures.

We are still here because we love this state and our fellow Alaskans. I encourage all of us to remember how much we love this place and our people.

Diligence. Patience. Long-term vision.

Be safe. Keep well. Care for others.

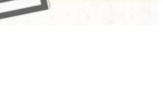
In today's newsletter you'll find:

- [Request Your Absentee Ballots](#)
- [All Qualified Alaskans Who Applied For Housing Relief to Receive It](#)
- [Two Popular Mat-Su Valley State Park Campgrounds Reopened](#)
- [State Park Campground Host Positions](#)
- [Rain Allows Cautious, Permitted Burning to Resume on Kenai](#)
- [Lake Louise State Recreation Area Closed Due to Misuse](#)
- [Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub](#)
- [Oil Prices - Permanent Fund - Stock Market](#)

Kind regards,

Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



### Request Your Absentee Ballot

With the current pandemic, it is important to make your voice heard by voting and one way to do that is by requesting an absentee ballot. Anyone may request an absentee ballot for any reason.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the primary election is August 8th, 2020. Primary election day is August 18, 2020.

[Click here to request your absentee ballot online.](#)

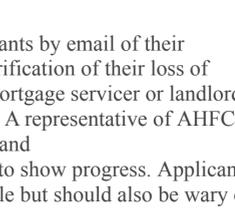


### All Qualified Alaskans Who Applied for Housing Relief to Receive It

Up to \$1,200 in mortgage and rent relief was made available to eligible Alaskans through the federal CARES Act in response to COVID-19 hardship. Applications were accepted by Alaska Housing Finance Corporation from across the state for a two-week period from June 15-26, 2020.

At the time of the application deadline, 8,025 were submitted. Each household represents an average of 2.74 members totaling 21,951 individuals applying for relief. Based on applicants' self-reporting their average annual income loss is \$21,880, with an average monthly housing payment of principal and interest of \$1,417 for homeowners or \$1,110 for renters.

AHFC randomized submissions and notified applicants by email of their placement. Applicants will next need to provide verification of their loss of income and provide contact information for their mortgage servicer or landlord who will receive payment on the applicants' behalf. A representative of AHFC will contact the applicant for required information, and [AlaskaHousingRelief.org](#) will be updated weekly to show progress. Applicants are encouraged to have required documents available but should also be wary of scammers posing as representatives of the Corporation. Applicants can verify the legitimacy of an inquirer by confirming their unique alphanumeric number.



### Two Popular Mat-Su Valley State Park Campgrounds Now Open

Byers Lake Campground in Denali State Park and the South Rolly Campground in the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area are now open after federal funding allowed removal of more than 8,000 hazardous beetle-killed spruce trees.

The parks had been closed since spring of 2019, due to concerns that the ongoing infestation of spruce beetles had killed or weakened enough trees to create a safety hazard for campers, he said. The concern was that dead or weakened trees could fall on campers.

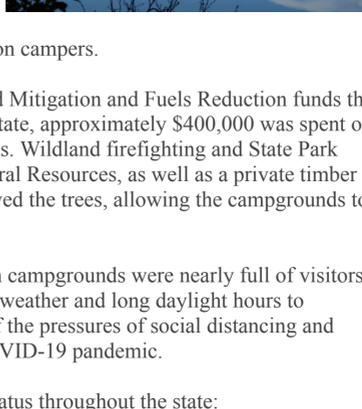
Of the \$2 million Spruce Beetle Hazard Mitigation and Fuels Reduction funds the USDA Forest Service provided to the state, approximately \$400,000 was spent on tree removal to reopen the campgrounds. Wildland firefighting and State Park personnel with the Department of Natural Resources, as well as a private timber harvest contractor, cut down and removed the trees, allowing the campgrounds to reopen on June 26.

The first weekend after reopening, both campgrounds were nearly full of visitors eager to take advantage of the summer weather and long daylight hours to recreate outdoors, and to avoid some of the pressures of social distancing and other restrictions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To find up-to-date campground open status throughout the state:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/open.htm>

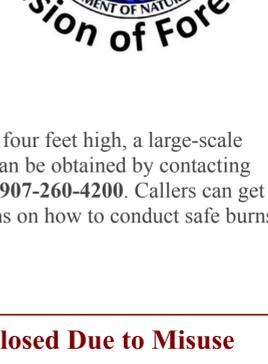
[Click here to read the full press release.](#)



### State Park Campground Host Positions

There are still campgrounds with openings for campground hosts! Volunteers must be 18 years of age or older, and a US citizen. There is no upper age limit, although volunteers must be in good health. Minimum time commitment and additional requirements, such as skills and education, are listed with each position description.

[Take a look here to see what campground positions are open.](#)



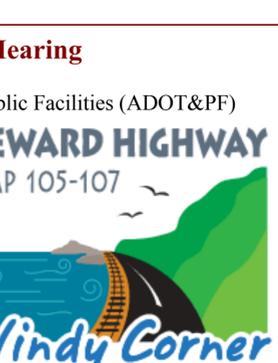
### Rain Allows Cautious, Permitted Burning to Resume on Kenai

Moderating weather and increased precipitation on the Kenai Peninsula have prompted the Alaska Division of Forestry to lift the two-month long burn permit suspension on July 7, opening the way for cautious, permitted burning.

With the burn permit suspension lifted, residents may now burn small brush piles or use burn barrels with a small-scale burn permit. Small-scale burn permits can be obtained online at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/burn> and at local fire departments. Those burning should follow the safe burning guidelines outlined in the permit.

To burn a brush pile larger than 10 feet around and four feet high, a large-scale burn permit is required. Large-scale burn permits can be obtained by contacting the local Division of Forestry office in Soldotna at 907-260-4200. Callers can get help obtaining permits, and get answers to questions on how to conduct safe burns to protect wildland resources, property and lives.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)



### Lake Louise State Recreation Area Closed Due to Misuse

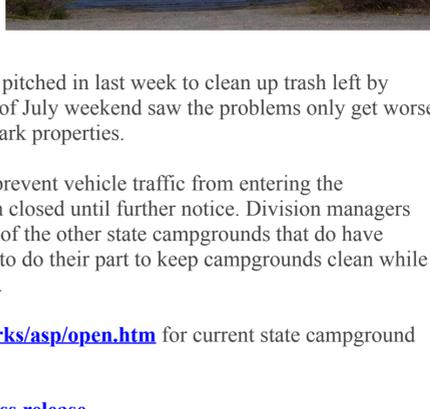
The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Mat-Su Region has indefinitely closed the Lake Louise State Recreation Area in the Copper Valley near Glennallen effective immediately, in the face of continuing vandalism and lack of care by campers and recreators.

Lake Louise-area residents had pitched in last week to clean up trash left by earlier campers, but the Fourth of July weekend saw the problems only get worse, and even extend to local, non-park properties.

The division will take steps to prevent vehicle traffic from entering the campground, which will remain closed until further notice. Division managers encourage campers to visit any of the other state campgrounds that do have campground hosts or staff, and to do their part to keep campgrounds clean while respecting nearby communities.

Visit <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/asp/open.htm> for current state campground status.

[Click here to read the full press release.](#)



### Windy Corner Open Forum Public Hearing

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) invites you to a public hearing (virtual format as well as in-person access) to review and make comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Draft Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation relating to proposed safety improvements to the Seward Highway between Mileposts (MP) 105-107, known as Windy Corner. This is a rescheduled event after the originally planned event in March was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

All documents are available at [www.windycorner.info](http://www.windycorner.info). Hard copies are available for review at DOT&PF Central Region Office (4111 Aviation Avenue in Anchorage) and the DOT&PF statewide office (3132 Channel Drive in Juneau) or upon request at [windycorner@dowl.com](mailto:windycorner@dowl.com).

#### Meeting Information:

Date: **Thursday, July 30, 2020, beginning at 5:00pm**

Meeting Agenda:

- Presentation
- Project Q&A
- Review Options for Submitting Comments
- Adjourn Public Hearing

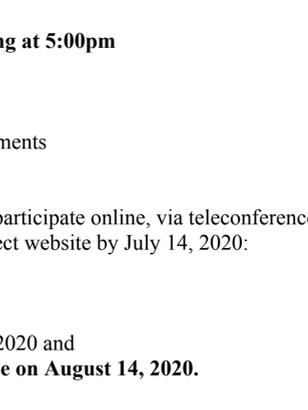
More detailed information about how to participate online, via teleconference, or in-person will be available on the project website by July 14, 2020: [www.windycorner.info](http://www.windycorner.info).

#### How to Comment:

The comment period began on March 6, 2020 and **ends at midnight Alaska Standard Time on August 14, 2020.**

Comments may be submitted by mail or email or by telephone voicemail. Visit [www.windycorner.info](http://www.windycorner.info) for more information.

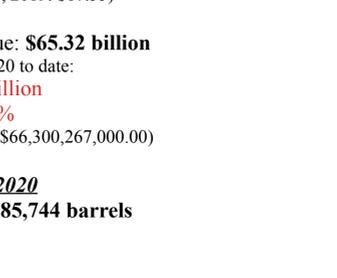
[Click here to view the online public notice.](#)



### Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub

The Alaska Coronavirus Response Hub provides information, maps and resources about the COVID-19 response.

[Click here](#) to visit the hub and explore the latest COVID-19 data for Alaska.



### Oil Prices - Permanent Fund - Stock Market

**July 7, 2020**

ANS Crude Price: **\$44.34/barrel**

Fiscal Year 2020 to date:  
-\$23.31  
-34.36%

(ANS price, June 28, 2019: \$67.55)

Permanent Fund Value: **\$65.32 billion**

Fiscal Year 2020 to date:  
-\$983 million  
-1.48%

(PF value, June 30, 2019:\$66,300,267,000.00)

**July 6, 2020**

ANS Production: **485,744 barrels**

#### 10 worst years for the SP 500 since 1928:

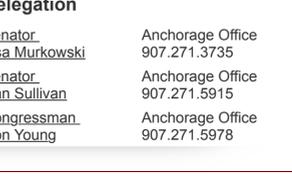
1. 1931: -47.07% (Great Depression)
2. 1937: -38.59% (Great Depression)
3. 2008: -38.49% (Great Recession / Housing Bubble)
4. 1974: -29.72% (Oil crisis)
5. 1930: -28.48% (Great Depression)
6. 2002: -23.37% (Dot-Com Bubble)
7. 1941: -17.86% (Great Depression)
8. 1973: -17.37% (Oil crisis)
9. 1940: -15.29% (Great Depression)
10. 1932: -15.15% (Great Depression)

**2020: -1.88% (so far, 7/8/2020)**

It's a pleasure to serve and represent the wonderful people of District N!

I look forward to hearing your ideas, suggestions and comments.

[To email me, click here.](#)



**Juneau: State Capitol, Room 111, Juneau, Alaska 99801**  
**Anchorage: 1500 W. Benson Blvd.,**  
**Anchorage, AK 99503**  
**Phone: 800.892.4843**

Copyright © 2020. All Rights Reserved.

#### Staff Contacts

[Jane Conway](#)

#### Quick Links

[Senate Republican Majority](#)

[Kari Nore](#)

[Alaska State Legislature](#)

[Emmie Jackson](#)

[State of Alaska](#)

#### Congressional Delegation

[Senator Lisa Murkowski](#)

[Senator Dan Sullivan](#)

[Congressman Don Young](#)

Anchorage Office  
907.271.3735

Anchorage Office  
907.271.5915

Anchorage Office  
907.271.5978