

Senator Cathy Giessel

District N

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

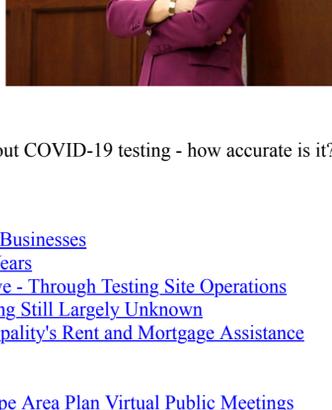
June 18, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It's amazing how much I find to share each week.

This newsletter usually comes out on Wednesday, but I waited to hear the report from DCCED on Small Business CARES Act Grants. It's great news.

I'm also including information on the budget cuts that have been made since 2013.



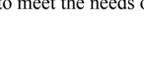
Below you'll find a good article about COVID-19 testing - how accurate is it?

In today's newsletter you'll find:

- [Good News for Alaska Small Businesses](#)
- [Budget Cuts Made in Past 8 Years](#)
- [Municipality to Continue Drive - Through Testing Site Operations](#)
- [Accuracy of COVID-19 Testing Still Largely Unknown](#)
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- [Oil Prices - Permanent Fund - Stock Market](#)

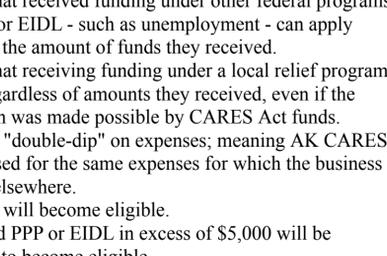
Kind regards,
Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



Good News for Alaska Small Businesses

Yesterday, June 17, the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development (DCCED) announced modifications that are being made in the Small Business Relief Grant program!



You may think about skipping this information because you don't own a small business. But be aware that small business is the backbone of Alaska's economy. These are the small and medium size local businesses owned by your neighbors, hiring your neighbors or even you. They are vital to the lifeblood of our state. So keep reading about the positive modifications being made to ensure that all small businesses will have access to these funds.

This Alaska CARES program, in order to distribute federal money to assist floundering small businesses, needed some modifications to meet the needs of our many small businesses.

Eligibility criteria is being modified to include:

- Small businesses that received PPP* or EIDL* funds of \$5,000 or less will become eligible.
 - Clarifying this only applies to businesses that received PPP or EIDL (as it currently included "or other federal programs" under the CARES Act).
 - Businesses that received funding under other federal programs besides PPP or EIDL - such as unemployment - can apply regardless of the amount of funds they received.
 - Businesses that receiving funding under a local relief program can apply regardless of amounts they received, even if the local program was made possible by CARES Act funds.
 - Businesses cannot "double-dip" on expenses; meaning AK CARES funds cannot be used for the same expenses for which the business received funding elsewhere.
- 501(c)(6) organizations will become eligible.
- Businesses that received PPP or EIDL in excess of \$5,000 will be allowed to return funds to become eligible.
 - Example: If they receive \$6,000, they can return \$1,000 and become eligible.
 - The department won't encourage/advise people to return funds, nor will we advise which program works best for a business. Businesses need to make these determinations based on their individual needs.

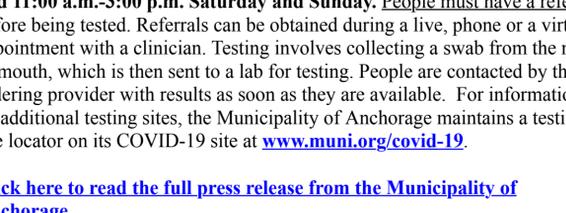
*PPP - Paycheck Protection Program

*EIDL - Economic Injury Disaster Loan

These modifications were made with guidance from the Department of Law on Tuesday. Details surrounding these changes are being finalized with DCCED and the Alaska Industrial Development Export Authority (AIDEA) now. More details on the updated guidelines and the effective date of these changes will be forthcoming in the next few days. The effective date will be a few weeks out.

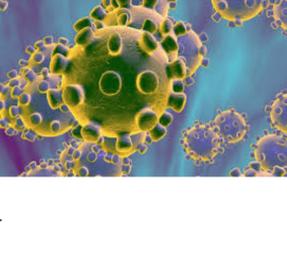
[Click here for a recording to the House Finance meeting.](#)

Budget Cuts Made in Past 8 Years



Municipality to Continue Drive - Through Testing Site Operations

The Municipality of Anchorage, in partnership with Providence Health & Services Alaska and the State of Alaska, will continue COVID-19 testing services at the drive-through testing site at 4115 Lake Otis Parkway.



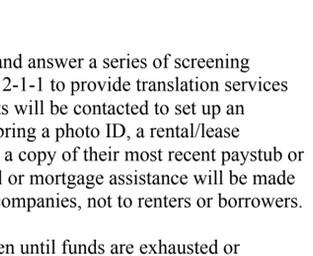
During the past 12 weeks, this effort provided more than 8,400 COVID-19 tests to the Anchorage community.

The testing site is open from **11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. People must have a referral** before being tested. Referrals can be obtained during a live, phone or a virtual appointment with a clinician. Testing involves collecting a swab from the nose or mouth, which is then sent to a lab for testing. People are contacted by their ordering provider with results as soon as they are available. For information on additional testing sites, the Municipality of Anchorage maintains a testing site locator on its COVID-19 site at www.muni.org/covid-19.

[Click here to read the full press release from the Municipality of Anchorage.](#)

Accuracy of COVID-19 Testing Still Largely Unknown

Months into the outbreak, no one really knows how well many of the screening tests work, and experts at top medical centers say it is time to do the studies to find out.



An article from Modern Healthcare explains how faulty tests could leave many thousands of Americans with the incorrect assumption that they are virus-free, contributing to new flare-ups of the disease as communities reopen.

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

Applications Open for Municipality's Rent and Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program

Applications are now open for the Municipality of Anchorage's \$1 million COVID-19 Rent and Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program, which will provide rent and mortgage support for individuals economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Municipality is partnering with United Way of Anchorage's 2-1-1 to process and distribute the funds.



Anchorage residents are eligible to apply for assistance if they suffered a loss of income due to COVID-19. Applicants who were unemployed prior to March 12 or who lost employment for reasons other than COVID-19 are not eligible.

The financial assistance will go to residents who have insufficient funds to pay rent dating back to April 2020. The maximum financial assistance is \$1,000 per household per month for two months for a total maximum assistance of \$2,000 per household.

To apply, residents need to call 2-1-1 and answer a series of screening questions. Interpreters are available at 2-1-1 to provide translation services over the phone. All screened applicants will be contacted to set up an appointment. Applicants will need to bring a photo ID, a rental/lease agreement or mortgage statement, and a copy of their most recent paystub or self-employment identification. Rental or mortgage assistance will be made out directly to landlords or mortgage companies, not to renters or borrowers.

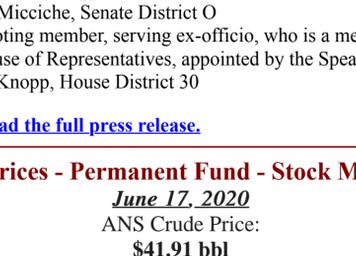
The application period will remain open until funds are exhausted or September 30, 2020, whichever comes first.

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

Show Up for Alaska

Now is the time to explore Alaska's backyard! Do all the things you've always wanted to do like walking on a glacier, kayaking hidden coves, or taking an epic road trip. I encourage you to take some time this summer to explore this great state.

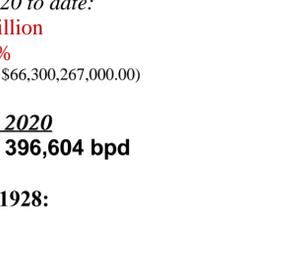
One local business that has opened back up is the [Alyeska Resort](#) in Girdwood!



[Click here to visit the Show Up for Alaska website.](#)

Alaskans Invited to North Slope Area Plan Virtual Public Meetings

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will hold virtual public meetings on June 23 and 25 to answer public questions about a land use planning document that will guide future activity on state land in the North Slope.



The North Slope Area Plan will classify approximately 12 million acres of state-owned and state-selected lands, and define management intent for all state lands and water inside the planning area, which includes most of the North Slope Borough and adjacent areas.

DNR's Resource Assessment and Development Section (RADS) has been accepting public comments on its draft plan since May 19. The section is holding the virtual meetings as an additional tool to inform the public, answer questions, and solicit comment that can guide the plan's final form - all while respecting social distancing protocols and reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The meetings, to be conducted through the Microsoft Teams online collaboration platform, will start with a short video presentation on the plan, followed by questions on the plan and the planning process from the public and answers from DNR staff.

[Click here for more information about the meetings and to read the full press release.](#)

9-1-1 Dispatch Consolidation Group Appointees

Last week, Governor Dunleavy announced the appointees to the 9-1-1 Dispatch Consolidation Working Group:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or designee:
 - Amanda Price, Commissioner
- Emergency Services provider:
 - Ronald Bowers, EMT-III
- Representative of the Alaska Chapter of the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials, the National Emergency Number Association, or a similar organization of public safety communications professionals:
 - Suzanne Hall, Public Safety Dispatcher
- The Statewide 9-1-1 Coordinator:
 - John Rockwell, Department of Public Safety
- Three Borough, Municipality, or City Mayors:
 - Charlie Pierce, Mayor of Kenai Peninsula Borough
 - Rodney Dial, Mayor of Ketchikan Gateway Borough
 - Edna DeVries, Mayor of City of Palmer
- One Dispatch Manager from a Borough or Municipal Public Safety Answering Point:
 - Jacob Butcher, Communications Manager, Matcom Dispatch
- The Executive Director, Alaska Telecom Association, or designee:
 - Christine O'Connor, Executive Director
- One CEO/GM or designee of a rural telecom provider:
 - David Goggins, President, TelAlaska
- One CEO/GM or Senior Executive of a statewide telecom provider:
 - Heather Cavanaugh, Director of External Affairs, Alaska Communications
- One non-voting member, serving ex-officio, who is a member of the Alaska State Senate appointed by the Senate President:
 - Peter Micciche, Senate District 0
- One non-voting member, serving ex-officio, who is a member of the Alaska House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House:
 - Gary Knopp, House District 30

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

Oil Prices - Permanent Fund - Stock Market

June 17, 2020

ANS Crude Price: **\$41.91 bbl**

Fiscal Year 2020 to date: **-\$25.64**

-37.96%

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

Permanent Fund Value: **\$65 billion**

Fiscal Year 2020 to date: **-\$1.25 billion**

-1.88%

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

June 16, 2020

ANS Production: **396,604 bpd**

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: -3.82% (so far, 6/17/2020)

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.](#)

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