



# Senator Cathy Giessel

## District N

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

June 10, 2020

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

I continue to work with the Governor and his commissioners to support the small business relief grants. The process is moving forward, though slowly.



I encourage us all to visit the many spectacular places around our state, using the services of our many small businesses. These businesses are experts at guiding visitors around the state and showcasing its amazing and endless attributes.

**The 2020 Census is critical for our state.** It provides the updated population data that guides federal money allocations and other benefits to Alaska. It's easy to do online.

In today's newsletter you'll find:

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- [AHFC Announces Alaska Housing Relief](#)
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- [Oil Prices - Permanent Fund - Stock Market](#)

Kind regards,  
Cathy

[Click here to email me.](#)



### COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

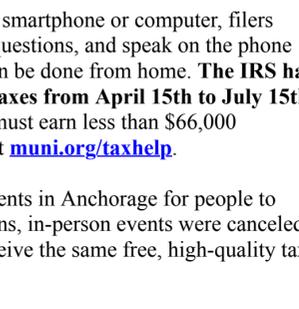
The State of Alaska COVID-19 information website has listed frequently asked questions related to the virus. Questions range from how to get tested, to where to find the current health mandates.



[Click here to view all the the FAQs.](#)

### Opportunity for Free, Remote Tax Preparation for Anchorage Residents

The Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage Innovation Team (i-Team) have partnered with Code for America and IRS-certified tax preparers to offer residents free, one-on-one tax filing support at home.



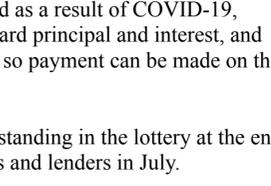
[GetYourRefund.org](#) connects people with tax preparers from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which offers free tax help to filers. Using a smartphone or computer, filers upload their tax documents, answer a few questions, and speak on the phone with the tax preparer. The entire process can be done from home. **The IRS has extended the normal deadline for filing taxes from April 15th to July 15th.** To be eligible for this free service, people must earn less than \$66,000 annually. Alaskans can access the service at [muni.org/taxhelp](#).

Throughout the spring, there are several events in Anchorage for people to receive tax help. Due to COVID-19 concerns, in-person events were canceled. GetYourRefund.org allows Alaskans to receive the same free, high-quality tax assistance from home.

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

### AHFC Announces Alaska Housing Relief

If you or someone you know has lost income because of COVID-19, the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC) is offering one-time financial relief for renters and homeowners.



AHFC will begin accepting application at [AlaskaHousingRelief.org](#) starting on the morning of Monday, June 15. The deadline to apply is 11:59pm on Friday, June 26, 2020.

Following the closure of the application date, AHFC will randomly pool all names. Those at the top of the lottery will be contacted by AHFC to seek verification of economic hardship that occurred as a result of COVID-19, proof of monthly rent or payments that go toward principal and interest, and contract information for the landlord or lender so payment can be made on the applicant's behalf.

AHFC intends to notice all applicants of their standing in the lottery at the end of June, with payments distributed to landlords and lenders in July.

Visit [AlaskaHousingRelief.org](#) for more information and to determine eligibility.

### Alaska State Parks Day Use or Boat Launch Pass

Alaska State Parks is encouraging people who would like to purchase passes to do so online



at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes>. Customers are able to purchase the passes online, print a temporary permit, and have the decal mailed directly to them.

After purchasing the pass online, you'll be prompted to print out a temporary pass and then an official one will be mailed to you.

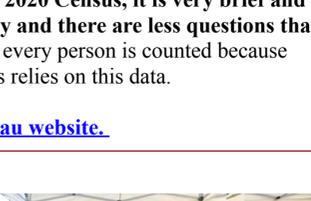
- 2020 Annual Day Use Parking Pass - \$60 each
- 2020 Annual Boat Launch Pass - \$150 each

If you don't have the ability to go online, please call the Gilman Kenai River Center, State Park Office at 907-714-2471 to make alternative arrangements for paying & receiving a physical pass.

[Click here to view a list of state park openings.](#)

### Stay Up-to-Date on Sport Fishing Emergency Orders and Press Releases from the ADF&G

Emergency orders are issued to open and close sport fishing seasons or areas; to increase or decrease sport fish bag limits; or to modify methods of sport fish harvest. Emergency orders may be issued at any time and have the same force and effect as law.



[This site](#) is updated frequently and anglers should check it before going fishing to make certain they have the most current regulations information.

Emergency orders amend or supplement the sport fishing regulations as described in the [Sport Fishing Regulations](#) section of the website.

[Click here to view the Sport Fishing Emergency Orders and Press Release website from ADF&G.](#)

### Respond to the 2020 Census!

**It's not too late to respond to the 2020 Census!**



The U.S. Census Bureau will restart its efforts to reach residents without a listed physical address, as well as continuing door-to-door canvassing after hand delivery of census materials was halted by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Census Bureau teams have been trained to observe social distancing and will follow federal health and safety guidelines. The agency will also be using protective equipment while distributing census materials to households.

**If you haven't already responded to the 2020 Census, it is very brief and only takes a few minutes. It is super easy and there are less questions than on your PFD application!** It's important every person is counted because federal funding for many crucial programs relies on this data.

[Click here to visit the U.S. Census Bureau website.](#)

### Farmers Markets

Farmers markets across the state are up and running!



Photo from [Anchorage.net](#)

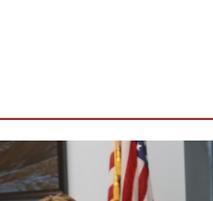
Below are the markets open in District N. Market goers are encouraged to wear masks, practice social distancing and follow precautions set out by each marketplace.

The [South Anchorage Farmers Market](#) is open on Saturday from 9am-2pm at the Subway/Cellular One Sports Centre (on the corner of Old Seward and O'Malley). Beginning in July, the market will be open on Wednesdays from 10am-4pm.

The [Muldoon Farmers Market](#) will begin on June 27th at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park.

### UAF Extension Activities, June 8-21

The Cooperative Extension Service continues its distance-delivery outreach with Statewide Extension Week June 8-12. Faculty and staff across the state will lead 20 free programs, from controlling bird vetch to cooking with beans. Several activities are geared to youth.



All events are free and take place on Zoom. [Click here to register for Extension Week classes.](#) Zoom links will be shared with participants before the hour-long classes.

[Click here for a full list of classes!](#)

### Alaska Trails June 2020 Newsletter

The June 2020 Alaska Trails newsletter is available to read at the link below.



Deadlines and opportunities to volunteer, advocate, or give support to trails are highlighted in red.

[Click here to view the full Alaska Trails June 2020 newsletter.](#)

[Click here to visit the Alaska Trails website.](#)

### Oil Prices - Permanent Fund - Stock Market

**June 9, 2020**

ANS Crude Price: **\$41.38 bbl**

*Fiscal Year 2020 to date:*

**-\$26.17**

**-38.74%**

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

Permanent Fund Value: **\$65.837 billion**

*Fiscal Year 2020 to date:*

**-\$463 million**

**-0.7%**

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

**June 8, 2020**

ANS Production: **379,425 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: -0.90% (so far, 6/9/2020)**

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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