

## Manager's Update – June 6, 2024

**Visit with Sen. Kiehl & Rep. Story:** Assemblymember Hanson, Police Chief Reddick, Fire Chief Rauscher, Deputy Manager Deach, and I attended a meeting with Senator Jesse Kiehl and Representative Andi Story on Friday, May 31. We had a great discussion about many topics, including state grant funding for emergency response staffing, equipment, and training programs, the Alaska Court System in Skagway, the future of the school bond debt reimbursement program, rockslide mitigation, ore terminal demolition, and more. As always, Sen. Kiehl and Rep. Story had great information to share, listened to our concerns, and answered our questions. I would like to thank them both for their dedication to their constituents.

**Ore Dock Ribbon Cutting:** The Port of Skagway will host a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Ore Dock at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 27.

**Tongass Federal Credit Union (FCU):** I received follow-up correspondence from Tongass FCU indicating that they are interested in offering services in Skagway. In order to get something started this summer, they need to know if the Assembly would support a rent-free space on municipal property for two years. Please provide direction to me about if/how the Assembly would like to move forward.

**BRIC Grant:** We recently received an update from FEMA via the State regarding the BRIC Grant for Rockslide Mitigation. Our sub-application was reviewed and approved by the FEMA Region 10 office, and they have forwarded the application on to the Grant Programs Division of FEMA. The Division will now review and finalize the award, barring any additional comments.

**Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program:** The Municipality was informed that it was not awarded a USDA CWDG grant for a borough-wide wildfire protection plan. This application had been submitted on behalf of the Municipality of Skagway and other communities by the Alaska Municipal League. Another round of grant awards will be open for application later this year, and we will consider reapplying at that time.

**Incinerator:** I have spoken with Public Works Director Ames and the incinerator is once again in need of repair. He believes it will be able to operate until the transfer station is online, but then we will need to assess whether to continue repairs or shut the incinerator down. One big concern is the safety of the crew during repairs. I intend to visit the site with Director Ames to assess the MOS's comfort with the safety of the crew during repairs and then bring back a recommendation.

**Library Director's Report:** Summer at the library is in full swing, with visitors and residents alike regularly utilizing our internet services, resources, and collection. Circulation of library materials since May 1st has seen a 13% increase this year since the same time period in 2023! Our Summer Reading Program is in its third week with a great turnout, and we are preparing for our Pride event on Saturday, June 15th, the second annual "Sweets & Stories" at 10:30 am. On the financial and reporting side of things, the end of this month sees both the end of the fiscal year for the Alaska State Library's Public Library Assistance Grant and the deadline for the final report for the

\$20,000 Libraries Transforming Communities grant that we were awarded last year to fund our automatic door.

**Port Director's Report:**

**2024 Visitor Statistics:** Based on data reported from Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska of ships arriving in Skagway through May 31, 2024.

Month	Ships	Passengers	% of Projections
April	4	8,985	97%
May	80	212,475	94%

\*In May, six ships (18,000 pax) cancelled their calls.

\*\* Of the ships that did call in May they were at 101% of projections.

**Recreation Director's Report:**

**Senior Programs:**

Thanks to Senior Activities Coordinator, Aaron Thompson, senior programs are off to a great start! Beginning in May, the Rec Center began hosting Senior Socials on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30-1:00. Seniors enjoy pastries, games, coffee, and company. Two new senior-assist lounge chairs and a sofa in the multi-purpose room, along with a fresh coat of paint on the walls, make the space even more enjoyable. Socials are seeing an average of 10 seniors in attendance.

Senior Excursions are also underway largely thanks to the generous discounts and donations from several local companies. A dinner at the Skagway Brewing Company kicked off the summer excursions. Last week a ride on the WP&YR railroad provided a leisurely experience. This coming Saturday the seniors are taking the intensity up a notch with an adventure with Skagway Float Tours.

Seniors must be 60 or older to participate in programs. No membership required. Stop by the center or call to be added to our contact list for excursions (or just attend the socials!)

**Youth Programs:**

Summer Camp starts next week! A total of 27 local youth entering 3rd-6th grade have registered for day-camps held M-F, June 10-21 & July 8-19. Youth Programs Coordinator, Johanna Evans, has arranged exciting excursions with numerous local companies and entities. The Rec Center will recognize each company this season, but we want to take this opportunity to thank the S.M.A.R.T. Bus as well as the Skagway School who are both donating most of the Camp's transportation needs.

**Facility:**

A big thank you to Southeast Alaska Independent Living (SAIL) for donating funds to the Rec Center to purchase 24 youth-sized helmets. The helmets will now be available at all skate parties and available in the skate shack in the winter.

**Staffing:**

The Outdoor Recreation Coordinator position was announced with several candidates applying. However, after much discussion between the Rec Director Verhaeghe, Borough Manager Ryan and the Director of Public Works, Tyson Ames, the position will be re-announced. The first announcement indicated this position would oversee municipal trails by 2025. However, the position's priorities must be existing programs in various states of implementation, such as developing the community garden and overseeing the rec center's outdoor spaces (skate park, court/ice rink, playground, field). Although the job description will not be changed, the position will likely not have capacity to oversee the municipal trails maintenance or a trail crew immediately. The coordinator will still have a semi-regular trail presence, but this will first be in the form of leading hikes for locals, trail condition monitoring, and trailhead maintenance (trash/bulletin board). This shift in focus necessitated the position be announced a second time to ensure transparency of duties to those who already applied and fairness to those interested in the updated priorities. Expect to see that announcement later this month.

**Police Chief's Report:** The Police Department was busy over the last month. We are still currently accepting applications for a Police Officer and two Community Service Officers.

I have been in contact with the company that does our door lock controls for the Public Safety Facility; this server is in dire need of an upgrade as it crashes on a regular basis. Fixing this issue is a high priority.

ProComm came to Skagway and installed three of the four repeaters that have been failing at our AB Mountain communications tower. This will fix some of our issues as well as getting the clinic their communications repeater back in operation. While the Goat Lake repeater has not had any issues, we do have a replacement repeater for it that can be installed at any time in the event of a failure. The primary focus was to fix the AB Mountain repeaters.

A communications study was done by REVL and we hope to have the results back from them with a proposal to fix our current communications issues.

Conversations with the Haines Police Department administration is ongoing as we discuss our Dispatch upgrades. If the Zetron equipment is purchased this would give both communities the necessary redundancy needed for either department to handle the communications and dispatching for both locations should an emergency arise or if short staffing is encountered.

The Police department has secured a Well house housing property from H&H with the ability to provide single bedroom housing for temporary use if we find an applicant for any of our vacant positions.

I am still on light duty recovering from shoulder surgery. I have three officers covering all of the shifts. I will do administrative work until I am cleared for full duty.

We have made an arrest on the case with the overdose deaths of Anthony Bowers and James Cook. Jacob Cotton was arrested on Misconduct Involving a Controlled Substance and 2 counts of Manslaughter. He is being held at Lemon Creek Correctional Facility in Juneau on a \$150,000 Dollar bond.

### Communications Report:

The Skagway Police Department has a new website! Some new features include:

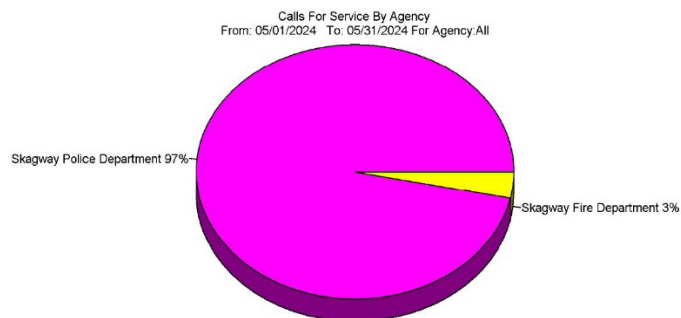
- Online processing of all Commercial Ground Transportation applications
- Online Dog and Bicycle registrations
- Online payment of Municipal parking or Code violations

Residents can still sign up for NIXLE and submit anonymous tips using the P3Tips tipline. Statistical information is updated on a monthly and annual basis. Press releases are also published online.

For more information please visit: <https://skagwaypolice.net/>

Statistics for Communications for the month of May are as follows:

- Calls for Service – 1096
- Arrests – 1
- EMS/Fire Incidents – 35



In other news, our most recent hire for dispatch has completed the Public Safety Telecommunicator course and is currently enrolled in the Emergency Medical Dispatcher course, this is a total of 10 weeks' worth of training. These certifications are needed in order to utilize the EMD Guidecards and a bi-annual recertification is done with all dispatchers. All dispatchers are signed up to take the 6-week Fire Communications course offered through APCO International, which is scheduled to start at the end of July. We also partake of required monthly training

through APCO and Police Legal Sciences. Additionally, regular call reviews are done with each dispatcher to ensure that policies and procedures are followed. Information from these reviews is used to identify training needs.

Last week I visited the Haines Police Department Communications Center to get an idea of how they operate. Dispatch Supervisor Clark was gracious in allowing me to sit in and observe their processes. I also learned a fair bit about their phone system Zetron which is what we may switch to here in Skagway. On Friday I will be visiting the Juneau Police Department Communications Center; they recently went through an upgrade of their own, so I am sure there will be lots of information to be shared there.

**Tourism Director's Report:** Please see the attached Tourism Director's report for May.



# Explore Skagway Tourism Director Report – May 2024

## A. FREE Visitor Department Partnership Benefits

- a. As Skagway's Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) Skagway Visitor Department offers a variety of promotional opportunities for individual businesses or organizations. Opportunities include:
  - i. Free business listing on Skagway.com. with a current Skagway Business License.
  - ii. Business Rack Card display space. (9" l x 4 "w)
  - iii. Visitor Information Referrals
  - iv. Discounted price for joining Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA)
  - v. Advertising opportunity information
  - vi. Events Calendar listings for special events
  - vii. Educational events & publications
- b. Add or Update your Business Listing on Skagway.com
  1. <https://www.skagway.com/partnership/>
- c. Add your special event to our calendar and we will promote it for you!
  1. <https://www.skagway.com/events/>

## B. Tourism Best Management Practices 2024

- a. We have 48 Partners to date. Thank you, Partners! See the list here:
  - i. <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/partners>
- b. You can join too!
  - i. <https://www.skagwaytbmp.com/becomeapartner>
- c. TBMP Complaints
  - i. DO NOT FEED WILD ANIMALS: Please tell your clients how dangerous this is regarding traffic, people and detriment to wildlife.
  - ii. DO NOT HAWK PRODUCT: Merchants and their employees will avoid handing out flyers or leaflets outside of their place of business. Merchants and their employees will not engage in sidewalk hawking or any other disruptive or aggressive physical behavior to get potential customers into their place of business.
  - iii. LOADING & UNLOADING: only load in authorized areas.
  - iv. KLONDIKE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ISSUES. Do not stop in the middle of the road or on curves. Do not linger to look at wildlife. Pass cautiously. Share this information with rental car clients.
- d. TBMP Compliments
  - i. "Amazing tour. Exceptional interpretation + communication skills. Love every moment. Fantastic Town!" RE Red Onion
  - ii. "Thank you thank you for getting my lost phone to me here in Ohio! It got home before I did. Skagway was a beautiful city and I enjoyed my time there very much. If you see Denise from Klondike Tours tell her I said hello and thanks too."

**C. New Business & Product information needed.**

- a. If you have a new business or product that you would like the Skagway Visitor Information to promote with travel writers, please contact us with details.

- i. [j.bricker@skagway.org](mailto:j.bricker@skagway.org)

**D. Skagway Pride Event**

- a. Thanks to all the volunteers that made this event a huge success! Visitor came from near and far to participate including Senator Jesse Keihl and Representative Story! Well done Skagway Pride Committee!

**E. Volunteers Needed**

- a. If you'd like to volunteer for upcoming special events, please contact me at [j.bricker@skagway.org](mailto:j.bricker@skagway.org).

**F. Duff's Skagway Marathon is slated for Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> with 173 registered racers**

- a. Contact Jaime at [j.bricker@skagway.org](mailto:j.bricker@skagway.org) if you would like to volunteer on race day or sponsor an aid station.

- b. <https://www.skagwaymarathon.org/>

**G. Skagway Independence Day Parade Theme is "Hear us Roar in 2024: Celebrating Skagway's Independent Spirit."**

- a. If you would like to sponsor an event or volunteer to help with the parade, please send the information via e-mail to [j.bricker@skagway.org](mailto:j.bricker@skagway.org).

- i. <https://www.skagway.com/event/skagway-independence-day-celebration/1790/>

- b. Mr. and Mrs. Yukon; Ron & Merrilee Chambers will be special guests in the parade.

- i. <https://www.yukonrendezvous.com/2024-festival/2024-mr-mrs-yukon>

- c. Your 2024 Grand Marshals are:

- i. Helen B Clark Award Recipient, Scott Logan

- ii. Don Hather Award Recipient, Joann Trozzo

**H. We've welcomed 2 New Ships with Inaugural Plaque Exchange Ceremonies**

- a. Silver Nova on May 13<sup>th</sup> at Broadway Dock

- b. Celebrity Edge on May 14<sup>th</sup> at Railroad Aft (Plaque Exchange on May 21<sup>st</sup>)

**I. Skagway Hiking Trails ArcGIS Maps**

- a. Thanks to Stacy Fairbanks in Skagway's Permitting Office, Explore Skagway has a new tool for visitors who would like to get a 3D view of Skagway's hiking trails. We appreciate sharing Municipal resources across departments.

- i. <https://www.skagway.com/plan-your-trip/travel-transportation/maps/>

**J. Denver Glacier Trail Maintenance**

- a. I have contacted the US Forest Service about the condition of the Denver Glacier Trail in hopes that a maintenance team can be deployed to clear downed trees from the trail.

**K. North Words Writer's Symposium**

- a. The Municipality sponsored this event, and I was able to attend as a participant. The conference brought writers from near and far to discuss travel writing, poetry, prose, non-fiction, fiction and more. Writers enjoyed local food, fare and places as part of the journey. This is an annual event.

Learn more about it!

- i. <https://nwwriterss.com/>

#### L. Alaska Small Business Development Center

- a. Tourism Season Tips for Small Business

- i. <https://aksbdc.org/2024/05/summer-tourism/>

#### M. Buy Alaska

- a. If you are an Alaska Owned & Operated Business, you are entitled to a free membership here:

- i. <https://buyalaska.com/buyalaska-member/>

- b. Celebrity and Carnival are streaming this message from Buy Alaska called "Shopping Local Preserves the Alaska You Came to Discover"

- i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZqOp1kQVf4>

#### N. The Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII)

- a. According to the International Maritime Organization "The CII determines the annual reduction factor needed to ensure continuous improvement of a ship's operational carbon intensity within a specific rating level. The actual annual operational CII achieved must be documented and verified against the required annual operational CII. This enables the operational carbon intensity rating to be determined."

- b. Cruise Line Industry Association (CLIA) is advocating for revisions to the calculation to address cruise industry concerns about the formula and how it's applied to operations.

- c. If the CII remains unchanged, industry believes it could affect the amount of time in port for the 2026 cruise season.

- d. Learn more about CII.

- i. <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/pages/CII-and-EEXI-entry-into-force.aspx#:~:text=What%20is%20a%20Carbon%20Intensity,within%200a%20specific%20rating%20level.>

- ii. <https://www.worldcruiseindustryreview.com/features/featureshort-range-target-10783874/>

- iii. <https://www.foreship.com/posts/how-to-fix-cruise-shipping-s-cii-conundrum>

#### O. ATIA Government Relations Committee

- a. Update on State of Alaska Budget & Bills affecting Industry.

- i. The State has appropriated \$5 Million for FY25 towards Alaska Travel Industry Association's Marketing Initiative for Travel Alaska.

- ii. **HB189 Sale of Alcohol Passed**- Allows for minors under 21 working in restaurant settings to deliver alcoholic beverages to guests.

- iii. **SB127 Vehicle Rental Tax** – Passed - Requires vehicle rental platforms like Turo to collect vehicle rental taxes as revenue for the state, similar to traditional car rental companies.

- iv. **SB184/ HB284 Eliminate Daylight Saving Time** - These companion bills passed out of committees but did not receive consideration on the floor. Some Alaskan tour operators expressed concern that limited daylight hours would limit tour operations.

- v. **HB220 Statewide Bed Tax** - This bill would have applied a 6% bed tax on all short-term accommodations statewide but it died in



committee.

**P. Busking**

- a. 1 permit has been issued so far this season.
  - i. <https://www.skagway.org/svd/webform/busking-permit-application>

**Q. Shoreline Park Art Signage installed**

- a. A new artist biography sign for Beau Dennis' double eagle has been installed near the restroom at Shoreline Park. This includes two audio poles so that vision impaired visitors can enjoy this information. In an effort to aid in small ways with language preservation, the audio poles also include Beau's traditional introduction in Lingít.

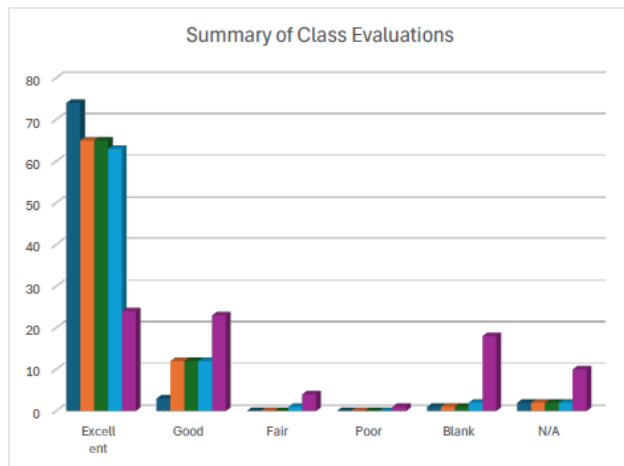
**R. ATIA Cultural Enrichment Committee**

- a. Meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to report Skagway's Cultural Host Class Statistics and Sample Comments to the group. Discussion will continue about how to increase the number of certified trainers in the state so that this curriculum more readily available. I am 1 or 2 certified trainers in the state.

**Class Seminar Evaluations of Jaime Bricker's Cultural Host Classes**

Please rate the following topics      Number of Participants:      80

Topic	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Blank	N/A	TOTALS
Resources	74	3	0	0	1	2	80
Alaska Native History & Culture	65	12	0	0	1	2	80
Learning About the Cultural Groups	65	12	0	0	1	2	80
Presentation Activity	63	12	1	0	2	2	80
Role Play Activity	24	23	4	1	18	10	80
TOTALS	291	62	5	1	23	18	



**Sample Comments Regarding Content**

Great mix of materials! Engaging content, well presented, overall, excellent. Thank you.

It was a lot of material to cover! Loved the various videos and materials in book.

compelling  
in her passion, poise and grace. Gunalcheesh.

You are awesome at presenting these things. I was unaware of how interested I was with Alaskan Cultures.

I thought the workshop was extremely well organized/structured and comprehensive (for an intro class) - covered all the main points. I could see a future workshop(s) that deep-dive into each of the sections.

**S. Medias, Ads & Internet finds for Skagway & Alaska Industries**

- a. Skagway's boot camp for seasonal workers
  - i. <https://khns.org/boot-camp-for-newcomers-schools-seasonal->

workers

- b. Increasing tourism accessibility benefits the entire community
  - i. <https://khns.org/65847-2>
- c. Alaska Native languages are at a crucial juncture, council's report says
  - i. <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2024/05/02/alaska-native-languages-are-at-a-crucial-juncture-councils-report-says/>
- d. Royal Caribbean Alaska Sailing Altered One Day Before Embarkation
  - i. <https://www.cruisehive.com/royal-caribbean-alaska-sailing-altered-one-day-before-embarkation/132130>
- e. Remembering My Alaska Cruise: A Delightful Trip Worth Taking
  - i. <https://www.msn.com/en-us/travel/tripideas/remembering-my-alaska-cruise-a-delightful-trip-worth-taking/ar-AA1kVTg7?ocid=msedgntp&apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batchservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>
- f. A PERFECT Day in SKAGWAY | Alaska Cruise Ship Port 2023
  - i. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yr4sjxyQs4s&t=211s>
- g. Cruise Ship Debuts in Alaska With New Culinary Experiences
  - i. <https://www.cruisehive.com/cruise-ship-debuts-in-alaska-with-new-culinary-experiences/133382>
- h. Alaska Trip Report: Setting Sail on Holland America's Koningsdam
  - i. <https://cruiseradio.net/alaska-trip-report-setting-sail-on-holland-america-koningsdam/>
- i. Port of Skagway Welcomes Silver Nova on Maiden Call
  - i. <https://cruiseindustrynews.com/cruise-news/2024/05/port-of-skagway-welcomes-silver-nova-on-its-maiden-call/>
- j. 7 Coolest Small Towns In Alaska For An Epic Summer Vacation
  - i. <https://www.thetravel.com/coolest-small-towns-in-alaska-for-a-summer-vacation/>
- k. CELEBRITY EDGE TO SAIL ALASKA ITINERARIES
  - i. <https://porthole.com/celebrity-edge-to-sail-alaska-itineraries/>
- l. 'A victim of his own depravity': The explosive tale of a 1902 Skagway bank robbery
  - i. <https://www.adn.com/alaska-life/2024/05/19/a-victim-of-his-own-depravity-the-explosive-tale-of-a-1902-skagway-bank-robbery/>
- m. 7 Scenic Towns In Alaska To Visit This Summer
  - i. <https://www.thetravel.com/scenic-towns-in-alaska-to-visit-in-summer/>
- n. Two stars align: Yukon Star launches as Whitehorse Star closes its doors
  - i. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yukon-star-to-begin-operations-1.7207010>
- o. City and Borough of Juneau and cruise lines sign Memorandum of Agreement on port capacity
  - i. <https://juneau.org/newsroom-item/city-and-borough-of-juneau-and-cruise-lines-sign-memorandum-of-agreement-on-port-capacity#:~:text=The%20City%20and%20Borough%20of,day%2C%20with%2012%2C000%20on%20Saturday.>

**T. Skagway Ambassador Statistics**

- a. We have 5 Skagway Ambassadors working 7 days a week and they served 5816 Visitors in May.

**U. Skagway Visitor Department Statistics**

- a. We have 5 Visitor Information Specialist working 7 days a week and they served 22,678 visitors at AB Hall in May and answered 194 phone calls.

**V. Visitor Statistics from US Customs and Border Protection**

16C Monthly Stats for Port 3103 - Skagway, AK													
Data Element by Port	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total
Trucks	185	205	194	169	254								1,007
Truck Passengers Arriving	185	205	200	183	254								1,027
Buses	-			48	1,707						-	-	1,755
Bus Passengers Arriving	-			893	38,011						-	-	38,904
POVs	181	516	992	1,565	5,672								8,926
POV Passengers Arriving	384	591	1,084	3,118	6,352								11,529
Pedestrians Arriving	-			1	314						-	-	315
Trains	-			2	62						-	-	64
Train Passengers Arriving				106	15,850						-	-	15,956
Source													
CBP- 16C													
73103-01X													
Cruise Ship	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Total
Passenger	-	-	-	11,029	211,083	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	222,112
Crew	-	-	-	4,397	88,926	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	93,323
Cruise Ship	-	-	-	4	88	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92