



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2025
TO: Mayor and Assembly
FROM: Michael Brown, Borough Manager
RE: Manager's Weekly Post

Permit Applications on the Website: The Borough is currently implementing a new enterprise permitting and licensing system, which is expected to come online this summer. Staff are working to include functionality to make all permit applications public when submitted. Additionally, this will provide applicants with an improved experience in advancing their individual applications. This is not to be confused with public notices but will improve transparency with applications that do not require someone to call the Borough for pending permit applications.

Bed Tax Update: At the January 21 Assembly meeting, an Assembly Member asked for an update on bed tax revenue. Finance has no way of distinguishing whether a bed tax property is associated with Airbnb or VRBO, but notes that in 2023, 424 businesses reported bed tax revenue, and in 2024 a total of 469 reported revenue, an increase of 45 new businesses.

Mat-Su School District FY 2026 Preliminary Budget Website and Community Input: Each year the Mat-Su School District Superintendent develops a proposed budget to present to the School Board. The proposed budget is constructed over several months and considers the revenue outlook, community feedback, and predicted costs. The School Board approves the adopted budget and prioritizes spending which aligns with the developed goals and ensures that resources follow students. The initial version of this budget for the next school year was presented to the Board and the public in two parts on December 4, 2024, and January 15, 2025. This version is considered a flat roll of current revenues, staff, and services. It is not balanced. District Administration and the School Board would like to receive public input as they work through the process to develop the balanced Superintendent's Proposed Budget that will be introduced at the School Board meeting on March 5.

To facilitate this, the District has developed a budget website that can be accessed here: <https://sites.google.com/apps.matsuk12.us/msbsd-2026-preliminary-budget/home>. This website hosts links to flyers, presentations, and other useful information. It also provides links to the Budget Priority Survey and Balancing Act. These tools allow users to interactively view the

District's Preliminary Budget for the General Fund, see the impact of adjustments to revenues or expenditures, and provide recommendations and comments that will be considered as a balanced budget is developed.

The Budget Priority Survey and Balancing Act will be available through January 31. All feedback will be submitted to the School Board and will also be presented at the February 19 Board meeting. Assembly input is both appreciated and needed to help ensure that the District can meet the needs and priorities of our families and community.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District passed Resolution 25-001 on January 15 to request the Borough increase local education funding by 4% for fiscal year 2026 for a total of \$78,033,127 local contribution to education.

Computer Use in Borough Libraries: Borough libraries have computers for public use and have Wi-Fi connectivity available through MTA. This winter, the Borough will make configuration changes to route Internet services provided in our Borough libraries. Internet services will route through a Borough firewall that will perform URL filtering like the Mat-Su Borough School District's. This firewall will address issues of illegal content, malware, pornography, and/or unauthorized use and conditions for responsible use.

Public Affairs Media Flyover:

Assembly

- Mat-Su Borough hires consulting firm to create strategic five-year plan for libraries
KTNA

Fisheries

- Northern Pike are now invading Alaska Rivers
Technology Networks.com
- A great predator is making its way through a hidden passage
Discover wildlife

Economy

- Grocery shoppers willing to pay more for Alaska grown produce study finds
Mat-Su Sentinel

Roads

- A push to expand winter trails boost a controversial mining road west of Anchorage
Alaska Beacon

Energy

- State development corporation could help finance planned coal fired power Plant near Skwentna
Frontiersman

Education

- Superintendent proposes dramatic restructuring to homeschool program in Mat-Su
Frontiersman
- Mat-Su Borough School District superintendent proposes opening two new schools
KTNA

Cities

- [Palmer stormwater system performed well in heavy rains last Sunday](#)
Frontiersman

Election

- [Hand count backers to air concerns about vote count at Jan. 21 Borough Meeting](#)
Alaska Watchman

Top Facebook Posts

- [Martin Luther King Jr. Day Post](#)
6k views

Future Events:

- Saturday, Jan. 25, 2025 from 12pm to 4pm, 4th Annual Betty White Clear the Shelter Event, Mat-Su Animal Shelter, 9470 E. Chanlyut Circle, Palmer
- Thurs., Jan. 30, 2025 from 3pm to 7pm, Mat-Su Transportation Fair, Raven Hall, Alaska State Fairgrounds