



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

28 °F / -2 °C

Overcast
at 6:53 PM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2005

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 1, No. 30, December 29, 2005

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We've added a new [Photo and PhotoStory Archive](#) section to the Gazette website. This has been a much requested item over the past several months and we think you will like what we have worked out. Scroll down the left column and you will see the two new sections and their links.

Top Stories

Stack fire damages Lipke Lane building

by Tom & Mary Glover

December 27, 6:20 am: 911 Dispatch calls out the Seldovia Fire Department to respond to a stack fire at 248 Lipke Lane. Five hours later, the fire crew returned to the station.

As reported by Police Chief Anderson, "The fire was started from a wood stove stack fire. The fire spread to the attic portion of the home and damage to the structure was sustained as well as extensive smoke and water damage. No serious injuries were reported in the incident although the occupant did fall and suffered bruising and abrasions when exiting the home to make the initial report to the 911 operator."



Marketplace



234-7652
Serving Seldovia with your real estate needs



Christmas Time Shopping

Herring Bay Mercantile
Seldovia, AK



Jenny Chissus
234-8000

Your Seldovia Connection

www.seldoviaproperty.com
RE/MAX of Homer

Support the Seldovia Sea Otter Booster Club
Help keep sports and academic travel programs alive for our school!



Seldovia Boat Slips for Rent
The Seldovia harbor has 32 foot and 42 foot slips for rent. Call for details:
Harbor Master (907) 234-7886
City Office (907) 234-7643



The engineer runs the pumps on the fire truck to keep the water flowing..



Attic fires are particularly difficult since access is minimal.

School

▶ Basketball & School News



Slippery wood stairs . . .



When they open the door, things can get very dangerous.

Notices & Newsletters

▶ Senator Gary Stevens Newsletter **NEW!**

▶ Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 (pdf)

▶ Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 (pdf)

▶ Boys and Girls Club December 2005 Calendar

▶ Boys and Girls Club Newsletter

▶ Harbor Survey Priority Results (pdf)



And when the fire is out, the firemen still have equipment to cleanup and put away for the next call-out.

Corrections

▶ None this week

PhotoStory Archive **NEW!**

▶ SBE Christmas Play 2005

▶ Halloween Carnival 2005

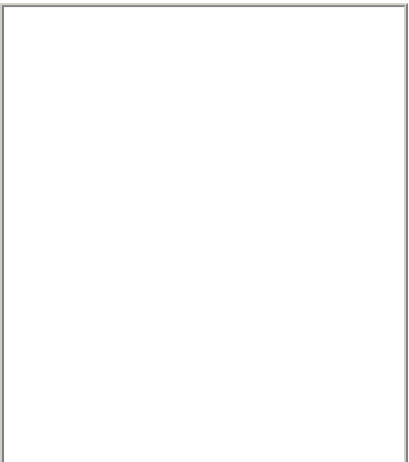


Photo Archive NEW!

▶ [Click here for photo list](#)

Classified Rates

▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



PDF files require a special "Reader" in order to view pdf files. Click the Adobe button above to get a FREE pdf reader!



Large print version of this page - [click here](#). Please note that we do not have large print versions of the other pages on this site.



Damage from fire and water is extensive.

Proper care of your wood stove! *by Tamara Blodgett*

Don't get burned . . .

Avoiding house fires should be the first line of defense in making a home safe. An important first step is compliance with your local area's building and fire codes.

When purchasing a wood stove it is important to make sure that an annual cleaning of the flues and chimney connections are inspected and cleaned. Without this crucial maintenance, creosote and carbon deposits can build up and pose a fire threat. Chimney cleaning equipment can be checked out for FREE at the fire station. If you are unable to do the work yourself, contact one of the local contractors like Hugh Smith (234-7678) for a quote.

Screens are another important element that should be used to protect the home from sparks. Exclusively burning wood and making sure the dampers are in proper working order are important in combination with never leaving fires unattended. Wood stoves should also be installed on top of a non-combustible material suitable for high heat resistance, such as tile.

Have a plan of escape in case of fire...

Make sure your family knows what to do in case of fire. Plan a point of exit and a meeting place on the exterior of the home. This escape plan should be practiced at least one time per year. Along with an escape plan, smoke detectors are an excellent and lawful way to safeguard your home against potential disaster. Make sure the detectors have a fresh battery each year. Choose a date that is easy to remember to replace them, such as tax day, who could forget it? Lastly, do not go back in a burning building! *Things* are not worth saving, your *life* is!

Burn clean and efficiently...

Use wood that has been properly seasoned and dried to allow for the best, cleanest and most efficient burn. Burning “wet wood”(more than 20% moisture content) is an effort in frustration and causes a slow burn, without sufficient heat, that lends itself to dying out. Another important tip is not to overload your stove, use a proper stove size. It is better to use a smaller, hotter stove than to use a large stove operated at low temperatures that may release 10 times the pollution of the smaller types. Do not burn trash or other items. Wood stoves were not meant to burn anything but properly seasoned wood; they are not burn barrels!

Installation protocol...

Placement of the stove away from combustible surfaces is an important part of installation . A stove should be 36” away from an unprotected wall, with the hearth material suggested to extend past the stove itself to safeguard against sparks and embers falling outside the stove during stoking. A creosote deposit of ¼” or more should be removed immediately either mechanically (brushes, spruce trees, vacuum) or with a chemical cleaner. Chemical cleaners are corrosive and should be used discriminately. The lifespan of a non-cast iron stove is only about 20 years with flue lifespan being about 8-10 years. That should be factored in when trying to reuse old flues; **don’t!** Install your wood stove in a centrally located area where there will be the greatest and most even heat distribution but not in closets, hallways or alcoves.

An overview of a safe chimney...

A safe chimney is a prerequisite to a safe fire in the home. A chimney should be constructed of brick, stone or concrete block. The diameter of the chimney flue should be at least 25% greater than the stovepipe diameter (this allows for good draft). There should be 4” of masonry on the outside wall with the inside wall having 8”. A metal chimney is not as safe as a masonry chimney and has a shorter lifespan. These types of chimneys must be at least 2” away from combustible materials and have sections that interlock as to not allow sparks to escape. The stainless steel chimney should be double or triple walled using insulation or air spaces between. The chimney portion that extends past the roof should be at least 2 feet above the highest point. Fix all loose mortar, bricks and cracks along with closing up unused flue openings that won’t rust like those old metal caps.

Signs of a chimney fire...

Some warning signals of a chimney fire will be a loud roaring, popping noise, sparks and flames shooting from chimney top, the stove or stovepipe vibrating. Remember, prevention is the best measure in stopping a chimney fire before it happens. Keep your wood heating system clear of creosote buildup, keep your fire under control and clean your chimney annually with frequent checks during the year at regular intervals.

Never enough safety tips...

Never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house. *Never* use a range or an oven as a supplementary heating devise. Not only is it a safety hazard, it can be a

source of potentially toxic fumes. Avoid using extension cords with space heaters.

Seldovia Chamber of Commerce Christmas Party / Seldovia Tribal Conference Center Grand Opening

by Tamara Blodgett

It's party time . . .

When the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce decided to have a Christmas party this year, Crystal Collier, CEO of the Seldovia Village Tribe stated it might be possible to hold the event in the new conference center. This started the ball rolling to hold the Christmas party in concert with the grand opening of the Seldovia Tribal Conference Center. What a grand time we all had on Friday evening, December 16, 2005!



Good food, good music and lots of Christmas fun.

Featuring the Seldovia Tribal Conference Center, a multi-purpose building for work and fun...

Ring in the Christmas season with the grand opening of the Seldovia Tribal Conference Center was not a second too soon. This building will serve a variety of much-needed functions for SVT and for the community of Seldovia. [Bookings for the Conference Center can be made through Peggy Keesecker at the SVT, phone 907-234-7898]



Tours of the facility included a look at the workout center.

The new PlayGroup center
is for children of all ages?



On the main floor there is the new PlayGroup facility with childcare provided and all the basic toys, educational material and structure available for the pre-school set. In the back of the building, facing the harbor, is a new, state-of-the-art exercise facility with brand new fitness machines aimed at cardiovascular and strength training. Rounding out the lower floor facing Main Street is the Alaska Tribal Cache Gift Shop. This authentic Alaskan gift shop features many local-made and Alaska Eskimo crafted items including jewelry, carvings and artwork. The second story houses a spacious and open multi-purpose room that has capacity to seat many with a kitchen area for a catered venue as well.

A time for celebration...

Beginning the evening festivities was a wide variety of delightful finger foods with homemade salmon and halibut dips to go along with crackers of your choice. Glorious grapes that were the size of small plums were a rare treat in this bush location in the dead of winter and were quite popular! Select SVT employees were also available at this time to give tours of the new facility. Mugs featuring the SVT native graphic design were featured on a subtle sage green, graphite-style ceramic mug with an ink pen for all guests that took a tour as a complementary gift. Following the buffet portion of the event was a prize-filled give away for the raffle full of the attendees' names. The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce donated two 9" portable DVD players as grand prizes. These were won by two very happy people: Peggy Boscacci and Mike Opheim. Several people won monetary prizes and free memberships were also given out for the new exercise facility. The exercise facility will be open Mon .- Fri. 8:30-9:30 & 2:00-3:00, with Mon .- Wed.- Fri. Circuit Training Classes from 4:30-5:30. The fee per month for membership is \$25.00.

Musical entertainment
was provided by
Rod Hilts
and
Mary Glover





And what Christmas party would be complete without a Christmas tree!

Caroling on the agenda....

As dining and the prizes wound down, Rod Hilts played trumpet with Mary Glover playing violin through a number of old Christmas Favorites. Christmas Caroling Books were handed out and people sang along to the music. Definitely the highlight of the evening, the guests did not want that part to end. We could have caroled another half hour!

Fine craftsmanship throughout...

The decor was a wonderful sight as everything was finished in subtle, light-colored earth tones with muted blues and greens as accents. The woodwork was a great architectural feature that accented the scale of the building perfectly. The view of the harbor is sublime with the mountains rising up behind the water majestically. A better perspective it couldn't have. A festive Christmas tree had been trimmed in all its glory in an ivory and gold pallet. The effort to make the building look put together and up-to-date really paid off with a well thought-out design and result.

This much-needed building to serve the communities needs was right on the mark and will be a well-loved addition to Seldovia. The members of the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce, the SVT employees and the local Seldovians had a night to remember for many years to come!

Senator Gary Stevens - December 23 interim report

by Senator Gary Stevens

Season's greetings from Kodiak. There are just a few days remaining in the Interim and lawmakers from across Alaska are preparing to return to Juneau for the January 9th start of the second session of the 24th Alaska Legislature. It has been an active Interim, during which I have had the opportunity to meet with many of you around Senate District R, and hear your thoughts and concerns on a variety of issues. Thank you for taking the time to call, write and e-mail. The input you gave me will be of great value when I consider the numerous and important matters ahead in Juneau . Please keep in touch.

This months topics:

- Advisory Commission on Local Government
- Ahead in the 2006 Session
- Senate Committee Assignments
- LIOs Ready to Serve You
- Interim Offices Closing

[Click here to read the complete report \(pdf 16k\)](#)

Special Notices

Susan B. English Pool Schedule 2005-2006

Lap Swim 8:30 – 9:30am: Monday - Wednesday - Friday

Lap Swim 3:30 – 4:30pm: Monday & Wednesday

Saturday Open Swim: 3:00 – 4:30pm

50+ Ladies Exercise Swim: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 am

Swims above are SBE sponsored. A fee is required (see below).

(Accommodation for senior citizens can be made for those unable to pay, ask Pool Manager)

Adults \$4.00 • Students \$3.00

Punch cards are available:

Adult \$18.00/6 swims • Students \$16.00/8 swims

Seldovia Village Sponsored Swims • NO Fee charged at SVT Swims

Open Swim- Student Swims

Tuesday 3:15 – 5:00pm and Friday 6:30 – 8:30pm

Tidbits . . .

[Couldn't resist posting this photo . . .](#)

[We sure had a lot of fun this Christmas season!](#)



City Manager's Corner*by Kurt Reynertson***Managers Report for the period covering December 21 - December 28**

Recently the City has undertaken a program that will provide water on an “on-demand” basis for those that do not subscribe to the City’s water system. This “on-demand” system will soon be operational with a coin operated water dispensing meter located at the Harbor Master Building. In preparation for this new service, all city water faucets have been “locked out”. This will insure that the “on-demand” users will have proper access to the city water supply only at the Harbor Master Building.

As some may know the City has in the past sold an annual permit that entitled non City water customers to use the City water system. This program was phased out this past year and there remain only five (5) permits that are still valid. These remaining permits will be honored by the City, but will not be renewed. The new “on-demand” system will be coin operated, located at the Harbor Master Building, and will be available on a 24 hour basis when fully operational.

I also want to remind a City water subscriber that, according to City code 13.52; it is not permissible for water subscribers to provide water in bulk quantity to non-water subscribers. City water subscribers are subject to a maximum \$300 per day fine and water service discontinuation (shut-off) if it is determined that the code is violated.

All City water subscribers are billed for the operation, maintenance, and depreciation expense associated with our water system. In order to maintain our water system we must insist that all users of the system pay their fair share. Otherwise, the few who do pay wind-up subsidizing all those that do not pay. This would not be fair. Please assist the City in being able to continue to provide a safe and reliable source of water for all paying customers.

Next topic; during the City Council meeting on December 14, 2005 the Council elected to introduce ordinance 06-05 which deals with specific zoning change issues along a certain portion of Main Street (both sides of Main Street as it runs next to the Harbor).

The Council is considering a change of zoning from Commercial Residential to Commercial Marine based upon a recommendation by the Planning and Zoning Commission as well as myself. We believe the long range future of Seldovia will be significantly enhanced by the development of a “commercial business district” and this zoning change will help in this development. Through enacting this zoning change the primary permitted use of the lots will be commercial. A secondary or ancillary use of these lots will provide for residential dwelling.

Additionally, the Council will be considering changing the zoning on lot 1 of block 13 from public to commercial marine. This is the lot that is right next to the small red building located across the street from the Harbors Edge Bed and Breakfast. Changing the zoning on this lot is included in the same ordinance, 06-05. All other adjacent public lots (the three lots currently labeled as “14 day

public parking” near the Harbor Master Building) are **not** under consideration for zoning change. These lots will be reserved for public use to include parking and community events such as the Fourth of July.

During the next Council meeting (January 11th, 2005 held at the Community Center Multi-purpose room at 7:30 PM) there will be a Public Hearing on the proposed zoning changes. It is anticipated that a Council vote will also be taken that night concerning the passage of ordinance 06-05. If you wish to speak to the proposed zoning change, please make plans to attend the January 11th City Council meeting.

Finally, I have just signed a grant offer letter from the Village Safe Water Program. This grant is for the engineering design of our water and sewer system and will address necessary upgrades to the system. Engineering will be done by Michael L. Foster and Associates (our city engineers). This is also the same firm that performed the water and sewer system study that was accomplished a couple of years ago. The engineering design is the next step in the process (after the study) to upgrade our system. The final step will be construction funding, which if all goes well, could happen as soon as FY 2007.

Seldovia Police Report by *A.W. Anderson, Chief of Police*

A report of an unlocked door on a vacant residence was taken by Police. The residence was checked and no evidence of theft or damage could be found. The owner was notified of the unlocked door.

A local contractor reported he damaged a telephone pedestal while removing snow. ACS was called and requested a Police Report be sent to them. The report was sent and, hopefully, the pedestal was repaired.

A report of suspicious activity led Police to investigate a possible theft from a vehicle which was parked at the Seldovia Airport. Investigation revealed the owner had given permission to a local resident to switch out some tires on his vehicle. The case was closed as unfounded.

Police responded to a local residence following a fire call. When returning to her home, the owner found the house full of smoke and called 911. Investigation revealed the oil stove in the lower level of the home had malfunctioned causing excessive smoke and soot to be released into the house. An exhaust fan was borrowed from the Fire Department to remove the smoke. I'm sure extensive cleaning will follow. No injuries were reported in the incident. Some cats, although darker in color, escaped the home without injury.

During the early morning hours of 12/27 Police responded to a reported structure fire on the corner of Lipke Lane and Main Street. The fire was started from a wood stove stack fire. The fire spread to the attic portion of the home and damage to the structure was sustained as well as extensive smoke and water damage. No serious injuries were reported in the incident although the occupant did fall and suffered bruising and abrasions when exiting the home to make the initial report to the 911 operator.

The theft of a 15 HP Chrysler Force outboard motor, dark blue in color, was reported to have occurred within the last two months. The motor was reported

to have been taken off the transom of a boat while it was in the City boat haul out yard. Anyone having any information regarding this theft is asked to contact the Police Department.

A local shop/warehouse was checked after the owner called Police reporting they had observed tracks leading to the structure on the Seldovia Web Cam. Upon checking the structure no evidence of forced entry could be found and the owner was contacted and told of the Police findings.

Since last report 4 people have requested their fingerprints be taken for business related reasons, 3 reports of Dogs At Large have been taken, two traffic related contacts have been made, 1 for a parking violation and 1 for erratic driving, Police have responded to 3 requests for assistance, 4 persons were given transportation assists and Police assisted the EMT'S in 1 med-evac.

With the winter weather and the need for additional heat in our homes it is strongly suggested that everyone check their smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to insure the batteries are up and the detectors are functional. It is a very inexpensive insurance policy. (*Go ahead, do it now. I'll be here when you get back.*)

With the New Year upon us I would like to remind all of you that if you are going to party and drink alcohol, find a ride home and leave your vehicle parked. With statistics being what they are, related to impaired drivers causing injuries and death to so many people, Police have a *ZERO Tolerance policy throughout* the State of Alaska. Anyone found to be driving under the influence *will be arrested and charged*. The minimum fine is \$1500.00 with 72 hours in jail for 1 st time offenders, the loss of your driving privilege for 90 days, an alcohol program screening and high risk insurance when you do regain your privilege to drive. With the costs of everything you could very well be in the \$3000 to \$5000 price range by the time everything is over. Don't take the risk. It is my hope that everyone will have a safe and happy New Year without any negative contact by the Police Department.

