



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia,
29 °F / -2
Partly Cloudy
at 7:53 AM

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Thursday, Jan. 5, 2006

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2 Cents Worth:

How did you ring in the New Year ?

	<p>“ I went to the Grubers' New Year's Eve Party and had a good time there, and then went down to the bar and shot pool and listened to music. ”</p> <p>Matt Gallien</p>	<p>“ Stayed home and went to bed; read a book. ”</p> <p>Larry Story</p>	
	<p>“ I went to a New Years Eve Party at the Grubers and I went to watch the fireworks. ”</p> <p>Nikki Grof</p>	<p>“ I went to a friends house and then we went to the beach and watched the fireworks. ”</p> <p>Lisa O'Leary</p>	

Letters to the Editor

Seldovia Volunteer Fire Department - it's time to step up to the plate!

We have been volunteers with the Seldovia Volunteer Fire Department since April 2005. After the stack fire that occurred last winter on Lipke Lane – the second major house fire of the season – we heard a number of people critique the Fire Department's response call.

Some of those who offered their evaluations of the Fire Department's response were past firefighters. We valued their input expertise because we both want to become effective firefighters. However, in our opinion, these well-meaning voices of experience were especially ill-timed, primarily because they came after the fact. The Fire Department has had no Fire Chief for the past months; in that time there have been only seven trainings which have had an attendance of more than two people. If this isn't a valid call, it should be. How can we, as a community, expect a fire response to be timely and effective if firefighters are not properly trained? How can firefighters be properly trained if there is no experienced Chief to lead the crew? How can others presume to offer their expertise during or after a fire when they have failed to become volunteers in the first place?

In a town with so many experienced firefighters in our midst, let's see a few more step-up, get beyond the politics of the past, and train the "next generation" of firefighters. Please, instead of offering your commentary on the actions of a few under-trained volunteers, do something far more beneficial: become an active member of the Fire Department BEFORE the next fire.

Damara Burnett & Andrew Lorentz

Seldovia's on-demand water system

I recently read in the City Manager's Corner of the Seldovia Gazette News the information regarding the new 'on-demand' water system/policy. I really do not have any problems with the new system. But why wasn't the water meter installed at the same time the locks were put on the faucets? The City has had the meter for several months. Also, if the City Manager knew that there were outstanding water permits, why weren't those 5 people notified of the policy changes? It would have been more considerate to notify them in advance rather than showing up at the harbor master's office to get water at 3:30 on December 23rd (after the harbor had gone home for a 4 day weekend) only to find it turned off. Communication is a wonderful tool. It usually eliminates bad feelings on everyone's part.

Mavis Owens

The Seldovia Gazette values freedom of speech. We welcome original, insightful letters from our readers on issues that are of concern to them. However, due to space considerations, please limit letters to 300 words. We also reserve the right to edit all letters for clarity, grammar, and taste. Letters must be signed and submitted by Tuesday at 5 pm in order to be printed in that week's press. We accept letters submitted by one of three ways: by email at tomg@seldovia.com or maryg@seldovia.com, by phone at 907-234-7526, or by mail at Seldovia Gazette, P.O. Box 97, Seldovia, Alaska 99663.

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