



# Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

9 °F / -13 °C

Light Snow  
at 8:00 AM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 4, January 26, 2006

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

[Top Stories](#) | [City Managers Corner](#) | [Police Report](#) | [Notices & Newsletters](#) | [Corrections](#) | [PhotoStory Archive](#) | [This page in Large Print](#) |

## Headlines

- ▶ [Seldovia Sea Otters sweep Anderson](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia City Council Meeting of January 20th](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia City Council Meeting of January 25th-26th](#)
- ▶ [Augustine relatively quiet and the webcam has been repaired](#)
- ▶ [Bark Beetle infestation heightens fire hazard in Kachemak Bay area](#)
- ▶ [Special notices . . .](#)
- ▶ [Tidbits . . .](#)
- ▶ [City Manager's Corner](#)
- ▶ [Seldovia Police Report](#)

## Opinions



▶ 2 Cents Worth

- ▶ [Letters to the Editor - Peggy Boscacci](#)

## Spotlight

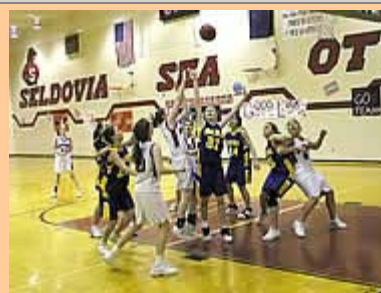
- ▶ [Shirly Giles, a dedicated volunteer](#)

## Seldovia Sea Otters ROCK!

Friday nights games with Seldovia vs. CIA were great fun , lots of action and Seldovia won both the boys and girls games. Congrats to the kids and their coaches!



**Boys Team**  
Seldovia 63 - CIA 62



**Girls Team**  
Seldovia 42 - CIA 30

## Marketplace



**Jenny Chissus**  
234-8000

Your Seldovia Connection

[www.seldoviaproperty.com](http://www.seldoviaproperty.com)  
RE/MAX of Homer



**234-7652**  
Serving Seldovia with your real estate needs



Come In, Browse, Have Fun!

**Herring Bay Mercantile**  
Seldovia, AK

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

## NEWS FLASH



Augustine volcano activity decreased to "ORANGE Concern" on Wednesday, Feb 1

- |   |                             |                           |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <a href="#">WebCam1</a>                     | <a href="#">Seismograph</a> | <a href="#">Main Page</a> |
| <a href="#">WebCam2 at the volcano site</a> |                             | <a href="#">Ashfall</a>   |

Current news releases are posted daily on [Seldovia.com](http://Seldovia.com) (click here)

## Top Stories

### Seldovia Sea Otters sweep Anderson

#### Way to go Otters!

Thursday nights basketball games resulted in victories for Seldovia's boys and girls teams. The girls won 60 to 9 and the boys won 64 to 35. A PhotoStory of this weeks games will be included in next weeks paper.



Friday night games are between Seldovia and CIA. The girls game will start at 6:00pm and the boys game starts at 7:30pm. Come out and join the fun and support our kids and the school!

**School**

▶ [Basketball, Wrestling & School News & PhotoStory](#)

[Click here for PhotoStory!](#)



**Special Seldovia City Council Meeting of January 20th**

*by Tamara Blodgett*

All Council Members convened together to discuss and act on **Ordinance 06-05** which details the rezoning of several lots along Main Street.

[Ordinance 06-05](#)   [Ordinance 06-05 Map](#)

Seldovia City Manager Kurt Reynertson summarized the details of his point paper that he wrote detailing what a business *is* in Alaska (per statute) and expounded his discussion to include details of specific businesses already in operation here. Reynertson clarified several points of what the rezoning would mean, that it was consistent with The City's Comprehensive Plan, and disallows the use of prime commercial/business property being used solely as a residence.

[Click here for the full contents of the City Manager's document \(pdf\)](#)

Public opinion and comment was varied with two public comments *against* the rezoning and two public opinions *for* the rezoning.

Councilman Massion, seconded by Councilman Glover moved to omit **Lot #1 Block 13**, amending **Ordinance 06-05**. This lot is zoned Public and would have been rezoned Commercial Marine as part of this Ordinance. This parcel will be addressed at a separate time.

Councilman Glover moved to amend **Ordinance 06-05** by adding a second paragraph under Section 2 stating that under the current Seldovia Comprehensive Plan, it is clearly the intent of the City to keep Main Street the center of commercial activity. The numbering of the sections in the document was also corrected to read 1,2,3,4 instead of 1,2,2,4.

**Notices & Newsletters**

▶ [Senator Gary Stevens December Newsletter](#)

▶ [Representative Paul Seaton January Newsletter](#)

▶ [Comprehensive Plan Public Final August 10, 2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Amended FY05 Seldovia City Budget 7-8-2005 \(pdf\)](#)

▶ [Boys and Girls Club February 2005 Calendar](#)  
**NEW!**

▶ [Boys and Girls Club Newsletter](#)

▶ [Harbor Survey Priority Results \(pdf\)](#)

**Corrections**

▶ [None this week](#)

The amendment to the Ordinance passed unanimously.

**Action:** Ordinance 06-05 passed 4-2  
Boscacci and Keesecker voted No

## Seldovia City Council Meeting of January 25th-26th

by Tamara Blodgett

A full council convened together to include the following members: Peggy Boscacci, Keith Gain, Tom Glover, Tom Keesecker, Mark Massion, Walter McInnes, with Mayor Wyland presiding and City Clerk Ronda Haynes taking minutes. City Manager Kurt Reynertson was out of town on City and personal business.

**Minutes of January 11th** were amended to reflect the exact words of Councilman Gain's verbal text from this meeting and seconded by Councilwoman Boscacci.

### Ordinance Introduction

**Ordinance 06-07, Amending the Sundry Fee Schedule to add Large Vessel Surcharge**, was introduced and then a motion was brought forward to postpone discussion to a later date by Councilman McInnes and seconded by Councilwoman Boscacci. A vote was taken with a result of 3-3. Mayor Wyland broke the tie vote with a move to keep **Ordinance 06-07** on the agenda.

**Action:** Introduction of Ordinance 06-07 with a public hearing set for February 8th. Vote passed 5-1.  
Walter McInnes voted No

### Public Presentation for Items not on the Agenda

Councilwoman Boscacci, regarding the rezoning **Ordinance 06-05**, made a statement and wrote a letter (included in Letters to the Editor) detailing her thought process regarding this ordinance, which she voted against.

Councilman Gain wanted to clarify that proper procedure was followed in notification of property owners that would be directly affected by this ordinance.

Dan Blodgett spoke in regard to **Ordinance 06-05**. Blodgett suggested that the zoning be kept as Commercial Residential, which could be taxed at a flat rate. Up until the point that they choose to have a business; they would pay that tax regardless of age, the city would have the revenue from that. Once a business would take over, and they get to "X" number of dollars in revenue, then a tax rate applies for the amount of revenue they generate.

Everett Boscacci spoke about his contentions that he feels property owners may not have been properly notified. His specific concern was for the property owners that were possibly not notified soon enough that live out-of-state.

**PhotoStory  
Archive** NEW!

▶ [SBE Christmas Play 2005](#)

▶ [Halloween Carnival 2005](#)

**Photo Archive**

▶ [Click here for photo list](#)

**Classified Rates**

▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



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Please note that we do not have large print versions of the other pages on this site.

## Committee and Advisory Report:

**17B Trails Committee** has not yet made contact yet with the various parties, as more research needs to be accrued so this committee can approach said people with an educated interaction, **SOS** will have a potluck in mid-February. **Borough Planning and Zoning** is redoing the qualification and procedures allowing people to have gravel pits on their land. The **Fire Dept.** training schedule is going along well. There is a meeting for the **Chamber of Commerce** on the first Thursday of February.

## Old Business

**Ordinance 06-06, Levying and Airplane Flat Tax**, this is a voluntary tax reduction of city tax on planes, which should promote more aircraft to make Seldovia their home base. The City Council expects this tax reduction to bring more revenue from increased business. Seldovia would be utilizing the same tax code the Borough currently uses. Homer is considering it and Soldotna will implement it in 2007. [Ordinance 06-06](#)

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

**Seldovia Fuel & Lube Ground and Facility Lease.** This is the ground and facility lease agreement between Seldovia Fuel & Lube and The City predicated on procurement of funding from AIDEA to build a bulk fuel storage facility/dispensers, etc.

Councilman Gain had objection to approving the lease without reading the lease agreement first.

*Action:* Postponed for one day to reconvene after Council Members have opportunity to view lease agreement.

The Reconvened Meeting on Thursday went into Executive Session with the following action as the outcome.

Reconvene *Action:* Passed unanimously.

## New Business

**Resolution 06-15, A Resolution Urging the Legislature to Share Revenue with all Alaskan Communities**, this resolution letter will state Seldovia's interest in reinstating the State-funded revenue sharing program. This letter will be sent to the government constituent that holds a part in the resumption of this program.

*Action:* Passed unanimously.

## Informational Items Not Requiring Action

Mayor Wyland is going to do an estimate to see if the electrical estimate for the X-ray machine is "in-line" with where he thinks it should be. There may be some financial assistance through HEA for this project to be determined at the next HEA shareholder meeting.

See **City Manager's Report**.

Meeting **Adjourned**, time elapsed: 54 minutes, 18 seconds.  
Next City Council Meeting on February 8th, 2006.

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## **Augustine relatively quiet and the island webcam has been repaired**

Seismicity at Augustine Volcano increased slightly Wednesday night and again Thursday afternoon. Satellite observations indicate that faint thermal anomalies persist at the volcano.



Augustine volcano, January 24. Repairs to the island webcam have been completed. Photo courtesy of Michelle Coombs and Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Intervals of increased seismicity such as those observed over the last 24 hours are not unusual. The type of seismicity being observed at the volcano is consistent with movement of magma within the edifice.

Periods of quiescence and low-level seismicity during an eruptive phase are not unusual and have occurred during past eruptive episodes of Augustine in 1976 and 1986. The decline in seismicity since the last explosive event on January 17 does not necessarily mean that explosive eruptions have ended and they could resume with little or no warning. AVO is monitoring the situation closely and the observatory is staffed 24/7.

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## **Bark Beetle infestation heightens fire hazard in Kachemak Bay area**

*by Tamara Blodgett*

### ***HEA seeks Borough's help in removal of diseased trees...***

In the Kenai Peninsula area alone, the Bark Beetle Infestation has decimated more than a million acres of forest over the last twenty years. The lines that supply remote areas (such as Seldovia) are surrounded in large part by these

trees. Homer Electric Company feels this is a fire hazard waiting to happen.

HEA is asking The Kenai Peninsula Borough for funding to remove a 3.5 mile section of trees from the utility lines running between Tutka Bay and Sadie Cove that supports Port Graham, Seldovia, and English Bay.

The Kenai Peninsula Assembly convened on January 17th and introduced Ordinance 2005-19-42. The Mitigation of Beetle-Kill Hazards Fund has a total of 13 million with 1.1 million in interest earned. If this ordinance were passed, \$366,220 of that earned interest would be used to fund the tree removal project. The final hearing on Ordinance 2005-19-42 will be heard and KPA action will be determined on February 21st.

HEA Spokesman Joe Gallagher mentioned at some point in the future, trees that encompass approximately 40 miles of the South Bay lines would have to be cleared. This will be the focus of future projects.

Gallagher pointed out that these trees outside the utility easement are the main source of the problem. As the easement is 40 by 20 feet, a tree that falls just outside of this easement could encroach into this space and compromise the safety and workability of this utility line.

A case in point is the Tracy Avenue fire, east of Homer, that occurred as a direct result of a fallen tree onto an insulator. The subsequent insulator failure caused a fire to start at a huge cost of property damage and fire response.

The expected time frame to initiate the tree removal project would be late April-early May. This will facilitate in the clearing of the trees after break-up and before undergrowth becomes an issue.

### **The nitty-gritty of a pest that perpetuates...**

Although small, at only one quarter of an inch, the Spruce Beetle can be a predator of our Sitka forests here in Alaska. Beetles will emerge from an infested tree and fly to new host trees when the temperature is above 60 degrees (usually from mid-May to mid-July). Spruce Beetles like to feed and breed on wind-thrown, fallen or injured trees wherever there are spruce forests. When conditions are right, beetle populations may outgrow the supply of downed trees and gravitate towards nearby living trees, especially mature spruce stands. In the past 25 years, the beetle outbreaks have resulted in the loss of an estimated two billion board feet of timber in Alaska. Based on research results, there is hope of some EPA-approved insecticides that have provided 100 percent protection from beetle attacks for at least two years.

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## **Special Notices**

*Paul O'Leary hired as the new B&G Club staffer*

Unit Director Paul Chissus announced on January 26 that Paul O'Leary has been hired as



provided the following summary document for the January 25 City Council Meeting.

- I would like to introduce an Ordinance, changing the Sundry Fee Schedule, which significantly raises the moorage rates for any boats in excess of 100 feet. Our harbor is not designed for boats of this size or greater and they do cause significant stress on the harbor float system and harbor facilities. Due to their length (greater than 100 feet) we have less space available for transient moorage, which commands a higher rental than long term moorage. Due to these and other factors I would like to impose a surcharge of \$10 per foot per month on boats on that portion of length greater than 100 feet.
- Seldovia Fuel & Lube / City of Seldovia Tank Farm Replacement Project Ground Lease and Facility Lease. Our City Attorney has reviewed both leases (Ground Lease and Facility Lease) and has no problem with either one. I have reviewed them both and I concur with the Attorney. In short we (the City) are leasing land from SF&L and SFL is leasing fuel tanks and lines from the City (once built by AIDEA) at no actual transfer of money. The only "lease payment" that actually involves money (real \$) is by SF&L who is required to contribute to an Operation and Maintenance (O&M) fund and a Repair and Replacement (R&R) fund. This will be on a per gallon basis and is preset by the AIDEA based upon economic forecasts, life expectancies, and experience. The leases need to be signed prior to month end in order to remain on track for construction funding to start this year. *I recommend the Council authorize signature on the Ground Lease and the Facility Lease.*
- The X-Ray Machine is in. It has been delivered to the Clinic. We now have to finish the electrical work. Current bids from HEA (approx \$30,700) and Liberty Electrical (approx \$40,900) total \$71,600. This is approximately \$22,000 more than I expected. Using the amount of \$71,600, staff calculates that there is just enough money remaining in the grant to cover the electrical work assuming the City does not take any administrative charges. However, I just spoke with HEA and have found out that there is a new program, which if passed, will allow the City a credit of at least 60%. Assuming passage, the HEA quote would be lowered to a "not to exceed" amount of approximately \$12,000. There are no guarantees that the program will pass, but HEA does expect it to pass. The vote will be the end of January. If the program is passed we will be receiving a new quote from HEA. *I recommend that we wait to see if the HEA program passes before we approve expenditure of grant funds.*
- During the last Council meeting, the Council directed me to find out and to pursue the possibility of accelerating the grid repairs in the harbor. I discussed this with the engineers and while it may be possible to accelerate the repair, they strongly advised against it for the following reasons:
  - While the design specifications would not be great, they would still require one to two weeks to complete
  - Permitting would take a minimum of 5 weeks. They are indicating the permit would be able to be obtained, but the minimum time to obtain a permit runs 5 weeks
  - Procurement of needed materials would require approximately 2 to 3 weeks minimum

- Advertising (required by the State procurement regulations) would require a minimum of three (3) weeks.
- Construction (mobilization of contractor and actual construction) would require a minimum of 1 to 2 weeks
- Some of these activities could be done in parallel, but many could not. All work in the water would have to be complete prior to March 15 (which is 8 weeks out)
- The cost of special handling of completing design specifications, permitting, procurement, advertising and mobilizing/demobilizing of the contractor would significantly raise the price of this one repair. We do not have enough money as it is to do everything that is needed and this action would make a poor situation worse (in terms of the amount of work accomplished for the dollars available).
- Based upon all these factors I made the decision to not pursue the early accomplishment of the grid repair. I made this decision based upon what I consider my fiduciary responsibility to the City.

*I recommend that we pursue a temporary fix that will accommodate boats to use the grid, but this fix would NOT entail widening or adding the extra benches that the long term repair will include. I recommend that we use Force Account (this does entail an assumption that the temporary repair will be under \$15,000) and to receive verbal quotes from contractors. This will satisfy the State Procurement regulations.*

- **Information Item Only:** The proposal by Michael L Foster and Associates for the Village Safe Water project has been received. **Design** money will be enough for designing the water treatment plant and possibly the transmission line from the reservoir. **Construction** money that will be available includes most, if not all of our priorities. I have talked with VSW about this situation (where we have more construction money available than we have design money to design the construction). VSW has indicated that they do not anticipate this being a problem because it will be possible for Seldovia to obtain money to **construct** the first phase of improvements (water plant and transmission line) and money to **design** the next phase of improvements at the **same time**.
- **Information Only:** On-demand water system now working at the Harbor Master Building . Harbor Master and City Staff have tokens for sale that will allow purchase of water by non-city water subscribers.

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

>> No report this week <<

