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Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, April 13, 2006

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 2, No. 15, April 13, 2006

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Augustine Volcano News



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

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

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Seldovia Boat Slips for Rent

Top Stories

Lack of funds closes Boys & Girls Club for the summer

by Paul Chissus

To the Community of Seldovia

The Boys and Girls Club of Seldovia has been in operation since December 31, 1998. The Club was started as a result of many community members working together towards a common goal, which was to provide a place and programming, for our youth in our community. The goal was to offer our youth a strong, independently operated and professional organization that specializes in youth development. Nationally, the Seldovia Club is joined by over 3,200 other Clubs that all identify with the same goals and mission; youth development. For OUR Community, with only 80+ club members (including summer visitors), we recorded over 10,000 sign-ins for our 2005 programs, which shows how often our youth chose to utilize this Club! Our average for the year was 39 students per day choosing to come to the Club over other options.

Spotlight

▶ **Chris Wheeler - Fisherman turned artist**



Boys & Girls Club grand opening in June 2004

This Club has operated on a budget that reflects a 94% dependency on grants. Grants are known to change and fluctuate given the national climate, depending on both political and national needs of the time. The focus of grants are changing and do not necessarily reflect the needs of the Seldovia Club at this time. Due to the dependency on grants to accommodate the Club's budget, we are in (and have been in) a crisis and must look to other means and methods of support. Our club must have community support and find local sources of funding in order to survive.

School

▶ **School News, wrestling & Track**



The Executive Board of the Boys and Girls Club of the Kenai Peninsula has chosen to take time to re-organize the efforts in Seldovia and Seward Clubhouses. Action needs to be taken to create a plan ensuring the financial future of these Clubs, before they fail and fall to the wayside. Our administration feels that we must utilize this summer as a time to re-organize and re-prioritize the finances and to initialize the reinstitution of the "grass roots" tradition that helped to create these Club sites. As a result, both the Seldovia and Seward Clubs will be closing for the summer months; from June, 2006 until August, 2006. The summer has been chosen for closure as it impacts the least amount of youth. Our summer regular daily attendance is historically significantly lower than our daily school year attendance. Obviously, the youth and families that benefit from the summer activities, as well as the entire community, will miss and feel the impact of losing the important programming that occurs during the summer months.

Notices & Newsletters

▶ **NEW!** [The Seldovia Visitor 2006, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce. Click here to download PDF...it is a large 6 megabyte file.](#)

▶ [Representative Paul Seaton April 3 Newsletter](#)

▶ **NEW!** [Senator Gary Stevens April 13 Newsletter](#)

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

Here in Seldovia, we have an active Resource Development Committee that will continue to work on this issue through the summer months. If you wish to be involved or help in some way, we would LOVE for you to be included in this important effort. This is a turning point for our Club, and my hope is that the entire community will take this opportunity to come together to find creative ways to support our very valuable program. Please feel free to call or email me to discuss any matters of interest concerning this closure.

*Paul Chissus
Unit Director – Seldovia Clubhouse*

Seldovia Economic Forum 2006 *by Tamara Blodgett*

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

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

▶ [Boys and Girls Club March 2005 Calendar](#)

▶ **NEW!** [Boys and Girls Club Newsletter \(pdf\)](#)

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

Corrections

▶ [None this week](#)

PhotoStory Archive

▶ [SBE Basketball Feb 2006](#)

▶ [SBE Basketball Feb 2006](#)

▶ [SBE Basketball Jan 2006](#)

▶ [SBE Christmas Play 2005](#)

▶ [Halloween Carnival 2005](#)

Photo Archive

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Classified Rates

▶ [Instructions and rate sheet](#)



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Vista Volunteer, Lisa O'Leary, held an Economic Forum at the Multi-Purpose room from 5:30 to 7:00 Tuesday night. The purpose of the economic forum was to brainstorm various ideas that will propel Seldovia in a positive, economic direction. Seldovia has always "managed" through its various financial and other challenges that presented themselves over the years. Now is the time for Seldovians to conceptualize a plan for the future to better prepare Seldovia for long-term sustainability.



Vista Volunteer Lisa O'Leary facilitated the Economic Forum

This well-attended group came together over a delicious meal of lasagna, French bread, Caesar salad and a dessert potluck with many, succulent treats for the tasting. As the meal wound down, O'Leary introduced different topics that would need to be addressed. Given it was a forum, that would mean that there would be interactive participation from the group that had assembled.

Many, excellent ideas were brought to the table. So many, in fact, that three groups were arranged to debate and conceptualize the main ideas within that group. The groups were: Marketing, Specialized Fishing Industry and Technology. The Marketing Group came up with several points of merit. Heading up the Marketing Group was Andy Lorentz. He mentioned that Seldovia needs to promote year-round activities (such as back road skiing), advertise our uniqueness as a community, develop an annual event (beside the 4th of July event) and identifying our customer to better target that demographic(to list a few). Lorentz would like to achieve short-term goals and see those accomplished on the way to the long term ones'. This will accomplish two things; a small accomplishment motivates while also bringing ourselves one step closer to the final victory (end goal).



The Specialized Fishing Industry Group was headed up by Mike Webber. Webber would like to see interested parties in Seldovia adopt the CQE (Community Quota Entity) that enables small, coastal communities opportunity to buy quotas, which will facilitate fishing practices and specialized fish product endeavors. An interesting website that speaks to the special challenges facing the Alaskan Coastal Communities is www.goac3.org. This is a unique organization of concerned individuals that have long-term goals of seeing the coastal communities of Alaska survive the changing climate of fisheries. In Craig, Alaska, there has already been a measure of success with the adoption of the CQE. Please take time to read about this remarkable town and their accomplishments on the Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition under the CQE tab.

The last group was Technology, headed by Tom Glover. Glover's group is wanting to promote "cottage" industry as becoming a viable option for business/potential business owners in Seldovia. This would help business owners establish an on-line business that could augment a physical business here in town, or, be exclusively an on-line business. Secondly, Glover would like to work with ACS to "turn-up" the connection speed for our Internet service. Lastly, Glover has already undertaken the task of getting the City's Offices up-to-speed with their computer systems. It has been a ten month project with more to do. It is crucial that Seldovia be technologically commensurate with other communities for sustained viability. The school of thought would be, when we stay the same, we fall behind. Let's not let Seldovia fall behind.

City Council meeting - April 12

by Tamara Blodgett

The Seldovia City Council convened together on Wednesday to include the following members: Peggy Boscacci, Keith Gain, Tom Glover, Tom Keesecker, Mark Massion and Walter McInnes. Mayor Wyland had an excused absence with City Manager Kurt Reynertson in attendance and City Clerk Ronda Haynes taking minutes.

Approved amended agenda will include item M-3 for the electrical bid.

Ordinance 06-10, Amending Title 18 SMC, Zoning Code (this deals with the building codes). Ordinance 06-10 was moved to be introduced by Councilwoman Boscacci with a hearing being set for April 26. This Ordinance seconded by Councilman Glover.

Public Presentation Prior Notice

Kachemak Bay Ferry project

Mr. Mike Beal , along with his assistant Chance Collier, from The Seldovia Native Association met with the City Council and Public to provide an update on the Kachemak Bay Ferry Project that would serve Seldovia. This project will be called a "daily" ferry as opposed to a "fast" ferry. Fast ferries were determined to be cost-prohibitive to obtain and operate very early in the

project. An updated website will be available in about 3 weeks to chart the course of the project. This ferry would serve the greater Kachemak Bay area: Homer, Seldovia, Port Graham (possibly), Nanwalek, Halibut Cove, Peterson Point and Jakolof Bay.

The process of reconnaissance through construction is a four phase process.

Phase One: Reconnaissance of Shipyards and Designers, Design Study, Community Meetings, System Requirements and Initial Feasibility. This Phase is already substantially under way.

Phase Two: RFP for Concept Design, Evaluate all Proposals, select two Concept Designs, Technical Evaluation of the two designs, and Operational & Economic Evaluation of the two designs.

Phase Three: select one of the Concept Designs, Technical Evaluation of the primary designs, and Operational & Economic Evaluation of the primary designs. This will evaluate how suitable the craft choice will be for our specific, community needs; economically and practically.

Phase Four: Design & Build Contract, Vessel Construction. During this phase, design and construction issues would be addressed with inspection and trials along the way for safety and viability. Finally, the new ferry would be ready with a projected launch date of May 2009.

During the course of Phase One, different designs were looked at but some were dismissed as not practical for the Kachemak Bay Area. A seven year warranty is required in addition to a practical, daily ferry being the end result. The state ferry system is losing money and knows the idea of a small "shuttle" type ferry would save money. The staff needed to outfit a large ferry will not be compensated with these rural runs. However, a smaller craft *would* meet the needs of Kachemak communities very well.

Although it is too early to narrow the field of perspective designs, there were two designs that Beal seemed to focus on for the design and feasibility study. The first is a two-boat system in which one would be passenger and light freight only and a second craft would carry vehicles, semi-trailers, heavy freight and light passenger loads. The second design choice would be a combination aluminum-steel craft; capable of accommodating a 40 foot box van. Another consideration of boat choice is size. Beal emphasized how important it would be to procure a boat large enough to suit the needs of the community, but not so large that it runs empty when the busy season terminates.

Committee and Advisory Board Reports

Chamber of Commerce has come out with the fifth printing of *The Seldovia Visitor*, its annual paper, and the papers are currently being delivered to Anchorage and Seldovia. President, Mary Glover stated The Seldovia Visitor will be distributed to the businesses in Seldovia in the near future.

SOS had two actions which were the 650 SOS Barge was moved to Homer on March 26. Barge 141 was moved April 3 rd from Seldovia Bay to Kenai; checks (from the sales) were received for both. One small barge still remains.

Fire & EMS has been busy with fund raising and The City is thanked for their involvement. The Fire Department donated their gaming permits for this fund raiser (Fireman's Ball) with another fund raiser slated for Cinco de Mayo. Nick Moonin was hired as Fire Administrator and is a great addition.

Vista Volunteer, Lisa O'Leary, has submitted another grant that is an Assistance for Firefighters Grant for a new base station and repeater. The current system is twenty years old. This will allow a joint venture between SVT and The City to dispatch both departments from the same network. The Economic Forum was a well-attended event with fresh ideas presented.

Planning and Zoning has some recommended revisions on the title 18. P&Z Chairwoman, Paulie Carluccio, along with the P&Z members have compiled a spread sheet of Title 18 to make it more user-friendly, comprehensive and as readable as possible. It has been submitted for Council Review.

The next **Comprehensive Plan** Workshop has been scheduled for 7 o'clock on April 24th.

Parks and Recreation Committee report that the survey results were in favor for Lollipop Park being developed next to the Crab Pot Grocery. The survey also showed majority public support for a park on Lot 1, Block 13. Next Parks and Rec. Meeting will be on April 20th. The results of the Survey and recommendations will be presented to the P&Z Committee at their next meeting.

17B Trails Committee had received two correspondences' from SNA that spoke to the easements and other pertinent issues of the Committee.

New Business

1. Bid for Land Purchase, Lot 4, Block 6, Waterfront Resubdivision #2, this is a purchase bid by Sara Nichols and Matt Gallien for the lot next to the Tidepool Restaurant for purposes of expansion and renovation.

Action: Land bid accepted unanimously.

2. Award of Wheelchair Lift Purchase, this is a bid for the demolition and installation of the current elevator system. The downstairs restroom is already ADA compliant and with the savings of not having to make the upstairs bathroom ATA compliant, this allowed for additional carpentry and minor electrical work in the current elevator shaft. Any remaining funds will be returned to the Rasmussen Foundation as stipulated.

Action: Award approved unanimously.

3. Electrical Bid for X-Ray Machine, Liberty Electric has submitted their bid for work and is ready as soon as next week to begin their portion of the work. HEA will be running a clean 3-phase power to the building; this is all covered by grant money. The final stage of the project will entail the GE technicians

finalizing finish hook-ups and operation checks.

Action: Bid accepted unanimously.

Informational Items Not Requiring Actions

Regarding the base repeater which would be covering the current area in addition to expanding it further. In theory, coverage would extend to Red Mountain.

See **City Manager's Report** below.

Manager, Council and Mayor Comments Concerning Items Not on the Agenda

Councilman Gain wants to know if Reynertson had heard back on whether the Village Safe Water Act would allow us to proceed with the water filtration plan, once we have the 65% engineering plan back . Reynertson responded that we have not heard anything yet.

Councilwoman Boscacci requested an excused absence for the next City Council Meeting on April 26.

Councilman McInnes is disappointed that two letters have been received from lawyers in regard to the 17B trails request. He had hoped that these matters could be discussed in person. McInnes emphasized that in the past people have mentioned the costliness of using lawyers. McInnes said anyone complaining would get “ short shift” from him in this regard.

Next Meeting: April 26, 2006.

Meeting Adjourned: time elapsed 1 hour, 25 minutes and 34 seconds.

Parks & Recreation Committee Survey Results

by Mary Glover

First, thanks to everyone who filled out their survey and returned them. The survey was performed to obtain the input from the residents of the City of Seldovia and the residents living outside the city limits to determine the majority vote between two property sites for the location of a public park. The two sites were: 1) Lot 1, Block 13. This is a pie shaped piece of public land that is located on Main Street next to the Straniks' red building, formerly belonging to Fred Elvsaa. 2) Lot 1, Block 13. This is the lot on Main St. between the Harbor Master's building and the “old Buzz” now owned by the Schneiders. In addition, there was a question on the survey requesting comments about the location of Lollipop Park.

The survey was mailed out on March 10th and given a 10 day response time until March 20th. The Parks & Recreation Committee then met on March 23 to review the results of the survey. There were 230 surveys mailed out with two forms in each envelope. Also, the survey was available on-line. With any

survey, a return rate of anything over 25% is a great result. With a bulk mailing, a 3% response is a good return rate. This survey had a return rate of 57% which was astoundingly remarkable. This return rate would also increase if the "late received" surveys had been counted. Just to inform everyone as to why names were needed on the surveys: 1) to distinguish between the "in town" vote and those outside the city limits; 2) to protect the tally from being padded; and, 3) that those who voted were of age and residents of this community.

The following is the tally of the survey:

Residents within the city limits of Seldovia	
Lot 1, Block 13	Lot 1, Block 10
44	30

Residents outside the city limits of Seldovia	
Lot 1, Block 13	Lot 1, Block 10
20	12

In addition, the comments regarding Lollipop Park stated a tremendous support for the location of the park next to the Crab Pot Grocery, the lot that has already been designated for this park.

The Parks & Recreation Committee is now moving forward with presenting Lot 1, Block 13, before the Planning and Zoning Commission of Seldovia to recommend to the City Council that Lot 1, Block 13, public land, be allowed to be developed into a public park.

This would give us a park on both sides of town. The Parks & Recreation Committee would greatly like to move forward with these two parks to make them a reality in 2006.

City Council workshop on the Seldovia Port Authority

By Tom Glover

On Tuesday, April 11, a City Council Workshop was held in the Multi-Purpose room to discuss the options and process of creating a Seldovia Port Authority. Included in the meeting were members of the City Council, Seldovia City Manager Kurt Reynertson, and consultants Kent Miller and Jim Van Altvorst.

A summary of the workshop, the proposed Seldovia Port Authority, and the legal process of creating the port authority will be included in next weeks edition of the Seldovia Gazette.

Rep. Paul Seaton Newsletter - April 3

No report this week

[Click here to read the April 3 newsletter](#)

Sen. Gary Stevens Newsletter - April 13

Hello again from the State Capitol. The Legislature adjourned for the Easter break on Thursday, April 13 and will return to work on Tuesday, April 18. With just a few weeks remaining until the May 9th scheduled adjournment, there are several issues yet to be decided, including passage of the Petroleum Profit Sharing Production Tax (PPT), the operating and capital budgets and other bills of importance. As the Senate Majority Leader, I will have the opportunity to ensure the needs of Senate District R are well represented this year.

This week, the full Senate is expected to vote on the operating budget. Once it passes the Senate, the budget will be sent to a conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate versions. With the conference committee in place, the work of the Legislative committees will fall under the 24-Hour Rule. This means bills and resolutions may receive a committee hearing with a twenty-four hour notice, and legislation will move very quickly through the House and Senate.

Should you need help following the progress of a particular bill or resolution as it moves through the system, please contact my office or the Legislative Information Office (LIO) in your community.

The LIO in Homer can be reached at 235-7878.
Seward Area constituents can contact the LIO at 224-5066.
The Kodiak LIO can be reached at 486-8116.

Track bills and resolutions online at www.legis.state.ak.us/basis, or the Majority's Internet homepage, <http://www.akrepublicans.org>.

[Click here to read the full newsletter](#)

Special Notices

If you need flowers for Prom - READ THIS!

Prom is *fast* approaching and many young men and ladies will be looking to purchase corsages and boutonnieres for their dates for prom. ***Mrs. Sunni Hilts has announced she will not be available to prepare flower orders this year.*** However, Forget Me Not Florist of Homer (235-7881) is available for this service and it should be emphasized that time is of the essence and to get your order to them ASAP. Thanks!

Seldovia Summer Visitor goes to press . . .

The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce's annual newspaper "The Seldovia Visitor" has been printed and is being delivered to Anchorage and Seldovia shortly.

[Right Click here and then Save to download an 8-1/2" x 11" non-color version of the paper.](#)
Please note, this is a large PDF file - 6 megabytes

Tidbits . . .

**Seldovia has some of the smartest eagles in the world . . .
. but can they really read???**



City Manager's Corner

by Kurt Reynertson

Managers Report for the period covering March 20- April 7

- FY 07 budget preparation is in full swing. A budget workshop is being called for on April 19th at 6 PM . This FY budget will again allocate monies for a line item under "major maintenance and repair" for the general fund as well as the special revenue funds.
- The small boat harbor project draft engineering design is nearing completion. This design is sometimes referred to as the "65% design". The engineers will be in town on April 25th to discuss the design. There will be a work shop on April 25th at a time yet to be determined. In addition to reviewing the design and cost estimates, we will be able to discuss how much of a role the City wishes to play in purchasing the material directly as opposed to having the winning contractor purchase the material. There are pros and cons to each method.
- During the time the engineers will be here for the small boat harbor, they will also be collecting water data for the design of the water filtration system that is being funded by VSW.
- Lisa O'Leary mediated a local economic forum last night in order to assist her in her grant writing efforts. She did a very good job at keeping the group on track and focused. She was also successful in

obtaining commitment from group members to assist her in follow-thru on the ideas that were brought forward. Thanks Lisa.

- We held a workshop yesterday concerning the establishment of a Seldovia Port Authority. The workshop centered on the drafting of the enabling ordinance that will be presented to the public for vote this fall. The next workshop that is scheduled will be during the week of May 8th with an exact day and time to be determined. All members of the public are encouraged to attend any workshop, but in particular these workshops that concern themselves with the Port Authority establishment.

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

Police received a call that children were climbing onto the roof at the SBE School on the weekends, as evidenced by the snow angels that were observed on the roof. They were accessing the roof by getting on a trash can and then pulling themselves up on an oil line that delivers oil to the school from the oil tanks. The matter was addressed by the teachers in a school setting and no further reports of this activity have been taken.

A report was taken by a concerned neighbor of roof damage that occurred to a summer resident's home when the snow slid off. The owner was contacted by Police and came to Seldovia and repaired the damage.

A property owner called the Police to report a 4-wheeler parked on her private property without permission. The Owner was notified and stated the machine was parked there because it had broken down but he would move it right away.

The meter reader for HEA observed a trailer on Bloch Street was sagging under the weight of the snow load and she passed this information on to the Police. The owner, who no longer resides in Seldovia, was contacted and told of the threat of the roof caving in and said she would get someone to shovel it. The roof was not shoveled and did cave in. She has been notified of the damage.

An immature eagle found dead, floating in Tutka Bay, was turned in to the Police and it was packaged and sent to the Federal Fish & Wildlife in Homer.

The two wild turkeys are still strutting around town. The tom first visited the school and had to be removed and a few days later the hen visited the kids and had to be removed. They were each reunited with their mate on both occasions.

Police responded to a call of a teenager who had not come home all night. After searching the area and getting some information Police located the teen with friends in a vehicle. She was taken to the complainant who was informed as to where she was and whom she was with. No further action taken by the Police.

A tenant at the Lakeside Terrace requested assistance after locking herself out of her apartment. The Police responded and gained entry to the apartment.

Police assisted the EMT's in the response, and medivac, of a reported overdose victim during the early morning hours.

Police responded to a Domestic Disturbance wherein alcohol was a contributing factor. Transportation was provided for one of the subjects and those involved were separated for the night. No further Police action was necessary.

Police observed a motorcycle, a dirt bike, being ridden on the Jakolof Bay Road at approximately 1.5 mile. The driver was contacted and could not produce an operator license or proof of insurance. The motorcycle also was not licensed for the roadways and upon investigation it was found the driver's privilege to drive in the State had been revoked. Summons Complaints will be issued for Driving on a Revoked License, Failure to Maintain and Show Proof of Insurance and Failure to Register Motor Vehicle.

Spring is coming and with it, hopefully, a lot of sunny days but also with the warm weather we get an influx of black bears. As you are aware, we have many bears visit our community looking for all the food stuffs we make available to them. The big news in Anchorage now is their new City Law that makes it an infraction to keep edibles in an area accessible to bears. We don't have such a law and hopefully never will have to request one. If we will start early to clean up our properties, take down our bird feeders, keep garbage inside until we visit the landfill and make more frequent trips to the dump, we will be taking effective measures to reduce the bear population that comes into town each year. Research has proven that the bears come in to find food and if it is not available to them they move on through and rarely return. To make this work everyone has to participate in the effort. We don't want the bears to realize they have a food source inside the City. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game suggest putting electric fences around dry fish houses and smoke houses to discourage hungry bears. It has been proven bears do not like electricity. All of this may sound like overkill to some of you, but to avoid one person being hurt by a bear, I would think all of us would want to participate in the effort. Please call the Police when a bear is sighted in town. We need to discourage the bear's presence and we have different non lethal methods of doing this. If we find the garbage isn't being managed and the bears do become town bears, we will be disposing of the bears on sight. We would rather discourage their presence but we will do whatever is necessary to protect the public.

