



Seldovia Gazette

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Thursday, April 19, 2007

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Letters to the Editor

Coming Home Week

Hello Seldovians

A BIG thank you to those people that have participated in the Coming Home 2007 Planning meetings. The Seldovia Village Tribe has sponsored them, in an attempt to coordinate all those that would like to participate in this grand event which will happen from July 1 – 8, 2007.

While a lot of wonderful events have been suggested, I am sure there are more great ideas out there. We are still looking for sponsors for some events. Maybe you or your business can sponsor the prizes, or coordinate the event, host it, or just provide employees to run it? There are many ways the local people can become involved to help make this a fantastic week for those former Seldovian's return. (Word is, that there is a lot of people planning to "Come Home" for this week.) Let's show them that the old Seldovia Spirit is alive and well.

Following are some of the ideas that have been discussed:

- **Photo displays** (bring your old photos and share with everyone – poster board provided – we can scan in and print for the display, if you don't want to display the original) – Special section on Old fishing/king crab photos
- **Kid's activities** – outdoors and inside
- **Historical movies / Coffee Table Story telling** –Bring our old stories
- **Fishing Derby**
- **GPS Treasure Hunt**
- **Craft display / Crafter's Street market**
- **Outside Beach Luau** - Roast pig/adult games/kid games/greased pole, etc
- **Biathlon** – Run/bike
- **All School Reunion**
- **Sock Hop** – Linwood
- **Salmonberry/blueberry cook off**
- **"Not So Ready for Prime-time" Talent Show - Get your acts ready**

Response to Mr. Andersons Letter Last Week

As a counter-point to last week's Letter to the Editor, I would appreciate your printing the following article published in the Juneau Empire, April 17, 2007.

Thank you!
Jan Wyland.

[The following article is being reprinted with permission from both Pat Forgey and the Juneau Empire newspaper.]

Cities continue to seek funding help from state Group wants more action on revenue sharing bills

By PAT FORGEY
JUNEAU EMPIRE

The Alaska Municipal League fears that much-needed revenue sharing with the state's communities is stalled in the state Legislature, but some think it may start moving soon.

Gov. Sarah Palin had requested \$48 million in her budget, money that could be used for everything from keeping essential city services going in Hoonah to providing property tax relief in Anchorage.

In both the House of Representatives and the Senate, the money has been removed from the budget, although separate revenue sharing bills still await action.

"I think there will be some municipal revenue sharing in some form," said Mike Chenault, R-Nikiski, co-chairman of the House Finance Committee.

What may start revenue sharing moving is the Senate Finance Committee discussion of fixes to the state's Public Employee Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System.

- **Softball Tournament**
- **Basketball/Volleyball Games**

This is not the finalized list...we are still looking for ideas. Put your thinking caps on. **There is a need for services such as transportation and housing.** Coordination of this will be necessary. If you have housing – even if it's just a tent for the front lawn, let us know. **You can email your ideas or suggestions to svt@svt.org**

If you can attend the next meeting, please do so. It's Noon May 8th Tuesday at the Seldovia Conference Center – if you have not yet attended a meeting, you have missed out on the delicious soup and sandwich meals (dessert too) prepared by Marcia Patrick! A Big thank you to Marcia!!!!

Check out the following websites for updates:
www.cominghome2007.com or www.seldoviafun.com.

Crystal Collier

Municipal revenue sharing and PERS/TRS help are the top two priorities among many city leaders. Some legislators say two are linked, with retirement taking precedence and help for cities and boroughs coming after that is dealt with.

"Most of the discussion has been in regard to getting the PERS/TRS issue resolved first," said John Bitney, Palin's legislative liaison.

Sen. Bert Stedman, R-Sitka, said revenue sharing couldn't be decided until the cost of PERS/TRS was dealt with.

"We're going to go to work some more on the retirement systems," he said.

"When we get that wrapped up in a couple of weeks we'll look if there's a need for very small communities," Stedman said.

The city of Anchorage is hoping to use revenue sharing money to offer property tax relief, while tiny Seldovia at the end of the Kenai Peninsula just wants to provide basic services, said Mayor Dick Wyland, in Juneau to meet with legislators.

"We're one of the smallest first class cities in the state. We provide water, sewer, snow off streets, police, fire, EMS. We have a clinic in the city building and we pay the cost for a small boat harbor," he said.

In recent years the town has cut to the bone, he said, including one of two policemen.

It has a paid harbormaster - full-time in the summer - and a few other employees, including enough to meet legal requirements for a water system, said Wyland.

"I don't think they understand the needs in the small cities," he said.

Bitney said the governor wants to make sure small communities get help too.

"We have to look at making sure that they are not left out," he said. "If they are not a member of PERS they need to get a contribution."

The concern among many legislators, and at the Alaska Municipal League, said spokesman Jeremy Woodrow, was that small communities that don't benefit from PERS might get left out.

"Municipal revenue sharing and PERS/TRS are really two separate issue," he said.

The problem with retirement is paying for past liability, while revenue sharing deals with ongoing operating costs, he said.

"PERS/TRS assistance, you can't use that to directly lower a mill rate," he said.

Seldovia's Wyland said that for cities the size of his, revenue sharing was the priority.

"It's extremely more important than PERS is," he said.


Whether the small cities, including some that can barely operate, can persuade the Legislature to go give them help will be decided in the final 30 days of the legislative session.

"I think I got a very polite reception, they were very courteous to me, and I appreciate that," Wyland said.

"With 125-150 on the voting lists (in Seldovia), I don't carry a very big club with them," he said.

- Pat Forgey can be reached at patrick.forgey@juneauempire.com.

Web posted April 17, 2007

<p>(Click on button below)</p>	<p>Special Interest Forum: From time to time, topics of discussion will come up that are not a good fit for the Letters to the Editor section . . . usually due to things like the length of the letters or the need to post responses sooner than once a week on Thursday. Click the "Forum" button to enter this section. If you have a topic that you would like started, please let us know.</p>
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