



Seldovia Gazette

Serving Seldovia, Alaska and Kachemak Bay southeast

Seldovia, AK

34 °F / 1 °C

Light Rain
at 7:53 PM



[Click for Forecast](#)

Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008

Just another day in paradise

Vol. 4, No. 6, February 7, 2008

[Local News](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Opinions](#)

[Spotlight](#)

[School](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Archives](#)

[Seldovia.com](#)

[Gazette Services](#)

[Corrections](#) | [Recent Page and Photo Archive](#) | [This page in Large Print](#) |

Headlines

▶ AMHS in Crisis . . . Still

▶ Joint Special City Council - P&Z Workshop February 1

▶ City Council Special Meeting February 1

▶ Chamber of Commerce Meeting February 7

▶ Methamphetamine Use in Communities

▶ Alaska Avalanche School Coming to Seldovia

▶ Habitat Division Returns to Alaska F&G

▶ P&Z Meeting February 4

▶ Rep. Paul Seaton Newsletter - February 4

▶ Special notices . . . - Boys & Girls Club

▶ Tidbits . . .

▶ City Manager's Corner

▶ Seldovia Police Report

Opinions



▶ Letters to the Editor - Susan Mumma

Spotlight

▶ Bill Schorr . . . If you can dream it, he can make it!

Marketplace



Jenny Chissus
234-8000
Your Seldovia Connection

www.seldoviaproperty.com
RE/MAX of Homer

Kachemak Bay Online Mall



Specializing in unique gifts made by local artists.

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



Crazy Crow Productions
At Seldovia Rowing Club
All are WELCOME
2 PM February 10

Afternoon of Poetry and Music With Tim Mason and Tom Begich

Top Stories

AMHS in crisis....still....

by Mary Glover

Unfortunately, it looks as if the 2008 Schedule (because it has gone to print in The Milepost 2008 issue) seems to be written in stone! After all the facts are being sifted through the TRUTH colander, it looks as if AK DOT has not asked the Legislature for enough funding! Who gave the AMHS a starvation budget for 2008?



Is anyone listening to the cries of the people? I have heard **no support** by the communities for the 2008 Schedule and yet the Powers-to-be act as if it were The Ten Commandments! This past week, I talked to the following ports: Cordova, Homer, Kodiak, Port Lions, Valdez, Whittier, and Seward. There was **overwhelming support for scrapping the 2008 AMHS schedule** and



providing adequate service to **ALL** the ports. I did not hear one person from the port cities in support of this schedule and yet it continues. I am urging you to still put pressure on our Legislature and Governor Palin. Mayor Dick Wyland represented Seldovia verbally today before the Marine Transportation Advisory Board. He said it would have a devastating effect on our community and the communities along the Aleutian Chain. He even stated that he had heard: "Wasilla and Anchorage would become recipients of refugees from the port cities!"

School

▶ [Susan B English School by school reporters Katie O'Leary and Rochelle Purpura - Click here](#)



Reps. Gabrielle DeDoux, R-Kodiak, and Paul Seaton, R-Homer, and prime sponsor, Peggy WWilson, R-Wrangell, have introduced House Bill 294, which proposed removing the AMHS from the purview of the Department of Transportation and placing it within a new entity, the Alaska Marine Highway Authority.

Last January, Millie Martin, Kenai Borough Assembly Member District 9, has sponsored Resolution 2008-010, calling on the AMHS to re-evaluate the proposed schedule. Did anyone listen? NO! How do we get them to listen and fund the AMHS?

The AMHS needs to be a public transportation system and not operated as a for-profit venture.

Joint Special City Council - P&Z Workshop - February 1

by *Tamara Blodgett*

Notices & Newsletters

▶ [The Seldovia Visitor 2007, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce. Click here to download PDF \(6mb\)](#)

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

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

▶ [Boys and Girls Club Calendar](#)

The Seldovia City Council and Planning & Zoning Committee Workshop convened together to include the following members present: Dan Blodgett, John and Paulie (P&Z Chair) Carluccio, Tom Glover, Allison Miller, Walter McInnes, Gerry Patrick and Bobbi Sweat. Mayor Dick Wyland presided, City Clerk Ronda Haynes took minutes and City Manager Howard Davis was in attendance.

The purpose of this joint session was to discuss what *portion* of a structure must be used for commercial use when it is zoned Commercial, Commercial Marine and Industrial. Additionally, members wished to make a clearer determination as to what *exactly* constitutes a viable business.

Although members of the Public were in attendance, comments and discussion by the Public was not allowed.

Member *Dan Blodgett* was emphatic that current wording for Commercial Marine states that the *primary* usage of the structure means greater than 50% (of structure) must be used for business (commercial usage). Furthermore, he felt there should be a "graduated" assessment for businesses. This could be based on an annual profit margin with a three to five year cycle used for determination. Blodgett proposed that businesses submit their quarterly sales tax reports for review (by the City Manager/Clerk) to the City for confirmation purposes. These figures (provided by individual businesses) would give a clearer picture of business strength/viability and economic direction/growth. *Editorial comment: This would further constitute "proof" as it were, of valid revenue.*

Member *John Carluccio* was in agreement that a percentage match *primary* usage wording. Carluccio brought up the valid point of seasonal business consideration. How many months are these businesses in operation; how does that factor?

Archives

2007 Archives

▶ [Archive of all pages](#)

▶ [Seldovia Walking May - 8-1/2 x 11 pdf](#)

▶ [Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper 2007](#)

2007 PhotoStories

▶ [Christmas Play](#)

▶ [Halloween Carnival](#)

▶ [July 4 Festival](#)

▶ [Craft Invitational Chainsaw Carving](#)

Contest - May
▶ SBE Graduation - May
▶ Seldovia Lodge Fire
▶ SBE Prom - "Casino Royale 007"
▶ SBE Last Home Basketball Game of the Season
2006 Archives
▶ Archive of all pages
▶ Seldovia Walking Map - 8-1/2 x 11 pdf
▶ Seldovia Summer Visitor Newspaper 2006
2006 PhotoStories
▶ SBE Play - December
▶ Halloween Carnival
▶ Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 3
▶ Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 2
▶ Aleutian's Tusty Trip - July 25 - Part 1
▶ July 4 Festival
▶ Summer Solstice Music Festival - June
▶ CofC Chainsaw Carving Contest - May
▶ SBE Graduation - May
▶ SBE Spring Concert - May
▶ SBE School Play - May
▶ SBE Science Fair - May
▶ Prom - May
▶ SBE Basketball - Feb.
▶ SBE Basketball - Feb.
▶ SBE Basketball - Jan.
2005 Archives
▶ Archive of all pages
▶ Seldovia Summer Gazette Newspaper
▶ Seldovia Summer Gazette Newspaper 2004
2005 PhotoStories
▶ SBE Christmas Play
▶ SBE Halloween Carnival
Photo Archives

P&Z Chair *Paulie Carluccio* wished to narrow down wording on what would determine a business. She echoed P&Z Member *Blodgett's* comment on *primary* usage means more than half of the structures' usage as commercial/business. *Carluccio* said that the 51% figure is a "defendable" figure based on current zoning wording. *Carluccio* thought businesses should be defined by *type* of business. For example, real estate, retail, finance, service etc. should be compared in like groups. She also stated that if residents are living in their structure for twelve months the usage should be computed annually.

Member *Tom Glover* used an example that the IRS uses to determine a "real" business, which is called, "The Prudent Businessman Rule." The IRS has rules and guidelines to help define what constitutes a "real" business. For example (not IRS), a business that loses money five years in a row, it is not a financially viable business. A "prudent" individual stays in a business only if it provides a reasonable profit in relation to the investment. *Glover* expressed that a business (on Main Street in the Commercial Marine area) that does not generate tax for the city is not a valid business that promotes growth of the business district or the economy. The intent of a unified direction in the retail economy of Seldovia is undercut by non-primary commercial usage in commercially zoned areas. *Glover* thinks that some allowances should be made for the "start-up" businesses for the first 2-3 years of operation. In closing, *Glover* thinks that it would not be a "prudent business" to purchase and expensive property only to operate seasonably with marginal profit. The outlay would not compensate for the loss.

City Clerk *Ronda Haynes* added that the City is in charge of giving businesses licenses to business owners and whatever requirement is determined can be enforced by code if passed by Council.

Member *Gerry Patrick* is also in favor of the 51% commercial usage allotment.

P&Z Member *Bobbi Sweat* is strongly in favor of the 51% designation and wishes to see that addressed as the primary issue with type and viability of businesses second.

Conclusion

All workshops our for idea/discussion purposes only, Public presence is encouraged for future workshops.

All members agree that primary means *more than* half (structure) usage must be for commercial/business purpose.

All members agree that the business should be an economically viable, revenue-generating business.

All members would like to fine-tune what constitutes a business at the next workshop to be held on **February 15th @ 1:30.**

City Council Special Meeting February 1

by Tamara Blodgett

The Seldovia City Council convened with the following members present: Tom Glover, Allison Miller, Walter McInnes, Gerry Patrick and John Carluccio. Keith Gain had an excused absence. Mayor Dick Wyland presided, City Clerk Ronda Haynes took minutes and City Manager Howard Davis was in

[Click here to view all photos from the Gazette over the past years](#)

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.

Corrections

[None this week](#)

attendance.

Old Business

Amendments to CRW Engineering Contract for VSW work

An increase from the original total for contract by CRW Engineering Group, LLC has increased by \$21,152 and \$143,270.

Amendment 1: This \$21,152 increase is for professional services for water and sewer improvements to complete a Filtration Avoidance Analysis. The actual work will be completed by GV Jones, a specialist in system and water treatment.

Amendment 2: This \$143,270 increase directly correlates based on diagnostic work executed on city sewer and water pipes. The new contract amount includes engineering work for the Preliminary Design Plans (35% and 65%) and the Final Design Plans (95% + 100%).

The new total including Amendment 1 & 2 will now be \$520,407.

Action: Unanimously approved.

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

Councilwoman Miller asked for an excused absence for the next regular meeting.

Next Meeting: February 13, 2008

Adjournment: Time elapsed: 24 minutes.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting February 7

by Mary Glover

The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce met today in the Chamber's space next to the Post Office at noon.

The highlights of the day's business included:

Walking Map and Seldovia Visitor

The new deadlines are coming up for members of the Chamber are changes to the Walking Map need to be in by March 1 and ads and articles for the Seldovia Visitor should be submitted immediately. Look for price for ads and form on the Chamber's web site. Members will also receive an email. If you do not receive an email, please email Mary Glover at maryg@seldovia.com

Theme for 2008 Fourth of July

February will be the month for the naming of the theme for this year's 4th of July. Put your thinking hats on and you can either drop off a suggestion in the suggestion box at the post office or email Darlene Crawford dcrawford@snai.com with your suggestion. The Chamber Members in attendance at the next March 6th meeting will vote on the theme and it will be

chosen. March will be the month for the button contest. April will get the buttons made for sale by May.

Resolution from the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce

After a short discussion the Seldovia Chamber of Commerce voted to prepare a resolution in opposition to the proposed AMHS 2008 Winter Ferry Schedule for Southwest Alaska. [See Resolution](#). The Seldovia Chamber of Commerce's Resolution will be on the City Council's agenda next week. The City of Homer has also passed a Resolution in opposition to the proposed AMHS 2008 Winter Ferry Schedule. (Thank you Jo Johnson, CMC, Homer City Clerk for providing a copy of City of Homer Resolution 08-13 to our community.)

Night at the Movies

Look for signs on the Chamber Space Door for the **Showing of Seldovia Movies** created by Robert Purpura. We will be having a "movie night" in Seldovia at the Chamber space. Any donation is appreciated; a box will be passed around. All proceeds will be used for the Chainsaw Carving Contest in May.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM

Methamphetamine Use in Communities

Special Guest Speaker and Catered Luncheon for Next Parent to Parent Meeting, February 11, 2008

Julie Woolworth, of Homer is coming to Seldovia this coming Monday, February 11th, 2008; to give our local Parent to Parent group a special lecture on the use of Methamphetamines. She is a highly respected speaker with much information to share on the subject. The Tidepool will provide a catered luncheon for the event. It will take place at the Boys and Girls Club at Noon. Meeting is open to all the community. For further information contact:

Alene Hidecker, CDC I, Prevention Specialist, 234-7898, Ext. 226.

Alaska Avalanche School Coming to Seldovia

by Alene Hidecker

NEWS FLASH: Date changed to Sat. Feb. 9th and Sun. Feb. 10th. call Alene Hidecker at 234-7898 ext. 226 for more details.

>> Repeat Story <<

For the last ten years, Alaska has had the highest amount of avalanche fatalities in the nation. This is a truly tragic statistic given our relatively small population. Alaskans that enjoy the outdoor activities in mountain regions, need to be aware of the ever changing avalanche clues that a part of our surrounding environment. Seldovia is an area that has been identified as an avalanche prone area. We must remember that Avalanche Awareness is not just for backcountry

skiers or snow machine riders; our roads, power lines and residential areas can be effected too.

Seldovia Village Tribe is proud to announce that the highly respected Alaska Avalanche School is coming to Seldovia this February 8th and 9th, 2008. The Alaska Avalanche School (AAS) workshops are staffed by top professionals. The instructors for AAS are among the most experienced in the nation. All instructors are Wilderness First Responder or greater (Medically) Certified. AAS boasts three American Avalanche Association Certified Instructors. Alaskan Avalanche School instructors keep current on new developments via International Snow Conferences, teaching Nationally and Internationally, and engaging in research of their own. All aspects of avalanche evaluation, and mitigation are represented with the AAS staff: Mountain Rescue, Industrial Forecasting, Mountain Guiding, Heli-ski and Backcountry Ski Guiding. Alaskan Avalanche School commonly brings in nationally recognized experts from inside and outside of Alaska , to teach at workshops. The strengths of the Alaskan Avalanche School Staff makes AAS second to none. You can find out more about the Alaskan Avalanche School and their instructors at www.alaskaavalanche.com.

There will be a community presentation the evening of February 8th, starting at 6:30pm at the Seldovia Conference Center and there is a signup sheet at the Seldovia Post Office for people who are interested in the fieldwork that is presented on the next day. Fieldwork classes will be divided into two groups. The first group will be for snowshoeing, skiers, and snow boarders and the second for snow machine riders. If you have any questions please call Alene Hidecker at 234-7898 ext. 226 during the business hours between 9am to 5pm . A nominal fee of \$10.00 is required for the fieldwork sessions.

Habitat Division Returns to Alaska F&G

February 5, 2008, Juneau , Alaska - Governor Sarah Palin today announced the Habitat Division will be returning to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The decision to return habitat permitting functions to the Department of Fish and Game acknowledges that the responsibilities of Habitat Division are better aligned with the overall mission and structure of the Department of Fish and Game.

After an extensive review, Governor Palin, Natural Resources Commissioner Tom Irwin and Fish and Game Commissioner Denby Lloyd concluded that the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting has done an outstanding job of fulfilling their statutory responsibilities under the Department of Natural Resources.

However, the move is expected to improve communications and avoid duplication of efforts while allowing Habitat Division to operate in the same manner it has at DNR to encourage responsible development and protect Alaska 's resources.

“We are absolutely committed to the protection of wildlife habitat,” Governor Palin said. “But we are just as committed to responsible development of our other resource industries such as oil and gas, mining and timber, and we’re going to make sure that development occurs through strong oversight and cooperation between the departments.”

The Governor emphasized that both departments share in the State’s mission for

responsible conservation and resource development and recognize that balancing these two functions is an integral part of their stewardship responsibilities.

“The department and I are committed to bringing these two functions together and making them work,” said Commissioner Lloyd.

Both DNR and ADF&G commissioners acknowledge that Alaska’s natural resources have not suffered because of the location of the habitat function at DNR. DNR and ADF&G are committed to continuing and supporting the successful work that OHMP has achieved while at DNR.

“I have nothing but praise for the professional staff and the work that OHMP has accomplished at DNR,” Commissioner Irwin said. “I am committed to making this transfer successful and we will work closely with the ADF&G to ensure that we are working together to achieve resource development with protection for Alaska’s great environment.”

The Governor will submit an Executive Order to the legislature to return fish habitat permitting responsibilities to the Department of Fish and Game. Detailed planning for the move will begin immediately and movement of personnel and supervision will occur by July 1, 2008.

P&Z Meeting February 4

We are delayed in completing this report, please check back Friday evening . . . sorry for the inconvenience

Rep. Paul Seaton Newsletter - February 4

Greetings from Juneau on this 20th day of the 90 day session. We had a very busy week with three important bill hearings wedged among consideration of AGIA, other gasoline proposals, and budget subcommittee reviews. With extra doses of chicken soup and vitamin C we managed to stay in the office all week, but we are all still fighting the flu and cold bugs that are circulating through the building. A weekend with a lighter schedule got us all back to better health.

This past week we were pleased to visit with constituents Nina Allen, Dorothy Melambianakis, and Kelly Snow.

HB 288 Net Energy Metering

HB 156 – Mining Tax Reform

HCR 20 – A Resolution encouraging the installation of fire sprinkler systems in residences.

Fisheries

Resources

[Click here to read the complete Newsletter](#)

Special Notices . . .

SBE Family and Consumer Science Class Needs Miles!

Six lucky students will be taking an exciting trip to New York City in the near future and would very much appreciate support in the form of Companion tickets or Miles. Please contact Sandy at Susan B. English School at 234.7616. Thanks for your support!

Booster Club - Beautiful Plant for Sale!

Mary Fitzgerald has donated this large house plant to be sold, with all proceeds going to benefit the Sea Otter Booster Club. Mary wants a minimum of \$50 for the plant. She started it as a small plant and it has become very large under her nurturing care. Mary said the new owner could trim back the leaves if wanted due to the many new shoots that are already growing!



If you are interested in seeing or purchasing the plant, you can speak with Laurel Hilts at the Seldovia Boys & Girls Club. 234-7577 or lhilts@positiveplaceforkids.com.

NOTICE OF 2008 Tide Book RECALL & REPRINT

“Pioneer Publishing would like to announce a recall of their 2008 Tide Book publications in the South Central, Southeastern and Western editions. Please destroy any books you have, or return them to your supplier for disposal. Pioneer Publishing has ordered a complete reprint of the 2008 Tide Books. Replacement tide books will soon be available through your local supplier. Pioneer Publishing wishes to apologize for the inconvenience.” - 23 January 2008

[Editors note: if your tide book is NOT published by Pioneer Publishing, then the tide tables are Ok. For example, the books carried at Main Street Market are Ok.]

Green Bean & Garbanzo Bean Recall - Botulism Risk

FDA announcement made on Friday, January 18, 2008 regarding the expansion of a voluntary recall by the New Era Canning Company, New Era, MI of canned green bean and garbanzo bean products packed by the company because of because of potential Clostridium Botulinum contamination.

[Click here for a list of the affected products and companies](#)

Boys & Girls Club Update . . .

Sounds of music permeate the walls of the Boys & Girls Club every day, but this week it was a new sound. On Wednesday, adults and youth gathered to learn a new skill as Special guest artist Randall Williams taught the use of capos with guitars. The workshop was sponsored by the Seldovia Arts Council, which had brought Williams to town for a house concert at Susan Mumma's the night before. Many thanks go out to the Arts Council for their commitment to fine music in our community.

Starting in February, the Boys & Girls Club will begin implementing a \$15 monthly fee for all students participating in our music program. The cost of the lesson is being paid by the generous donation from the Seldovia Native Association, but the \$15 monthly fee will help to offset the Boys & Girls Club's expenses for this program, which include additional staffing and facility use. If you have any questions, please contact Unit Director Laurel Hilts at 234-7577.

Kids, don't forget that on Saturday the Seldovia Village Tribe sponsors youth basketball for those in 1st-5th grade. Join Al and the gang this Saturday from 1-3:00 p.m.

The Boys & Girls Club is looking for an amplifier to borrow long-term to use for our electric and bass guitar lessons. If you have one we could borrow, or could recommend someone to contact, please let me know.

Clubhouse Hours: Mondays – Fridays from 3-6 p.m.

Power Hour: Mondays – Thursdays from 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

Pottery: Mondays from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Teen Open Gym: Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. . ***THIS IS NOW TEEN CLUB TIME UNTIL BASKETBALL SEASON IS OVER***

Karate Classes:

Kids Class – Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.

Adult Class – Mondays and Wednesday from 5:45 – 7:00 p.m. .

Intermediate – Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Music Lessons:

Acoustic Guitar – Saturdays at 11:30 p.m. .

Electric Guitar – Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. .

Bass Guitar - Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. .

Drums – Saturdays from 12:30-5:00 p.m.

Any questions, contact: Laurel A. Hilts, Unit Director Seldovia
234-7577 office; 234-2004 fax & kid phone during Clubhouse hours
lilts@positiveplaceforkids.com

Tidbits . . .

Coast Guard medivac for a Seldovia EMS emergency . . . 2:00 am,

pitch black, 6° F and wind howling from the chopper blades . . .
cushy job, right . . .
Thank you Seldovia Fire & EMS & the US Coast Guard!



City Manager's Corner

by Howard Davis

No story this week

Seldovia Police Report

by A.W. Anderson, Seldovia PD

No story this week

