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## Say Hello to Our New Harbor Master, Layla Pedersen

Story and Photo by Jenny Chissus

The front line position at the harbor in Seldovia was recently filled by a local resident - eager to be the welcoming party to those who come to Seldovia by way of Kachemak Bay!



Layla moved to Seldovia from the big city of Homer, back in May 2006 with her husband Hans, and their two young children, Hans (12) and Trinity (6). They were coming back to a familiar location, as Layla's parents, Mike and Connie Geagel currently reside full time in our community. One of Layla's brothers, Jonathan and his wife Heidi and their two children also live in Seldovia year-round - so it was a natural and welcome move for her entire family. Hans was hired for a position as Facilities Manager with UAF out at Kasitsna Bay - which made the move from Homer possible. One of their main reasons for deciding on Seldovia was the great family environment and a small town lifestyle for the children - and they love it here!

When asked what Layla likes about the job as Harbor Master her first response was that she loves the combination of inside and outside work - she is very happy to be outside as much as possible! She is looking forward to working on the various improvements in the harbor - as there are many small as well as big projects that are on the way! Thanks to recent funding, the harbor will see some major improvements in the near future. Another thing Layla is looking forward to seeing in the office is an upgrade in technology. Soon there will be a computer to record the comings and goings in the harbor, expenses and income, etc.

With the harbor being the very first impression folks get of Seldovia, Layla enjoys doing the little things that make each guest's initial visit special by welcoming them, giving out one of the new Seldovia Visitor guides, showing them locations on the map to visit, etc. She said one of the perks of the job is that she has NEVER had anyone come into Seldovia in a grumpy mood or with a bad attitude. She mentioned that everyone who comes into Seldovia is typically out fishing, on vacation, enjoying their weekend, and they are happy to be here and ready to have a nice day! Often she will be talking with wives and sending them out to the gift stores or for a coffee or ice cream while the guys are cleaning the fish - and when the guys finish at the cleaning station - they come up to her and say "Have you seen my wife?" - which she laughs about!

When asked about how things are going with the adjustment in learning a new job, Layla wanted to express her big thanks for the great support she received from both MaryAnn and Susan in learning the ropes at the harbor. Tim Dillon, the City Manager was also a huge help and made it possible for their schedules to overlap for training.

**Another great benefit of this job for her has been the opportunity to get to know the folks who live in Seldovia. As she lives out at Kasitsna Bay with her family, which is over 7 miles out of town, this has been a great way to become a part of the heart of the community. Even though she's been tying up the ferry since 2006, there are many folks she hasn't met yet!**

**So, if you are in town, or passing by the harbor - stop by and introduce yourself to Layla - you will be greeted with a warm smile and a helpful and cheerful spirit! She is a welcome addition to our city staff! Thanks Layla for stepping up to the job!**

***A few announcements:***

- **With the recent completion of the children's Lollipop Park, there is a Lost and Found box in the Harbor Master's office - so if your child left their sweatshirt, hat, tippy cup, etc - you will have a place to check!**
- **The new Harbor Master hours are 9am to 1pm - Mondays through Fridays.**
- **Notice to Harbor Users: The water will be shutting off on October 10, 2010 on the docks. Please manage your own hoses prior to that time. If you are missing a hose, you may check at the bottom of the ramp where a few found hoses have been placed to be claimed.**