

the georgetown connection

Connecting generations of Georgetown tribal members to the roots of their traditional community. Winter 2020



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Looking Back at 2020 and Forward to 2021



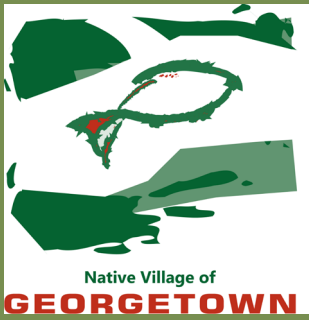
Photo submitted by Rebecca Wilmarth

We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and would like to wish that everyone has a happy new year. Here's to hoping that 2021 will be a better year than 2020. While a lot of people start the new year by resolving to improve themselves in the new year, it is also a good time to reflect on the past year. So here is a quick review of the last year and a look at what's planned for this year.

The pandemic has disrupted our daily interactions and routines in many ways that we could not have imagined. Toilet paper hoarding comes to mind along with the end of the handshake and checking for your face mask for the trip to the store.

Like many, our staff had to look at ways to continue to work remotely during the periods of hunker down and to find solutions to work with our business partners as they were forced to do the same. Face-to-face meetings and training became Zoom sessions and teleconferences. The restrictions also affected the planned work on the community center and made us rework the Annual Meeting as a virtual event. But enough of 2020, what's in store for 2021?

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5313 Arctic Blvd. Ste 104
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
www.georgetowntc.com

T: (907) 274-2195
1-888-274-2195 toll-free
F: (907) 274-2196
E: info@georgetowntc.com

COUNCIL

Chairperson

Traci Maczynski
Seat C/ Term expires:2023

Vice Chairperson

David Kutch
Seat A/ Term expires:2022

Treasurer/Secretary

Valerie Dudley
Seat B/ Term expires:2023

Member

Seat D/ Term expires:2022

Member

Irene Venes
Seat E/Term expires:2021

STAFF

Tribal Administrator
Adrian LeCornu

Environmental Coordinator
Sam Bundy

Program Director
Eric Dietrich

Updates

New Tribal Administrator

In October the Council completed selecting an individual for the vacant Tribal Administrator position. The person that was selected was Adrian LeCornu. Adrian previously worked at the Alaska Federation of Natives, the First Alaskans Institute, and the State of Alaska. He is originally from Hydaburg and Craig in Southeast Alaska. His education includes a B.A. from the University of Alaska Anchorage and a master's in legal studies from the University of Oklahoma School of Law.

CARES Form Reminder

This is a reminder to return the CARES Assistance form that was enclosed with your assistance check. So far we have received close to 60% of the forms back. The form will be used as part of our reporting document to the US Treasury and to help us know what areas Georgetown members are needing the most aid in so we can better target those areas with the remaining funds. If you need another form, contact the office by email at info@georgetowntc.com, Facebook message, or by calling our office at 907-274-2195 and we can send you a copy. Thank you.



Call Georgetown Tribal Council: 907-274-2195 or toll-free 1-888-274-2195

Updates

Land Permit Opportunities

Happy Holidays from the Land Committee. We would like you to know that there are a good number of available lots that can be permitted out to any Native Village of Georgetown tribal member over 18 years old. Riverside lots and inland lots measure from 1 acre to 1 ½ acres. If you're interested in hearing more or looking at what may be available to you, don't hesitate to reach out and contact Buddy Kutch on Facebook through the NVG office or email at david.kutch@georgetowntc.com.

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Committee Member Opportunities

The Georgetown Tribal Council currently has 5 committees (Enrollment, Environmental, Land, Policy, Community Building) made up of Council and tribal members. If you are interested in learning about these committees or have any interest in participating as a committee member, please reach out to one of the council members or call the office for more information.

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Covid Covid Covid...

As most of us can agree, it's been a long year of self-isolation for each of us. We have all made sacrifices in one huge way or another. Some lost jobs. Some lost homes. Some lost loved ones... and after all that loss and as tough as it has been, you and I are all still here reading this newsletter. Should that count for something? You darn right it should! As we're ringing in the new year, let us not only reflect on the past but look forward to a great future. Let your 2020 experiences push you into the future of achieving the little things. Take those feelings, emotions, and ideas that some of us have bottled up and set them on FIRE!! Use those flames to create building blocks to achieve your 2021 goals. If you and I can do it as an individual, we can congregate together and do it as a group. If we're lucky enough to get back to working together, let's make huge positive changes for ourselves, our people, and our loved ones.

Environmental

Middle Kuskokwim Mining Update

There has been some important news lately regarding both Donlin Gold and Red Devil Mine.

Donlin Gold has applied for 12 water rights permits for various uses in the general operation of its mine. These permits will allow Donlin Gold to drill wells for drinking water, mining operations, and maintenance use. Several of these permits will also allow Donlin Gold to build dams on site for water treatment and supplying the tailings pond. The amount of water each permit requests to use varies, from as low as 50 AFY (Acre/Feet per Year) to approximately 39,065 AFY.



Next, the public comment period for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) clean-up plan for the abandoned Red Devil Mine has ended. The BLM laid out 4 alternatives for the clean up process:

1. No action
2. Institutional controls such as fencing and warning signage
3. Constructing a repository for the waste material located at the site, with fencing and signage
4. Complete removal of waste material

The BLM has chosen the third option as its preferred alternative in the clean-up process. Under this alternative, the BLM will build a repository for approximately 2600 cubic yards of waste material on-site and 18000 cubic yards of contaminated material from the Kuskokwim River in the immediate vicinity of the mine area. The repository will be unlined and the BLM will periodically monitor the repository and collect leachate that pools up at the bottom of the repository. This alternative will cost the BLM approximately \$30 million dollars, and the BLM estimates that this option will take two construction seasons to complete.

As part of the public comment period, the Georgetown Tribal Council voted to select the BLM's 4th option as its preferred alternative. The Council deemed that the complete removal of the waste from the area is the best alternative to promote the health and safety for Georgetown Tribal members and the environment. This option has a much higher cost than the BLM's preferred alternative. Complete removal will cost the BLM \$200 million dollars, however, despite the high cost, this alternative is an investment in the protection of the long-term health and stability of the region. The BLM will be announcing its final decision in the New Year.



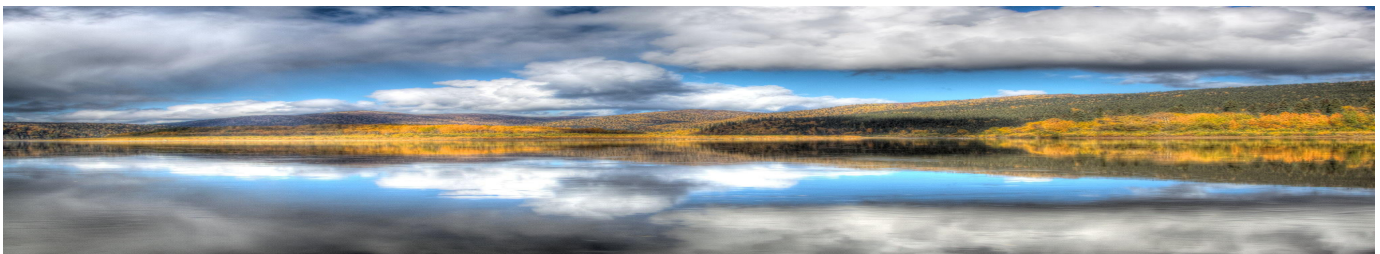
Photo submitted by Rebecca Wilmarth

Open Seat on the Environmental Committee

Do you have an interest in environmental policy and are interested in shaping the future of Georgetown and the middle Kuskokwim? Do you want to keep up to date on mining and subsistence issues or use your voice to help guide policy decisions and influence environmental programs?

If so, the Georgetown Tribal Council's Environmental Committee has a seat for you. This seat is open to all Tribal members who are 18 or older. Committee meetings are conducted quarterly via teleconference.

If interested please contact your environmental coordinator, Sam Bundy at sam.bundy@georgetowntc.com for more information.



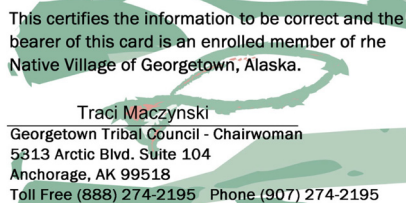
Visit: www.georgetowntc.com

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Here are some of the projects we are planning for this year. We are planning on starting the next phase of the community center this year. Siding, interior work, plumbing, and electrical could be on that list depending on what can be achieved with the remaining unrestricted funds. From what Sam, our Environmental Coordinator, observed from last year's water testing, a brush-clearing project for the area around the community center and for the proposed roads is needed as well. There are the water testing trips planned and with any luck, we will be meeting in person for this year's annual meeting.

The pandemic had and continues to, impact daily life for everyone no matter where you live. With the vaccine rolling out, we can hope that we can see things starting to return to normal as to when that time comes we will have to wait and see.

Georgetown ID Cards from AVCP



This certifies the information to be correct and the bearer of this card is an enrolled member of the Native Village of Georgetown, Alaska.

Traci Maczynski

Georgetown Tribal Council - Chairwoman
5813 Arctic Blvd. Suite 104
Anchorage, AK 99518
Toll Free (888) 274-2195 Phone (907) 274-2195

We are currently in the process of working out an agreement with the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) on Printing Georgetown Tribal ID Cards. While we do have the equipment to print Tribal ID Cards at our office in Anchorage, this will create another option for members that live in and around Bethel. This agreement is still in the early stage and may take so time to work out. Currently, the fee for printing the ID card will be \$15. We will post updates on

our website and Facebook page when things are finalized.

Keep in Touch

Have you changed your address, phone number, email address, or all the above? Help us keep our records up to date. Contact our office by email, Facebook, phone, or even fax with your new contact information.

Call Georgetown Tribal Council: 907-274-2195 or toll-free 1-888-274-2195

What's Cooking?

Irish Soda Bread

Ingredients

- * 2 cups all-purpose flour
- * 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- * 1 teaspoon baking powder
- * 1 teaspoon baking soda
- * 1/2 teaspoon salt
- * 3 tablespoons cold butter, cubed
- * 2 large eggs, room temperature, divided use
- * 3/4 cup buttermilk
- * 1/3 cup raisins

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Whisk together first 5 ingredients. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In another bowl, whisk together 1 egg and buttermilk. Add to flour mixture; stir just until moistened. Stir in raisins.
2. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; knead gently 6-8 times. Shape into a 6-1/2-in. round loaf; place on a greased baking sheet. Using a sharp knife, make a shallow cross in top of loaf. Whisk remaining egg; brush over top.
3. Bake until golden brown, 30-35 minutes. Remove from pan to a wire rack. Serve warm.

Birthday Wishes to...

February

Kyle Evans
Teresa Evans
Gabrielle Fredericks
Katelyn Evans
Ashley Evans
DeShai Notti

March

Carolann Fredericks
Jonathan Samuelson
Tamara Vanderpool
William Venes
Frederick Wheeler
Betty Evans
Irene Venes
Jermaine Carter
Valerie Dudley
Xavier Fredericks
Leland Evans
George Mulkey

April

Julian Mulkey
Jarvis Evans
Alyssa Evans

Jamie Evans
Bryan Goodwin
Donna Vanderpool
Ronnie Vanderpool
Jeffery Venes
Rebecca Wilmarth
Linda Evans
Helen Vanderpool
Ty Dudley
James Wilmarth
Morgen Evans
Johnaven Notti

Ricki Nocoli
Danny Vanderpool



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Upcoming Events



Check us out on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/Georgetowntribalcouncil

January

18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February

2 Groundhog Day

17 Presidents Day

March

8 Daylight Savings Time

17 St. Patricks Day

20 First Day of Spring

30 Seward's Day

April

12 Easter