



North Pole City Government

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Inside this issue:

Industrial Park Sewer Main Project	2
City Receives \$73,216 Grant for Senior Center	2
Paving Projects	2
Energy Efficiency Grant Improves City Buildings	2
Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Improvements	3
City Eligible for \$2.56 Million Utility Grant	3
Utility Garage Under Construction	3
City Eligible for \$302,500 Low-Interest Loan	4
LED Streetlights Reduce Electric Consumption	4
City Adopts Updated Building Codes	4

City Hires New Public Works Supervisor

The City hired a new Public Works Supervisor in late 2011, Cody Lougee. He replaced Mike Lewis who retired after working for the City for 30 years. Lougee was formerly the chief maintenance engineer for Hagadon Hospitality that operates two resort hotels in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Lougee managed building maintenance and grounds keeping for the resort. As Public Works Supervisor, he is responsible for grounds keeping of city lands and maintenance of city buildings. One of his tasks that is already showing results is beautification efforts in the City, especially along Santa Claus Lane. If you see Lougee working around the City welcome him to North Pole.



Beautification in North Pole

The City has embarked on a multi-year Main Street beautification effort starting with the roundabouts on Santa Claus Lane. The beautification effort is intended to help make the City a more attractive place to live and to make it more inviting to tourists. Santa Claus Lane/Badger Road is a state road, but the City has a maintenance agreement for the sec-

tion within the City. The first beautification effort began last fall by North Pole Economic Development in cooperation with Gavora, Inc. and the City to improve the frontage at the North Pole Plaza Mall. This spring and summer the City is planting flowers in the roundabouts; cleaning the drainage ditches and plans to install benches, planters and trash

cans in the vicinity of the roundabouts. There will continue to be Christmas lights displayed in the roundabouts during the winter. Other beautification efforts planned for Santa Claus Lane include replacement of the bus shelter at the North Pole Plaza Mall by Fairbanks North Star Borough Transportation and a pedestrian path project that will install the last section of sidewalk on the east side of Santa Claus Lane. The City plans to expand beautification efforts outward from Santa Claus Lane in the years ahead.



Industrial Park Sewer Main Project

North Pole is a unique small city with its three industries—Flint Hills Resources, Petro Star Refinery, and GVEA power plant. Past spills of the industrial chemical sulfolane at the Flint Hills refinery site, formerly MAPCO refinery, caused groundwater contamination. Flint Hills Resources has been proactive within the City to address the groundwater

contamination by installing water mains and two new drinking water wells for the City. These projects cost over \$6 million at no cost to utility rate payers. Flint Hill is planning to construct for the City a sewer main dedicated to pumping waste water from the industrial park to the waste water treatment plant. The existing

industrial sewer main is over 6000 feet long and snakes through the undeveloped North Star Subdivision II. The proposed new sewer main will bypass residential property and pump directly to the treatment plant.



City Receives \$73,216 Grant for Senior Center

The Santa's Senior Center rents a City-owned building. For almost a decade, the City and Center have been looking for funding to upgrade the Center's kitchen ventilation. The types of food prepared at

the Center generate air-borne grease which creates a fire hazard and in February 2012, the Fire Marshal required the Center to upgrade the kitchen ventilation. Weeks after this citation, the City received a grant

for \$73,261 to install commercial grade ventilation in the Center's Kitchen. The goal is to install the new ventilation system before fall 2012.

Paving Projects

One paving project has been completed this year—Holiday Street, West 4th Avenue, Santa Claus Lane/6th Avenue connection and the southern loops of Beaver and Kit

Boulevards. This project was funded 90% by the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) through a program called the Fairbanks

Metropolitan Area Transportation System (FMATS). Two other paving projects planned for 2012 have been delayed until 2013 due to a heavy construction schedule at the ADOT&PF.

Energy Efficiency Grant Improves City Buildings



In 2010, the City received a \$174,000 economic stimulus grant for energy efficiency audits and upgrades of city buildings. The energy audits identified almost \$600,000 of energy-saving options. The City's highest priority is to

upgrade the City Hall heating control system that is original to the building. The control system began experiencing significant failures three years ago. Replacement parts for the electronic system components are no longer available.

Besides using the grant funds to upgrade the City Hall heating system, the grant will fund thermostat upgrades in other city buildings.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Improvements

In 2011, the City received a \$50,000 grant for a skid steer loader to plow and sweep pedestrian and bicycle paths. The goal is to improve the quality of life for North Pole residents, make the City a more attractive destination for tourists and to reduce air pollution by reducing the number of short motor vehicle trips. The City began plowing the paths this past winter and is routinely sweeping paths throughout the summer. Also installed on paths in the City are six pet waste stations. The waste stations provide plastic bags for picking up pet waste and a trash can. The purpose of

the waste stations is to provide a convenient means for dog walkers to pick up their pet wastes, remove a health hazard, and make for an improved experience for users of the paths.

Scheduled to begin this July is a pedestrian and bicycle paths connection project. The project will install the last section of sidewalk on the east side of Santa Claus Lane; widen the shoulders along Park Way; reconstruct the 3rd Avenue path; add a path on Snowman Lane by North Pole Elementary School; rehabilitate the Davis

Road path connecting the 5th Avenue path to the Elementary School; and add a path along 5th Avenue from Blanket Boulevard to St. Nicholas Drive.

The City is planning a two-mile exercise trail that includes 20 exercise stations. The proposed trail will follow the Beaver Springs Trail, 5th Avenue, Blanket Boulevard, 8th Avenue and Snowman Lane. The City is seeking private sponsors for the exercise trail. The cost is \$1000 to sponsor an exercise station.



City Eligible for \$2.56 Million Utility Grant

Some of the oldest sewer mains in the City are made from a material called Techite that has begun to fail. In fall 2011, voters in North Pole approved accepting a \$1.4 million loan

that will partially fund repair of the Techite sewer mains. The 2013 state fiscal year capital budget included a \$2.59 million grant for the City's sewer main project. The \$2.59 million grant

combined with the \$1.4 million loan will repair the +7000 feet of Techite sewer mains in the City. Construction is planned to begin in 2013.

Utility Garage Under Construction

The City is building a utility garage on Homestead Road. Approximately 70% of the project is funded with a state grant. The Public Works and Utility Departments have been sharing a garage and expansion of each department has caused there to be insufficient space in the exist-

ing building for the two departments. The Utility Department's office and storage space are at the old water treatment plant where the roof and boiler are failing. The new garage will be a metal building, have four bays, sheltered outdoor storage, and office space for the utility staff.



City Eligible for a \$302,500 Low-Interest Loan

In 2012 the City was notified that it is eligible for a \$302,500 state loan to replace the emergency generator at the waste water treatment plant and for two mobile emergency generators. The waste water treatment plant generator is ag-

ing, inefficient, replacement parts are difficult to find and it is undersized for a planned facility expansion. If the City Council determines that it is fiscally sound to apply for this loan, there will be a question on the October 2, 2012 ballot asking for voter approval to

incur the debt. The loan includes a provision to forgive almost \$29,000 of the principal reducing the loan balance to about \$270,700. At an interest rate of 1.5% for 20 years the annual payment for the loan would be about \$15,000.

LED Streetlights Reduce Electric Consumption



In 2010, the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) funded more than 90% of the cost of a project that replaced energy inefficient street lights in Fairbanks and North Pole with energy efficient LED streetlights. In 2010, about 60% of North Pole's streetlights were upgraded in phase one of the project.

ADOT&PF recently released a request for bids for the second phase of the LED streetlight project. The project will replace the majority of the remaining energy inefficient street lights in the City. The project may be started this year, but will more likely be completed in summer 2013.

The LED streetlights installed as part of phase one have reduced the City's streetlight electric usage by over 25%. Once complete circuits of streetlights are replaced, the City expects to see even greater electric savings.

City Adopts Updated Building Codes

In April 2012 the City Council adopted revisions to the City's building codes. The City, like many municipalities adopt nationally developed building codes. These codes are developed by experts in the building and construction industry intended to help ensure safe building practices. When updating the building codes, the City adopted the national energy code and the fuel gas code for the first

time ever. The building codes with local amendments adopted by the City are the following:

- International Building Code, 2009 edition
- International Residential Code, 2009 edition
- International Mechanical Code, 2009 edition
- National Electrical Code, 2011 edition
- Uniform Plumbing Code, 2009 edition
- International Fire Code, 2009 edition
- International Energy Conservation Code, 2009 edition
- International Fuel Gas Code, 2009 Edition