

# CITY OF SAND POINT



## CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Happy 2015! I want to first give a big congratulations to the boys' and girls' Eagles basketball teams for competing in the Trident Tip-Off Classic, and especially to the guys that pulled out a heart-stopping win over King Cove in the championship. I was able to see a couple games in the tournament, but the final sounded like a true classic. Trident, the school, and all the volunteers and additional sponsors that helped make the tournament a success also deserve a big pat on the back. It's always great to have fun and healthy community activities that bring folks together.

I've spent just over a year on the job as City Administrator of Sand Point, and it's been an enjoyable one so far. 2014 was filled with interesting and challenging projects, such as renovating the Robert E Galovin Small Boat Harbor and repaving Sand Point Ave. It featured new and complex issues, for example the statewide passage of Proposition 2 which will legalize personal possession and commercial sales of marijuana in Alaska (the subject of a separate article in this newsletter).

The City is working to gather funding to take care of some major infrastructure upgrades in the community. We have a preliminary design to replace the 32 year old City dock, and are hoping to find some funds through the State or

Federal programs to help make that a reality. Budgets are obviously tight this year, but our message is that this critical structure is crucial to all the freight, ferry, and industry activity that makes Sand Point go. Replacement is a priority. We are also applying for funding to upgrade Russian Town water distribution, repair the Kelly Avenue outfall line and sewer system, and perform lift station repairs across town. Many of the pipes in the ground for the city's water and sewer infrastructure are decades old, so we will continue work to make the system as efficient as possible when cost-effective. We are a little over halfway through the fiscal year and the City's finances are in pretty good shape, all things considered. Our expenditures are about 50% of the projected budget figures, and while revenues have lagged a bit due to slower than expected fisheries activity, we will manage. We are well aware that when fishing is slow, the City coffers are not the only checking account that is affected. The City is mindful of the lean times ahead regarding the State and local finances, and our expenditure levels will reflect that.

However, we still have priorities when it comes to City services, and those will not drop off. Our Public Works crew will continue to do an excellent job of maintaining our roads, waste, and water/sewer activities, and

the Harbor will operate as one of the best in the region. The Department of Public Safety has been working hard to be a positive community influence, and we are hopeful that the police force will soon have additional personnel to help maintain effective law enforcement in the community.

The City has a new website at [www.sandpointak.com](http://www.sandpointak.com) that I hope residents, businesses, and visitors alike can turn to for reliable information. There you can find City forms and documents, contacts, City Council agendas, our code of ordinances, and more. If you think of anything you would like to see on our website, please let me know. We are always looking for good quality community photos to put on there, as well. Now that 2014 is in the books – along with my first year employed by Sand Point – I look back and appreciate the opportunity to work for a community full of hard working and friendly people. It's been a pleasure to join a staff of committed and competent City workers, along with a Mayor and City Council that care deeply about their community. I look forward to another productive year ahead for Sand Point.

-Andy Varner,  
City Administrator

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CITY OF SAND POINT  
P.O. BOX 249  
SAND POINT, AK 99661

TO:  
BOX HOLDER  
SAND POINT, AK 99661

## HARBOR NEWS

On November 19<sup>th</sup> 2014, the construction company Pacific Pile & Marine completed the rebuild of the small boat harbor. The harbor is now up and running full time as there were a lot of changes to the new configuration of the harbor layout. A and T float bull rails are now 4 feet above the water line and before they were only 18 to 24 inches and they are more user friendly. The same goes for B and C floats, however the bull rails average 3 feet above the water. As of today, all of the slips are being used on B float, there are a few 30 ft. stalls still open on C float, and A float has a few open stalls.

Fresh water has been added at every stall. Much improved from the old leaky system that was in place before, however during the winter months the

fresh water is turned OFF at the stalls. But there is a watering spot at the end of the East wall where the ice machine used to be, one line is kept running at all times so it does not freeze.



A word of caution the new floats have a tendency to be a lot more slippery when the weather is cold, they are salted during business hours, so just be careful when you are roaming around the floats.

Climb out ladders have been put at the head of every stall, there is one ladder per 2 stalls. Also there is a ladder located on the ends of the main float walkways.

The harbor float system is in very good shape and should last for at least thirty plus years. Power has been redone in the up-lands, there are a total of thirty plug-in spots with thirty amp plugs and no more regular plug-ins. The city is looking into a wireless security camera system for the harbor, at the moment the harbor has some security camera coverage.

As you can see the harbor crew has been doing some cleaning up around the harbor. We still collect and ship used batteries, so bring your used boat or vehicle batteries to the harbor for disposal. If you do not know where to place them ask one of the harbor crew, Gene, Andrew or Jeremy. They will be more than happy to help you. Also, all of the used boat engines that were lying around by Fleet-welding have been moved to a different location. They are now across from the old dump in the

rock quarry if you need a part or a spare you might find it there. We take used motor oil at the harbor, there is a designated spot for your used oil, and is used for heating the Recycling center and the Public Works building. Feel free to use our used oil containers, please do not put water in them. There is also an antifreeze recycling place near the harbor, just ask and one of the harbor workers.

There are a lot of gillnet and longline reels located over at the new harbor. Please mark all of your equipment so we know who it belongs to. The city is working on a designated storage spot for gear, and we are working with Shumagin Corporation to use some of the storage space that they are preparing. The gear drag, longline reels, etc., will be stored off the harbor, so if you have gear stored in the harbor complex, please mark it. The city does have developed land for lease at the

## CITY HOLIDAYS

The City Office and Departments will be closed on the following holidays through July 2014:

**President's Day:** Monday, February 16, 2015  
**Seward's Day:** Monday, March 30, 2015  
**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 25, 2015  
**Independence Day:** Friday, July 3, 2015



## CITY OF SAND POINT OFFICIALS & MEETINGS

### Elected Officials

**Mayor** *Glen Gardner Jr.*

### City Council Members

**Seat A** *Danny Cumberlidge*

**Seat B** *Allan Starnes*

**Seat C** *Shirley Brown*

**Seat D** *Jack Foster Jr.*

**Seat E** *Marita Gundersen*

**Seat F** *Rayette McGlashan*



### Regularly Scheduled

### City Council Meetings

February 10, 2015

March 10, 2015

April 14, 2015

May 12, 2015

Meetings held @ 7:00 PM

(2:00 PM workshop)

**Public Welcome!!!**

**THIS IS THE CITY OF SAND POINT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER.  
 NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 2015.**

### Administration

**City Administrator**

*Andy Varner*

**Finance Officer**

*Krista Galvin*

**City Clerk**

*Shannon Sommer*

**Administrative Assistant**

*Kurtis Gundersen*

**Director of Public Safety**

*John Lucking Jr.*

**Public Works Director**

*Dave Stokes*

**Harbormaster**

*Richard Kochuten Sr.*

Producer:  
Shannon Sommer  
Editor: Andy Varner,  
Administrator

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**Phone:** (907) 383-2696  
**Fax:** (907) 383-2698  
**Email:** sptcity@arctic.net

Office located at room 10  
in the Municipal Building  
on Main Street.

**Landfill Hours**

Monday-Friday  
9:00 am-3:30 pm

Saturday  
10:00 am-2:00 pm

*Closed for Holidays*

The Public may bring their garbage/ refuse items to the landfill during the hours above unless the winds are above 20 mph, then it is by appointment only.

To schedule an appointment, please call the landfill operator at: (907) 383-8341

**Deadline to file for the 2015 Permanent Fund Dividend is March 31, 2015.**

**Adult and Child applications are available at the City of- fice or you can apply online at: [www.pfd.alaska.org](http://www.pfd.alaska.org)**

**LIBRARY**

Monday-Saturday  
6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
CLOSED ON SUNDAY

**OPEN GYM**

Monday & Saturday  
6:30 PM-8:00 PM K-6th Grade  
8:00 PM-9:30 PM 7th-12th Grade & Adults

Tuesday & Thursday  
6:30 PM-8:00 PM K-6th Grade  
8:00 PM-9:30 PM Adult Basketball

Wednesday  
6:30 PM-8:00 PM Tiny Tots  
8:00 PM-9:30 PM Adult Gym

CLOSED ON FRIDAY AND SUNDAY



*Don't forget to 'like' us on Facebook for quick notices and updates! It's simple! Search 'City of Sand Point' through your Facebook page. Click on our page, then click 'Like.'*

harbor. Electricity/ phone/water/sewer is on site just need to hook-up.

The city has 2 gear sheds located in the harbor with a total of 50 lockers and a lot of space to do gear work. The gear lockers are occupied now, if you would like to sign up for one please see Shannon, the City clerk. At the current time, there is a waiting list, so don't delay. If you are a boat owner and have a gear locker and sell your boat, the gear locker does NOT go with the boat, it goes to the next person on the waiting list.

-Richard Kochuten Sr.,  
Harbor Master



**Harbor Utilities Application**

Need your boat hooked up to electricity? Stop by the Harbor House or City Office for an Electricity application!

**Rates:**

<i>Reserved Moorage Space Fees</i>	
<i>Boat Length or Mooring Space Length (whichever is greater)</i>	<i>Annual Rate (July 1 through June 30)</i>
56 feet and under	\$15 per foot in length
57 feet to 70 feet	\$18 per foot of length
71 feet to 90 feet	\$23 per foot of length
91 feet to 105 feet	\$27 per foot of length
106 feet to 150 feet	Length x Width x \$1.50

<b>Forklift and/or Dock Crane (including operator)</b>	
To lift and move cargo or commercial fishing equipment	\$75 per lift
To lift a boat (skiff)	\$75 per lift

<b>Travel Lift (including operator)</b>	
To lift a boat for inspection (less than 2 hours out of the water)	\$9 per foot of boat length
To lift a boat for any purpose other than inspection	\$18 per foot of boat length

**All other equipment - At the rate posted by the city or as otherwise agreed**

**HARBOR CREW**

- Harbor Master*  
Richard Kochuten Sr.
- Harbor Maintenance*  
Eugene Alford  
Andrew Gilbert  
Jeremy Krone
- Night Watchmen*  
Sam Brandal  
Knute Gilbert Jr.



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY NEWS

The recent burglary of our Sand Point post office has reminded many in our community that even though most of us have no direct involvement in such criminal acts, crime in our small community can affect us all on a personal level. I don't think there was a single person who wasn't frustrated and unhappy about the inability to pick up mail or use postal services for a period of time, and many were personally offended by the selfish act of the burglars who committed this crime against their own community. If you weren't bothered by what happened there, maybe you haven't pondered it enough, because this was a crime that affected every person in Sand Point who might ever send or receive mail, and the local perpetrators gave no consideration to the friends, neighbors and even relatives whose lives they impacted.

While this one event caused a noticeable ripple that was felt by many, I hope it will also bring awareness to the fact that even less serious crimes have a profound effect on our individual

lives and can be costly to us and our families. For instance, shoplifting increases prices we all pay for goods in our stores because the merchants balance their losses by increasing prices on remaining merchandise. A store that suffers too many losses will close, depriving the town of an important service. Vandalism done to public property increases city costs and causes a rise in taxes which fund repairs. Thefts and vandalism to boats laid up in our harbor have the effect of discouraging the use of Sand Point facilities for winter storage and repair services and that deprives us of the potential tax base that pays harbor maintenance and can reduce the costs for local harbor users throughout the rest of the year. Vandalism and shoplifting might seem like juvenile pranks, but they affect every person in our town

Among the most concerning crimes that are a direct and immediate threat to us personally, our families, and our whole community, are crimes such as driving while intoxicated and drug trafficking. It's no

secret that both property crimes and crimes against persons go hand in hand with substance abuse and drug trafficking. Even if you do not use or sell drugs yourself, the drug problem in Sand Point is costing you financially, endangering your children, and creating significant personal risks as you share our roads with those who do.

I think that over the past couple of years we have built a good police department with officers that are eager to be a part of the community-- officers that care about what happens in our town and which can be trusted to give their best in trying to do the right thing. We are human, and certainly not perfect, but we chose our profession because we believe we can make a difference and we want to make Sand Point a better place to live. Although we have made some good forward progress combating drugs and crimes, sadly we can't do it all alone. Everyone is affected by the crimes that occur in Sand Point and everyone needs to be part of combating them. Your family, your neighbors and your com-

munity need you to be involved in making Sand Point the kind of town we want to raise our children in. Don't let a handful of bad actors spoil things for everyone. Don't let them steal your property, your money, or your trust.

I call on you to protect your property by securing it out of sight of thieves. Lock up what's important to you and have someone check on your property while you are out of town. Be good to your neighbors, and watch out for their property while they are away. Be observant, and if you see something suspicious, say something. Report what might not seem quite right. We would much rather investigate ten calls that turn out to be nothing, than to have to investigate a situation where someone was victimized because no one cared enough to call us to ask us to check something out. Police can't be everywhere, and criminals will always make a strong effort to hide from us, but it is not as easy for them to hide their actions from neighbors who know them. Report what you may hear about criminal activity also, even if you

# DON'T FORGET!

## SALES TAX

**As of January 1, 2014 the Sales tax rate went from 3% to 4%. The Accommodation rate did not change.**

**If filing quarterly or monthly, reports are due the 15th of the following month.**

**If you need additional copies of the new Sales Tax report form, please call Shannon at 383-2696 or email [sptcity@arctic.net](mailto:sptcity@arctic.net)**

## BUSINESS LICENSE

**Don't forget to renew your 2015 City Business License.**

**A yearly business license is required to do business in Sand Point. If at any time you cease to do business, please notify the City Office in writing.**

**Please remember that even if you have \$0 to report, you still must submit a sales tax report to remain in compliance.**

# WATER & SEWER NEWS

**Good News:**

2012	
Month	Gallons
January	8,237,125
February	8,579,991
March	10,540,724
April	11,552,238
May	8,447,762
June	7,793,227
July	6,800,314
August	7,267,760
September	6,985,059
October	6,951,190
November	8,515,635
December	7,390,016
Total gallons	99,061,041
Daily Average	271,400

2013	
Month	Gallons
January	6,598,129
February	4,993,779
March	6,066,281
April	5,333,975
May	4,214,966
June	4,046,566
July	3,358,084
August	5,205,424
September	5,040,810
October	4,171,134
November	5,714,487
December	4,416,614
Total gallons	59,160,249
Daily Average	161,640

2014	
Month	Gallons
January	3,717,425
February	4,102,561
March	4,609,269
April	4,135,193
May	4,101,106
June	4,287,114
July	4,373,902
August	4,348,527
September	4,797,286
October	3,571,791
November	3,571,112
December	3,338,124
Total gallons	48,953,410
Daily Average	134,119

We have also done two things to lower the electrical costs for the water system. We now run one pump to maintain the water level in the metal storage tank between 22 feet and 24.5 feet. This results in one pump running at a reduced speed for about 13 hours and then shutting off for about 9 hours. The other thing was Andy Varner, our City Administrator, got the last few City electrical service meters on Power Cost Equalization. That included both the intake pump house and the water plant.

**Bad News:**

We still have a problem with grease and various disinfecting and baby wipes in the sewer system. This picture from a few years ago shows a pump that cost about \$4,000 pulled to remove something that looks like a bunch of wipes. After a few months these pumps were failing. We have made some very expensive upgrades to try to overcome the problem. However in the long run it would be best if only human waste and toilet paper were flushed into the sewer system. This requires a change in behavior for some of our customers.



**We all need to work together to control costs and delay future rate increases!**

think it might just be rumor or suspicion. The information you have may be the key piece we need to make sense of a pattern of behavior and to find the evidence that proves the crime. You can call the station, and don't have to give your name. In particu-

lar, drug information can anonymously be reported to the toll free number 1 (800) 478-3325 (Mention that it's a Sand Point tip). Every little bit of information helps, and you never know when something

that seems very minor may resolve a case that would otherwise cost our neighbors greatly in dollars and/or grief.

-John Lucking Jr.,  
Chief of Police

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

- Chief of Police**  
John Lucking Jr.
- Police Officers**  
Michael Livingston  
Alvin Osterback Jr.  
Aaron Spencer  
Eric Tupper
- Fire Chief**  
John Lucking Jr.
- EMS Chief**  
Denise Mobeck
- Administrative Assistant**  
Denise Mobeck
- 911 Dispatchers**



The City and police department welcomes back Officer Alvin Osterback Jr.!

## BINGO & PULL TABS



**Pull Tabs**  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
6:00-9:00 P.M.

**Bingo-Sundays**  
Doors open @ 5:30 P.M.  
Pull-tabs @ 5:30 P.M.  
Bingo Starts @ 6:30 P.M.



**\$100 Door Prize Drawings to be held on:**  
February 22nd  
March 15th  
April 5th  
April 26th

**Come join the fun!!!**

**The more people who play Bingo...the bigger the pots!**

**Bingo Assistants**  
Kathleen Harper  
Susan McGlashan  
Lisa Jackson







## The Marijuana Law – What Do We Know So Far?

Alaska’s Act to Tax and Regulate the Production, Sale and Use of Marijuana (the “Marijuana Law”) was passed by Alaska voters in November. The law has prompted a lot of questions by citizens and policymakers. Here is a brief update on some of the specifics of the law, including important deadlines. Keep in mind there are many other issues to consider with the passage of the law, such as edibles and oils. These come courtesy of the City’s attorney.

- The Marijuana Law becomes effective on **February 24, 2015**. On that day, possession of small amounts of marijuana for personal use becomes lawful; local government does not have authority to alter this provision of the law.
- *Commercial marijuana* follows a different timeline. The State must begin accepting applications for marijuana facility permits by **February 24, 2016**.
- In order to assert maximum local authority and obtain commercial permitting revenue, local governments must designate a local marijuana regulatory authority no later than **November 24, 2015**. Local governments will receive application fee revenue from the State only if a local government has designated a local regulatory authority.
- When the State reviews a permit application, it will submit the permit application, along with half the application fee, to the local regulatory authority.
- The Marijuana Law ends marijuana prohibition for persons over 21 years of age *only*. The current criminal penalties for marijuana possession, distribution, and consumption will continue to exist for anyone under 21.
- The Marijuana Law does not affect an employer’s (public or private) right to maintain drug use and drug-free workplace policies. Employees may be terminated or disciplined, in accordance with employer policy, for marijuana use, even if it is medicinal or lawful marijuana use.
- The Marijuana Law prohibits *use* of marijuana in public, allowing a fine of up to \$100 for each violation. Marijuana *intoxication* in public is not prohibited and cannot effectively be prohibited.
- Driving under the influence of marijuana is currently illegal and will remain illegal.
- The Marijuana Law allows each adult to cultivate up to six cannabis plants, three of which may be flowering at a given time. The Law requires that cultivation occur out of public view, on premises lawfully possessed by the grower, and with reasonable measures to prevent unauthorized access.
- The Marijuana Law establishes four types of marijuana facilities: *cultivation, testing, manufacturing, and retail stores*. Retail stores are the only facilities permitted to sell marijuana or marijuana products to consumers. Local government may regulate and permit each facility type separately. Local government may also set the number of permits, or the number of each type of permit, that may be issued to facilities within local boundaries.

Interstate transportation of marijuana remains a federal enforcement priority. *Intrastate* (within Alaska) transportation enforcement is less clear. Aviation, like banking, is heavily regulated by the federal government. Because other states with marijuana laws do not have bush communities, this aspect of marijuana commerce is entirely undetermined. A local government could permit retail stores, but those stores may have no ability to obtain product unless it is produced locally (delivery by ship is at least as problematic as the vessel would likely travel in federal waters). Even if not an enforcement priority, air carriers may be reluctant to face uncertain risks.

Local governments and communities are keenly aware of the consequences of alcohol use and the complex regulations promoting responsible consumption so as to minimize negative effects on public health, safety, and budgets. These policies and regulations continue to evolve despite alcohol prohibition ending in 1933. Marijuana prohibition ends in February. Eighty years of alcohol regulation offers guidance for local regulation of marijuana, but sound marijuana policy will evolve over time and through experimentation. Nevertheless, the City of Sand Point will have several policy areas to consider as we move forward with the end of marijuana prohibition.

## PUBLIC WORKS NEWS

### Public Works

As winter weather comes and goes please be aware of the current road conditions, the graders will be plowing roads when snow falls.

### Road Maintenance

The City would like to thank Qagan Tayagungin Tribe for the BIA Road Maintenance Grant, we were able to purchase a crack sealing machine, a tar pot, and fourteen tons of pot hole patch material with the \$22,000 received.

### Rock Crusher

We have begun repairing the rock crushers and they will be up and operating this summer. This addition will provide additional job opportunities at the city and will allow the community to purchase gravel. Having the crusher running will also permit the city to make sand for the icy roads for winter months.

-Dave Stokes,  
Public Works Director



### Vehicle Disposal

Spring is right around the corner if you have any “junk” vehicles you would like to have hauled away be sure to drain all fluids before calling us to haul. If we have to drain them there is a \$250 charge.

**Building Permit**  
If you would like a building disposed off your property, stop by the City Office for a Building Removal Waiver!



**Building Removal**  
If you would like a building disposed off your property, stop by the City Office for a Building Removal Waiver!

### PUBLIC WORKS CREW

**Director**  
Dave Stokes  
**Shop Foreman**  
Paul Karlsen  
**Operators**  
Julius Karlsen  
John Jacobsen  
**Recycling Foreman**  
Walter Osterback  
**Water/Wastewater Supervisor**  
Allen Hill  
**Water Operator**  
Vasily Moskalenko  
**Solid Waste Manager**  
Brandon Gundersen  
**Solid Waste Laborer**  
Wade Johansen