



Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce

Volume 9, Issue 6

JUNE
2010

Our Nation, Our State, Our Community

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- Susan Gorski—Exec Director
- Merry Braham - Events Director

The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation keeps us abreast of state and national trends. In their recent releases, AEDC reports results from two separate analyses that place Anchorage in the top tier cities based on qualitative and quantitative criteria.

The first comes from Relocate America with their annual evaluation of the top 100 places to live in 2010. This year's editors focused on communities "poised for recovery and growth" by examining such variables as leadership, employment, community commitment, improving real estate markets, recreational opportunities and Anchorage makes that list. Additionally, Anchorage was named number 3 for "Best Mid-Sized Cities for Jobs" on Forbes.com earlier this Spring.

Diving in a bit deeper, we know that our unemployment numbers and related economic data paint a slightly rosier picture than our family and friends are experiencing in the lower 48. Take a moment and compare the Alaska Department of Labor numbers to unemployment rates in the U.S.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

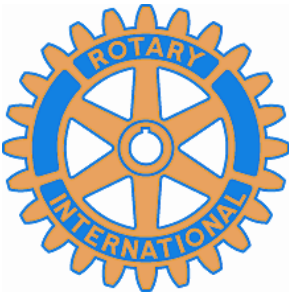
	<u>Alaska</u>		<u>U.S.</u>	
	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2009</u>
April	8.4	7.7	9.9	8.9
January	8.5	7.9	9.7	7.6

(AK Dept Labor & US Bureau of Labor Statistics)

Clearly we are in better shape ... and, in fact, the folks at the Department of Labor note that there is other positive news.... "this is the first time since 1982 that Alaska's annual unemployment rate came below the nation's." And, it stands to reason that these numbers, in part, reflect the positive rating that Anchorage receives when viewed from a national perspective.

Local anecdotal information indicates that our business community is stable...and if greenhouse activity is any barometer of hopefulness, we are definitely on the upswing. The office has had many folks through collecting Alaskan information for visiting friends and relatives. Festival sponsors have stood with us despite economic uncertainty....thus, we are hopeful for a positive and prosperous summer season. And, your local Chamber Board, through the power of deductive reasoning, concludes that Chugiak-Eagle River is clearly the most livable community in Alaska!

As a resource state, though, it never hurts to remind ourselves that the jobs generated by resource projects are the ones that sustain us... and never forget that TAPS is now at one third of its design capacity. So we need to take a longitudinal perspective and make sure that our State thrives for a positive and responsible business environment that encourages long-term investment and reduces economic uncertainty.



Eagle River Rotary Project Amigo

What is Project Amigo? Project Amigo is a non-profit corporation started by Rotarians in California whose mission is to enable the poor children of Colima, Mexico to

achieve their highest potential by providing educational opportunities, material support, enrichment activities, and medical and dental services not otherwise available to them. Learn more at www.projectamigo.org.

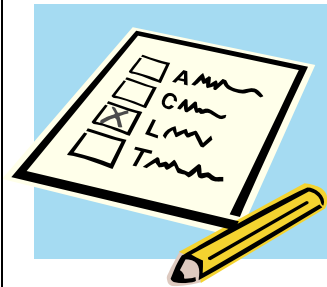
What is a literacy work week? A literacy work week at Project Amigo is a week where participants prepare and distribute mini-libraries and books that they have purchased for children in poor rural schools. Specifically, Eagle River Rotary's work week will provide thirteen mini-libraries to poor rural schools in the Armeria, Minatitlan and Manzanillo counties. Each mini-library provides 200 children's books appropriate for ages kindergarten to sixth grade. **Why is this necessary?** Children in the rural schools which will be served by this project do not have access to children's books. The state education department is beginning to provide a few books to some poor rural schools, but not nearly enough to supply the demand. To encourage the joy of reading, and hence to improve literacy and communications skills in the state of Colima, this project will serve between 60 and 545 children per recipient school. A bi-product of this project is children taking books home to share with parents and siblings - making the literacy outreach even larger.

When is Eagle River Rotary's work week? Our work week will be March 5 - 13, 2011. We need to have 20 people committed by July 1, 2010. **Do I have to be a member of Eagle River Rotary?** No, we do have several club members going on this trip but it is not a requirement to be a Rotarian. There will be between 20 and 32 people participating in this project trip. **How much does the trip cost?** There is a \$1200 fee/person to Project Amigo. This includes airport pick-up and drop-off, lodging, meals, non-alcoholic beverages and snacks, entry fees to archeological sites and museums, and a donation to Project Amigo. Each person is responsible for their own travel costs. A \$600 deposit is due when you sign up.

For questions and more information, please contact Tonya Gamble at 696-6065 or gamble@mtaonline.net or visit www.eagleriverrotary.org If you can't make the trip but would still like to support Project Amigo - There are short bios available for several children who need sponsors. The annual cost is \$95 for a primary school student, \$420 for a middle school student & \$600 for a high school student.

Alaska Veterans Museum

Recruited members at the Alaska Airmen's Association Trade Show 1 May and at the Chugiak/Eagle River Women's Show and the Veterans; Gathering at the Palmer Fairgrounds on 8 May. We are looking for one or two Chugiak/Eagle River folks to help collect oral histories. We will train you and ensure you are familiar with our paperwork and how we do interviews. We have received marketing expertise from CM&A Advertising, "Cat" Mason. We have also opened another display (a reduced version of *Castner's Cutthroats: Forgotten Warriors*) at the AK Aviation Museum. We are still working the "Military in Alaska" exhibit at the Anchorage Museum and the "ATG" one at the AK Native Heritage Center for next April, as well as two others. Our publicity on the framed Michael G. Reagan original charcoal of Muktuk Marston is going well. We are selling tables for interested businesses. The artist, who does the free portraits for families of all who fall in the Global War on Terrorism, will be our speaker prior to the auction Friday 19 November at the Alaska Native Heritage Center. Contact Col Suellyn Wright Novak, USAF, Ret. at 696-4904 for information.



SEPTEMBER 2010 LOOKING FOR A FEW GREAT PEOPLE ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber has a 25 member board of directors whose composition is as follows: 10 are elected, 9 are standing board members comprised of representatives from both military bases, Eklutna Inc, Anchorage Economic Development Corporation, Mayor's appointee, both Chugiak-Eagle River representatives on the Anchorage Assembly and a representative from the Anchorage School Board; 4 one year presidential appointments, and our president and president elect. This September, there are SEVEN open two-year seats up for election. Additionally, 5 one-year Presidential Appointments will be made immediately following the election. If you want to become more involved in the Chamber, and its work to create the "most livable community in Alaska, contact our office for information on the Nominating process at 694-4702.



RECOMMITMENT OF MEMBERS

Dollar for dollar there is no better investment for a business or professional firm than membership in the Chamber of Commerce.

- Alaska Chiropractic & Therapy
- Anchorage Home Builders Association
- Arctic Pump & Well
- Bob Evans, Edward Jones
- By George Creations
- Center for Natural Medicine
- Chugiak-Eagle River Food Pantry
- Cold Stone Creamery
- Don Poulton
- Eagle River Christian School
- Enstar
- Eva Loken
- Garage Doors of Alaska
- Home Optics
- Horse Drawn Carriage Company
- Leslie Lance
- Rent-a-Can
- Sampson Press
- Subway
- Ted Carlson

NEW MEMBERS!

CY Investments, LLC. Is located at 3801 Centerpoint Drive, Suite 104, Anchorage. They are a residential land development company established in 2004. Their web site is www.cyalaska.com and project manager Ric Davidge may be reached at 762-7575.

Dan Saddler has joined the Chamber. His phone number is 227-8484 & is a candidate for State House District 18.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

First American Title hosts their 28th Annual Golf Tournament, Friday - June 25, 2010 at Eagle Glen Golf Course. It is a 7:00 a.m. Shotgun Start and cost \$125.00 Per Person or \$500.00 per Team. Hole Sponsorship is available for \$200.00. Please contact Debbie Mihelich, First American Title at 360-7563. **Proceeds Benefit Blood Bank of Alaska**

The **Hope Golf Classic** will be held on June 10, 2010 at the Palmer Golf Course. It's a 4-person scramble with a shotgun start at 9:00 a.m. Players are treated to a tasty breakfast, an excellent goodie bag, free on-course snacks, a delicious Alaskan BBQ and a ton of door prizes. In fact, everyone is eligible to win a pair of Alaska Airline tickets. If playing isn't your thing, there are lots of great sponsorship opportunities with great benefits to your company. The Hope Golf Classic is a fundraiser for Hope Community Resources, supporting Alaskans who experience developmental disabilities. Register online at www.hopealaska.org

Holiday Stationstores has a Big honking reward program! Sign up and save .25 cents a gallon and Everyday low price Gallon milk \$ 2.99. Stop by any Holiday Stationstore to sign up or go online at www.bighonkinrewards.com!

Historical & Cultural Fair At St Andrew Church Featuring booths, entertainment, food and shuttle service to the Main Stage Area of the Bear Paw Festival. Saturday July 10 Noon to 6 PM & Sunday July 11 Noon to 5 PM . Low introductory rates for Vendors and Community Groups. Scenic location and lots of parking. Come be part of the inaugural event at St Andrew Church. Over 30,000 people attend Bear Paw each year. Contact st-andrewsfair@gmail.com for details, applications and prices. Facebook: St Andrews Historical and Cultural Fair

Chugiak-Eagle River Women in Business - Join us for our monthly meeting-4th Wednesday of every month at 11:30 am. Call Carolyn Jones at 350-2782 for reservations.

The **Peters Creek Business Center** ,20509 East Side Drive, (at the Ladybug Rock) has one unit for lease! It is 1000 square feet of office space. Call Brandon Spoerhase, Leasing Agent, Jack White Prudential Real Estate, @ (907) 244-2112.



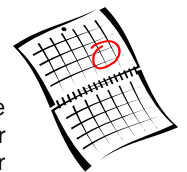
EAGLE RIVER CONNECT

To assist transit users in the Eagle River area, AnchorRIDES launched Eagle River Connect on March 1, 2010, providing limited weekday service for the general public in conjunction with eligible ADA paratransit riders. Fares range from \$1.75 to \$4.50 depending on travel routes.

Curbside service is available to the general public, people with disabilities and seniors once pre-registered, and may be scheduled 2 hours and up to 7 days in advance by calling 343-2550. Commuters may walk-on at fixed timepoints at the Eagle River and Muldoon Transit Centers. This service is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information on Eagle River Connect service, enrollment process, service areas and policies, contact 343-2550 or go to the Connect page at www.peoplesmover.org.

SAVE THE DATE for 2010!



A busy year awaits the Chugiak-Eagle River Community! Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

- June 4th Golf Extravaganza at Moose Run
- July 7-11—25th Annual Bear Paw Festival
- September 25th—"Liquid Assets" Auction & Dinner
- December 3 & 4—Merry Merchant Munch
- December 3—Winter Wonderland Walk

Chugiak-Eagle River
Chamber of Commerce

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JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 2 **WEDNESDAY:** Chamber Lunch forum, 12 Noon, Eagle River Elks Lodge. United States Senator Mark Begich will speak with an update from Washington DC
- June 4 **FRIDAY:** Chamber office closed for Golf Tournament!
- June 16 **WEDNESDAY:** Chamber Lunch forum, 12 Noon, Eagle River Elks Lodge—Lieutenant Governor Craig Campbell will be the guest speaker.
- June 18 **FRIDAY:** Bear Paw Parade application deadline
FRIDAY: Bear Paw Award Nominations for Community Service Due
- June 25 **FRIDAY:** Board of Directors, 8am UAA/CER Campus -
- June 26 **SATURDAY:** Scottish Highland Games—Eagle River Lions Park

*JUNE FORUMS SPONSORED BY
THE ALASKA STAR*