Governor’s FY 06 Spending Package Highlights

Many top municipal priorities have been included in the proposed Governor’s budget including sharing revenue with communities, PERS funding for municipalities, fully funded school debt reimbursement, a community transportation package, PCE funding, increased school funding, Community Jails funding, etc.

The challenge for municipalities this session will be to advocate for these programs and identify improvements or additions where needed.

- Small community energy assistance $6.45 million - Grants ranging from $25,000 to $75,000 for communities with less than 1,200 population.
- PERS Assistance for Municipalities - $18.5 million for municipalities PERS funding (Proposed two year funding at this level.)
- Increased funding for K-12 system $126.9 million - Based on per student increase and increase in PERS/TRS funding ($62.5 m in FY 06 and $64.4 m in FY 07). Major maintenance projects in school districts $28.3 million. First 20 projects from department’s major maintenance projects.
- Full Funding for School debt reimbursement . ($9.7 million increase over FY 05.)
- Power Cost Equalization (PCE) - Full funding at $20.7 m.
- “Bottleneck Busters” community transportation improvements $97 m - Anchorage mid-town $26 m; Glenn Hwy corridor $30.5 m; Kenai Kalifornsky Beach Rd $11 m; Mat-Su Bogard Road, Palmer-Wasilla Hwy extension $19 m; Parks Hwy corridor $2 m; Richardson Hwy passing lanes $5 m; Fairbanks A/Geist/Johansen intersection $3.5 m.

Continued on Page 3
**Legislative Teleconferences**

Check out the AML Legislative Committee website! Updates go up each week, new information, new bills, etc. To participate in ANY of the teleconferences dial 1-866-871-9889 and use pin # 2489 (CITY).

**Land Use, Resource & Economic Development**

Monday, January 24, 2005
10:00 a.m.

**Revenue & Finance**

Tuesday, February 1, 2005
10:00 a.m.

**Upcoming Events**

**January 24, 2005**
AML Board of Directors Meeting/Planning Retreat
Baranof Hotel, Juneau, AK
www.akml.org for more information.

**January 25-26, 2005**
Alaska Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting/Legislative Fly-In
Centennial Hall, Juneau, AK  www.akml.org for more information

**January 27-28, 2005**
Southwest Municipal Conference (SWAMC) Winter Meeting
Captain Cook, Anchorage, AK  www.swamc.org for more information.

**January 26-28, 2005**
Denali Commission Meetings
Juneau, AK  www.denali.gov for more information

**February 3-6, 2005**
Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks Annual Conference
Baranof Hotel, Juneau, AK  www.akml.org for more information

**February 6-9, 2005**
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Spring Conference - Juneau, AK

**The Touchstone**

*The Touchstone* is published monthly from January through December by the Alaska Municipal League, 217 Second Street, Suite 200, Juneau, Alaska, 99801, 907-586-1325. Information can also be obtained through the AML web site at www.akml.org. When the Alaska State Legislature is in session, The Touchstone is supplemented by the electronic weekly AML Legislative Bulletin. These publications are sent free to Member Municipalities, Associates, and Affiliates.

Listings of job opportunities and surplus municipal equipment in AML member municipalities are published free of charge as a membership service.
FY 06 Budget Highlights  Continued from Front Page

- Maintenance of roads, airports, harbor, marine highway facilities:
  - Airport, highway, facilities deferred maintenance $16 million. Airports $1.5 m; highways $3 m; facilities $8 m; harbors $3 m.
  - State match for federal transportation funds $71.5 million. Aviation $14.5 m; highway $42 m; congressional earmarks $15 million.
  - Alaska Marine Highway System $17.6 million total. $6.5 million for fuel costs, vessel repairs $6.5 million.
  - Harbor deferred maintenance/transfer, construction $9.7 million. Hoonah $3.5 m; Petersburg $2.5 m; Unalaska $2m.
  - Transportation for access to tourist attractions $11 million. Copper River Hwy $4m; DNR Park and campground repairs, deferred maintenance $1.45 million.

- Village Safe Water program $81.9 m - Includes $61.5m in Federal funds and Municipal water, sewer, solid waste grants $11 million. Includes $4.4 million in Federal funds.

- Rural e-commerce development - $1.6 million - Includes $800,000 in Federal funds.

- Increased tourism marketing of Alaska $1m - Increases state participation to $5 million.

- Public Safety funding:
  - Firefighting engines, equipment, training center $8.2 million;
  - Community Jails $1 million - 10% increase;
  - Nine new troopers, & housing $1.9 million. Four court service officers; adopt “precinct model” for Mat-Su;
  - Enhance Trooper, VPSO, Corrections recruitment $300,000 - $150,000 for each department.
  - Juvenile justice system $1.5 million. Nome Youth facility expansion $451,000; enhance youth courts and add probation officers $1.1 million.
  - Polygraph testing enhancements $500,000. Enhanced supervision of sex offenders following release.
  - Background checks of alcohol license holders $135,000. ABC conduct background check of all liquor license holders (not just new applicants and transfers);
  - Law Cybercrime unit $4.3 million. One prosecutor; 1 paralegal. Pursue internet/technology fraud, identity theft, victimization of children.

AML Legislative Sub-Committees to Set Schedules

This, being the first week of session, the Alaska Municipal League Legislative Subcommittees sprang into action. This year promises to be a pivotal year for municipalities and the committees have tasked themselves with being current on all new bills as they are introduced.

Municipalities have taken many financial hits throughout the last couple of years. For many, the next year or two will make the difference between existence and non-existence. For others, the threat of increasing local taxes to pay for services at the loss of the local economy is very real. Many communities have had to make major staff cuts, trim back services, discontinue their insurance, and/or close their doors.

To that end, the AML Legislative Subcommittees will be holding twice-monthly teleconferences to identify and act on legislation that could have an impact on municipalities. If you are interested in taking part in any subcommittee teleconference, please contact Kathie Wasserman at kathie@akml.org or (907) 586-1325.

As of yet, we do not have the full schedule of teleconferences, we will send a fax alert when all of those schedules are confirmed.
At this past Alaska Municipal League Annual Local Government Conference, a new workshop was held. The verdict is still out on the “complete” success of the workshop, but it appears to have great potential.

This past October, during the discussion of possible workshops, it was mentioned how great it would be to have a workshop that concluded with an actual “deliverable.” The workshop would provide not just a “talking head,” but also the ability for the participant to walk out of the workshop with knowledge AND a product of some kind. At the same time, every year the AML is honored to have those people we call the “funders” attend our conference. The funders are Jeff Staser – Denali Commission
Diane Kaplan – Rasmuson Foundation
Dan Fauske – Alaska Housing Finance Corporation
Dennis McMillan – Foraker Group
Colleen Bickford – Housing and Urban Development
Bill Allen – Department of Agriculture, Rural Development
Berney Richart – Economic Development Administration

A two-part workshop was held at which all the funders were present. Kathie Wasserman from the AML staff, presented each participant with a pre-printed, one-page form, which, when filled out by an elected official, resulted in a “concept paper” on a potential capital project.

The funders spent a brief amount of time talking about their areas of expertise and/or areas of funding. After that, each participant had Kathie help him or her fill out their concept paper. After completion, all 19 concepts were handed in, at which time the funders discussed each and every project individually in front of the whole group. The merits of the project were talked about before it was handed off to that funder who would most likely be able to fund that specific project. In all, the funders accepted 16 proposals. Those projects will be evaluated further and contact will be made with the communities if projects warrant further steps. If even one project comes to fruition due to this process and is actually funded, built and completed, AML, the communities and the funders will feel a great sense of accomplishment. Look for this workshop to continue.

For assistance with Concept Proposals, contact Kathie Wasserman toll free at 877-636-1325 or kathie@akml.org.
Public Hearing
Juneau, Alaska

Municipal Leaders Encouraged to Attend in Person or by Teleconference or submit written suggestions

(Note: This Public Hearing will occur during the Alaska Conference of Mayors meeting in Juneau)

What is the Denali Commission doing well that it should continue? What is it doing wrong and should do differently? What should the Commission be doing that it isn’t? The hearing will cover any topic, for example, operating procedures, contracting and procurement, meeting formats, programs, projects, public outreach, etc.

The Denali Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 26, 2005 in Juneau, Alaska, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Hangar on the Wharf Ballroom.

Written public comment will also be accepted. Please submit any written testimony to the Denali Commission offices (address and fax below).

Teleconference access to this meeting will be provided through the Legislative Information Offices throughout the state. Telephone lines will be open five minutes prior to the meeting.

The mission of the Commission includes funding for general infrastructure, power generation and transmission facilities, modern communication systems, water, sewer, above ground bulk fuel storage, job training, and overall economic development in rural communities.

Questions about the meeting can be directed to the Denali Commission office at the 907.271.1414 or toll free at 888.480.4321. You are also welcome to call Kevin Ritchie, AML Representative on the Denali Commission at 1-877-636-1325.

Address: Denali Commission Offices 510 L Street, Suite 410 • Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Denali Commission Fax: 907.271.1415

$141 Million to 2005 Community Priorities

The Denali Commission will discuss funding for a number of municipal priorities at its quarterly meeting on Friday, January 28th at the Centennial Hall Convention Center (101 Egan Drive) in Juneau. The meeting will run from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. The full agenda is available at www.denali.gov under the Scheduled Events link. Teleconference access will be provided through the Legislative Information Offices throughout the state. Telephone lines will be open five minutes prior to the meeting. Questions about the meeting can be directed to the Denali Commission office at the 907.271.1414 or toll free at 888.480.4321.

It is important for municipalities with needs in the areas below, or related needs, to write a letter to the Commission to make sure that your need is prioritized for current or future funding. If you have questions regarding writing a short concept paper for a project, call Kathie Wasserman at AML 1-877-636-1325.

Key Allocations for Alaska through the Denali Commission for 2005 are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washeterias</td>
<td>$4.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Multi-use Facilities</td>
<td>$4.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Housing</td>
<td>$9.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Shelters</td>
<td>$4.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elder/Senior Housing</td>
<td>$18.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Broadcasting</td>
<td>$4.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid waste disposal</td>
<td>$1.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Training</td>
<td>$6.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel Psychiatric Facility</td>
<td>$9.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical and Dental Equipment</td>
<td>$2.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development</td>
<td>$2.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE AK Electrical Interties</td>
<td>$15.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Fuel and Energy Facilities</td>
<td>$18 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Docks and related infrastructure</td>
<td>$9.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To be allocated by Commission</td>
<td>$25.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to priorities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission Operating Costs</td>
<td>$7.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and special undetermined grants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Governor’s FY06 Budget

School Debt Reimbursement Relief

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED:
“An Act making appropriations for the operating and loan program expenses of state government, for certain programs, and to capitalize funds; making appropriations under art. IX, sec. 17(c), Constitution of the State of Alaska, from the constitutional budget reserve fund; and providing for an effective date.”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

(b) The sum of $88,431,500 is appropriated to the Department of Education and Early Development for state aid for costs of school construction under AS 14.11.100 from the following sources:

- Alaska debt retirement fund (AS 37.15.011) $61,431,500
- School fund (AS 43.50.140) $27,000,000

PERS/TRS Relief for Two Years

* Sec. 24. RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING FOR INCREASED EMPLOYER COSTS FOR POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS.

(a) The sum of $37,544,859 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Administration to reduce the liability to the public employees’ retirement system of political subdivisions that are members of that system, in order to reduce the increased employer costs resulting from fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 employer contribution rate increases. The Department of Administration shall allocate the appropriation to the public employees’ retirement system account of each political subdivision based on the increased employer cost for that political subdivision resulting from fiscal year 2006 and fiscal year 2007 employer contribution rate increases, as estimated by the Department of Administration as of September 29, 2004 and as set out in (b) of this section.

(b) For purposes of allocating the appropriation made by (a) of this section to the public employees’ retirement system account of each member political subdivision, the increased employer costs of the political subdivisions are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLITICAL SUBDIVISION</th>
<th>FY06 ($)</th>
<th>FY07 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AMOUNT</td>
<td>AMOUNT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akutan, City of</td>
<td>$14,932</td>
<td>$15,492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleutians East Borough</td>
<td>50,537</td>
<td>52,432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allakaket, City of</td>
<td>2,564</td>
<td>2,660</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>6,615,843</td>
<td>6,863,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, City of</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>2,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angoon, City of</td>
<td>15,955</td>
<td>16,553</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atka, City of</td>
<td>3,708</td>
<td>3,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrow, City of</td>
<td>53,772</td>
<td>55,788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bethel, City of</td>
<td>235,324</td>
<td>244,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol Bay Borough</td>
<td>70,944</td>
<td>73,605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordova, City of</td>
<td>98,482</td>
<td>102,175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craig, City of</td>
<td>94,438</td>
<td>97,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta Junction, City of</td>
<td>3,419</td>
<td>3,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denali Borough</td>
<td>29,484</td>
<td>30,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dillingham, City of</td>
<td>122,152</td>
<td>126,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egegik, City of</td>
<td>5,075</td>
<td>5,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elim, City of</td>
<td>9,077</td>
<td>9,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks North Star Borough</td>
<td>867,894</td>
<td>900,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks, City of</td>
<td>305,784</td>
<td>317,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Yukon, City of</td>
<td>15,338</td>
<td>15,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Galena, City of</td>
<td>68,486</td>
<td>71,054</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haines Borough</td>
<td>105,665</td>
<td>109,627</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homer, City of</td>
<td>245,743</td>
<td>254,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoonah, City of</td>
<td>33,095</td>
<td>34,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hooper Bay, City of</td>
<td>30,735</td>
<td>31,888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huslia, City of</td>
<td>4,785</td>
<td>4,965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juneau, City and Borough of</td>
<td>1,351,743</td>
<td>1,402,433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kachemak, City of</td>
<td>3,068</td>
<td>3,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kake, City of</td>
<td>15,138</td>
<td>15,705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kaltag, City of</td>
<td>1,479</td>
<td>1,535</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenai Peninsula Borough</td>
<td>625,569</td>
<td>649,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenai, City of</td>
<td>278,462</td>
<td>288,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ketchikan Gateway Borough</td>
<td>206,307</td>
<td>214,044</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ketchikan, City of</td>
<td>415,937</td>
<td>431,534</td>
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<tr>
<td>King Cove, City of</td>
<td>53,681</td>
<td>55,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Klawock, City of</td>
<td>42,542</td>
<td>44,138</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kodiak Island Borough</td>
<td>113,667</td>
<td>117,929</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Continued Page 7
Floods are arguably one of nature's most destructive forces. Every year they threaten lives, property, and infrastructure. Repairing buildings, roads, utilities are costly, while clearing and disposing of debris and cleaning invasive mold are outright arduous. The bottom line is that repair and recovery costs from flooding often wreak havoc on community budgets.

With proper preparation and mitigation, communities can minimize risk and save millions of dollars. Just ask Randy Romenesko, Nome City Manager for Nome, (pop 3,500). He estimates that Nome's preparedness saved more than $250,000 in just two days.

In 2000, we examined our emergency plan that we wrote in the early nineties. We found that it did not include businesses and important civic entities.

- Randy Romenesko, Nome City Manager

In October 2004, a violent gale force storm strafed the Bering Sea and was poised to pound Nome. For two days, the storm ravaged the coastline, driving 18 foot seas over Nome's protective seawall. When the storm subsided, the seawall was intact. However, damage to the Front Street business district was painfully evident. Building damage, debris from wind tattered buildings, standing water, street erosion, and utility damage testified to the storm's fury.

Yet, there was good news! The devastation would have been much worse and costlier to repair, were it not for the City's foresight and commitment to miti-
PERS/TRS Talking Points
The State Should Help ALL of PERS/TRS

→ A Crushing Municipal/School District/University Impact:
   No municipal relief from state mandated PERS increases may leave many municipalities without the resources to pay even the municipal share of school funding, or basic services. On top of proposed revenue sharing/other losses of state programs, many small municipalities may cease to function while many larger ones may be forced to cut critical local public services.

→ Not a problem of municipal making: FY 05 PERS/TRS contribution increases are mandated by the State. In the past, every municipality and school district has made all the PERS/TRS payments requested by the State.

→ How big is the problem for municipalities/school districts/university? Municipalities, School Districts and U of A pay for 63% of the PERS/TRS program.

→ Problem to 2028 – Per the 3/24/04 Mercer “Actuarial Valuation Report”:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERS Employer Rate</th>
<th>TRS Employer Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 03</td>
<td>6.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 04</td>
<td>11.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 05</td>
<td>16.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 06</td>
<td>21.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 07</td>
<td>26.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 08</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to FY 28</td>
<td>34.77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

→ PERS/TRS 5% to 4% Cost increases for FY 05 approved by PERS/TRS Board:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>$38,233,486</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>$35,789,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UA</td>
<td>$8,800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipalities</td>
<td>$19,213,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Auth/other.</td>
<td>$1,200,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, check the Alaska Municipal League web site at [www.akml.org](http://www.akml.org) or call AML at 586-1325.

Pre-filed bills impacting the PERS system

HB 6 - Crawford – Allows peace officers to claim credit in the peace officers retirement program for service as a fish and wildlife enforcement officer between 6/83 through 7/91.

HB 40 - Anderson – Provides medical insurance for retired peace officers after 20 years (currently after 25 years of service) and that the State General Fund pay the increased cost for municipalities and other employers.

SB 21 - Davis – Adds “state child or vulnerable adult protection workers” to the peace officer/firefighter retirement system.

SB 24 - G Stevens – Extends the optional “retire/rehire” provision under PERS until July 1, 2009.

SB 31 - Elton – Eliminates the sunset for the optional “retire/rehire” provision under PERS.

For more information on proposed legislation impacting municipalities go to the AML web-site at www.akml.org and click on the "Legislative" bar.
gation and emergency planning. Romenesko said, “In a single comprehensive initiative, we identified community and business leaders, studied vulnerable locations, developed effective mitigation strategies, and practiced disaster response plans.”

“In 2000, we examined our emergency plan that we wrote in the early nineties. We found that it did not include businesses and important civic entities. With that before us, it was obvious we needed a plan for city and private interests,” added Romenesko.

Nome received grant approval from the State Department of Commerce in 2001 to write a comprehensive flood and erosion mitigation plan. The City provided additional funding to make their plan a comprehensive all-hazards plan. By September 2002, the plan was drafted, presented at a public hearing, and approved.

Six months later, Nome was the first city, with a population less than 10,000, to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval of its comprehensive Multi-hazard Mitigation Plan. And, it was only the second city, of any size, to achieve that goal. Romenesko said the $10,000 plan included the services of a Homer consultant who brought clarity and a critical perspective to the process.

Planning for disaster

“One of our first goals was to examine flood plain maps, identify high risk locations, and envision worst-case scenarios. Then, for each scenario, we discussed who should respond, what resources would be needed, and how we could minimize damage.

“Knowing this, we invited city departments, volunteer agencies, and businesses to form a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). Public works, National Guard, police, utilities, the school district, fire service, health department, hospital, radio station, and port authority representatives participated. Our business partners included the AC Store, Norton Sound Health Corporation, Sitnasauk Native Corporation, and Crowley Marine Services,” he added.

Continued Page 10
“Then we went to school. We learned about Incident Command and Unified Command Management. More importantly, we learned how to work and communicate effectively as a team. We regularly practiced our skills at table top exercises, and established an emergency operations center,” Romenesko said.

The committee drafted mitigation strategies and wrote a critical Emergency Protective Measures (EPM) plan. It identified where recovery equipment would be sheltered, how to protect building perimeters, and what equipment and furniture should be moved. Long term strategies included adding sump pumps at critical locations and reinforcing doorways by reversing the doors. They anchored propane tanks to prevent them from washing away and breaking, potentially explosive, above ground service lines. Romenesko also explained that an effective mitigation strategy included strict enforcement of building codes and National Flood Insurance Program standards.

The Disaster
“This storm was our first real test. Once we knew it was headed our way, the LEPC met to review the EPM plan. We activated the Public Works department, building maintenance staff, and member employees of the LEPC,’ said Romenesko.

Planning and communicating before a disaster is much more effective than introducing yourself and exchanging business cards at a disaster.

Nome’s Public Library was a priority, because the subterranean Carrie M. McLain Museum was located in the basement. In addition to installing sump pumps in the elevator shaft and basement and modifying doorways, Emergency Protective Measures included building perimeter berms, barricading openings, and moving priceless artifacts upstairs. When the water receded, the building and the Museum avoided damage experienced by many other structures.

Nome’s Mini Convention Center, a host venue for the Iditarod dogsled race, was also a priority. Sealing the windows and doors reduced flood damage significantly. Flood waters managed to seep in, but moving furniture and equipment to higher ground saved thousands of dollars and minimized clean-up. Other simple strategies were very effective. Utility vehicles, earthmovers, dump trucks, and other equipment needed for the recovery were harbored at safe locations. When the storm subsided, Nome could respond quickly. Securing boats in the harbor and moving others to safer locations greatly reduced the damage.

Water coming up behind Nome’s Mini Convention Center

No plan is effective without evaluation. “Within a week of the storm,” explained Romenesko, “The LEPC was assessing what worked and what didn’t. We weren’t shy. We knew that critical evaluation would be an opportunity to learn and improve our plan.”

If saving more than a quarter million dollars wasn’t enough, there were many intangible benefits. Romenesko stated, “Our planning and training helped to build strong working relationships. There were very few surprises. Everyone knew their jobs and how others would respond to any given circumstance. Planning and communicating before a disaster is much more effective than introducing yourself and exchanging business cards at a disaster.”
Register now to attend the winter Alaska Conference of Mayors meeting. This will be an important time to be in Juneau. Mayors will have the opportunity to talk with their legislators about pending legislation.

RSVP:
Registration is available online, by filling out the form below or by calling 1-877-636-1325. There is no fee for this meeting for member municipalities. Please register soon.

Hotel Information:
BARANOF: To reserve a room at the Westmark Baranof Hotel call 1-800-544-0970. Rates are $109/night for a single or double room.

Meeting Information:
All meetings will be held at Centennial Hall in Ballroom 1. Centennial Hall is located on the corner of Egan Drive and Willoughby Ave. - about four blocks from the AML office and the Baranof and seven blocks from the Capitol.

REGISTRATION/RSVP

Name:________________________________________

Title:________________________________________

Municipality:______________________________

E-Mail Address:____________________________

Mailing Address:__________________________________________________________

Phone:______________________________________

Fax:________________________________________

Comments:________________________________________

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Check online at www.akml.org for updates. Participants can expect to hear from legislators and administration officials on a number of issues including: PERS/TRS, Fiscal Plans and Education proposals.

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

10:30 a.m. • Coffee and pastries and informal discussions
10:45 a.m. • Welcome and Introductions
11:15 a.m. • Overview of Agenda/Priorities/Discussion
                    Add topics for municipal priorities
Noon - 1:00 p.m. • Lunch – Networking
1:00 p.m. • Key Talking Points
                    What are your highest priorities as a Mayor?
                    What are your goals?
                    What would you like see ACoM accomplish this year?
                    What can ACoM do for you?
3:15 p.m. • Community Updates - Discuss for 2 or 3 minutes important or exciting news from your community.
5:30 - 7:00 p.m. • Reception at the AML and AML/JIA offices at 2nd and Seward St. above Wells Fargo.

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

All Day • Open House at AML Offices. Come by for coffee and snacks, make copies and phone calls, and watch Gavel to Gavel.

8:00 a.m. • Community Updates continued
9:00 a.m. • Cracker Barrel Discussions
11:00 a.m. • Working with the media
Noon - 1:00 p.m. • Lunch
                    Grassroots lobbying
                    "If I Were Mayor, I Would..." Essay Contest
1:00 p.m. • Governor Murkowski (invited)
2:00 p.m. • Community Jails Meeting
2:00 p.m. • Visit capitol building to meet with legislators.
                    Sit in the galleries for the legislative sessions, attend committee hearings
4:00 p.m. • Reconvene for reports/wrap-up
Employment Opportunities

Use the Touchstone Classified section to advertise equipment for rent, lease or sale; and/or job opportunities. Contact Betty Svensson at 586-1325 for more information. View classified ads online at www.akml.org.

Borough Clerk
Kenai Peninsula Borough
The borough clerk is appointed by the borough assembly and performs such duties as are defined by state statute and borough ordinances and as directed by the assembly. Areas of responsibility include administration of legislative functions, elections and the records management division. Minimum qualifications: Bachelor’s degree in public administration or a related field and seven years experience in local government, including at least 4 years supervisory experience. Experience may be substituted for education on a 2 year for 1 year basis. Possession of professional certification with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) is preferred at appointment and must be attained within 3 years of appointment. Salary DOE plus excellent benefits. Apply to Kenai Peninsula Borough Human Resources Office, 144 N. Binkley St., Soldotna, AK 99669. Closes February 10, 2005.

City & Borough Administrator
City & Borough of Sitka
Reports to Mayor and 6-member Assembly elected—at-large. $40m. operating budget, $34m. capital budget. 150 full time employees. Services include fire, police, water, electric generation & distribution, public works, planning, assessing, harbors, library, parks & rec, and airport. Bachelor’s Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration or a closely related field; and extensive experience in a senior management position, preferably with government. Primary industries are fishing, health care, tourism, recreation, and education. Strong budget, legislative process and economic development skills desired with demonstrated results in organization and planning. Salary range $83,200 - $117,540 per year DOQ/E. A complete job description is available at www.cityofsitka.com. Please send or fax resumes and references to: City and Borough of Sitka, Human Resources, 100 Lincoln Street, Sitka, Alaska 99835, (907) 747-7403 fax. (907) 747-1816, or markd@cityofsitka.com for any questions. Application deadline is 4:45 p.m. February 10, 2005. EOE

Assistant Borough Attorney
Matanuska-Susitna Borough
Attorney will assist in the Borough Attorney’s Office with providing legal services to Borough elected officials, administration, school district, & boards & commissions. Reviews & drafts legislation & contracts & serves as legal counsel in civil & criminal proceedings. Graduation from an accredited law school. Knowledge of contract, real property, tax, bankruptcy, administrative, labor & land use law is desired. Ability to successfully work with all types of people in a variety of settings. Some practical experience required, preferably in a government or corporate setting. Licensed to practice law in Alaska or obtain license within 30 days of hire. Ability to obtain an Alaska driver’s license upon hire. Clear driving record & criminal background check required. Salary commensurate with relevant experience, full benefits package. Women & minorities are encouraged to apply. Application deadline 4/21/05 at 5:00 p.m. Submit application to Matanuska-Susitna Borough Human Resource Office, 350 East Dahlia Ave, Palmer, AK 99645-6488. Application available on website at www.matsugov.us. EOE.

Kodiak Island Borough
Borough Manager
The Manager serves as the CAO & reports to the seven-member Assembly. The Manager enforces Borough laws & ordinances, administers policies of the Assembly, manages budget & capital improvements program. Require bachelor’s degree (prefer MA) in business/public administration or a closely related field from an accredited college or university & 5 years experience as a municipal administrator; Alaska experience a plus. A combination of education & experience will be considered in lieu of educational requirement. Must possess strong financial, legislative, and economic development skills with demonstrated results in planning and organization. Residency required. For application packet, contact: Lauri Whiddon at (907) 486-9301, email lwhiddon@kib.co.kodiak.ak.us Send application & supplementing documentation to: Kodiak Island Borough, Attn: Lauri Whiddon, 710 Mill Bay Road, Kodiak AK 99615. Application deadline: February 11, 2005. EOE

City Administrator
City of Delta Junction
Area population 4000+, strong growth with Missile Defense at Fort Greely, Pogo Gold Mine, TAPS, potential Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, potential interim terminus Alaska Railroad, potential Borough formation. Warm summers & cold winters, 2004 Alaska Chamber of the year. Information at www.ci.delta-junction.ak.us
City of Soldotna
Police Recruit
The City maintains a force of 12 sworn positions in the Police Department. Salary range for this Position is Range 7, $36,628.80 to $40,248.00, DOE with an opportunity to step up to Range 9, Police Officer I, after successful completion of the one year probationary period. Applicants must meet the minimum standards required for certification by the Alaska Police Standards Council. Minimum desired level of education is two years of college from an accredited institution. Testing may include a written general aptitude test, a physical agility test, oral interviews and polygraph and psychological exams. Apply by sending an Alaska Police Standards Council Form #F3 to the Soldotna Police Department, 44510 Sterling Highway, Soldotna, Alaska 99669 by 5:00 PM, Friday, January 21, 2005.

City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Nome
Duties include: attend all regular and special Council meetings and keeps the journal of the City; acts as parliamentary advisor to the City Council; administers and issues a variety of licenses and permits; manages and maintains municipal records; serves as designated official keeper of all permanent City records; administers all municipal elections; with assistance of the City Assessor, administers tax assessment, exemption, collection rolls and records; as City Treasurer, is responsible for receipting of funds; administers sales tax program, in conjunction with Finance Department, including reporting, collection and enforcement. Minimum qualifications are Bachelor’s degree (B.A.) in business administration and four years experience as an administrative officer. Work experience as an administrative officer in a related field may substitute for education on a year for year basis. Ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing, as well as working knowledge of local government and working knowledge of city, state and federal laws and regulations, and strong supervisory skills. $59,000 - $72,000 DOE, excellent benefits. Send resume or make inquiries to City Manager, City of Nome, Pouch 281, Nome, AK 99762. Call Randy Romenesko at (907) 443-6600 for more information and detailed position vacancy announcement. Closes January 28, 2005.

Public Works Director
City of Craig
The City of Craig is seeking an experienced and talented Public Works Director to manage a department with eight employees and who is committed to customer service. Responsibilities include water, wastewater, streets, solid waste collection, fleet operation and maintenance and other duties. Participates in and/or manages the construction of capital improvements. Must have a HS diploma and ten years progressively more responsible public sector work experience including a minimum of three years proven and satisfactory supervisory experience. $45-50,000 DOE, plus benefits. Position will remain open until filled. Contact the City of Craig, P.O. Box 725, Craig, AK 99921. Phone: (907) 826-3275 for more information. EOE.
AML Associates & Affiliates

Many businesses and professional groups have found a way to increase their exposure to municipal officials by becoming an AML Associate. Associate membership allows an organization to receive League publications and reduced rates on advertising. If you are interested in becoming an Associate or placing an ad in The Touchstone, please contact Betty Svensson at (907) 586-1325 or betty@akml.org.

ATTORNEYS
Hicks, Boyd, Chandler & Falconer
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ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENTS
Alaska Division of Emergency Services

SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Copper River School District
Iditarod Area School District
Pribilof Island Schools
Yukon-Koyukuk School District

ENGINEERING
CH2M Hill, Inc.
HDR, Inc.

FINANCIAL SERVICES/BANKING
Alaska Permanent Capital Management
Mikunda, Cottrell & Company
Denali Alaskan Federal Credit Union
Wells Fargo
Elgee, Rehfeld, Mertz, LLC
Key Bank NA

MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATIONS
Alaska Association of Assessing Officers
Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association
Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks
Alaska Conference of Mayors
Alaska Fire Chiefs Association
Alaska Gov’t Finance Officers Assoc.
Alaska Municipal Management Assoc.
Alaska Recreation and Park Association
Southeast Conference
Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference

SERVICES
Alaska Railroad Corporation
ICMA Retirement Corporation
Caselle, Inc.
Black Mountain Software
Capital Information Group
Rural Alaska Community Action Program
Central Council of Tlingit & Haida
Northern Economics, Inc.
ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc
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Information Insights, Inc.
911 Insights

Louisiana W. Cutler
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HOME: (907) 345-9810
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Email:jspindle@icmarc.org
 Territory Director’s Office: 900-357-7877
Investor Services: 1-800-696-7400

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www.akrr.com / E-mail: lindskoogw@akrr.com

51 Locations in Alaska
1-800-TO-WELLS
wellsfargo.com
The Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks will hold its Annual Conference and Business Meeting in Juneau, February 3-6, 2005.

This is a once a year opportunity for municipal clerks around the state to gain professional level training and education for their unique profession.

For more information go to www.akml.org and click on the AAMC - Clerks bar. You may also contact Annie McIlvain at (907) 586-1325.

The Southwest Alaska Municipal Association (SWAMC) will hold its Annual Conference on January 27-28, 2005 in Anchorage at the Captain Cook Hotel.

Agenda Highlights include:
- CDQs/CQEs: Re-engineering the Fisheries Economy
- Digging for Gold: Developing Southwest Alaska's Mineral Potential
- Southwest Alaska Quality of Life - Regional Sustainability
- Health Care in Alaska's Southwest
- Great Experiences and Placemaking: The Art of Rural Tourism

For more information contact SWAMC at (907) 562-7380 or go to www.swamc.org.