

EKLUTNA VILLAGE NEWS



Spring 2022

NVE Offices are open to the public by appointment only. Masks are required at all times in the offices. All departments are operating normally. Please contact the main office at 907-688-6020 to schedule an appointment or for more information.



NVE Annual Meeting

The NVE Annual Meeting will be held virtually on Saturday April 9th at 1pm. Annual meeting packets were sent out to tribal members in March. If you have not received your packet, please contact the NVE office at 907-688-6020 or email nveelection@eklutna.org



The meeting will be held via Zoom. Login information is included in the packet material and is on the homepage of the NVE Website (eklunta-nsn.gov). This link will also be sent out on Saturday morning on the members only Facebook page.

Please direct any questions, comments, or concerns about the annual election to nveelection@eklutna.org.

(Continued inside)



Is your contact information correct?

Please take a few minutes to make sure your current contact information is available to the Enrollment office. This is where the mailing lists come from for sending out newsletters, important information, and information on the annual meeting/elections. The Address Change form can be found under the forms tab on the NVE website (www.eklutna-nsn.gov/forms/) or contact the main office and a form can be emailed or mailed to you. 907-688-6020

Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Council Members

Aaron Leggett, President
Maria Coleman, Vice-President
Shirley Craig, Treasurer
Dorothy Cook, Secretary
Tresia Coleman, Trustee
Dustin Lorah, Trustee
Angeleen Waskey, Trustee

Mission Statement

To empower lydlughet Qayaht'ana (Eklutna Village People) and stenghten our Nation.



This publication is funded in full or in part through grants, compacts, or contracts obtained by Native Village of Eklutna, a federally recognized Tribal Government.



Native Village of Eklutna

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need Help with Applications and Resources?

Family Health Resources are available through South Central Clinics (SCF). The teams can screen and assist community members and beneficiaries to apply for additional insurance coverage's and resources over the phone that may be available to them including:

Medicaid/ Medicare, Social Security, Veterans health Benefits, TSHIP, food stamps and other assistance programs.

For assistance please call, Inga Moe 907-631-7352 at Valley Native Primary Care Center or Call the direct number at Alaska Native Medical Center 907-729-4470 and ask to speak to a Health Benefits Specialist.

Enrollment Drive

NVE Enrollment office is conducting an Enrollment Drive. If you know of someone who has not got their enrollment paperwork submitted, please have them contact 688-6020 or email nve.enrollment@eklutna.us. Enrollment applications can be found on the NVE website under the Forms tab.

NVE Food Bank

The NVE Food is open on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm. During this time, we are asking recipients to call the main office before they arrive to the food bank location and order a food box. Food boxes are pre-made when ordered and will be available for contactless pickup on the stairs of the food bank building. The food bank is located beside the main office For more information, call 688-6020

The NVE Food Bank has a change in hours for only the week of Christmas. Food bank will be open on **TUESDAY DECEMBER 21** instead of Wednesday of that week.



UPCOMING EVENTS

An event calendar is now online! Check out the calendar at www.eklutna-nsn.gov.

NVE Annual Meeting - NVE's annual meeting will be held April 9th. Please make sure your address is correct with the NVE Enrollment Office to receive ballot information. A change of address form can be found online at www.eklutna-nsn.gov/forms/ or it can be requested by calling 907-688-6020

Bats! Come join the Land and Environment Department as we host ADF&G's Bat Biologist as she talks about bats. The event will be in the Village, exact site to be determined. Event is on June 24th @5pm.



NVE Culutre Camp - the annual NVE culture camp will be held August 1st through the 5th at the NVE PowWow Grounds. If you would like to be an adult volunteer, please contact cbrophil@eklutna.org or call 907-688-8522

Back-to-School Event/Picnic - Friday August 5th as part of the Culture Camp. Everyone is invited to join to have lunch, see what the kids have done during the culture camp, and get ready to go back to school.

If you would like a back to school supply kit, please send names, ages, and grade level information to dharris@eklutna.org or call 907-688-6020 so that we can add them to the list.

Community Spring Picnic- On Saturday May 7th from 10-3pm, the Land and Environment Department will host a picnic to celebrate the communtiy. This will be in coordination with the community clean up week and an open house for the ETCD Communtiy Garden. NVE Departments will have booths and activities for the kids. This event will be outside at the new TMSB Building.

Future events will be posted on the NVE website and Facebook as they are created. If you would like to join an email mailing list for NVE Events, please email cbrophil@eklutna.org or call 907-688-8522

COMMUNITY NEWS



Congratulations to Dredon Holmes for making 2nd Quarter Honor Roll!

Congratulations to Dredon Holmes for making 2nd Quarter Honor Roll at Begich Middle School! Son of Shannon and Anthony Holmes and the grandson of Angeleen Waskey. He enjoys many activities percussion drums, basketball, video gaming, working on small engines, carving and catching big fish.

Congratulations to Hailee Adams for making 1st Quarter Honor Roll!

Hailee is the daughter of Amanda and Jason Adams and the granddaughter of Lee and Anna Stephan. She is in 6th grade at Mirror Lake Middle School. Hailee plays the clarinet and participates in Spirit Club.



Congratulations to Aahliya Coleman!

Aahliya finished the Alaska Military Youth Academy in December! Aahliya is the daughter of Rrita Coleman and granddaughter of Maria Coleman.

Call for Newsletter Submissions!

We are asking for the community to submit newsletter articles, artwork, poems... anything that you would like to share with everybody else. Submissions for the next newsletter are due by **June 3rd**. Email submissions to cbrophil@ekutna.org, snail mail to the main office, or drop it off at the main office!



NVE Job Postings can always be found online at www.eklutna-nsn.gov/jobs/

Social Services Case Manager/Tribal Court Liaison - Provides prevention, early intervention, case management and supportive services for NVE's Social Services Department. BS in Social Services/Psychology/Counseling or related field required. Minimum 2 years case management required. Pay DOE with 90-day probationary period. To view full announcement, see www.eklutna-nsn.gov/jobs/

Tribal Council Support Position - *Part-time Position* (30-60 hours/month) Provides support services to the NVE Tribal Council in Enrollment Coordination, Meeting Records, and other governmental services. Pay DOE. To view full announcement, see www.eklutna-nsn.gov/jobs/

Seasonal TWG Technician - *Seasonal Position* not to exceed 840 hours. Provides support to the Land and Environment Department on the Eklutna River Habitat Characterization Grant. This is an outdoor position. Pay is \$20/hour. Please fill out an NVE Employment application and submit a resume with three references to cbrophil@eklutna.org. *Deadline for applications is April 8, 2022.*



NVE Annual Meeting

Election forms can be found online, both on the homepage and under the forms tab. They can also be requested via email from nveelection@eklutna.org



Calendar for the Annual Meeting

- March 22 - Requests for Candidacy Due by 1pm
- April 3 - Online Voting Begins
- April 8 - Last Day to hand in absentee ballots
- April 9 - Virtual Annual Meeting from 1-4pm via Zoom

The TMSB building with skirting completed. Fall 2021



NVE Maintenance Updates



A message from Walter:

Since being back at the Village, I have been working on the TMSB skirting and getting the parking lot leveled. As well as working with Enstar to have the meter and gas hooked up to the Building to get the building self sufficient with its own power. Ordered the material to sheetrock and paint the new food bank. Also worked on the roof for the L&E Dept. I will be working on getting a material list for another step for the TMSB and wheel chair ramp with overhead roof as to minimize snow and water on the ramp to help eliminate falls or slips.



Had all the tires and oil changed on the vehicles. Also serviced the tractor first time it has been done since 2010! We cleaned up the parking area by the office and food bank prior to winter for snow removal.

Upcoming projects are to work with contractors to get our rental houses repaired.

Above: The TMSB Building before skirting and during the skirting process. More projects on the exterior are scheduled for spring.

The NVE Maintenance Department has also been busy plowing snow since its arrival and finishing the interior of the new food bank building. The TMSB building has more projects to be completed and slowly the maintenance crew will tackle these as well.

**Welcome to our new part-time Maintenance/Driver
Herman Chilligan!**





HEALTHY EATING

Noodles and Cottage Cheese

This is an inexpensive dish to make, it can be a side-dish or add in canned salmon or moose to make a casserole. Very good paired with white fish. Serves 6 - 8 people as a side.

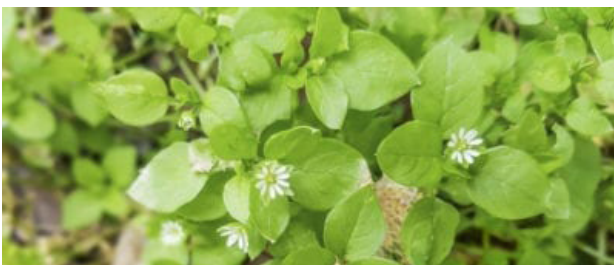


Ingredients:

- 1 package of egg noodles (or any noodle), cooked and drained but still warm
- 1 container of cottage cheese (either the 8 oz or 16 oz, depending on how much you like cottage cheese)
- Two medium to large potatoes cut into small pieces and cooked until soft.
- 1 stick of unsalted butter
- parsley, 1/2 cup fresh or 2 TBSP dried

In a pot (you can use the same one from cooking the noodles) melt the butter and mix the noodles back into the melted butter. Sautee for a minute or so to evaporate any water left in the noodles. Add the cooked potatoes, cottage cheese, and parsley. Heat until the cottage cheese is warm, but not melted. Can add pepper to taste.

To cook potatoes in the microwave - dice potatoes and put in a microwave safe bowl. cover with water and heat for about 7 minutes. Use a bigger bowl than you would think as the potatoes will boil over. Potatoes are done when they can be pierced by a fork easily. Can use canned whole potatoes as a substitute.



Chickweed, a common plant/weed in Alaska

Can add:

- Chickweed, spinach, or lambsquarter
- sauteed onions
- sauteed cabbage
- Sauteed garlic
- Canned meat of choice, clams, or mussels

NVE Staff

NVE has updated the phones and staff members now have direct lines. The department direct lines and emails are listed below. For general information contact the main office at 907-688-6020 or nve@eklutna.org.

Administration

Dorothy Cook,
Acting Tribal Administrator
dcook@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Faith Rukovishnikoff
faithr@eklutna.org
907-688-1801

Sharron Munson
nvareceptionist@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Social Serives

Dawn Harris
dharris@eklutna.org
907-688-1803

Enrollment

Dorothy Cook
907-688-6020

Maintenance/Roads Dept.

Walter Ondola
wondola@eklutna.org
907-688-1806

Food Bank

Lewis Stephan
907-688-6020

Land and Environment

Marc Lamoreaux
marcl@eklutna.org
907-242-6967

Carrie Ann Brophil
cbrophil@eklutna.org
907-691-4843

Kyle Robillard
krobillard@eklutna.org
907-390-9003

Office 907-688-8522

Seasonal LE Staff

907-688-8522

Offices are staffed from 9am - 5pm
Monday - Friday



Land and Environment News

Daylight savings means that things are ramping up in the Land and Environment Department. We have been busy getting things ready for this summer field season, researching and applying for grants, and helping around the main office. We have also been busy with the coordination of a Community Spring Picnic, the Village Community Clean-up, and the summer Culture Camp. Currently we are looking for volunteers that would like to help with the culture camp and anyone who would like to teach a cultural skill to the youth/attendees. There will be a part time position opening to help with the coordination as well.



Collecting data on the Eklutna River above Eklutna Lake during the summer 2021

Believe it or not, the winter time was the slow time of year for the Land and Environment Department. We kept busy by writing reports, analyzing data collected during this summer field season, working on up-coming grants, and planning the next field season. In that mix, we have assisted the NVE Maintenance Department in replacing the roof on the Land and Environment Office, assisted the NVE Food Bank with Turkey Basket Distribution, and attended trainings to allow our staff to assist in other departments if needed. The winter season was also the continuing education season, with most seminars/webinars and trainings happening during this time. These are important for our staff to attend as they not only pertain to advancements in the Natural Resource field, but also help us navigate through federal legislation changes and granting requirement changes. Below are some recaps on some of our current projects:



Eklutna River 2021 Field Season Recap

2021 was an eventful year on the Eklutna River. As part of an ongoing study being conducted by the power companies that operate the Eklutna Hydroelectric project, water was released from the lake and into the river for the first time in decades.

Left: Salmonoid in fish viewer. This is the size we are catching in the minnow traps to monitor abundance and species composition.

During the 2021 field season, the Land and Environment Department began habitat surveys in the upper Eklutna River, conducted juvenile salmon trapping, and performed salmon spawning surveys in the lower river. These activities were performed with the assistance of a Tribal Wildlife Grant, awarded to NVE by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Here is a summary of our activities:

Upper Eklutna Habitat Surveys- In June, L&E staff performed habitat surveys in the East Fork of the Upper Eklutna River (above Eklutna Lake). Habitat units were characterized for suitability as salmon habitat. The goal of this portion of the project is to determine if there is suitable salmon habitat in the upper river, how much is available, and where it is located. Ideally, these data will be used to inform management and mitigation decision making regarding the dam at Eklutna Lake.

Juvenile Salmon Trapping- Under a permit from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, L&E staff conducted minnow trapping for juvenile salmon throughout the summer from the river mouth up until the river ran dry.

Additional trapping was conducted in the East Fork of the Upper Eklutna River. 92 trap deployments were conducted, and we documented King, Coho, and Pink salmon juveniles. We did not capture any Sockeye or Chum juveniles. Coho juveniles were found in strong numbers in suitable rearing areas.

In addition to these salmon, Dolly Varden, Three-spine stickleback, Alaska blackfish, and sculpin were also documented in the river. The Eklutna River is beyond the native range of the Alaska blackfish, and to our knowledge this is the first time this species has been documented in the system. A report was filed with ADFG.

Spawning Surveys- L&E staff began surveying the river for spawning salmon in early June and continued through the month of October. King,

Pink, Chum, and Coho salmon were observed spawning in the river. However, only pink salmon were seen in appreciable numbers. King, Chum, and Coho return numbers were startlingly low when compared to the last time NVE surveyed and are cause for concern.

More in depth reports will be featured in upcoming newsletter articles as data is analyzed. All three of these projects will continue next year. 2022 work in the upper Eklutna will focus on further habitat surveys, this time in the Upper West Fork. Juvenile trapping and spawner surveys will be repeated to monitor population trends and changes in habitat usage due to the changes the river experience during the water releases this year.

If you would like more information, or would like to get involved in these projects, please contact the Land and Environment Department at (907)688-8522.



Photos: Top right - Kyle Robillard working with the minnow traps, Left top - Spawning salmon, Left bottom - Spawned out salmon

Scan the QR code to go to the NVE L&E Webpage.



Land and Environment Department Launches New Reporting Tool

Did you know that the NVE Land and Environment Department has a contaminated sites program? Through the support of the Tribal Council and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the L&E Department keeps track of contaminated sites in our area and works with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to ensure that contaminated sites are assessed and cleaned up in a timely manner.



One type of contaminated site that we deal with are known as Brownfields. Brownfields are contaminated sites which could be targeted for cleanup and reuse or redevelopment. According to the EPA, a 'brownfields site' is defined as real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Another Brownfields site qualification is that there is no solvent responsible party. We obtain information on new sites from the ADEC and from community input and are now launching a new tool to make it easier for you to report a potential Brownfield site to us.



You can now use an online form to report a contaminated site. You can find the form using the QR code on this page or by visiting the Contaminated Sites page on the NVE website. There you can enter information regarding the location and the issues that you are concerned about regarding the site. You can also leave your contact information so that a member of the L&E Department can contact you if we need any further information (contact information is optional and will not be shared).

This form is to be used to report a potential Brownfield, **NOT to report a chemical or petroleum spill!** If you need to report a spill, contact ADEC at 907-269-3063 during business hours or 1-800-478-9300 outside of regular business hours.



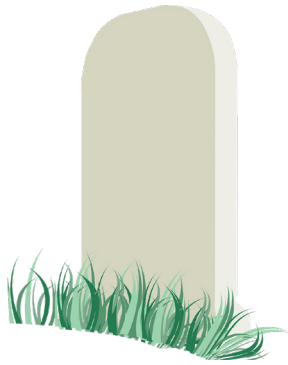
Adopt-a-Highway



The Land and Environment Department would like to adopt a stretch of highway on behalf of the Village of Eklutna through the Alaska Department of Transportation. Adopting a Highway is a great opportunity to beautify our community, protect our environment, and show pride in our home! Adopting a highway is a 3-year commitment to clean the adopted stretch of highway three times per year. If you are interested in participating, please let the L&E Department know by calling 907-688-8522 or emailing krobillard@eklutna.org. Volunteering for this program is open to anyone 12 years or older.

The Glenn Highway by the Village that would be in the clean-up area

Eklutna Vocational School Cemetery



Several likely graves associated with the former Eklutna Vocational School were located in forest across the highways from Eklutna Village and described during cultural resources survey for the Old Glenn Highway bridge replacement in 2014. NVE subcontracted assistance to the project, and George Ondola and Tim Alex located the graves. There is one wooden grave marker for a young woman, possibly from Tyonek, born in 1911 and died in 1928. Esteemed former Elder George Ondola also indicated 2 unmarked graves close by and said there were around 8 graves in the area from the 1930s, which was during the school operation. Some indistinct, shallow depressions under leaf litter were noted in the area, but not further investigated.

For over 150 years, beginning around 1918, the United States enacted laws and policies promoting Indian boarding schools across the nation. US Indian boarding schools were designed to culturally assimilate Indigenous children by forcibly relocating them to distant facilities where their Native identities, languages, and beliefs were suppressed. Many students suffered injury and abuse. Some died and were buried in unmarked graves.

In 2021 the US Department of Interior, under Secretary Deb Haaland, initiated the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to address the intergenerational, traumatic impact of Indian boarding schools, starting with archival records research being pursued by BIA. This occurred as the remains of more than 1,000 Indigenous children were found at former residential schools in Canada.

NVE is applying for a small grant to participate in and guide addressing the Eklutna Vocational School Cemetery. Phase 1 would include investigating historical knowledge and records, and consultation with BIA, which is tasked with finding relevant archives. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) assessment would be contracted to verify and further characterize the graves. Some clearing, to be minimized, would be needed to conduct the GPR. Phase 2 would use information from phase 1 of the cemetery investigation. It could include consideration and installation of a memorial monument for the graves. Other commemoration could also be considered. More consultation with Federal and other Tribal governments whose youth may have been relocated to Eklutna and impacted, could be included to commemorate and manage the cemetery.



NALMEP Fall Survey

The FY22 NALMEP field work was conducted this past October. This was the last section to be surveyed using the magnetometers for buried drums and included the current Eklutna River Channel. No drums were found, although there was a wide array of debris in the area from the recent water release and from the highway. Smaller items were removed at the end of the survey, but larger items remain to be picked up. The next NALMEP work is being planned and would not start until FY23.



*Top photo: Lewis Stephan walking on the NALMEP Survey in October
Bottom photo: NALMEP Crew members walking the survey grid by the Eklutna River*



ETCD NEWS



The ETCD has been working hard on getting the supplies and logistics ready to bring in a conex and set up the hydroponics area of the greenhouse and create the outdoor community garden. We are narrowing down the choices of what to grow this first year – focusing more on the greenhouse/hydroponics area for year one and designing the outdoor area to provide the maximum yield for the area available. We will be clearing some land and using the trees as the base for a hügelkultur style garden and biochar to help ammend the soil. Some of the plants we would like to grow this season are: brocolli, cauliflower, rhubarb, cucumber, tomatoes, lettuces/kale, and herbs. We are making the decisions on what to grow based off of the community survey that went out online a few months ago. If you would still like to complete the survey you can find it here (<https://forms.gle/YuTpceDcBV4XUGELA>) or scan the QR code to access it from a mobile device.

The ETCD is also offering an online training course in Permaculture free of charge! Check out the new ETCD page under Land and Environment on the NVE website for educational links on types of gardens, free pdfs, and more!

On Saturday May7th, the ETCD will be at the Community Spring Picnic hosted by the Land and Environment Department. Come by our table for a free garden activity, information on gardening, and to take a look at our community garden site.



Nuntnghel'it

"I will see you again"

We would like to take a moment to remember our elders and community members who have passed this past year. All will be remembered with love in our hearts.

Bat Science Opportunity in Eklutna

Bats are an important part of the ecosystem and help control insect populations- including those pesky mosquitoes! According to the National Park Service, bats provide more than \$3.7 billion worth of pest control annually... For free! Certain species are important pollinators as well. Unfortunately, bat populations are in decline due to multiple threats including climate change, habitat loss, and a fungal disease known as white-nose syndrome (WNS).

Alaska is home to at least six species of bats, but the one we are most likely to see here in Southcentral are little brown bats. They are only about 3-4 inches in length with about an 8.5-inch wingspan, but they fly at an average of 12mph, with a top speed of around 20 mph! They typically live around 10 years but have been reported to live up to 34 years. Little brown bats are fairly widespread here in Alaska, but little is known about their population numbers or winter hibernating locations.



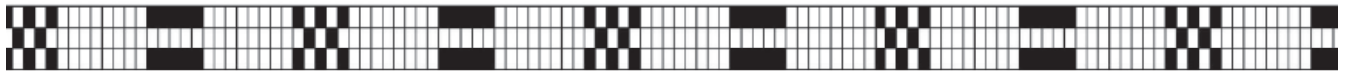
Little Brown Bat Photo credits unknown

Alaska Department of Fish and Game have joined with the North American Bat Monitoring Program to monitor and find out more about bat populations in our area. The Land and Environment Department is joining this partnership and will be deploying acoustic monitoring sensors in our area next July.

Volunteers, especially youth, are invited to join us for a presentation on bats and the monitoring equipment on Friday, June 24th, and then to help with deploying the equipment in early July.

More details on these events will be available soon!

If you'd like more information about the project or about bats in general, visit ADFG's bat page at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifediversity.citizenscience&project=bats or the North American Bat Monitoring Program website at www.nabatmonitoring.org



Łiq'a nagh qinqtudet

We are hopeful the salmon will return to us



WWW.EKLUTNARIVER.ORG



Annual Community Clean-Up Week

May 1th – May 7th



Trash collection Thursday, Friday, and Saturday morning

Community Clean-up and Barbeque on Saturday May 7th, 10am – 3pm

The Land and Environment Department will be able to haul large items to the dump. Due to funding, only items in the Village can be picked up for this event.

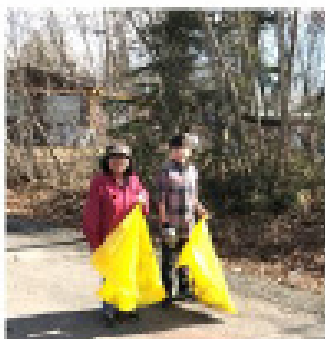
- Place items by the road at the end of your driveway
- Be available to assist loading the trailer
- We cannot take whole vehicles at this time

Fees

- Household goods (chairs, couches, washers, dryers, other household trash) – *no charge*
- Refrigerators and Freezers - *\$20 per unit* (fee from the landfill)
- Hazardous wastes (old paint cans, old oil cans, pesticides/herbicides, car batteries) – *no charge*, but a form needs filled out for the landfill.

Barbeque is open to all tribal members, you do not have to live in the Village to participate!

Please call Carrie or Kyle (688-8522) to volunteer or for any questions



Fishing Season is almost here!

Sign-ups for the Educational Fish Net will start June 15th.

More information is on the Land and Environments Webpage for the 2022 season.



Stock Photo, NVE LE Dept.



NVE Council hard at work

The NVE Council works hard behind the scenes by attending meetings, performing basic administration tasks, and by keeping involved in matters that are of interest to the tribe.

NVE Council attending a meeting between NVE and the Municipality of Anchorage on December 8



Dena'ina words for the spring season

Early Spring (towards spring) – unch'

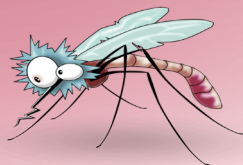
Flower – k't'un dendashini

Dripping water – tudelgit

Laughter – dleq'

Song – k'eliga

Mosquito Lotion – ts'is k'u'i





Native Village of Eklutna

Native Village of Eklutna
26339 Eklutna Village Rd.
Chugiak AK 99567

NVE Newsletter

Eklutna Native Village Tribal Office
26339 Eklutna Village Road
Chugiak, AK 99567

Main Office

Phone : (907) 688-6020

Fax : (907) 688-6021

Email : nve@eklutna.org

Land and Environment Office

Phone: (907) 688-8522

Fax: (907) 688-6021

Eklutna Village Clinic

26341 Eklutna Village Road

Chugiak, AK 99567

Phone : (907) 688-6031 Fax : (907) 688-6032

