

EKLUTNA VILLAGE NEWS



Summer 2023



President's Message

First let me start off by saying that I am continually grateful to have the opportunity to serve you as the President of the Native Village of Eklutna. It is an honor to represent you at the local, state, national, and international conferences that come to Anchorage as we deliver land acknowledgments and welcomings.

Bringing our culture and language back through the Indigenous Place Naming Project is a privilege. Many of you attended the fourth marker put in this month at Nuch'ishtunt, the place protected from the wind, also known as Point Woronzof. Our government-to-government meetings with the Anchorage Assembly are one of a kind. It is unique because we respectfully sit across from our counterparts and work on issues of mutual concern and benefit.

I enjoyed meeting with the youth at Culture Camp and sharing our stories and history. We are no longer invisible. More and more people are requesting Dena'ina Athabaskan words for buildings, organizations, and activities. We are being recognized and valued. We still have more work to do, but I've seen an increasing respect.

We have been hosting state and federal dignitaries at Eklutna, sharing our story as we work to get a fitting resolution to the dam and the return of our fish. We are doing this together, and I'm grateful for your support. Chin'an.

Aaron Leggett

Native Village of Eklutna Tribal Council Members

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

Mission Statement

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



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TA Notes



I hope you enjoy this September newsletter. So much is happening in Eklutna. You have a team dedicated to the mission "To empower Idlughet Qayeht'ana (Eklutna Village Dena'ina) by promoting the history, culture, and identity of our sovereign nation and to assist in the education and well-being of our Tribe."

See the articles on the successful 2023 Culture Camp. Chin'an, thank you to all who helped organize, teach, and participate. Thanks to the Health Board and Southcentral Foundation, we had a successful ATV training for kids. Our youth walked away with great helmets, goggles, and knowledge of how to be safe on their ATVs.

This summer, Tami Doone supervised four youths in the CITC Rural Youth Services program. The youth attended classes at CITC, took a tour of MTA, helped around the village with clean up, and did various other character-building tasks. If you have a teenager, plan on having them participate next year!

Marc and Kenidi Cambra hosted some work parties to create the Eklutna Garden and install moose fencing. They are, along with the Land and Environment staff, building a greenhouse to extend our ability to provide produce for our members.

Speaking of food, Whitney Waskey and Kyle have done a great job at the Food Bank, expanding to offer fresh produce from the Eklutna Garden. Remember to call ahead for your food box at (907) 688-6020.

You may have noticed some new construction around Eklutna; besides the greenhouse, there is a new pavilion on a concrete pad near the garden and Member Services Building. Walter Ondola and Lewis Stephan put on a new roof on the point shed and have kept the grounds around the clinic, removing dead trees, mowing, and weeding.

Valley Transit offers Demand Response stops on the Eklutna Ramp—call (907) 864-5000 (option 2) to reserve a ride. Elders (over 60) and Youth (17 & younger) ride free on Fridays. We are working with the Alaska Department of Transportation to locate a spot for a bus shelter perhaps next year.

NVE continues to offer van rides for medical appointments. In the first half of this calendar year, we have given 50 rides to members. We've provided homeowners assistance to a few homes in the village.

My door is always open or send me an email. We try hard to be responsive to your needs. bhewitt@eklutna.org.



Native Village of Eklutna

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need Help with Applications and Resources?

Family Health Resources are available through Southcentral Clinics (SCF). The teams can screen and assist community members and beneficiaries to apply for additional insurance coverage 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 Ongoing

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 907-688-6020 or email enrollment@eklutna.org. Enrollment applications can be found on the NVE website under the Forms tab.

NVE Food Bank

The NVE Food is open on Wednesdays. We are asking recipients to call the main office Tuesday or Wednesday morning before noon to order a food box. Food boxes are pre-made when ordered and will be available for contact-less pickup on the stairs of the food bank. Hours for pick-up is 1pm-4pm. The food bank is located beside the main office.

For more information or to order a food box, call
907-688-6020

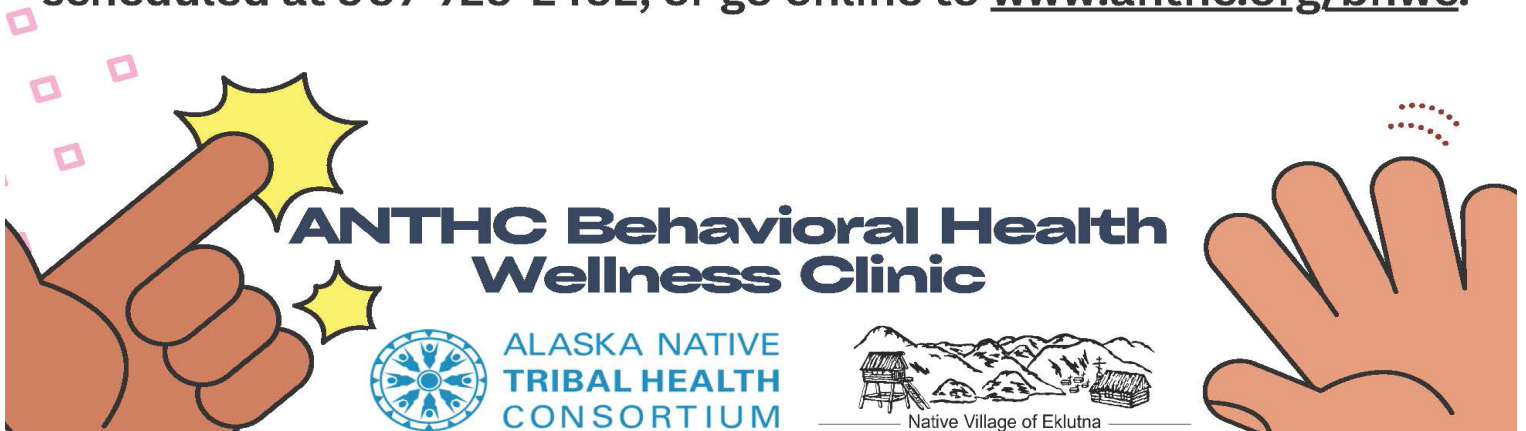




NEED HELP?

The ANTHC Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic (BHWC) currently has no waitlist and is available to complete same-week mental health and substance use assessments for adult tribal beneficiaries.

If you or another tribal member want an assessment and can attend telehealth appointments, you may contact the BHWC to get scheduled at 907-729-2492, or go online to www.anthc.org/bhwc.



ANTHC Behavioral Health Wellness Clinic



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM



Native Village of Eklutna

NVE Assistance Programs

Below is a list of assistance programs Native Village of Eklutna offers. Assistance programs are offered to enrolled tribal members only. We have staff that will assist in filling out forms. If you would like more information on the programs listed below, or need assistance in filling out forms, please contact the main office at 907-688-6020 during business hours. Most forms can also be found on our website under the forms tab. www.eklutna-nsn.gov

- **Funeral** - Assistance with funding for funerals \$1500 limit
- **Housing Assistance Fund** - Assistance with mortgages, utilities, etc. Excludes phones. \$5000 limit
- **Housing Emergency** - Assistance with utilities, rent, etc. Excludes Phones
- **Food Bank** - Weekly service for those who need it. For emergency boxes call the main office.
- **Home Rehabilitation Assistance** - for exisiting homeowners for emergency repairs, \$5000 limit.
- **Social Services Department** - They connect, strengthen, and maintain healthy family relationships. For any assistance involving family, youth, or elders.

Tribal Member Assistance Update

The bulk of NVE's pandemic related tribal member assistance funds have been depleted, however NVE still has some funds left in the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF). As of mid-August, there was approximately \$7,000 left in this fund. Tribal members who own their own homes and are experiencing mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, or loss of utilities or other home energy services can apply for these funds if they are low-income per the HUD guidelines. These HAF funds could be used for mortgage payment assistance, utility payment assistance (electric, gas, heating oil, and water), homeowner or condo association fees/liens, and home repairs to prevent homeowner displacement.

In addition to these pandemic related funds, NVE continues to have HUD funds available to low income enrolled tribal members, Alaska Natives, or American Indians within NVE's tribal jurisdiction who are experiencing a housing emergency. This assistance can be used for renting or utility payments or other situations where a family may become homeless. Families are eligible only once every 3 years for these funds and the maximum amount is currently \$1,000.

NVE's HUD program offers two more forms of assistance: (1) Down payment/closing cost assistance to encourage home ownership for tribal members who are first time home buyers. Eligible tribal members could receive up to \$5,000 in closing cost or down payment assistance with this program; and (2) Rehabilitation assistance to existing homeowners for energy related repairs and upgrades on low-income family homes. Up to \$5,000 is available to assist in improving the energy efficiency of the homes of eligible families.

If you would like to apply for these funds, please call the office (907-688-6020) and Whitney can assist you in finding the correct form. The forms are also available on the NVE website under the Forms tab and then the Member Services Forms section.



If you need help of any kind, please reach out to NVE Staff. Collectively we are a wealth of information and may have directions to get assistance.



Has your contact information changed recently?

Please take a few minutes to make sure your current contact information is available to the Enrollment office. This is where all mailing lists come from for sending out newsletters, important information, and information for the annual meeting and 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.



Lieutenant Governor Visits Eklutna River

Lieutenant Governor of Alaska, Nancy Dahlstrom, came to visit Eklutna in August. She participated in a tour of the Eklutna River Restoration project, along with Tom Barrett from Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Jason Brune former Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner, incoming DEC Commissioner Emma Pokon and staff.



And the winner is...



Design a logo for the Eklutna Community Clinic and win \$500.

Submissions will be accepted through **September 30, 2023.**

Please send submissions to the Eklutna Tribal Health Board via email at EklutnaTribalHealthBoard@eklutna.org

COMMUNITY NEWS



Tribal Member Kaylene Larwin participated in the Run for the River 5 kilometer race in Soldotna on June 10th, 2023. She placed 4th out of a field of 88 runners with a time of 27:25. The race was held by the Kenai Watershed Forum and proceeds go towards river restoration and preservation of habitat. Kaylene is the daughter of Tribal Member Sophie Ondola and granddaughter of John and Olga (Alex) Ondola



We would like to showcase the good things our tribal members are doing. Please submit a little blurb and a photo if you would like a family member to be acknowledged in the newsletter. Submissions can be to cbophil@eklutna.org, texted to 907-691-4843, or be submitted at the main NVE office.



Nuntnghel'it

"I will see you again"

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



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

NALEMP Field Crew Position. This is a short term laborer position. Job runs September 26th to October 6th. Pay \$26/hour. Location is Eklutna Village. To apply, please submit a NVE Job application.

Grant Writer/Management Specialist. This is a full time position with pay DOE. Benefits start after a 90-day probation period. Please submit a resume and cover letter to bhewitt@eklutna.org to apply.



- October 9th - Tribal Office Closed for Indigenous People Day
- November 10th - Tribal Office Closed for Veterans Day
- November 15th - Turkey Basket Distribution begins. For more information contact Whitney (wwaskey@eklutna.org or 907-688-6020)
- November 23rd and 24th - Tribal Office Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 1st - Tribal Council Meeting
- December 16th - Eklutna Potluck Christmas Dinner
- April 6th - NVE Annual Meeting and Election

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

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



HEALTHY EATING



Carrot Soup

- 2 Pounds carrots
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 Teaspoon salt
- 4 Tablespoon salted butter
- 1 Yellow onion
- 1 Teaspoon thyme
- 3 Cups water
- 3 Cups chicken broth
- 1 Cup heavy cream
- 2 Teaspoons fresh ginger

- Preheat the oven to 400°F.
- Clean the carrots and cut them into 1/4-inch rounds. Add them to a sheet pan, then drizzle with olive oil and salt.
- Roast the carrots at 400°F for about 35 minutes until they have softened and begun to caramelize.
- While the carrots roast, dice the onions. Add the butter to a large Dutch oven and cook over medium heat until it foams and the milk solids start to brown. Turn off the heat, add the thyme and cook for one minute, to infuse the butter.
- Turn the heat to medium and cook the onions in the browned butter until the onions are translucent about two minutes.
- Add the chicken broth, heavy cream, ginger, and water. Cover and leave the lid slightly ajar. Simmer until the carrots are done. Do not boil.
- When the carrots have begun to caramelize, take them out of the oven.
- Add the carrots to the chicken broth. Cook uncovered until carrots easily fall apart when pressed by a fork. There is no exact time for this, but it will be anywhere from 30 to 40 minutes, depending on the age of the carrots, how thick you cut them, how long you roasted them, and the cook temp of your soup.
- Add soup to a blender, Take the center cap off of your blender lid and cover it with a towel. Blend in two batches and puree.
- Season with salt and pepper to taste, and serve. Garnish with a dollop of sour cream and a few leaves of Italian parsley.



We would love to post some local or traditional foods!

If you have a recipe that you would like to share with everyone please submit it to NVE via email at nve@eklunta.org or snail mail at 26339 Eklutna Village Rd., Chugiak, AK 99567.



NVE Directory

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

Brenda Hewitt,
Tribal Administrator
bhewitt@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

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

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

Whitney Waskey
wwaskey@eklutna.org
907-688-6020

Lauren Astor
907-688-6020

Social Serives

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

Molly (Pepsi) Jacobson
mjacobson@eklutna.org
907-688-1809

Enrollment

Dorothy Cook
907-688-6020

Maintenance/Roads Dept.

Walter Ondola
wondola@eklutna.org
907-688-1805

Lewis Stephan
908-688-6020

Food Bank

Whitney Waskey
wwaskey@eklutna.org
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

**Offices are open from 9am - 5pm
Monday - Friday**

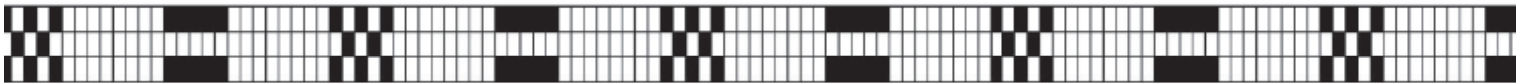
SCF ATV Safety Course

Southcentral Foundation held its first hands-on ATV safety course in Eklutna on August 12th, 2023, giving our Dena'ina youth a chance to get acquainted with a four-wheeler's basic mechanics and driving techniques. The participants had to enroll early enough to take an online e-course discussing the importance of safety and introducing All Terrain Vehicles' basic operations. The youth came to understand the e-course was worth it once they got a chance to see the new complimentary helmets and goggles that SCF provided for them and the ATVs that they would have a chance to practice riding.



The SCF instructors demonstrated turning techniques and how to manage rough terrain and obstacles. Although the hands-on course was a half-day session (about four hours long), the time went by fast, especially as the youth got more of a feel for the vehicles. It was a great way to ensure that the youth (despite how much or how little experience they had with ATVs) got good information on how to safely handle a piece of machinery that can lead to serious injury if not operated properly.

Instructors who were impressed by the amount of interest in the course stated that they are willing to put on another. Please note that the course can only accommodate eight students at a time. If interested, please contact SCFATVSafetyInitiative@southcentralfoundation.com.



Łiq'a nagh qinqtudet

We are hopeful the salmon will return to us



WWW.EKLUTNARIVER.ORG



Land and Environment News

The summer has been a very busy one for the Land and Environment Department. We have been attending meetings on the Eklutna River Restoration with our partners and the utilities. We are nearing the end of the study process that requires there be mitigation in the river. The outcome of this study process is to come up with a plan of implementation. Part of this implementation process will be completed by NVE LE Department in the future.

Spawning surveys have been completed weekly all summer to count the number of fish in the river. We have all species counted in the lower river, but again this year the numbers are low. The season is almost over and we will have an article in the next newsletter on how this year's surveys went.

Culture camp was a huge success. This event was held in conjunction with the Back-to-School event and a community picnic. Pictures are included below.

The Educational Fish net has also been a success this year. The permit is good until the end of September, but fishing has already slowed down. The road to the fish net site on the Eklutna side is eroding due to some drainage problems. We are looking into ways of fixing this. A new fish table was made and donated this year to replace the one that was destroyed last summer at this site. We would like to remind everyone that the upkeep at this site is voluntary and if you notice vandalism to please let us know. Thank you for keeping the site clean of garbage.



Kyle Robillard with the Sockeye they were able to catch during the spawning survey to collect genetic samples. Samples are being collected as part of a study to see if there is a distinct genetic stock still in the Eklutna River. Fish are released to finish their spawning after a sample is collected.



NVE Culture Camp

NVE Culture Camp was held from July 31st to August 4th. This was the biggest year yet! On average we had approximately 60 people daily, with over half being youth under 18. We had excellent weather, good participation from the attendees, and great talks. Some of the events this year were bear/moose safety from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, weather and clouds from the Anchorage National Weather Service office, traditional stories of birds from the Alaska Bird Center, and we even had a visit from an actual Great Horned Owl! Elders taught processing and smoking of salmon, fish net mending, and cache building. South Central Foundation assisted in the coordination of the camp, providing rides for participants from Anchorage, crafts, and in hosting a Native Youth Games demonstration/activity.

The salmon that was smoked was handed out to any participants who wanted some on the last day of the camp. The cache that was made was raffled off. Congratulations to Anna Stephan for winning the cache!

We would like some feedback from the camp from participants. If you attended the camp could you fill out a quick survey (<https://forms.gle/A78abJaBayTHW-7k8A>). This survey is online via the link to the left or it will be posted on the NVE Facebook page. We would like to know the good and the bad. We are also asking tribal members for ideas for next year's camp – what activities would you like to see? If you are interested in helping to coordinate for next years camp, please reach out. We will have a formal call for volunteers in the spring.



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







SALMON!

The net was set, fish were caught, and we had Eleanor Wilde to teach us her way of processing and drying the fish.

An impromptu smokehouse was made with the lumber from our pavilion that fell under this snow this winter, alder wood was gifted, and we smoked fish.







Native Youth Games



Cache Making

A pavilion is being erected in front of the community garden. We will have the pavilion finished before winter, but topsoil will have to wait until spring. If anyone would like to volunteer to put together picnic tables, work on getting the roof on the pavilion, or with any of the grounds work – come on over! We will gladly let you help! This pavilion will be able to be used by community members after its completion.



NVE 3rd Quarterly Council Meeting notes

All seven tribal council members attended the two half-day FY 23 Third Quarter Tribal Council meetings held at the Eklunta Community Clinic Conference Room on Monday, August 21, and Tuesday, August 22, 2023. President Leggett presided.

Several tribal members attended as well, and Jackie Kenshalo presented on the successful Youth Technology Tour held this summer. Some of the highlights of the meeting included four resolutions: Two that covered grant applications by the Land and Environment division, one to pursue BIA Leases for two buildings, and one resolution to refinance two apartment buildings the tribe owns in Anchorage.

Leadership has met with federal and state dignitaries, pushing for the Eklutna River Restoration and support for the Gathering Center. A new enrollment form was authorized to include phone numbers and email addresses so if the applications are not complete, staff can contact the applicant quicker than by postal mail.

The Health Board Chair announced improvements at the clinic to include additional dental services and Behavioral Health. Financially the tribe is in sound condition. The council approved the hire of a grant writer and the pursuit of a full slate of tribal codes.

A \$500 prize will be given to the member who creates the best logo for the Community Clinic. Watch for more about this on Facebook or contact the office if you know of a graphic artist in the tribe. Repairs will be made to the tribal office so we will be looking for contractors to submit bids soon. Contact the office if you'd like to be considered for remodeling work.



Rural Youth Service (RYS) employees picking up trash in the village. The RYS program is a CITC funded program for youth to help them gain experience and prepare for the workforce after highschool graduation.



ETCD NEWS

Fall News from the Garden

*Marc Cambra, Ag. and Education Coordinator/Farm Manager
Eklutna Community Garden*

Eklutna Community Garden has been a great success this year as the first year's hugelkultur demonstration is near its season's end. The varieties and amount of food produced so far in the outside food forest style garden has been awesome 453 lbs of food donated to the community so far. This September Eklutna will be hosting a Fall Knowledge exchange along with a dinner and Dance at Eklutna September 22nd. We have hosted Channel 2 News, Trailhead Farm and our ARF Videographers to know more about our Outreach to the Iliamna Region and what we are doing for our local community. So we have some good video interviews to look forward to. Please come by for gardening planning for next spring and fall to do things like planting Garlic. Please feel free to contact me at Eklutnagarden.com to talk one on one about your garden wants & needs





FIGURE 218

Dena'ina commercial salmon fishing at **Nuch'ishtunt**, (15.91, Point Woronzof) in the late 1930s. From left: Mike Yakasoff, Sr., Jimmy Ezi, Mike Yakasoff, Jr., Felix Yakasoff.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE AND SUZIE ONDOLA



Dena'ina words for the fall season

naqeli - fall/autumn

K'uhu ch' el' ani - hunting

Kununi - hunting skill

li gheli - hunting dog

benen nuk'nedeti - October

vava - dried/smoked fish

gega - berries

k'enugis – cut thin strips of dried salmon

netggits' i - apples



Native Village of Eklutna

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

Address Service Requested

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

Eklutna Village Clinic
26341 Eklutna Village Road
Chugiak, AK 99567
Phone: (907) 688-6031
Fax: (907) 688-6032

