

# THE PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION



## 2020 IN REVIEW

We can all agree that 2020 came with unique challenges. Despite these obstacles, PIA was able to accomplish a lot of extraordinary things.

With the CARES ACT COVID Relief funding, we were able to offer direct assistance such as food, rent/mortgage, utility, internet, some critical home repairs, increased food assistance for those diagnosed with COVID-19, and mortgage programs designed to ease some of the financial burden caused by COVID-19.

The Tribal Transportation Program has continued work on the Mountain View Manor Boardwalk, the William Musson Trail, the Howkan Street sidewalk, and more. The Transit Service has been running steadily and continues to be a useful resource to the community.

PIA was able to renovate the Elizabeth Peratrovich building to create much needed office space. A duplex and two studio apartments are currently being built and will serve as quality low income housing.

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program continues to maintain partnerships, and educate the public on the negative impacts of tobacco use. We are continuing to hold events that are safe, fun, and educational.

The IGAP Program is continuing to make compost, check ocean acidification and PSP levels in our waters, and has started working with two teens on their research project.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**MARCH 1, 2021**

PIA COUNCIL MEETING

Please join us on the first Monday of every month (excluding holidays) for our monthly Council Meeting at 6pm in the PIA Conference Room.

**APRIL 1, 2021**

TAKING DOWN TOBACCO DAY OF ACTION

Please follow along for the month of April as we take the Day of Action and turn it into a month of action! Follow along on our website, social media, and in Petersburg Pilot to learn about youth tobacco prevention.

## CLOSURES

The Petersburg Indian Association and Transit Service will be closed on the following dates in observance of holidays:

February 15th and 16th for Presidents Day and Elizabeth Peratrovich Day

March 29th for Seward's Day

April 2nd for an Employee Appreciation Day

**VISIT OUR  
FACEBOOK PAGE  
EVERY MONDAY  
FOR OUR WEEKLY  
E-NEWSLETTER**

# PIA TRIBAL COUNCIL


The 2021 PIA Tribal Council Election was held throughout the month of December 2020. Ballots were tabulated on January 5, 2020, and results were certified on January 11, 2021.

The 2021 Election was done differently than years prior. Ballots were mailed to all eligible voting members and could be returned or picked up during voting hours.

We appreciate everyone's patience and participation while trying this new process. Thank you to our judges Herbert Hanson, Cassandra Grant, Katie Edfelt, and Avery Herman-Sakamoto.

**ELECTION JUDGES'  
CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION**

FOR THE PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION  
2021 ANNUAL ELECTION  
TABULATED ON January 5, 2021

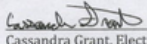
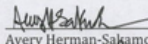
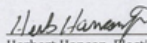
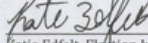


We, the undersigned Election Judges being duly sworn for this election and by our signatures below, do hereby certify to the Canvass Board that the results of tabulation are accurately and properly reported below.

Votes were cast as follows:

|   |    |
|---|----|
| <u>Council President</u><br>One 1-Year Term<br>Christina Morrison | 59 |
| <u>Council Member</u><br>Three 2-Year Term<br>Mary Katsse-Miller  | 19 |
| Jaclyn Lyons  | 49 |
| Jeanette Ness   | 44 |
| Brenda Norheim  | 43 |
| Joseph Stewart  | 49 |
| <u>JOM Parent Committee</u><br>One 2-Year Term<br>Thomas Kojima   | 69 |
| <u>JOM Parent Committee</u><br>One 1-Year Term<br>Victoria Moore  | 70 |

Signed on January 5, 2021

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <br>Cassandra Grant, Election Judge | <br>Avery Herman-Sakamoto, Election Judge |
| <br>Herbert Hanson, Election Judge | <br>Katie Edfelt, Election Judge         |

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT



*Christina Morrison*

Cris Morrison joined the Petersburg Indian Association Tribal Council in September 2017. She has served as Tribal Council President since May 2019. Cris is a lifelong Petersburg resident, spending only two years living off-island while attending college in the state of Washington. She and her husband have raised three sons, all of whom still reside in Petersburg. Cris's first job was at her family's grocery store when she was 14 years old. Her employment history also includes the Petersburg Police Department, Whitney-Fidalgo Seafoods, Petersburg Fisheries Inc, Harvest Moon restaurant, the Legislative Information Office, and the Alaska Court System. Currently, Cris is self-employed; she and her husband have been operating three family businesses in Petersburg for more than 25 years.

# COUNCIL MEMBERS



*Maryann Rainey*

Mary Ann Rainey is of the clan Eagle/Sharks from the Thunderbird House. Her Tlingit name is Kalk'ech, named after her grandmother. She has been a Council Member for years off and on. She is the liaison between the PIA Members and the Council. She reports what goes on at the PIA Department Director Meetings to the Council. She has 6 children, 18 grand children and 2 great grand children. She loves to work on crafts, especially ones that have to do with her native culture, such as weaving and button blanket regalia.



*Heather Conn*

Heather Conn is Petersburg grown with an ethnic background of both Aleut and Norwegian. Her family was adopted into the Eagle clan in 1978. She is a mother of three, wife, PIA council member, and the principal of Stedman Elementary School. She currently holds a Masters in Elementary Education, Special Education and Educational Leadership. Her passion is advocating for children and their families in which she serves. She is excited to bring her voice to the Petersburg Indian Association.





## Kayla Perry

Kayla has been on the Council for several years. Her great-grandmother is Marie Tagaban Reyes James, and her mother is Mary Reyes or “big grandma”. She is Wooshkeetaan Clan, Eagle Moiety Xeitl Hit (Thunder/Thunderbird House). They are descendants of the Auk people. Her Tlingit name is Kalxeich. Kayla is the loving mother of four children whom she calls her buddies. She enjoys traveling, camping, and sewing with them.



## Joseph Stewart

Joe Stewart is a long-time Petersburg resident who joined the Council in September 2018. He has been President of ANB/ANS for over five years and a member for over eighteen years. He is very interested in the future of Petersburg Indian Association, the programs it is involved in and the direction it will be going.



## Jaclyn Lyons



Jaclyn Lyons was born and raised in Petersburg. She is a proud descendant Amy Hallingstad, a great woman who fought tirelessly for the rights of Alaska Natives. Jaclyn has been a commercial fisherman since the age of 16, catching dungeness and tanner crab, and longlining for halibut. In her free time, she loves to be with her family. Whether it be cutting firewood, subsistence shrimping, playing board games with her fiancé, Lansing Eide, or spending quality time with their son, Sterling. She looks forward to serving her tribe and community.

## Jeanette Ness



Jeanette is a Raven, member of the clan Taakdeintan, or Sockeye House. Her Tlingit name is Kaash Kaanei. She has three grandsons (Jonathan, Elliott and Kolson) and three granddaughters (Charlee, Astrid and Laylani). They are the joys of her life! She was happily married to Jon Ness for 35 years before his passing in 2012. She retired in 2013 after working 30 years with Public Health. She worked for almost six years as the ICWA Caseworker for PIA. Although it was a difficult position, she enjoyed the families she worked with. She misses them and wants only the best for their futures. On a sunny day there is no place better to live than in Petersburg! She loves the community spirit and how we pull together in times of need.

She would like to develop economic services so PIA can be self sustainable and not rely solely on grants.

"PIA has proven its viability within the community. We need to focus on addressing the needs of our tribal members with education, housing and improving the lives of our tribe." - Jeanette Ness

# Tobacco Prevention and Control

Tobacco Prevention and Control, like many other programs and services, has looked different due to COVID-19. We had to cancel our usual Kick Butts Day movie activity, all our major events, but we have still found ways to interact with the community in a safe and fun way.

In July, we had a **cigarette butt cleanup** covering the downtown area. A photo of our littlest volunteer made it on to the front page of the newspaper. The PIA Natural Resource Management crew also volunteered with us.

In September we had a **rock hunt**. Positive messages and tobacco prevention messages were painted on rocks hidden around town, and the community set out to find them. All rocks were found, and it was a great way to spread positivity and get people out and active.



In October, we had a **Halloween Scavenger Hunt**. Kids of all ages were welcome to find all the items on the scavenger hunt that were both Halloween and tobacco education related. All those who participated took home Halloween goody bags for their hard work!

Social media and outreach is a huge part of socially distanced prevention work. TPC Director, Tori Shay, has taken over social media and monthly e-newsletter for the Partnership for a Tobacco-Free Southeast.



**Stress relief** is a huge part of tobacco prevention, due to stress being a huge trigger for many tobacco users. 2020 has been stressful for everyone, and we wanted to spread some positivity. We asked community members to send in photos of themselves doing something that they love that relieves stress. Those photos were compiled into a video and then posted on our Facebook Page.

The **2020 Great American Smokeout Art Contest** was a huge success! We had over 20 incredible entries this year. See our winners to the right! Winners: Kaleb Kerr, Angus Olsen, Patti Steele, and Kristina Barkfelt.



Our year is not complete without our **Step to Be Tobacco Free Pedometer Challenge!** The winner of the Logo Contest was Isaac Litster. We were grateful for yet another chance to engage with the community on a fun and safe activity.





# PETERSBURG



VS



# WRANGELL

Learn about how **e-cigarette companies** have targeted youth and **taken advantage of the COVID-19 Pandemic**.

Each community has 5 posters hidden around town. Take a photo of the poster and submit the photo in the Facebook event "Petersburg vs. Wrangell TPC". All participants will be put in a drawing for some new Hydroflasks! There will be multiple winners. All ages are encouraged to participate!

**January 11-22, 2021**

The town that submits the most photos will win a trophy to be displayed, claiming their bragging rights against the rival town.



In 2020, Juul bought advertising space on Nickelodeon, in Seventeen Magazine and the Cartoon Network. The targeted advertising creates a new generation of tobacco users.

**PETERSBURG**



Petersburg and Wrangell Tobacco Prevention and Control Programs decided to ignite the spark of the rivalry between our towns. We had a Petersburg vs. Wrangell competition, focusing on how e-cigarette companies have targeted youth and also taken advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic with their advertising. Community members were tasked with locating 5 posters, each one featuring a different e-cigarette ad and the tactic used in the ad. Once a poster was found, they posted a photo of the poster in the Facebook event. The town with the most posters found won, and that happened to be Petersburg! The final scores were:

**Petersburg: 81**

**Wrangell: 75**

Both communities gained valuable knowledge about e-cigarette advertising tactics, which is a win in itself. Petersburg won bragging rights, and this trophy will be proudly displayed for the next year.



# TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



The Mountain View Manor boardwalk construction began in September; 20% of the boardwalk has been completed.



The William Musson Trail has been reconstructed.

## Ride PIA Paratransit

Providing ADA accessible transportation to Senior Citizens (60 Years or Older) and Persons with Disabilities.

- Daily service 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Free to the eligible passenger and caregiver
- Accommodates passengers with special needs
- Friendly and helpful drivers
- Call one day in advance to schedule a ride 907-650-7788
- Email: [transit@piatribal.org](mailto:transit@piatribal.org)
- Serves locations between Sandy Beach Park and Scow Bay Loop Road



PIA's Tribal Transportation Program received a \$26,053.00 Federal Transit Administration Grant to run the PIA Paratransit service.



Construction of 1,013 feet of sidewalk on the left side of 12th street and the left side of Howkan street was completed by the Tribal Transportation Program in October. Rainforest Construction was the contractor. Additional sidewalks on the right side of 12th street and Howkan street will be completed by July, 2021.



TTP has been assisting in the delivery of Mountain View Manor Food Service meals to seniors because COVID is preventing them from dining in at Mountain View Manor.

Future proposed projects can be found in the 2021 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) on our website at: [www.piatribal.org/tribal-transportation](http://www.piatribal.org/tribal-transportation)



TTP completed blading and grading 63 miles of roads on Mitkof Island with a contract with the US Forest Service.



## **Salmon Canning Class**

The class was sponsored by PIA and Spruce Root Community Development. PIA received this grant to teach a subsistence skill to Petersburg's Tribal Citizens. Classes were limited to 6 people to accommodate social distancing recommendations, and to allow one-on-one assistance with canning.

# IGAP (PSP TESTING/COMPOST)



## WATER SAMPLING

The PIA IGAP Department conducts regular water sample studies looking for the toxin PSP (paralytic shellfish poisoning). Petersburg generally has no toxins determined. These results are posted regularly at the harbor, on our Facebook page and website, and inside our building.

The PIA IGAP department works to create compost (commonly used in gardens) made of fish waste and wood chips. This is a lengthy process. The compost is then bagged up and ready to be sold. At the moment we do not have any available, but there is more cooking! The IGAP Department also collects old nets to be sorted and shipped out for recycling.

IGAP Director, Brandon Thynes is mentoring two high school students as a part of the Rural Alaska Student in One-Health Research (RASOR) program through Southeast Alaska Tribal Ocean Research (SEATOR). The teens are learning how to collect water samples and examine phytoplankton and measure ocean acidification as a part of a larger research project for school.



## OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

*Petersburg Indian Association*

### Units Available

- Located at the PIA building, 15 N. 12th St. Petersburg, AK 99833
- Offices range from 190 to 430 square feet.

### Pricing

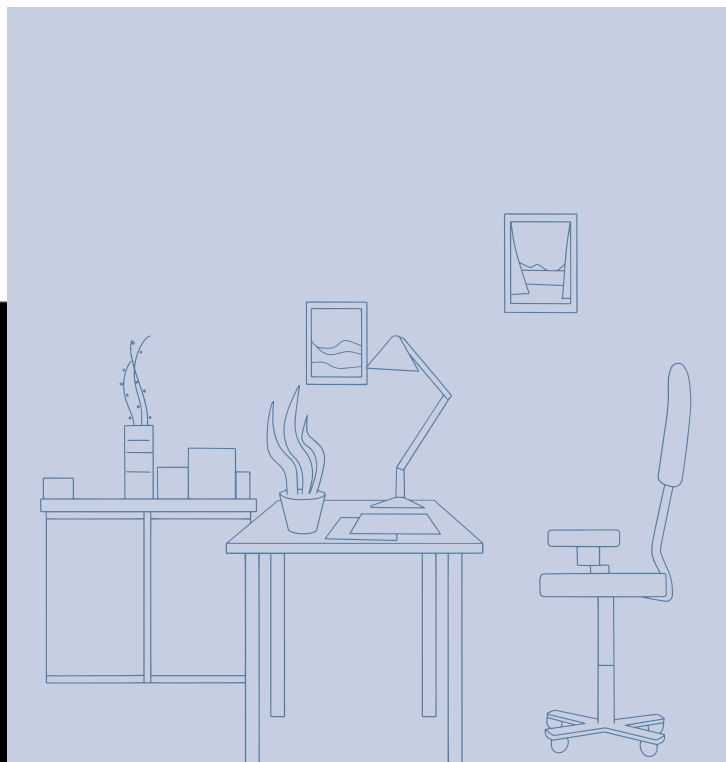
- \$2.00 per square foot, billed monthly.

For inquiries,  
please contact us.

907-772-3636

officeassistant@piatribal.org

www.piatribal.org





# HOUSING

PIA's Housing Department is very excited about all of the projects that we have going on.

We have recently finished a second story renovation of the Elizabeth Peratrovich Building. We created five new office or retail spaces and are delighted to offer the spaces for rent at \$2.00 a square foot.

They are available for rent now.



We have on-going construction of a new duplex on 8th & Ira II Streets. This building when finished will offer 2 non-smoking, two-bedroom apartments.

These units are scheduled to be completed sometime this summer. PIA's construction projects are part of the continued effort to address the need for quality, safe, and affordable housing for our Tribal Citizens as was identified in the tribe's Comprehensive Plan.

If you have any questions about our projects, rental prices, or want to fill out a rental application, please contact Savann Guthrie or Angela Davis between 9am and 1pm, Monday-Friday at 772-3636 or stop by the PIA office.



We are in the last phase of construction of two studio apartments at our Raven Eagle Apartments on South 2nd and 3rd Streets. We are hoping these units will finished by February 1, 2021 and are now accepting applications from prospective tenants. These non-smoking units will be available for single, low-income Tribal Members.





# CARES ACT PROGRAMS OF 2020



The CARES ACT funding provided PIA with a special opportunity to directly help the Native community in Petersburg. COVID-19 has impacted every household in some way. These programs were designed to offer direct aid to tribal families in need. The programs included utility/fuel cost subsidies, internet assistance, food assistance (read more below), rent/mortgage assistance for Native households, and moorage assistance for Petersburg harbor users.

PIA was excited to have the unique opportunity to provide much needed assistance to our Tribal Members.

PIA has and continues to have face coverings available for Tribal Members at no cost.

## FOOD ASSISTANCE

In 2020, PIA was able to complete four food distributions which served over 80 Native families. Each family received pre-selected household food essentials. The food for these programs was purchased locally, and distribution was coordinated by PIA staff and community volunteers. PIA would like to thank volunteers: Liam Jackson, Nicole Peterson, Aidan Torrez, Darnell Murray, Sami Jackson, Pete Welch, and Maryann Rainey.



We would also like to thank key staff members that made the food distributions possible: Tori Shay, Tina Kerr, Tracy Welch, Ron Ware, Jack Galaktionoff, and Andy Edfelt.

PIA plans to continue food distributions in the early part of 2021.

# The PIA BASIC NEEDS PROJECT

DIKÉEX' WOOC HAYILSHÁAT  
(HOLD EACH OTHER UP)

How it works: For a suggested donation of \$5.00, you fill out an application and take home \$20-\$25 worth of non-food essentials!

Examples of items available: diapers, infant formula, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, and more.

Stop by the PIA office to fill out an application!

Questions? Contact Tori @ 772-3636



**f Follow us on  
facebook  
for program  
updates,  
events, and  
opportunities.**

[www.facebook.com/PetersburgIndianAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/PetersburgIndianAssociation)



**Prefer to get your  
newsletter by email?  
Let us know!  
Call Tori at 772-3636  
or email  
[tpc@piatribal.org](mailto:tpc@piatribal.org)**

## 2020 TRIBAL DINNER

The Petersburg Indian Association 2020 Tribal Dinner was done drive-through style due to COVID-19 concerns. We offered a catered prime rib dinner to Tribal Members and their families. This dinner was catered by The Little Shed, a Native owned business. Thank you to the catering staff, volunteers, and all who stopped through!



### Council Members:

**Cris Morrison  
Maryann Rainey  
Kayla Perry  
Joe Stewart  
Heather Conn  
Jeanette Ness  
Jaclyn Lyons**

### Department Directors:

**Tracy Welch  
Tribal Administrator**

**Angela Davis  
Accountant/Housing Manager**

**Kara Wesebaum  
ICWA/Social Services**

**Tori Shay  
TPC Director**

**Brandon Thynes  
IGAP Director**

**Susan Harai  
TTP Director**

**Stephanie Silva  
JOM Director**

**Andrew Edfelt  
Maintenance**



**Petersburg Indian Association is looking to hire a part time custodian. A valid drivers license is required. Native preference. If you are interested, please stop by our office to fill out an application.**

## Contact Us .....

**f Find us on  
Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/PetersburgIndianAssociation>

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [piatribal.org](http://piatribal.org)**

**PHONE: 907-772-3636 | EMAIL: [officeassistant@piatribal.org](mailto:officeassistant@piatribal.org) | IN PERSON: 15 N. 12th St.**