

THE PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2020 EDITION



Natural Resource Management Career Paths (Read more on Page 2)
Pictured: Wyatt Litster, Kieran Cabral and Jakob Wikan.

COVID-19 RESPONSE



In partnership with Tlingit and Haida's 477 Division, PIA was able to pass out over 100 backpacks to Tribal youth in Petersburg. Using CARES Act funding, Tlingit and Haida was able to provide computers to each student receiving a backpack, helping to ensure that each Tribal student had all the tools necessary to learn from home.

We were thankful to receive CARES Act funds to be able to provide for our Tribal Citizens. In August and early September, we offered a \$1,000 utility/fuel subsidy to all enrolled Tribal Citizens. Earlier this year, we were able to provide food vouchers to families in need.

Throughout the pandemic and currently, we have cloth face masks available.

The Basic Needs Project (non-food essentials) is running with limited distributions on Wednesdays.

The PIA Paratransit Bus was briefly shut down but is now up and running. Read more on page 4. With the extra COVID-19 funding, PIA has been assisting Mountain View Manor Food with delivering meals to senior citizens. The Food Service switched to delivery only in response to COVID-19.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER 1-21, 2020

HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT
Say "Boo to Tobacco" and find all of the items on the list. Follow our event on Facebook to follow along!

OCTOBER 5, 2020

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

CLOSURES

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

October 12th and 19th
November 11th, 26th, and 27th
December 24th and 25th.

10 Minutes
10 Questions
10 Years of Impact

The deadline for filling out the **2020 Census** is September 30th.



WORKING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CAREER PATHS

The Working Natural Resource Management Career Paths Program is a grant that PIA received to employ Tribal youth to learn about the different career paths available in the Natural Resource Management field in Petersburg.

This 6 week paid program employed 3 youth (Kieran Cabral, Jakob Wikan and Wyatt Litster) and their supervisor, Chandler Strickland. They explored different career paths with various organizations in Petersburg where they were able to gain valuable work experience. Some examples of the activities were amphibian missions, PSP and ocean acidification studies, fish waste compost, land maintenance, invasive plants, law enforcement, commercial fisheries, the business side of fisheries, and more.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the following people and organizations:

Joni Johnson, Carin Christensen, Eric Castro, and the United States Forest Service.

We would also like to thank Loren Thompson from the hatchery, Sunny Rice from the Alaska Marine Advisory Program, Brandon Thynes and Shayla Madole from PIA IGAP, Christina Sargent from the Community Garden, Cody Litster from the Alaska State Troopers Office, Jarod Cook and Amy Anderson from NOAA, Glo Wallen and Jim Engell from the Harbormaster's Office, and John Murgas, owner of Petersburg Marine.

Thank you to all the professionals for sharing their time and knowledge!



TOBACCO PREVENTION AND CONTROL

The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program at PIA continues to work on the goal of reducing tobacco use in the community of Petersburg. We have had to change and adapt due to COVID-19 concerns. In May, we had our annual Step to Be Tobacco Free Pedometer Challenge and Logo Contest. The winner of the logo contest was Isaac Litster. This year, we had over 100 people sign up for the challenge. Due to COVID, we delivered pedometers and t-shirts to participants. PIA partnered with the Partnership for a Tobacco Free Southeast for World No Tobacco Day and held an online scavenger hunt for the Southeast region. We had a cigarette butt cleanup, with participation of 7 local volunteers. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help keep Petersburg clean.



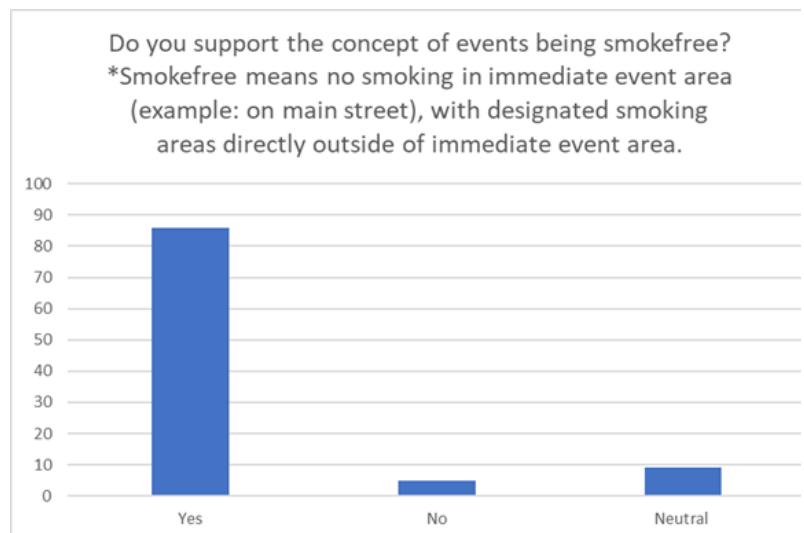
We conducted a Smokefree Events Survey, and you can find the results to the right.

There are many exciting events coming up that can be done from home, including A Halloween Scavenger Hunt, and the Great American Smokeout Art Contest.



Winning Logo for the Logo Contest
Created by Isaac Litster

Our coloring program with the Petersburg Police Department continues with rave reviews from their staff. COVID-19 has brought a lot of stress upon families and individuals. Stress management is an important part of tobacco cessation. We put together a video featuring locals, who sent their photos in, doing something they love that makes them feel at ease. Thank you to everyone who sent in a photo! It can be viewed in the videos section on our Facebook page. We had our own online scavenger hunt, filled with tobacco related facts. In the month of September, we had the Petersburg Rocks - Painted Rock Hunt. Community members completed a guided search for rocks that contained tobacco education or just plain motivation! It was very successful and all the rocks were found. This was an excellent way for kids to get active with their families, while still following social distancing requirements and learning along the way!



Smokefree Events
Survey Results
(June 2020)

TRIBAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM



Maintenance Projects completed this spring and summer were the grading and compaction of 63 miles of Forest Service roads, and the reconstruction of the Bill Musson gravel trail which connects the ball field and Mountain View Manor. New construction has begun on the Mountain View Manor boardwalk. This boardwalk will intersect with the existing Hungry Point trail system.

The PIA Paratransit bus continues operation daily from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. This bus service is offered to the general public age 60 years or older and persons with disabilities. The service area for the bus is between Sandy Beach Park and Scow Bay Loop Road. The service is free to the rider and caregiver. Call or text a day in advance to schedule a ride at PIA Paratransit service at 907-650-7788 or email us at: transit@piatribal.org

A new sidewalk will start at the intersection of Haugen and 12th street to help with safety for pedestrians who walk on Howkan and 12th past the Serendipity Day Care, PIA, Mountain View Manor, and Hammer and Wikan Grocery Store. The school bus stops at the Haugen and 12th Street intersection to pick up and drop off children from the Tlingit Haida (T&H) housing, this new sidewalk will improve safety for school children walking from T&H housing to their bus stop on Haugen. The contractor for the sidewalk is Rainforest Contracting, a local business.



IGAP (PSP TESTING/COMPOST)



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 Assistant, Shayla Madole, is sorting nets in the photo below. In the photo to the left, a fawn was spotted at the composting site.

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. In the photo to the right is a purple starfish spotted while collecting water samples.

Water sampling at the South Harbor Boat Launch started on August 4th. Water samples are sent to Admiralty Environmental in Juneau to test for fecal coliform and Enterococci (an indicator of fecal matter in the water).



HOUSING

PIA has two major housing projects underway, in collaboration with the Tlingit and Haida Regional Housing Authority. In July, PIA was awarded \$900,000 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for COVID-19 related costs.

To address overcrowding and housing insecurity, a duplex will be built on the Ira II property that was purchased from the Borough in September. Additionally, two studio apartments are under construction at the Eagle-Raven Apartment Complex on 2nd/3rd St. under a separate grant that was awarded previously.

PETERSBURG INDIAN ASSOCIATION

TRIBAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Department at PIA has been hard at work developing a comprehensive plan for the Tribe. ANA conducted a mail-out survey for input from the Tribal Members on the ideas presented at the last Tribal Dinner. The survey revealed the priorities of our Tribal Members.

Community members who had expertise in the following topics were invited to participate on the advisory committee of their choice, as their knowledge helped guide us and solidify the Comprehensive Plan. The topics up for discussion were housing, job training, alcohol and drug recovery, childcare and culture. Interviews were conducted within the community for feedback on our chosen topics. Each topic had an advisory committee which met three times. Through meetings with the committees, meetings with Tribal Members and community members, we were able to begin to find the vision, focus, and steps that will be needed to make these ideas a reality. This has all been recorded into a Comprehensive Plan that will guide us through the years to come.

2020 CENSUS

PIA has assisted Tribal Citizens in completing the 2020 Census. PIA received a Census Grant and was able to provide outreach, computers and assistance to complete them online. We provided a box lunch (due to COVID-19 restrictions) to Tribal Citizens who attended our in-office Census event. There have been mass mailings of Census information, flyers posted around town, and social media postings to spread the word about the importance of the 2020 Census. It is vital to each community, and especially vital to our Native community, that we complete the Census questionnaire. The deadline for the 2020 Census is on September 30th, so be sure to complete yours if you have not already!

ALASKA, YOU COUNT.
Be counted in the 2020 Census.

 **Your community is counting on you.**

Being counted helps the whole community. It's how our schools, hospitals, police departments, roads, and other critical services get funded.

 **Your answers are confidential.**

Your privacy is protected by law. Your census data is safe, and your answers can't be shared with any agency or program.

**10 MINUTES.
10 QUESTIONS.
10 YEARS OF IMPACT.**

alaskacounts.org

Alaska Counts
2020 Census

The PIA BASIC NEEDS PROJECT

DIKÉEX' WOCH GAYILSHÁAT
(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

PIA
TOBACCO
PREVENTION
AND
CONTROL
PRESENTS

A HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT

SAY "BOO" TO TOBACCO
OCTOBER 1-25, 2020

-Find all of the following items, snap a photo of each, and send them to tpc@piatribal.org to submit your entry!
-The first 15 people to enter will win a Halloween Trick-or-Treat bag (filled with Halloween themed toys) and an at home Halloween activity!
-All entries will get a Trick-or-treat bag with Halloween themed toys. All prizes will be given out on October 28th!

ELIZABETH PERATROVICH MURAL

This mural was created by Janine Gibbons and has been an ongoing project for the Petersburg Arts Council.

The mural was unveiled on July 4th, Elizabeth Peratrovich's birthday. Elizabeth Peratrovich (Kaaɣgal.aat) was a member of the Lukaax̂.adi clan, part of the Raven moiety. She is an important civil rights leader for Alaska Natives. As Alaska Native Sisterhood Grand President, Elizabeth worked in collaboration with the Alaska Native Brotherhood to end the blatant discrimination Natives throughout Alaska faced daily, prior to the passage of Alaska's Anti-Discrimination Bill in 1945.



Council Members:

Cris Morrison
Brenda Norheim
Maryann Rainey
Kayla Perry
Joe Stewart
Heather Conn

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

Collin Martens
ANA Director

Andrew Edfelt
Maintenance

Petersburg Indian Association is looking to hire 1 part time JOM Director and 2 volunteers to be on the JOM Board. If you are interested, please call PIA.

Contact Us

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

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: piatribal.org

PHONE: 907-772-3636 | EMAIL: officeassistant@piatribal.org | IN PERSON: 15 N. 12th St.