

FAIRBANKS

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Patriots, Malemutes split wrestling duals at North Pole • Page B1

Borough comprehensive plan hits the road for workshops

By Jack Barnwell

A Fairbanks North Star Borough 20-year regional comprehensive plan hits the road again starting Monday as planning officials launch a community workshop series to get feedback and highlight recent progress.

The borough's Comprehensive Plan serves as the overarching blueprint for policies, housing and business developments,

public investments and other things. It receives an overhaul every 20 years to reflect the borough's current conditions and needs and to set the course for the next two decades.

When the Borough takes certain actions, like approving transportation and capital improvement projects, revising borough code, rezoning properties, or issuing land use permits, those

actions must be supported by the Comprehensive Plan. It is integral to the FNSB's operations and referenced frequently by staff, commissioners, and assembly members.

"We want to hear from all the communities and neighborhoods in our diverse borough to make sure we hear how those communities want to grow and what they want in terms of housing, infrastructure and road

access," Borough Mayor Grier Hopkins said during a recent interview.

Hopkins noted the comprehensive plan "is completely community driven." Its final contents are informed by community feedback, surveys, and a 13-member steering group representing diverse communities.

"We listen to what the public wants to say and then put that into practice," Hopkins said.

The comprehensive plan incorporates most other planning documents, such as the Salcha-Badger Road Plan, the Downtown Fairbanks 2040 Plan, and the Chena Riverfront Plan.

Hopkins noted that some of the biggest issues raised so far have been infrastructure, affordable energy, transportation, housing, economic development, and military connectivity.

The comprehensive plans will also drive forthcoming local community plans for areas like Ester, Goldstream and Two Rivers.

Developing a comprehensive plan takes time and effort, Hopkins said. While the initial work started a year ago, a final draft isn't expected until early 2027.

The workshop road

PLAN » A2

GOOD MORNING



The weather

Low clouds

High today32

Low tonight 19

Sunrise: 8:42 a.m.

Sunset: 4:25 p.m.

WEATHER » A3

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS IS OVER

Turn your clocks back an hour

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Aurora forecast

Moderate aurora activity forecasted. If skies are clear, moderate displays may be visible overhead from locations such as Utqiagvik to as far south as Talkeetna, and may be visible low on the horizon as far south as Bethel, Soldotna and Southeast Alaska.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

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SOURDOUGH JACK:

"Back to standard time, enjoy sleeping in an extra hour today!"



FAIRBANKS HAUNTED CITY HALL



ALL PHOTOS JACK BARNWELL/NEWS-MINER

A clown greets trick-or-treaters at Fairbanks City Hall during the city's annual Halloween event on Friday.

Fairbanks City Hall pulls out the skeletons for Halloween

By Jack Barnwell

Young trick-or-treaters discovered something mysterious and spooky, scary, and frightening at Fairbanks City Hall on Halloween.

It wasn't the city budget process, but rather a schoolhouse of horrors as City Hall employees hosted the city's annual Trick-or-Treat Halloween event on Friday.

CITY » A2



(Above) Brooke Fuerst, 3, makes acquaintances with Thing while going through the Fairbanks City Hall haunted house on Halloween.

(Left) Jake Merritt, dressed as Gomez Addams from "The Addams Family" shows off the properties of static electricity to trick-or-treaters.

Alaska Supreme Court hears Camp Li-Wa property tax dispute

By Jack Barnwell

The Alaska Supreme Court heard a longstanding tax dispute between a Christian nonprofit and the Fairbanks North Star Borough on Thursday.

The argument: whether certain buildings on Victory Ministries' Camp Li-Wa location qualify for a charitable tax exemption as outlined in the Alaska statute.

It's been a long-running dispute dating back to 2018, as the borough

DISPUTE » A3

Federal judge directs USDA to pay November food stamp benefits

By Michael Macagnone
CQ-ROLL CALL/TNS

WASHINGTON — A federal judge in Rhode Island granted a temporary restraining order Friday that would compel the government to distribute food stamp benefits for November.

Chief Judge John J. McConnell Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island made the ruling from the bench in a lawsuit brought by the Rhode Island State Council of Churches along with nonprofit groups and cities. The groups sought to force the government to pay SNAP benefits using contingency funds for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 or under Agriculture Department's other authority.

The decision came shortly after a separate federal judge gave the department until Monday to decide whether it will either partially or fully distribute food stamp benefits for November.

Judge Indira Talwani of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, in an order and memorandum Friday, said the Trump administration's suspension of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,

JUDGE » A5



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NOTICE TO REAL PROPERTY TAXPAYERS

Second-half 2025 Real Property Taxes are due Monday, November 3, 2025

INSERT mailed with bills outlines alternative ways to remit payments.

Prior year delinquent taxes must be paid by cashier's check, money order, cash, or credit card*

If you have questions call the FNSB Treasury & Budget Division at 907-459-1441

Borough's outside dropbox will be open until 12 midnight on November 3rd

To make electronic payments* visit www.fnsb.gov

*a convenience fee is charged for this service

2nd Half Due Date 11/03/25