



Burrowed – Inside the Haines Borough
Fourth Edition 10/03/23

This is the fourth edition of this newsletter intended to provide you more information about your Borough government's activities. My Manager Report tries to capture the most important issues between Assembly meetings, but there are many other activities taking place that I'd like to share with you.

If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, please feel free to opt out by replying in the Subject line – OPT OUT. The intent is not to overload your inbox, but to provide information that is short, easily downloaded with minimal graphics, and informative.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY ALERT OCT. 4: There will be a nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) beginning at **10:20 am Alaska time Oct. 4**. FEMA, in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), will conduct the test.

Here's a link to more information: <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20231003/fema-and-fcc-plan-nationwide-emergency-alert-test-oct-4-test-messages-will>

The Wireless portion of the test will be directed to consumer cell phones. The EAS portion of the test will be sent to radios and televisions.

The purpose of the test is to ensure that the systems continue to be effective means of warning the public about emergencies, particularly those on the national level. In case the Oct. 4 test is postponed, due to widespread severe weather or other significant events, the back-up testing date is Oct. 11.

ASSEMBLY RECORDINGS AVAILABLE ONLINE: We've wanted to do it, and we have. Now, you can get the Assembly, Planning Commission, Ports & Harbors Advisory Committee and Board of Equalization (BOE) meeting recordings online. Just visit the Borough Calendar page and click on any meeting (after August 8, 2023) for the recording. Here's the link - <https://www.hainesalaska.gov/calendar/month/2023-10>

ASSESSMENT PROCESS: Although this year's property assessments have been controversial, we are confident that the processes employed for both assessments and appeals are legitimate and handled with utmost concern for fairness. I have kept in close contact with our Borough attorney and the State Assessor to ensure that our processes are proper. Managing the hundreds of appeals with a staff of two has been time-consuming for us and challenging for you. We are aware that information has not flowed as quickly as we would like, and that communications may seem abrupt as we try to work through the inquiries and appeals. Staff has achieved satisfaction with the bulk of appeals. Thank you for your willingness to learn more about the history and the process of assessments in the borough. There are a few more appeals before us, and we intend to continue our diligence in seeking a fair and equitable solution to them.

PORTAGE STREET PROJECT: The Assembly recently approved an expenditure of a little over \$400,000 to address what started out to be a sinking sidewalk, but turned into a drainage replacement. This is what is being replaced!



ELECTION: If you haven't already voted at the ANB Hall or Klehini Valley Fire Department, you have until **8 pm today** to cast your ballot in the Haines Borough election for Mayor, Assembly, Planning Commission and School Board.