

Seldovia Village Tribe

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Think...



SVT Environmental Office

Subsistence Foods
Survey Results.

SVT Food Distribution Program

for all low income
households residing in
the Seldovia area.

Housing Dept.

Weatherization program
still available through
the state of Alaska.

Seldovia Conference Center

Planning a family
reunion or wedding?
Call for use of our great
venue

Bingo

Every Wednesday at
7pm at the Seldovia
Conference Cener.

2014 Tribal Council Election Candidates

Crystal Collier
Suzanne Collier
Katherine Gottlieb

Seldovia Tribal Council Election Ballots were sent out to 397 eligible voting members of the Seldovia Village Tribe on January 7, 2014.

Tribal Council Election Results

Seldovia Village Tribe has a total of 514 Enrolled Tribal Members, 397 of these Members are eligible Voters.

On Thursday, February 13, 2014 the Tribal Election Committee convened at the SVT Administrative Offices to count ballots. 2014 showed a 41% voter turnout was received. (147 ballots received-8 were invalid). Thanks to all who took the time to return their ballot. This is a very important privilege of being a voting Tribal member. Those elected to Council Seats are as follows:

Three year terms:

Crystal Collier
Suzanne Collier
Katherine Gottlieb

Officers were elected during SVT's regular February Council meeting certifying the 2014 Election.

President - Crystal Collier,
Vice President - Lillian Elvsaaas
Secretary - Trinket Gallien



Seldovia Village Tribe Election of Revised Constitution

Attention: Seldovia Village Tribal Members

Exercise your right to Vote

If you have yet to mail in your ballot for the latest Secretarial Election regarding Seldovia Village Tribe Constitution revision please do so as soon as possible.

Many questions have been asked on why this election is occurring. The main proposed change to the Constitution is found in Article X, Section 5 and would allow the Tribal Council to provide limited waivers of Sovereign Immunity. Currently Seldovia Village Tribe is limited in applying for and receiving funding for projects, programs or assets from entities like the State of Alaska because they require we waive our Sovereign Immunity for each and every grant. Because the Constitution states we must have a vote of the Tribal Membership (which can take up to six months for each voting process) for each and every waiver, we have been unable to continue such programs until the Tribal Council has the power to waive Sovereign Immunity on a case by case basis.

Time is running out! Please vote and return your ballot before March 25, 2014.

Questions or Concerns please contact Election Committee at (907) 435-3248.

SVT Health & Wellness Provides Assistance for Alaska Native and American Indian People with the Affordable Care Act's Indian Status Exemption

As the Affordable Care Act (ACA) rolls out across the country, SVT Health & Wellness continues examining this historic health care landmark and supporting Alaska Native and American Indian people affected by the ACA. In November, SVT Health & Wellness learned of an unexpected ACA change that specifically applies to Alaska Native and American Indian people. Alaska Native and American Indian people must apply for an Indian Status Exemption to avoid a tax penalty associated with the ACA. Exemption paperwork was released to the public this week.

Below is detailed information about the ACA's Indian Status Exemption and its associated paperwork, as well as frequently asked questions about the ACA and the Indian Status Exemption:

Beginning April 1, 2014, every American must demonstrate health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act, but there are special exemptions that apply to Alaska Native and American Indian people. Alaska Native and American Indian people are exempt from the requirement to purchase insurance if they can show evidence of:

- Enrollment in a federally recognized Tribe;
- Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) shareholder status

(village or regional), or;

- Eligibility to receive services from an Indian Health Service (IHS) facility / Tribal health care provider

Q: How do I qualify for the Alaska Native and American Indian Status Exemption?

A: To qualify for this exemption, Alaska Native and American Indian people will have to apply for the exemption through a paper application process. This paper application can be obtained online at svthw.org, or from the Outreach and Eligibility specialists at SVT Health & Wellness—Emiley, Monica and Mary.

When you complete the application, you must send copies of supporting documents, such as:

Preferred documents:

Tribal enrollment card / letter

Proof of ANCSA Shareholder Status (Regional or Village)

(continued on other side)

These documents ensure you qualify for ACA special benefits for Alaska Natives and American Indians

Other accepted documents:

Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB) card issued by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

IHS Eligibility Letter

Please do not send originals of these documents as they will not be returned to you.

Please remember to complete Step 2 of the application for all members of your family, including children. Also, be sure to send copies of the same supporting documents for every member of your family that needs the Indian Status Exemption to avoid a tax penalty.

Within 2-4 weeks of mailing the form, the Federal government will inform

you if they need additional information. If you receive this exemption, you will be sent an Exemption Certificate Number that you will put on your federal income tax return. It is important to keep a copy of this Exemption Certificate Number in a safe place for future use. If you do not hear from the Federal Government within 4-6 weeks, contact the Health Insurance Marketplace Help Center at 1-800-318-2596.

Frequently asked questions about the ACA:

Q: What if I already have health care coverage?

A: If you have health care coverage through Medicaid, Medicare, Denali KidCare, Veteran's Benefits or your employer provides health insurance, you have met the requirements of the Individual Mandate and do not need to purchase additional health care coverage to avoid the tax penalty. You must complete the Indian Status Exemption paperwork if you have health care coverage. However, the Indian Exemption is a lifetime exemption.

Q: If I don't buy insurance, will I still be able to get health care services at my IHS / Tribal health facility?

A: Yes, you will still be able to get care at your IHS / Tribal health facility. The health care services provided at IHS / Tribal health facilities are not changing. However, you will need to apply for an exemption.

For assistance with the Indian Exemption Status paperwork and to learn more about the other benefits available to Alaska Native and American Indian people, please contact the SVT Health & Wellness Outreach & Eligibility Team at 226-2228.

Program Updates:

Seldovia Village Tribe proudly serving our people since 1981

SVT Food Distribution Program

The Food Distribution Program is a federal program that provides commodity foods to low income households residing on or around an Alaska Native Tribal Village.

Eligible households are certified based on income and resource standards set by the federal government and must be re-certified at least every 12 months.

What Foods Does the Program Offer?

Each month participating households receive a food package to help them maintain a nutritionally balanced diet. Participants may select from over 70 products including: Canned meats, poultry, and fish Canned fruits and vegetables, Canned soups, spaghetti sauce, Macaroni & Cheese, pastas, cereals, rice, and other grains Cheese, egg mix, nonfat dry or evaporated milk, Flour, cornmeal, bakery mix, reduced sodium crackers, Low-Fat refried beans, dried beans, instant potatoes Canned juices and dried fruit Peanuts, Peanut butter, and much more.

How do I Apply?

Applications for the SVT Food Distribution Program are available from Debbie Cameron, set an appointment by calling 435-3255 Monday-Friday.

Energy Assistance 2013

Seldovia Village Tribe has applications for 2013 Energy Assistance. Those Native households residing in the Seldovia area that are having trouble meeting their heating bills this winter are welcome to apply. For an application contact Debbie Cameron @ 435-3255 or stop by ATC Building upstairs offices Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.



Eye Doctor Coming April 2014

Sarah Stienbarger, OD, FAAO, from Southcentral Foundation Optometry Department will be in Homer and Seldovia for vision testing.

Homer dates are April 7th 8th and 9th. Seldovia Dates are Thursday April 10th and Friday April 11th. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 226-2228.

Election Prizes

The Early Bird Prizes for 2014 are \$25 Gift Cards. Ballots that were returned by January 30, 2014 were entered in this drawing.

Winners of Early Bird Drawing are as follows: Carin Bullis, James Markey Jr., Kathleen Bullis, Marion Collier, Norman Kashevarof Sr., Peter Elvsaas Jr., Rebekah Giligan, Robert Berg, Robert Meehan Sr. Sonda Juliussen.

\$\$\$Grand Prize\$\$\$ WINNERS!

\$500.00 Fred S. Elvsaas Sr.

\$2ND Prize\$ \$300.00

Chelsea Suydam

3rd Prize \$100.00

Fred S. Elvsaas Jr.

4th Prize \$100.00

Pauline Melton

5th Prize \$100.00

Ariel Anahonak

6th Prize \$100.00

Robert Meehan Sr.

7th Prize \$100.00

Debbie Cameron

8th Prize \$100.00

Helen Josefsen

9th Prize \$100.00

Carrie Putman

10th Prize \$100.00

Spencer Giles



Congratulations Alix Chartier, BHA III

After years of schooling, Alix Chartier has earned her Behavioral Health 111 certification. The courses in Rural Human Services, Rural Nutrition Services, and Human Services were offered by University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Kuskokwim Campus in Bethel, and were sponsored by Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and Seldovia Village Tribe. The certification process required passing all courses and rigorous testing of knowledge and skills in many aspects of behavioral health. All Behavioral Health Aides are supervised by Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) or Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC), and must adhere to the Community Health Aide Practitioner Certification Board (CHAPCB) Standards and Procedures.

“The purpose of Behavioral Health Aides in our respective communities is to be available for individual and group counseling. We are client-centered listeners who are familiar with available resources and know where to refer when necessary. We are health educators, especially with regard to behavioral health. We are also advocates in our communities addressing and supporting behavioral health needs including alcohol, drug,

and tobacco abuse; grief, depression, suicide, and related mental health issues. We have learned to work with diverse populations, each having their own cultural considerations and approaches to treatment.

“Visit anthc.org to find out more about behavioral health aides. I’m in Seldovia at the Alaska Tribal Cache building if you have concerns or need someone to listen. I may be reached at 907-435-3250 or email me at: achartier@svt.org.”



Assessment of Cook Inlet Tribes Subsistence Consumption

Between November 2011 and September 2012, Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT) environmental staff undertook a survey to determine fish and shellfish consumption rates for Seldovia, Port Graham, Nanwalek, and Tyonek tribal members. In total, 76 adult tribal members (19 from each village) were interviewed and dietary information from 35 children (17 years old or younger) were obtained. SVT undertook this assessment due to concerns that current water quality standards, as established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), were not sufficiently protecting the health of those residing in Cook Inlet.

In the state of Alaska, EPA recommends a fish consumption rate of 17.5 grams/day (g/d) or 0.6 ounces/day (oz/

d) be used to calculate water quality standards based on human health criteria and ADEC uses only 6.5 g/d or 0.2 oz/d. This assessment determined that the average daily rate of fish consumption for adult tribal members was 94.8 g/d or 3.3 oz/d. Based on the 95 percentile value obtained for all adult tribal members interviewed (meaning the value obtained would “protect” 95% of the population surveyed), SVT has recommended to EPA and ADEC that a fish consumption rate of 247 g/d or 8.7 oz/d be adopted by these agencies for the State of Alaska in a final report submitted in October 2013.

ADEC is currently undergoing a triennial review of their Water Quality standards and is considering the fish and shellfish consumption data SVT has shared in this process. EPA will also be considering these data when issuing National Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permits within Cook Inlet. In the coming year, several tribes will be also be undertaking fish consumption surveys. These tribes are: the Sun’aq tribe in Kodiak, Alaska; the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community in Michigan; and five tribes in Idaho (Coeur d’Alene, Shoshone-Bannock, Shoshone-Paiute, Kootenai, and Nez Perce). In addition to giving multiple presentations at environmental conferences about this assessment, SVT has shared with all these tribes the final report, and documents, from this assessment as well as with numerous other individuals, tribes, and agencies. We are pleased to report that we have received funding to undertake the 2nd phase of this assessment that will be fish tissue sampling of sockeye salmon for contaminants and will be working again with the above partner tribes and ADEC lab. We hope this work leads to better protection of the health of Alaskans. *By Tracie Merrill*

“In Our Own Words”

Seldovia Village Tribe Launches Community Oral History Project Preserving Seldovia's Photos, Films and Memories



Do you know your family's stories? Have you thought about how to pass them down to future generations? Do you have family photographs and slides that you wonder how to protect, or old VHS tapes or family films that can't be watched anymore because they are deteriorating or you don't have the equipment? The Seldovia Museum has an answer!



If you have a post office box in Seldovia, you may remember getting a survey in the mail about a year ago, asking about your potential interest in an oral history project the Seldovia Museum was hoping to do. We got a terrific response, showing strong support from the community of Seldovia, and we are thrilled to tell you that this project was awarded funding from the Institute for Museum & Library Serv-

ices. The project, called “In Our Own Words”, is now underway!



There are several parts to this project. We are surveying recordings we already have, as well as gearing up to do new interviews and add material, such as historical photos and video, to our archives. But this is truly a *community* project: although our main goal is to record the many stories and images of Seldovia for the public, we also want to assist community members in preserving your own Seldovia-related stories, photos, videos, and audio recordings. We can help create digital versions of photos and recordings, and provide assistance and resources if you would like to record interviews of family or friends.

We are beginning the project by making an inventory of the various videos and other recordings that SVT has created over the years. This way we can be sure we don't simply repeat what has already been done. We are also copying the material from digital videotape to external hard drives, and will make multiple copies so the content is protected.

Soon we will start the process of collecting new material. The topics the community indicated the most interest in were Alaska Native cultural traditions, life in Seldovia before the 1964 earthquake, local wild foods and medicinals, and European/Russian

cultural traditions in Seldovia. We will interview local residents about these subjects and more, preserving local history and knowledge for future generations. We also hope to add to the image library of the Museum – a fancy way of saying we would love to make digital copies of people's old (and not so old) photos of the life and people of Seldovia!



Our partner in this project is the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Oral History Program, which has been preserving the stories of Alaska for over twenty-five years. Leslie McCartney, UAF Curator of Oral History, will be coming to Seldovia on April 3rd and 4th to lead a two-day workshop on the nuts and bolts of collecting oral history. This workshop is free and open to anyone who wants to attend. Perhaps you will become a volunteer for “In Our Own Words”, or maybe you'll take what you learn home and create your own personal interviews with your family members. Either way, you are welcome to join us! *By Jan Yaeger*



SVT Scholarships, Applications Available



It's that time of year again already, Scholarship applications are available. To be eligible for a Tribal

Scholarship you must be *enrolled* in the Seldovia Village Tribe.

SVT Achievement & Student Exchange Scholarships deadline is May 1, 2012. To obtain an application visit our website: www.svt.org or contact Trinket Gallien, (907) 435-3248.

Housing Department



Just a New Year's reminder Tribal Housing can help with HUD sponsored renovations, weatherization, student housing costs, emergency rental expenses and some first time home purchase expenses. These programs are for qualified Native Americans. Income levels, for program qualifications have been rising, so you may want to check. We also have information on housing loans and application procedures.

Contact Rod Hiltz @ 435-3260.



***Seldovia Village Tribe
SVT Health & Wellness
SVT Community Services
SVT Tribal Environmental
Programs***

Be Safe This Winter

Seldovia Village Tribe has ice cleats for sale. Contact Alix Chartier at 435-3250 or visit the ATC Building at 328 Main Street.

