2016
Annual Report to the Community
Cama’i – Welcome

It is a pleasure to share Seldovia Village Tribe’s 2016 Annual Report with you, highlighting our services in Seldovia and the Southern Kenai Peninsula.

2016 was another year full of activities, education, cultural enrichment, and whole health care, made available to all of our tribal members and to community members from Seldovia to Anchor Point.

With 75-plus employees in Seldovia and Homer, SVT’s services range from drug and alcohol prevention to environmental advocacy, support for elders, fire and injury prevention, fast ferry access across Kachemak Bay, a Community Health Center for the area, in addition to many more quality programs.

Our desire is to see our communities thrive and prosper, and we work hand in hand with agencies in our communities, the borough, state and beyond for the betterment of all.

Thank you for taking the time to read our report. Please contact us if you have any questions pertaining to Seldovia Village Tribe.

Seldovia Village Tribe is a Federally recognized Tribe under the provisions of the U.S. Federal Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, and a Federally recognized government that serves everyone — both Native and non-Native — in communities from Seldovia to Anchor Point.
Quick Facts

Seldovia Village Tribe is one of 229 federally recognized tribes in Alaska.

We provide governmental services to our native members and administer the federal funds that provide services such as health care.

There are currently 564 members of Seldovia Village Tribe throughout Alaska, Hawaii, the Lower 48 states and abroad.

SVT is governed by a Council elected by tribal members (all members eighteen and older have a vote).

We are a sovereign, self-governing Tribe that promotes the preservation of tribal culture, tradition and community economic development.

The Tribal Council provides the vision for SVT’s services that encompass not only tribal members, but the greater communities in our service area.
Health & Wellness

Seldovia Village Tribe is proud to provide quality health care through SVT Health & Wellness, the Community Health Center for the Southern Kenai Peninsula. With clinics in Anchor Point, Homer and Seldovia, we feature an integrated approach to wellness and healing of the mind, body and spirit.

Our services include comprehensive and preventive primary health care; holistic, proactive prevention and integrative health for wellness through natural remedies; and complete family dentistry offering a full range of services for adults and children.

Under the leadership of Clinic Director - Emily Read, and Medical Director – Dr. Tim Scheffel, SVT Health & Wellness integrates all of its services to provide comprehensive care and wellness. By incorporating natural approaches to health with traditional family medicine, our patients get the best of both worlds, allowing them to receive treatment for existing conditions and develop skills to prevent the onset of new disease.
Clinic Highlights

- Dental team earned a 2016 Quality Award from Alaska Primary Care Association.
- Received federal funding to initiate planning for a new clinic facility in Anchor Point.
- Federal Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) review successfully completed.
- Started quarterly dental services in Seldovia.
- Hosted a community open house in March.
- Participated in the Healthy & Safe Kids Fair in April, the Seldovia Community Health fair in May, and Homer’s Rotary Health Fair in November.
- Celebrated National Health Center Week in August and held a community BBQ and fair at our Homer clinic.
- Expanded wellness, educational and cultural offerings: healthy cooking, swim exercise, Alaska Native arts & crafts, elder gatherings.

SVT Core Value: Cultural Identity

Through the wisdom of our elders, promise of our youth, and commitment of our heritage, we remain true to our tribal identity and stewards of our culture.
Our Providers

Renae Blanton
Family Nurse Practitioner

Christine Brubaker
Family Nurse Practitioner

Page Herring
Physician Assistant - C

Christine Pratt
Physician Assistant - C

Dr. Cole Stapp, DMD
Dental Director

Jennifer Hayes
Registered Dental Hygienist

SVT Health & Wellness Community Advisory Committee:

Sunni Hilts
Margaret Laviqueur
Jill Lush
Jaime Pennington
Gert Seekins
Missi White
Conrad Woodhead
All of our clinic services are available for the entire community, regardless of ethnicity or age. We accept all forms of payment (Denali KidCare, Medicaid, Veterans benefits, Indian Health Services benefits, private health insurance and self-pay). SVT Health & Wellness offers a sliding scale for fees based upon income eligibility. Certified enrollment officers are also available to help individuals apply for coverage.
Seldovia Bay Ferry

The Seldovia Bay Ferry’s mission is to provide a social and economic benefit to Seldovia and the Kachemak Bay region through the operation of passenger and light freight ferry service home ported in Seldovia.

Providing a vital link for visitors and residents alike, the Kachemak Voyager ran five days a week throughout the 2016 summer season. The fast ferry’s 45-minute run made for quick trips across the bay, with many great sights to see.

Captain Janel Harris and the crew provided excellent customer service all season long, hauling freight, taking tickets, answering questions, and ensuring a safe journey for our passengers.

Extra sailings took place over the Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day holiday weekends. Additionally, the Seldovia Arts Council held its “Ferry Jam” onboard to kick off the Seldovia Summer Solstice Music Festival weekend in June.

SVT Core Value: Excellence in Service

We provide quality service to our clients and customers in a responsible and supportive environment.

Captain Janel Harris
Community Services

Seldovia Village Tribe is committed to providing community services programming ranging from drug and alcohol prevention to environmental stewardship, social services and more.

Prevention Program – In 2016, SVT’s Prevention Program staff focused on mentoring, encouraging, educating, developing relationships, promoting cultural awareness, and modeling healthy lifestyles free of alcohol and drugs. Year-round programming included after-school activities, teen nights, community gym and swim times, cooking and art classes for adults, Healthy Chatter educational lunches, and Alaska Native arts and crafts.

Special events and summer camps were hosted by SVT, and partnerships with the following agencies in the community enhanced our programming: Susan B. English School, Seldovia Recreational Service Area, Seldovia Arts Council, Seldovia Bible Chapel, Seldovia Chamber of Commerce, plus agencies from Homer and around Alaska.

Special Classes for Adults included silversmithing, glass etching, jewelry making, alcohol ink painting, sign making, kuspuk/qaspaq sewing, cooking Korean food, making traditional slippers, and creating custom beaded bags.

SVT Core Value: Integrity

We practice reliability, honesty and accountability in all that we say and do.
SVT Core Value: Partnership & Collaboration

Through teamwork, cooperation, and sharing of resources, we accomplish more together.

Prevention Program Special Events & Activities

- Easter Celebrations - egg dyeing, teen egg hunt, community egg hunt
- Community Job Fair – a partnership with the school and chamber; an opportunity for teens to learn about and practice employability skills.
- Spring Carnival – a three-day event to celebrate the coming of Spring, with volleyball, basketball and more.
- Prom Lock In for Teens
- Bike Rodeo & Safety Day – a chance for kids to check their bike skills and get new helmets, plus fire extinguisher practice and more.
- Fashion Show Fundraiser – a gathering featuring fashions from Mountain Mama Originals and friends – a benefit for the Seldovia Fine Arts Camp.
- Soccer Camp – Taught by Cook Inlet Academy’s soccer coach and team members who returned to Seldovia for our second annual camp – for ages 2-15.
- Independence Day Parade Sponsor
- Swim Lessons – six weeks of classes for all levels and ages, with a swim finale’ in July, in partnership with the school.
- Seldovia Fine Arts Camp – a collaboration with the Seldovia Recreational Service Area and Seldovia Arts Council – for ages 3-13.
Women’s Health Gathering – including activities and workshops centered around the theme of “Be Your Own Kind of Beautiful.”

Ch’anik’na Culture Camp – for ages 3-10 years old, focusing on Alaska Native dance and song, Native Youth Olympics, and harvesting of subsistence foods.

Red Ribbon Week – an emphasis on drug prevention, with activities for school-aged children.

Community Halloween Carnival – SVT coordinated the annual event, in partnership with numerous agencies and individuals from around town.

Santa’s Shop – Community members donated items and SVT staff and volunteers helped children shop for and wrap their gifts.

Seldovia Village Tribe Christmas Program – featuring performances of Alaska Native dance, ukelele, and songs by the kids from Ch’anik’na – Children’s House.

Christmas Food Box Distribution – SVT partnered with the Seldovia Bible Chapel to provide boxes of groceries at Christmas time to individuals and families in need.

New Year’s Eve Lock In for Teens – provided a safe and healthy alternative for youth.
Child Welfare/ICWA – federal law (the Indian Child Welfare Act) sets out the right for tribes to intervene on behalf of tribal children who have entered state custody. In 2016, SVT worked to support children who were needing advocacy and to help strengthen families in crisis. Shannon Custer continued to served on the Cook Inlet region’s child welfare team.

Ch’anik’na - Children’s House – quality child care continued for children ages 0-10. With an emphasis on education about the sciences, arts, literacy and socialization. Staff provided weekly science lessons and hikes year-round, and children learned Alaska Native singing, dancing and drumming.

Environmental Department – Seldovia Village Tribe continued as a leader in the state and nation for environmental stewardship and research. Our staff is committed to educating policy makers and advocating for best practices in our region. 2016 projects included:

- Ocean Acidification Research – collecting clam and water samples.
- Fish Consumption Research – continuing surveying of individuals in the Cook Inlet region and reporting state and nation-wide on the results, especially to the EPA.
Jakolof Bay Watershed Habitat Assessment – tracked coho salmon population through stream studies in Jakolof and Kingfisher Creeks.

Natural Resources Survey – gathered information from community members on personal use of resources, as well as their priorities of which animals SVT should focus on for research.

Material Reuse Facility – brought in three Connex storage units and placed them on SVT property along Jakolof Bay Road at Mile 4, providing us with the ability to store materials that can be recycled or reused. Staff continued recycling efforts throughout the summer with collection canisters placed around town, and managed the annual collection of electronics in Seldovia/Port Graham/Nanwalek that were transported out of the area via barge for recycling.

Network Node/Spatial Viewer – documented air and water quality data to be shared with the EPA.

Monitored Invasive European Green Crab Counts

Youth Culture Camp - our staff members have been cultural leaders for the Tribe, running annual Culture Camps, not only for the children from our community, but also from around the state, for ages 10-18. Elders and special guest instructors joined the youth at the Seldovia Native Association’s Sea Otter Cabins at the head of Seldovia Bay for four days of cultural enrichment, scientific exploration, and study.

Tribal Council Members:

Crystal Collier – President
Lillian Elvsaaas – Vice President
Trinket Gallien – Secretary
Kim Collier
Suzanne Collier
John Crawford
Katherine Gottlieb
Don Kashevaroff
Helen Quijance
Visitor Center & Museum

Hours:

Seven Days a Week
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Find Us Online!

Seldovia Village Tribe: svt.org
SVT Health & Wellness: svthw.org
Seldovia Bay Ferry: seldoviabayferry.com

On Facebook –
✓ Seldovia Village Tribe
✓ SVT Community Services
✓ SVT Tribal Environmental Programs
✓ SVT Health & Wellness
✓ Seldovia Bay Ferry

On Twitter –
✓ seldoviaferry

Seldovia Visitor Center and Museum – Open throughout the summer season, and twice a week in the wintertime, visitors were able to learn more about Seldovia’s cultures and traditions. “Bringing in the Catch” and “Tools of the Maritime Trade” were made to celebrate Seldovia’s long relationship with the sea, showcasing items from a variety of working boats, many from the first half of the Twentieth Century, and looking at the variety of nets, floats and weights used in different eras and different fisheries. “The Art of the Nagy’s” was installed as a temporary display showcasing some beautiful contemporary Alutiiq-style headdresses made by Helen Nagy Josefsen, as well as paintings of Seldovia landscapes by Louie Nagy Sr. Additionally, museum staff continued recording interviews with elders and community members, and created an Alaska Native doll display at our SVT Health & Wellness Homer location.

Senior Meals Program – dinners for elders were prepared three days a week by Sharon Bond for the first half of the year, followed by Sondra Caffrey. Meals were served in SVT’s Elders Room, and also delivered to home-bound clients.

Bingo – offered year-round for adults 19 years of age and above, participants gathered weekly for a chance to win fun prizes, $150 for Lucky 7 game and $500 for certain Black-Out games. Proceeds from gaming were used to support SVT’s community services programming.
Barabara Heights Volunteer Fire Department – our Fire Chief and Fire Administrator held twice-monthly trainings with volunteer fire fighters. They supported the annual Safety Day event and gave instruction on proper fire extinguisher use.

Injury Prevention – SVT focused on injury prevention by providing an exercise time for elders, ice cleat and other prevention items for sale, a chimney brush loaner program, and smoke alarm installation. We also provided CPR and First Aid classes for staff and community members.

Community Health Representative – supported community members by ensuring they receive the benefits they are eligible, including the Food Distribution Program and Fee Agent Assistance. Provided home visits for health checks, coordinated the annual health fair, and help make travel arrangements for those with health care needs.

HUD – the Housing Office provided assistance and advocacy to tribal and community members, helping with home loan applications, home ownership programs, housing cost assistance for college students, emergency assistance, plus modernization, rehabilitation, and weatherization support.

Fitness Center – open five days a week, year-round, for the general public, with specialized sessions for elders and teens.