



CONSTITUENT UPDATE

FROM SENATOR BEN STEVENS

Happy Holidays from the Stevens Family

Dear Neighbor,

I would like to thank the residents of Sand Lake, Oceanview/Old Seward, and Bayshore/Klatt for electing me to serve as the State Senator for District N. It was a privilege to serve as your State Senator last session by appointment and I am honored and enthusiastic to continue representing our neighborhoods.

The Senate Majority, during its organizational meetings, selected me to serve as the Senate Majority Leader as well as a member of the Finance, Rules and Natural Resources standing committees. As a member of these key committees, I will have the opportunity to work on the critical issues facing Alaskans such as sustainable resource development and reducing the fiscal gap.

The State Legislature will convene on



Senator Ben Stevens with his wife Elizabeth and their four children: Susan, Ben Jr., Augustus, and Theodore.

January 21, 2003 in Juneau. While in Juneau, the Legislature is committed to working together with Governor Murkowski and his Administration. The new Governor says he will take a different approach to make positive changes in Alaska beginning with top-down audits of existing state agencies and focusing on proactive economic and resource development.

I encourage you to contact me with your questions, concerns, and opinions. Let me know your thoughts on the issues that impact

you and your family. If I am not available, my staff will gladly help provide you with information and answer any questions about the legislative process.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy holiday season!

FROM THE DESK OF BEN STEVENS

In this Issue. . .

- What you should know about the South Extension of the Coastal Trail
- Information on the South Anchorage Waterline Project
- Update on Legislative Salmon Task Force
- How to Get Involved this Holiday Season

PERMANENT FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OFFERS MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVE

The Permanent Fund began with a \$734,000 deposit 26 years ago. The Fund has grown into a unique legacy that must be retained for future generations of Alaskans. Alaskans want the Alaska Permanent Fund to be just that, permanent. To further protect our Permanent Fund and ensure its permanence, the Board of Trustees has proposed a modern, proven mechanism used by most endowment funds designed to provide benefits for generations.

The purpose of the Trustees proposal is to provide constitutional protection against inflation, maximize long-term total return, maximize annual spending distributions, preserve the real value of the Fund and distributions, and maximize the stability and predictability of spending distributions.

Under the plan, both the principal and the earnings reserve would be constitutionally inflation-proofed. The current method for inflation-proofing is now in statute, not in the state

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A SEASON FOR GIVING

This time of year always seems to send us rushing around to make sure we have the best possible holiday season. Oftentimes it's easy to forget about others that are less fortunate. If your schedule permits it, please consider helping out the Anchorage Community Christmas program also known as GIFT.

GIFT was organized in 1995 to provide a one-stop holiday assistance program that would serve Anchorage area families and individuals with special needs during the holiday season. Every year, GIFT serves about 11,000 individuals.

GIFT is a cooperative program with many sponsors, including: The Salvation Army, United Way of Anchorage, Catholic Social Services, USMC Toys for Tots, ACS and Conoco Phillips.

Further information regarding participation can be heard by phoning the GIFT Hotline at 565-GIFT.●

How Can I Help?

- Volunteer your time by helping GIFT with recipient data, decorations, supervising children, traffic control – for more opportunities call the GIFT Hotline.
- Purchase extra toys this holiday season and drop them at any Angel Tree or Toys for Tots location. For more information call 276-2515.
- Organize a canned food drive. Items needed include canned foods, baby formula, and dry goods.



Get Involved Today!



*Drawing by Boys and
Girls Club Member
Tyler, age 11*



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constitution. Therefore, the practice of annually inflation-proofing the Fund is threatened should future legislatures, under tight budget constraints, choose to reduce or eliminate inflation-proofing in order to spend those earnings elsewhere. To further protect the Fund, the Board of Trustees advocate for a constitutional amendment that would provide for a modified annual payment limitation for the Fund based upon a percentage of a moving average of the market value (POMV) of the Fund.

Appropriations from the earnings reserve account in the future would be limited to no more than five percent of the Fund's market value for the past five years. As has been documented extensively, the five percent limit was chosen for many reasons. It is on the high end of a sustainable payout rate while still maintaining the Fund's real value; it allows greater distributions over time and it is what the majority of endowments pay out. For example a 5 percent payout from a \$25 billion Permanent Fund is \$1.250 billion. This is how much can be appropriated from a fully inflation-proofed Fund each year on a sustainable basis for all public purposes including dividends. Under the Trustees proposal the Fund can be expected to produce more than \$40 billion in income available for appropriation for the next 25 years.

I support the trustees in their efforts to stabilize future distributions from the fund and fully inflation-proof the principal of the fund.●

JOINT LEGISLATIVE SALMON INDUSTRY TASK FORCE



Photo Courtesy of Johnny Rice

The 22nd State Legislature, recognizing the steady decline in the viability of Alaska's salmon industry and its importance to the state's economy, established a special task force to seek improvements to state policies that affect the salmon industry. In June, Senator Ben Stevens was appointed chairman of the Legislative Salmon Industry Task Force.

The salmon industry is a key component of Alaska's overall economy and the largest private sector employer. In Anchorage alone, 1,300 people hold commercial fishing permits or are employed as deckhands. In addition to jobs, the industry contributed over \$19 million in general fund (GF)

revenues to the state in 2001. Due to the decline in the fishing industry, GF revenues are estimated to drop below \$15 million in 2003.

The Salmon Task Force established five subcommittees to examine possible solutions to various sectors of Alaska's salmon industry – quality, finance, marketing, production, and governance. The Task Force has also been holding public hearings in communities across the state.

The five subcommittees will provide recommendations to the Salmon Task Force in December. After further review and analysis of those recommendations, the Task Force will report back to the legislature by January 31st with specific legislation and regulatory changes to state law.●

To find up-to-date information on the Salmon Task Force please check the Task Force's website: www.ufa-fish.org

SOUTHERN COASTAL TRAIL EXTENSION UPDATE

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) recently released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the South Coastal Trail Extension Project. This report analyzes all alternatives for the coastal trail extension, including the alternative of no action. Thanks to the efforts by many South Anchorage residents and the overwhelming turnout at the public hearings, the public comment period has been extended to March 7th.

The former ADOT&PF Commissioner stated that following the public comment period, comments will be addressed and incorporated into the final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The final EIS will be subjected to another public comment period before it is sent to the Federal Highway Administration (FHA), the agency that will determine which action will be taken. At this time, the FHA has only approved the release of the DEIS – this is no indication that the FHA supports or concurs with the document.

I personally believe that money would be better spent by improving access to the existing coastal trail and building new trails to schools that do not currently have bike/walking trail connections. I am a strong supporter of the Kincaid park trail connection along Raspberry Road and the trail connection



between Kincaid Elementary School and Jewel Lake Road along Raspberry Road. Adding these portions of trail would improve the safety at the Jewel Lake and Raspberry Road intersection and help complete the circle of trails from downtown Anchorage to Kincaid.

The coastal trail extension proposal has a long way to go with many hurdles to clear, one of which will be approval for funding by the Legislature. When it comes to this hurdle, I do not intend to support spending such a large amount of money on the trail extension. •

The DEIS is available for public review at:

Loussac Library (Alaska Collection)
All Municipal Branch Libraries

MOA Project Management and Engineering (4700 S. Bragaw St.)
Legislative Information Office (716 W. 4th Avenue, Suite 200)

On-line: <http://home.gci.net/~southtrail>

To Obtain a copy of the DEIS or for more information:
Contact: Jim Childers, Project Manager at 646-9015

SOUTH ANCHORAGE WATERLINE

Early this summer, South Anchorage residents had a water shortage scare. Due to a combination of the dry summer weather and maintenance on the city's water reserve tanks, residents were asked to stop washing cars and watering gardens in order to conserve water. The shortage didn't last long but it prompted questions and concerns about the South Anchorage water supply. Anchorage has plenty of water but the problem is an inadequate distribution system to feed water to all areas of town with optimum supplies when citywide demand is high.

The Municipality is currently in phase four of its eight phase Anchorage Loop Water Transmission Project. The project will provide adequate water service and fire protection throughout the Anchorage Bowl. Phase IV, the final segment, is proposed to distribute potable water through approximately 26,200 feet of pipeline extending from the Tudor Reservoirs to 84th Avenue and Abbott Loop Road. Phase IV is currently awaiting state and federal regulatory approval and is expected to be completed in 2004.

In addition to the Anchorage Loop Water Transmission Project, the municipality will request funding from the Legislature for water lines in Sand Lake and South Anchorage. This is very important to Sand Lake residents because of the potential impact the housing development of the Sand Lake gravel pits will have on the water quality in that area. This will be a priority for the South Anchorage Legislators this coming session in Juneau. •



*Drawing by Boys and
Girls Club Member
Briana, age 8*

EAGLE SCOUT COMPLETES PROJECT AT JEWEL LAKE



On behalf of the community, I would like to give a heartfelt thanks to seventeen year old Josh Kempton of Eagle Scout Troop #187. Josh has spent over 180 hours of his spare time designing and building a stairway to access Jewel Lake. The stairway is 6'

by 20' and extends from the parking lot off of Dimond to the waterline. The stairway should help prevent erosion that occurs along the south bank and provide an extra measure of safety for those who access the lake from the parking lot. Josh's efforts will earn him the rank of Eagle Scout. His endeavor to benefit our community deserves a special thanks and I hope those who utilize the stairway will take a moment to recognize his accomplishment. Thank you Josh!



Josh Kempton explains the purpose of his project was to gain better access to Jewel Lake

UPCOMING WINTER ACTIVITIES

December

12-22 – Anchorage Film Festival (www.filmfestival.com)
 20 – 21 – San Diego Gulls vs. Anchorage Aces at the Sullivan Arena (for tickets: 258-ACES)
 22 – 29 – Holiday Dolls and Toys Exhibit (www.anchagemuseum.org)

January

5 & 12 – Anchorage Cup Races, Hickok Pursuit and Pia’s Classic at Kincaid (www.anchoragenordicski.com)
 17 - 19 – Seward Polar Bear Jump Off Festival (www.sewardak.org)
 21 – Alaska State Legislature convenes in Juneau
 26 – Alaska Ski for Women (<http://www.alaskaskiforwomen.org/>)

February

1 - 2 – Winterfest at the Alyeska Resort
 14 – Torchlight X-Country Ski Parade to Westchester Lagoon, free refreshments (info: 276-4118)
 14-23 – Fur Rendezvous Winter Carnival (www.furrondy.net)
 22-28 – National Master X-Country Ski Championship at Kincaid Park

March

1 – Fourth Avenue Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Start
 2 – 16th Annual Tour of Anchorage (www.tourofanchorage.com)
 15 - 3rd Annual Ski 4 Kids Day at Kincaid Park (www.anchoragenordicski.com)

Important Contact Information

State Representation

Senator Ben Stevens 269-0200
 Representative Norman Rokeberg . . . 269-0117
 Representative Lesil McGuire 269-0250

In Case of . . .

Emergency **911**
 Fire Department 267-4900
 Police Department 786-8500
 State Troopers 269-5511
 Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

Municipality

Mayor’s Office 343-4431
 Assembly 343-4750
 Loussac Library 343-2975
 Road Maintenance 343-8277

Area Schools

Dimond High School 742-7000
 Mears Middle School 349-3332
 Kincaid Elementary 245-5530
 Sand Lake Elementary 243-2161
 Chinook Elementary 742-6700
 Gladys Wood Elementary . 742-6760
 Bayshore Elementary 349-1514
 Oceanview Elementary 742-5850
 Klatt Elementary 522-1080

Community Councils

For meeting information on your community council please go to: www.communitycouncils.org

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