



Birch Creek Tribal Council Newsletter



Denduu Gwich'in Tribe | www.birchcreektribe.org

December 2016

Greetings! I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and good spirits as the holiday season approaches. We have been busy here at the Birch Creek Tribal Council planning and coordinating a variety of different projects and programs. Recently, employees of CATG travelled to Birch Creek to look at the new clinic site in the multipurpose building. CATG has committed their organization to seeing this project completed. The Interior Aleutians Campus in conjunction with CATG's NACTEP program will host Construction courses in Birch Creek during the week of December 5th. Up to six students will travel to Birch Creek from the Yukon Flats to attend the courses along with Birch Creek residents. Birch Creek residents can then apply these skills and gain employment when the clinic project begins, and when IRHA begins to hire their construction crew in Birch Creek in summer 2017. The Tribe has also begun the process to 638 contract programs directly with the BIA, we are excited to be on the path to self-determination, and are looking to begin contracting next year. In December we are planning to do something special for the community for Christmas, so look out for that. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us, mahsi'. -Nadine Carroll



CATG meeting in Birch Creek

Fairbanks Tribal Members...

The BCTC would like to hold a cultural activity with tribal members here in the Fairbanks area. If you would be interested in attending this class or are interested in being a mentor for beginner artists, please contact us.

Photos for Newsletter

BCTC would like to encourage tribal members to submit pictures via email regarding accomplishments. They can be pictures of certificates, successful hunting trips, or sports encouraging wellness. Please submit to: birchcreektribe@gmail.com



Denduu Gwich'in T-Shirts

We still have Denduu Gwich'in T-shirts available at the Fairbanks office. Adult sizes \$20, and youth sizes are \$15. We accept cash and can accept online payment.

Events

Nov. 24th- Thanksgiving, office will be closed (24th & 25th)

Dec. 4-9th – Construction Trades Tech. classes, Birch Creek

Dec. 25th- Christmas, office will be closed on the 26th and 27th

BCTC Welcomes New Administrative Assistant

The Birch Creek Tribal Council welcomes Charlotte James as our new part-time Administrative Assistant. She'll be working in the Fairbanks office helping to increase productivity of our programs and helping with the needs of our tribal members. Welcome Charlotte!

Tribal Member Spot Light, Lawrence James

Lawrence James was born to the late Neil James, of Birch Creek and Clara James of Venetie.

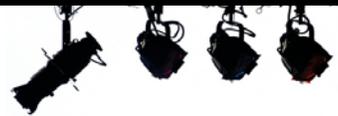
Lawrence is a very nice, kind, positive person and accepts challenges anytime. He's a very good host to visitors to Birch Creek and many know him as "Lil'L", he graciously welcomes new comers with a smile and makes sure they're comfortable. Lil'L is the first to volunteer to help, whether it be to split wood, haul water, wash dishes or deliver mail, he can always be seen keeping busy at any time of day. Lawrence is known to offer others his home in Birch Creek when visitors need a place to stay in which they get to enjoy his company, stories, and history of Birch Creek.

Lawrence is an important role model of our traditional ways and is always trying to increase village interaction and awareness.

He would like everybody to get into the Tribal Council meetings and if they have anything to include, or if they can share a piece of history, stories, their God given talents or just be there to lift up one another.

In February 2014, Lawrence James was mentioned in the Daily News-Miner as the man who walked 46 miles in 35° below zero. He walked from his hometown of Birch Creek to the neighboring village of Fort Yukon using the annual winter snow machine trail. That is the kind of determination Lawrence is known for and why all those who know him care for him so much.

Lawrence has seen Birch Creek grow from no electricity, phones, barely a scrap of runway to the recent renovations today. He went to school in his home town when there was only a small one-room school which he attended with siblings and the teacher's family. It was a traditional hard and humble life full of packing water, packing wood, working in the family garden and believing in the Lord above.



*Thank you Lawrence,
for all the
contributions you
make to Birch Creek
and those around
you!*

Message From Our New Environmental Coordinator

My name is Gary Lawrence and I am the new Environmental Coordinator for Birch Creek. I am from Fort Yukon, but moved to Fairbanks in 2015. I have over 20+ years' experience working for Tribal Governments (Mainly Fort Yukon) and have a degree in Tribal Management. I will be working on the Solid Waste Priorities and Goals that the Tribal Council has developed. Activities will include, but not limited to: Solid Waste Management Plan Development, Waste Source Reduction and Recycling, Backhaul, Cleaning up the current Landfill, and planning for a new Landfill Site. The Tribe recently received and Hazardous Waste Grant to develop a Hazardous Waste Management Plan and other activities relating to hazardous waste, so I will also be working with that grant and developing the Hazardous Waste Management Plan. I look forward to working for Birch Creek Tribal Council and if any Tribal Members have a questions or concerns, I am available at the Tribal Office in Fairbanks. Mah'sii Choo.

Tanana Chiefs Conference is Now Accepting Applications for the BIA Housing Improvement Program (HIP)

The BIA Housing Improvement Program is a grant program to help eligible American Indian/Alaska Native renovate existing housing or build new homes. To apply you will need:

- Copy of Tribal ID
- Proof on Income
- Proof of Land Ownership
- Disability statement, if claiming disability

See Mary Christina James, TWDS, for an application.

DUE DECEMBER 16, 2016!

Solid Waste Management Outreach

In September Nadine Carroll, Tribal Administrator, and Trisha Bower, Rural Landfill Specialist-ADEC, traveled to Birch Creek to do an environmental education outreach event to begin the tribe's solid waste management plan. Trisha Bower presented on the topics of rural landfills, ways to reduce solid waste, and proper disposal of different types of waste. The community then set their goals and priorities for their solid waste plan at this time.



ATTENTION!

As you know, we have been having problems with the village generator. Please limit your electric use by turning off and unplugging electronics that are not in use or not needed, turning off lights when not needed, putting freezers outside in the winter, not using electric heaters, and upgrading to energy efficient appliances and electronics. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our utility up and running.



Tribal Members of Birch Creek

We would like to start sending out more newsletters to our tribal members, please update your information by calling the office. You can find up to date news and events on our Facebook page, and also find tribal member forms and applications on our website.



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Council
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