



Birch Creek Tribal Council Newsletter

Denduu Gwich'in Tribe | www.birchcreektribe.org

Spring 2017

Ninjit Doonhyaa! Sheenjit Gwinzii! I can feel the excitement in the air as the days get longer and the weather gets warmer. Spring is almost near. As everyone is getting busy for the spring season, so are we at the Birch Creek office. Staff has been busy planning for summer projects and events. Some of the things we are planning for are environmental projects such as fence installation and trench the landfill, purchasing heavy equipment, and hosting an Environmental Week in May. We are also going to be distributing seeds again this year. The clinic project is still underway and is coming along nicely, and the work will last until May. I am proud of everyone for working towards their Construction Trades Technology Certificate and improving their community. The Interior Regional Housing Authority will begin to construct four dry cabins in June and will hire local labor. Anyone interested in working will have to apply with IRHA. Also, if you are in need of a new home there will be four available this summer and applicants will apply with IRHA for the homes. The Tribe is also hoping to host a cultural activity this summer in Fairbanks or Birch Creek. I am looking forward to accomplishing more of our goals for the Birch Creek Tribe and will continue to look for opportunities for you. I want to see our people and community succeed.

Nadine Carroll, Tribal Administrator

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, sports, or encouraging wellness. Please submit to:

victoria@birchcreektribe.org



New clinic construction project in Birch Creek



New Logo!

This is the new, finalized logo for the Birch Creek Tribal Council!

EVENTS

March 13-16 – Tanana Chiefs Convention, Fairbank, AK

March 17 – Doyon Annual Meeting

March 17-19 – Open North American Dog Race

March 27⁻³¹ – Construction Trades Tech. classes, Birch Creek

March 24- April – Fort Yukon Spring Carnival

Another Photo from the clinic construction



Tribal Member Spotlight, Angelica Baalam

Shoozhri' Angelica Baalam oozhrii. My parents are Jackie Baalam and Oskar James. I grew up in Birch Creek and spent about half my life there. I was always around my family including my parents, sister, grandparents, aunties, uncles, and cousins. I enjoyed being outdoors whether it be on a four wheeler heading to pick cranberries or on a boat downriver to go camping.

My family and I moved to Fairbanks for my sister and I to attend school, I then attended Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka for three years. I recently graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage with my associates in nursing degree about a year ago. Over the summer, I took a couple classes and hopefully I'll take more this upcoming summer and/or fall to continue my way on earning my bachelor of science in nursing science. I believe education is very important. I encourage people to keep learning. Anyone can take a class or a training.

Currently, I am a registered nurse working full-time at the Alaska Native Medical Center located in Anchorage. January is my one year mark being an employee. The floor I work on is an inpatient Internal medicine unit. I love my job because I meet so many different people all the time and I feel like it is a very unique place to work. I'm also taking a Medical-Surgical class through work which is 15 weeks long and will be finished in Mid-April. After working a certain number of hours I will be able to test and be a certified medical-surgical registered nurse.

I am not sure what my plans are long-term but right now I'm enjoying my job and whatever else comes up down here in the big city. I want to say hello to everyone in Birch Creek and hope you're doing good!

"Strive for excellence, not perfection" –H. Jackson Brown Jr.



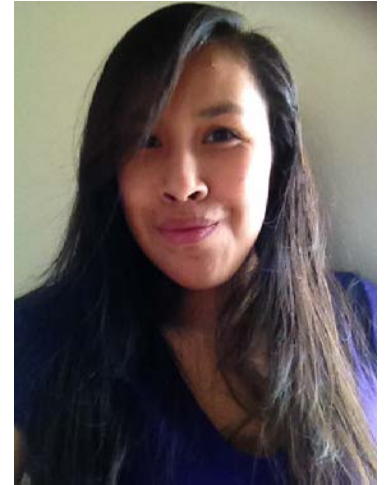
Tribal member, Angelica Baalam

Administrative Assistant, Victoria Baalam

Hello, my name is Victoria Baalam and I am from Birch Creek. As many of you know, I have lived in Fairbanks for the past six years attending University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). I will be graduating this spring with my bachelor's degree in Rural Development with a concentration in rural community business and economic development planning.

I work part-time for the Birch Creek Tribal Council as the administrative assistant. My duties include, but are not limited to taking messages, drafting letters, organizing or filing documents, and I help write the quarterly newsletter. I enjoy working at the tribal council because it's a small office with two other great co-workers, a peaceful environment, and flexible hours to accommodate my school schedule. I plan to continue my work when I move back home

After I graduate, my plans are to move back to Birch Creek. I will continue my education further in the fall of 2018 to begin my master's degree in Rural Development. I have been gone from home more than 10 years to attend school and will be happy to return.



Victoria Baalam

Message from our Environmental Coordinator, Eva Harvey

I was recently hired to manage the Environmental programs to include: the EPA IGAP, EPA Hazardous Waste grant along with the Tribal Transportation Program. I am Inupiaq originally from the villages of Noorvik and Kiana, AK where I grew up, particularly along the Kobuk River at my families' fish camp during the summer months. I have resided within the Fairbanks North Star Borough for the past 17 years. I received my Bachelors of Business Administration degree with an emphasis in Finance from the UAF. I also studied Rural Development within the Graduate program. I have three children; Tiahna, Marsten and Lucy, who all are very active in sports throughout the year. We enjoy camping, fishing and picking berries through out the summer months. (continued on next page).



IGAP: Throughout this fiscal year FY17 and continuing onto FY18, the Birch Creek Tribe will see many improvements being made within the community of Birch Creek. More recently with the IGAP grant, we purchased a burner unit for the landfill and a used oil burner to burn that will be utilized also as a heat recovery system. A laborer position to maintain the landfill will be open as soon as the new equipment is placed. Backhaul is an important factor to the overall health of the community of Birch Creek. Our backhaul program's success includes the contribution of all community members. Please keep an eye out for updates within the next few months.

Hazardous Waste Grant: One of the more crucial projects that will be coming soon is re-locating the generator waste used oil to a permanent location. This project is concurrent to the success of the IRHA Housing project.

Tribal Transportation Roads Program: A dozer for Birch Creek will be purchased that will be shipped early this summer to the village. We also plan for tribal community members who operate heavy equipment to gain comprehensive operating training. The training will be located either in Fairbanks or in Birch Creek.

I look forward to traveling to Birch Creek this spring and to continue to assist the tribe with the programs that I currently manage. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the Fairbanks Tribal Office, at 907-374-9925 or email, eva@birchcreektribe.org

Taikuu!

Birch Creek Tribal Council Members and Staff

Council Members:

Jacqueline Baalam, Chief
Oskar James, 2nd Chief
Lawrence James, Secretary
Winston James, Member
Mary Christina James, Membe

Birch Creek Village Staff:

Mary Christina James, Tribal Workforce
Development Specialist
Victor James, Generator Operator
Walter Williams, Water Operator
Vincent Williams, Alternate Water/Generator

Administrative Staff:

Nadine Carroll, Tribal Administrator
Eva Harvey, Environmental Coordinator
Jacqueline Baalam, Tribal Family Youth Specialist
Victoria Baalam, Administrative Assistant

