



Birch Creek Tribal Council Newsletter

Denduu Gwich'in Tribe | www.birchcreektribe.org

Summer 2018

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer and making the most of this short, wonderful season. Some of the things the council has been working on in the community are environmental projects, street light upgrades, and finishing up the oil spill. Now that the new incinerator is at the dump, the next step will be to hire a landfill operator and get them trained to operate the burner. The first phase of the street light project has been done, and next the electrician will make one more trip up in the next month to complete the installation of six new LED streetlights. The new streetlights will improve visibility and safety in the community, as well as result in energy cost savings. Another project that will be moving forward is the new housing that IRHA will be overseeing. There are lots owned by the tribe located by the tribal building that will be used for the sites of the new homes. The project will move forward once all environmental and necessary reviews are done. Now that we are making progress on some of these projects, the council would like to plan and start implementing other projects in the community. The clinic grand opening and elections will take place in August, continue reading for more details. We must continue to work together to make our community strong and thriving. Mahsi' choo! **Nadine Carroll, Tribal Administrator**

2018 Elections

It's almost time for the Birch Creek Tribal Council Annual Elections. The following seats will be up for elections:

- 1st Chief – Jacqueline Baalam 2016-2018
- Member – Lawrence James 2016-2018
- Member- Mary Yessie James 2016-2018

If you would like to run call the main office to let Nadine know which seat you'd like to run for and you will be added to the ballot. Good luck!

Elections will take place August 20th in Birch Creek.



Photos for Newsletter

BCTC would like to encourage tribal members to submit pictures via email regarding accomplishments. They can be pictures of certificates, winter activities, sports, or encouraging wellness. Please submit to:

victoria@birchcreektribe.org or nadine@birchcreektribe.org

Upcoming Events

- **July**
 - 30th -CATG Wellness Event, Birch Creek Tribal Hall
 - 31st HIPAA Training, Birch Creek Tribal Hall
- **August**
 - 1 – 2 – TCC Education Summit, Fairbanks
 - 21st – Yukon Flats Subregional Mtg., Venetie
 - 21st – Margaret Martin Clinic Grand Opening, Birch Creek
 - 20th – 24th (Tentative) – Cultural Workshop, Birch Creek
 - 21st – Birch Creek Council Elections & Annual Mtg, Birch Creek

Fire Training

Thank you to all who participated in this very important training! The instructor, Dave Miller, had a great time and said, "...it was truly a pleasure to work with the folks in Birch Creek. We met a few great people that trained hard and learned a lot and will be able to help their community in a time of crisis." The Birch Creek Tribe will be providing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to all homes that need them. Nadine will be taking inventory on her next trip to Birch Creek.



Environmental News

Throughout 2018, the Birch Creek Tribal Environmental Department has completed various tasks and continue to build capacity for the health and environmental wellbeing of the residents of Birch Creek. Various Heavy Equipment pieces have successfully been restored and fixed to complete various projects for the oil spill clean-up and the overall landfill clean-up that was done this July 2018. Many of these projects have been completed by heavy equipment mechanics such as Shane Sparks earlier this spring and Edward Swift who carried on the projects early in June until recently and Hazmat Specialist, Lance Whitwell of Venetie. We are grateful for the teamwork of our KBC Environmental personnel who have coordinated efforts in Birch Creek to help out our contractors and making them feel at home your community. A new four wheeler was purchased early this summer for the IGAP program which will assist with trash pick-up with the containers that were given out to each residence and occasional landfill compliance runs. The new burn barrel has been set up at the landfill and once we have personnel trained to operate the unit, a landfill operator will man the barrel during burn times. The drums that are located at the centralized location of town were tested to see if we can burn the oil and it turned out to be, out of 49 drums 35% are able to burn in the used oil burner that will heat the Tribal Building. Edward Swift just completed the landfill clean-up to include fixing the fencing that has been on the schedule to get done within the past couple of years. We are so excited for the next steps in operating a safe and clean landfill!



CATG Wellness Event!

July 30th, 2018 6pm @ the Tribal Building

The CATG Team Kelly Fields, Judy James, Clayton Edwin, John Stoffa, and Virginia Peter will be in Birch Creek to host a wellness event for the community. Everyone is welcome to attend. There will be food and door prizes and games, don't miss out! The following day, July 31st at 10am, Kelly will be presenting a HIPAA training at Tribal Building. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) established a set of national standards for the protection of certain health information and requires the protection and confidential handling of protected health information, among other things. Come learn more!

Tribal Member Services

- **Employment/Education Scholarships, Adult Education**
 - Scholarships- The Tribe provides financial assistance to tribal members attending a higher educational institution at the certificate and higher level.
 - Adult Education- provides funding for training and GED services.
 - Job, Placement & Training- Provides funding for work gear and other services to help tribal members with gaining and maintaining employment.
- **Medical Assistance**
 - Emergency Medical Assistance – Assistance for resident tribal members who have to travel for medical purposes and do not have Medicaid or other assistance.
 - Eyeglass Assistance- Provides financial assistance for contacts and eyeglasses
 - Dental Assistance- Provides financial assistance for braces, crowns, and other procedures not covered by I.H.S.
 - ***Please apply in advance, we need at least one day notice, we do not issue same day assistance unless absolutely necessary
- **School Supplies (pending council approval for 2018)**
 - Provides financial assistance for tribal council members attending K-12 to purchase school supplies and clothing.

To request an application and review full policies, please contact the office or download them at www.birchcreektribe.org

Birch Creek Cultural Activity

Tentative dates the week of August 20th. The Birch Creek Tribe will host a free cultural workshop in Birch Creek. An instructor will come to town to teach a canvas boot and fur hat class. All materials will be provided. This will be the Tribe's second workshop, the first one was held in Fairbanks in May 2017. This workshop is a part of our ongoing effort to encourage cultural preservation.



Thank you to everyone that has been paying their electric bills or making an effort to pay. The utility's ability to stay on the PCE program and continue to provide cheap electric rates count on you paying your electric bills. This means more money in your pocket, and more money for the utility to continue operating. If you cannot pay your balance in full, please contact the office to set up some type of payment plan, we are here to work with you.