

CITY NEWSLETTER

City of Gustavus
February 26th, 2026



City Council Members

Sally McLaughlin—Mayor
Lucas Beck—Vice Mayor
Renee Patrick
Justin Marchbanks
Karen Hutten
Mike Taylor
James Kearns

City Hall Staff

City Administrator—Kathy Leary
City Treasurer—Ben Sadler
City Clerk—Liesl Barker

Department Hours

City Hall— Monday -
Thursday 9am-3pm
907.697.2451

Library—
Monday 4p-7p
Tuesday- 9a-4p
Wednesday - Saturday 12p-4p
907.697.2350

DRC— *winter hours*
Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday 11a-3p
907.697.2118

Community Chest— *winter hours*
Wednesday 11a-1p
Saturday 11a-2p
Drop of donations during any
open hours.

GVFD—24/7 and only a phone
call away (911)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- City Council Work Session Monday March 2nd, 2026 at 6 pm.
Meeting Packet: [MEET-Packet-6402b379975d463c9e2cab6a3b74926d.pdf](#)
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/3v894y8z>
Zoom ID: 515 501 9406 **Zoom Passcode:** 5589 **Zoom Tel:** 253-215-8782
- City Council General Meeting Monday March 9th, 2026 at 7 pm.
- City Council Special Work Session – FY27 Budget Wednesday March 11th, 2026 at 6pm.
- Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Meeting Friday March 13th, 2026 at 3pm.

All are welcome to join in person at City Hall or via zoom. Agenda and packet information will be posted 5 days prior to the meeting.

Missed a meeting? View recordings of all meetings [here](#).

UPDATES

Looking for photos of Gustavus

The City is currently working on designing a new website. If you are willing to donate your photo for use on the website (photo credit will be given) please email the photos to clerk@gustavus-ak.gov. We would like to show off this beautiful town that we all love and call home.

Fish Box Flat Rate Tax Input Wanted

Dear Community of Gustavus,

The Fish Box Flat-Rate Tax is an important source of revenue for the city, which contributes to infrastructure and services that support our quality of life. Currently there is not a formal written policy and procedure to guide the implementation of the tax established and described in ordinance. Therefore, the City Council has decided to write that policy and procedure.

The goal of this policy and procedure is to make it as clear as possible which products are subject to the tax and to make compliance with the tax as easy as possible for businesses and their clients. Therefore, we need your help! We are seeking input from the community, especially those involved in charter fishing and fish processing, regarding any points of friction or confusion in the application of the Fish Box Tax. Please send your feedback to clerk@gustavus-ak.gov with the Subject line “Fish Box Tax”. Please note that in this effort we are not rewriting the ordinance or seeking to establish any new taxes. Thank you for making Gustavus a wonderful place to live and for your willingness to help our community be the best it can be!

Best regards,

Vice-mayor Beck on Behalf of the Gustavus City Council

Now Hiring GVFD Fire Chief – Check out the posting [fire chief job announcement feb 2026.pdf](#)

Was your property damaged during the winter storm? The city is gathering information about damages from the winter storm to help create a central repository. Reporting damages here is not a guarantee of assistance. For more information check out the form <https://airtable.com/appFPw2txjx3cFKcp/pagK2fKauBhB90Gjf/form>

Heat Pump incentive information from AP&T - Great news that \$4k to \$8.5k per household is now available for installation of residential heat pumps in AP&T's SE Alaska service areas, thanks to the [ACES program](#) by SE Conference and Alaska Heat Smart. Every household is eligible for at least \$4k regardless of income! Please help inform others in your community of this news by sharing far and wide! Access to clean, affordable heat is more economically viable than ever before! **The waitlist is now open. Here is a link to the application:** <https://airtable.com/appqnRy3vQydpeAO7/pago2qH8YlKiSeeS5/form> Note that you will need to apply and receive approval through the ACES program before installation of your heat pump. On a side-note, the State-administered [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) is currently available to low-income households to help pay for the ongoing cost of electric heat. Plus, AP&T's customers get the benefit of the State's power cost equalization program, up to 750 kWh per month! *Info from the ACES Website: Learn more about incentive levels and community eligibility [here!](#)*

Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas Rollout & Webtool Planning Workshop - The NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office invites you to attend the Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas Rollout and Webtool Planning Workshop, as part of the [Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Area process](#). There will be three identical one-day workshops which will be hosted at Anchorage (3/9/26), Juneau (4/15/26), and Kodiak (4/17/26). Limited travel fund are available. For more information [Summary - Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas Rollout & Webtool Planning Workshop](#)

Septage Study: The City received the final 100 percent Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) on Gustavus Septage Management improvements/alternatives. We are linking it so it is publicly available for your review. At some point we will need to have a worksession or town hall on this issue, hopefully along with an ADEC representative. If this is an important issue for you I encourage you to review this document.

Link: [gst0001_20251230_ww_septagemgmt_per-final_unsigned.pdf](#)

As part of ADEC's Capital Improvement Projects program process, at some point VSW would like to receive a resolution from the City indicating its disposition regarding the alternatives and recommendations in the PER. We as a City are going to have to have a serious conversation about whether or not to take on water/wastewater authority – which will be expensive and beyond our current revenue stream.

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is developing the Alaska Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) 2055 and invites you to participate in a series of online focus group meetings. These meetings will gather input on specific transportation topics to help shape the statewide Transportation Assessment, goals, policies, and long-range strategies.

All focus group meetings are open to the public and will be held online. Each meeting will be 60 minutes long and facilitated by the project team. Meetings will include a brief overview of the LRTP and the topic area, followed by guided discussion and opportunities for public comment. Participants are welcome to join one or multiple meetings.

Draft Transportation Assessment Open for Comment

The Draft Transportation Assessment (Existing Conditions Memo) will be available for public review and comment from Monday, February 9, 2026 through Sunday, March 8, 2026 at <https://publicinput.com/alaskaLRTP2055>. Focus group surveys will also be available online during the public comment period.

Meeting Topics and Schedule

[Focus group call-in links and surveys are available online](#) or in the table below.

Public Comment on the Draft Transportation Assessment and all surveys close on **Sunday, March 8, 2026.**

Email: lntp2055@publicinput.com

Website: publicinput.com/alaskalrtp2055

Thank you for your time and participation. ~ Alaska DOT&PF – LRTP Project Team

Hello Gustavus Community – ***Students- Teachers – Parents and everyone else*******

This notice is to provide information on a scholarship opportunity through the Alaska Safety Alliance. I have been a member of this board for over 15 years and have served on the scholarship committee for at least 8 years. This is a great opportunity to apply for training programs that might be outside of a typical academic university or college institution, although scholarships are provided for those programs as well. *The training program must be Alaska-based. Programs outside Alaska may be considered if an equivalent training*

program is not available in state.

Alaska Safety Alliance is about workforce development. Building the skills and proficiencies of Alaskans is a critical component of ensuring a healthy business environment and strong economy for our state in a global economy. It's ASA's mission to ensure the availability of a highly trained workforce, sufficient to staff Alaska's industries safely and competitively, now and in the future.

The ASA Training Scholarship program was created to assist Alaskans who are interested in careers in oil & gas, mining, maritime, transportation, construction, and other related industries. For instance, last year a scholarship was awarded to someone attending an aviation mechanics certification program and another for a Certified Safety Professional (CSP). Scholarships are one way we can help ensure Alaskans have sufficient skills, training, and education for a successful career in **Alaska**.

[Scholarships - Alaska Safety Alliance](#)

Info Sheet:

[2026-2027 ASA Scholarship Info FINAL.pdf](#)

~ Kathy Leary, City Administrator