

Virtual Holiday Party

Although COVID prevented employees from gathering in the traditional fashion, we were still able to celebrate the holiday season with our annual holiday meal and gift exchange. Midnight Sun Catering provided a delicious meal that included chicken with peppers and onions, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, salad, and a roll. Since we could not gather at the Turtle Club this year, we decided to bring a little bit of the Turtle Club to us with a variety of their widely desired desserts. A gift exchange was held over Teams with Dantasia and Kat in the conference room unwrapping the gifts and keeping tracking of steals. Prizes included grilling tools, a foot massager, a hydroflask, a yeti mug, Burt's Bees lotions and face washes, locally made jams and pickled items, handcrafted mugs, tool kits, and more. This year we were able to include our remote employees in the gift exchange. We are grateful that we were still able to make it another successful holiday event.



Bottom Left: A fun part of virtual gatherings is the ability to travel anywhere, even under the sea, with your workmates...without leaving your desk.



Bottom Right: Employees gathered in a virtual meeting to participate in a gift exchange. All gifts were provided by Design Alaska.



President's Corner

Feedback

Design Alaska receives feedback in lots of different ways. I believe we take the feedback we get and apply our passion to continually improve the services we provide to our customers. This feedback comes in lots of different forms: Clients send us formal performance reviews on projects, Contractors provide constructability feedback, Fire Marshal plan review comments, and the normal formal submittal review processes. At the end of projects, we may get feedback on the success of the job whether through the end users or the greater community.

I personally love that we get feedback. Being a leader means criticism is the most common feedback I hear. I believe that everything that comes back has some nugget of value that can be used to grow the company stronger and deliver better projects in the future. It is my role to listen to the feedback and evaluate if there are ways to grow and improve from it. Many times I just take the feedback, and continue to look for the thread that I can use to improve. When I get positive feedback, it is important that I pass it along to everyone involved and give credit to everyone who made it possible.

I also get internal feedback from employees about how I am running Design Alaska as president. In the same way, I appreciate that employees give me this feedback to me. Most recently I received many valuable comments on policies and made sure I read and listened carefully. I have been in far too many other organizations where feedback was not valued, and I believe we become a much stronger organization when people are willing to share opinions.

Design Alaska has a strong presence in our community. As such, I also hear comments from the community about our support of the arts, programs, and our general community involvement. This feedback is universally positive and it shows me that the things we support are valued further than the walls of the company.

So please provide feedback to others whenever you have something to share, positive or critical. I personally think it is a sign of a strong organization that feedback flows freely, and it is used to continue to grow and improve.

~ Chris Miller P.E.

President, Design Alaska

Learning New Skills



Looking to learn a new skill? Check out the Folk School! They offer classes in traditional crafts, woodworking, outdoor skills, and hands-on arts and

sciences for people of all ages. Classes are held year-round, and you can find a schedule on their website listed below. Jack also sends emails out periodically with information on currently classes offered. Upcoming classes include, New to Uke for Kids (Jan 20), New to Uke: Beginning Ukulele (Jan 21), Art of Textiles Using Stencils (Jan 23), Intro to Tapestry Weaving (Feb 7), Valentine Cream Puffs (Feb 10), Snow Sculpture for Amateurs (Feb 13), Traditional Chair Seat Caning (Feb 17), At-Home Montessori Environment (Feb 20), and Mammoth Ivory Jewelry (March 3). Some courses are single day, while others are spread across the course of weeks.



Welcome, Jeremiah!

On January 4th, Jeremiah Boswell joined the Design Alaska team as an Architectural Drafter/Intern. Jeremiah chose to apply at Design Alaska in hopes of jump starting his career in Architecture.

Born in Edmonton, AB (Go, Oilers!), Jeremiah spent the first 5 years of his life there before moving to Fairbanks. He is the thirdborn son of 8 children. Jeremiah says he gained dominance over his siblings through means of subterfuge, bribery, and his winning charisma.

Jeremiah loves disc golf and is currently working with a team from the community to design a new course at Tanana Lakes. One of his life's goals is to win an "A-Tier" disc golf tournament. If he could live anywhere it would be here, Fairbanks, but he would vacation anywhere with a great disc golf course.

Naturally, Jeremiah is a night person, but he has trained himself to be a morning person. His favorite movie is the Lord of the Ring and his favorite song is "A Little Bit of Everything" by Dawes. He did not watch T.V. growing up, but he would read anything by G.A. Henty. Jeremiah's ideal meal is beef wellington with a side salad. Welcome to the team, Jeremiah!



Holiday Greetings

CHRISTMAS WITH THE QUAKES

What a wild ride this past year has been. Here at the Quakenbush house we are surviving! Besides all the madness happening around the world, surprisingly enough, we

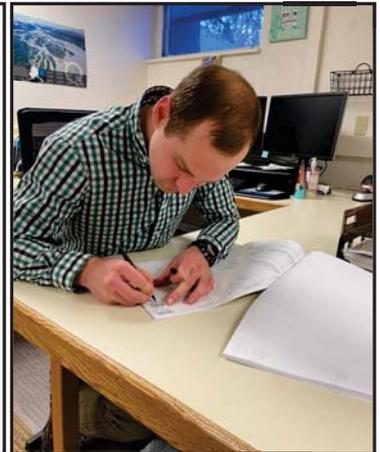


had some highlights. We moved into our new house, Beth went back to teaching full time, Isak joined a local hockey pick-up league, and Ben and Piper finally got their lip and tongue ties fixed! Ben is a giant 1 year old who is 3 inches shorter and 3lbs lighter than his big sister. He is a very happy boy, but he will always makes sure you notice him with his ear-piercing roar. Piper is 2.5 years old and is a sass, opinionated, smart little cookie. She loves pink and sparkles, but also trucks and animals. They often drive us nuts, but melt our hearts even more. Isak is loving his job, and on top of his project manager position, he is starting to incorporate his engineering skills into the design side of projects! Cola is our 6.5 year old black lab and she is healthy and adjusting just fine to her new home. We hope you were also able to find some positives in 2020! Stay safe and healthy this holiday season! We look forward to seeing you all once we finally put this pandemic to rest!

Love, Isak, Beth, Piper, Ben, and Cola

A Note from Production

Congratulations to Blake Burley on signing his first set of drawings! The production team appreciates when employees take time out of their day to stop by and sign their drawings. If you have drawings that need to be signed, be sure to stop by production. They have candy!



Mid-Week Treats



Design Alaska received a special mid-week treat of assorted goodies made by Little Own Café and purchased through The Venue, both of which are wonderful local businesses. The treats included applesauce cookies, chocolate chip cookies, peanut butter cookies, lemon shortbread cookies, chocolate cupcakes, crème brulee cupcakes, and carrot cake cupcakes. Yum!

Holiday Decor

A special part of the holiday season is the décor in the lobbies of both buildings. Every year holiday cards are hung up on the walls, poinsettias lined up the banister, and gifts are placed under the tree. It is a wonderful sight to see during the holiday season.



Elf on the Shelf



Did you spot the Elf on his short visit to the office? He spent some time relaxing in a "hammock" above the fruit basket in the Main Building, supervised the coffee machine in the Annex, and even spent some time in the freezer in early December.



Holiday Shopping

On December 9, Kat and Dantasia headed out to local stores to shop for holiday gifts for employees' children. Every year Design Alaska sponsors gifts for children 12 & under during the holiday season. Employees provide suggestions of gifts for their children and the admin staff takes it from there! After shopping at The Toy Quest, Fred Meyer, and Walmart, Kat and Dantasia returned with a variety of gifts including, drawing supplies, sleds, Legos, baby dolls, nerf gun targets, scientist & doctor dress up sets, a tea set, model car kits, yoga cards for kids, and more! Once the car was loaded, up they headed back to the office to begin wrapping gifts to be distributed to parents at the annual holiday party.



2020 Ice Sculpture

Watch as Heather Brice sculpts Design Alaska's annual ice sculpture. This year's design is a bear playing the cello. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, stop by the front steps of the Main Building.

More about the artist from Ice Alaska: Heather lives in Fairbanks with her husband and sculpting partner, Steve Brice. She has two daughters, Madi and Jill and a son Andrew. Heather and Steve own and operate Brice & Brice Ice Sculptures. They offer a wide variety of specialized carving tools through their online store. They are designers and primary sculptors for the Aurora Ice Museum at Chena Hot Springs Resort. Heather is a 9 time World Ice Sculpting Champion. She has won 3 Artist Choice Awards, 3 Golds in Lake Louise Alberta, and competed in the Olympic Arts Festival 2006 Winter Olympics Italy. National Ice Carving Association (NICA) score awards: 5 Gold, 2 Silver, and 2 Bronze.

<https://www.icealaska.org/a-3/item/brice-heather-2013.html>



2020 Ice Sculpture Continued



Looking for COVID conscious activities during these cold winter months? Take a walk through the Ice Park! Ice Sculpture Exhibition will be back at 3574 Phillips Field Rd. beginning February 1st at 10am with a variety of unique ice art. The event will run through March 31st and will be open daily 10 am—10 pm. Keep an eye out on Facebook for more event details including pricing.

“What is something you hope to accomplish in the new year? What is something you are looking forward to?”	
Mary Sue Dates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be more active in the community 2. The overflow
Don Hopkins	Be released from Covid lockdown and resume traveling to lower 48.
Elizabeth Johnston	Running the Marine Corps Marathon in October in Washington D.C. and attending my sister's wedding in the Bahamas right afterwards.
Robin Rader	I hope to stand on top of Wood River Bluff (one or the other).
Lyle Axelarris	<p>I hope to get back into a regular routine of exercise, something that has been challenging without soccer games to keep me motivated.</p> <p>I'm looking forward to a million post-pandemic things, from playing soccer to casually walking into a building without PPE or a decontamination plan. I look forward to my kids going back to school (IRL), team practices, and being able to visit their friends indoors (currently, they only play outside together). Traveling to see family would be fantastic. The occasional dinner out would be really nice. Oh, and movies. Maybe even an art gallery. Wait a minute, do you remember live music? Like, that's a thing right?</p> <p>Of course, I'm also really looking forward to seeing my friends at Design Alaska in person again!</p>
Benjamin Mildon	I am looking forward to graduating from UAF with my Bachelors of Science! Then I hope to start looking for a place to build a home and settle into Fairbanks for a while!
Marina Jones	<p>Become more flexible and athletic. My husband and I have set out to learn something that neither of us has done before together as we are always exercising separately or one of us knows how to do something over the other. Neither of us are very flexible or do much with athleticism so decided to look for something in that realm to work on together.</p> <p>In regards to looking forward to...anything is better than what 2020 brought I have a feeling...Oh, and Turtle Club next Christmas!</p>
Eliza Cink	Looking forward to our move to Washington and being away from these 100 degree summers!
Ryan Morse	<p>I'm hoping to complete the equinox marathon this year. Looking for training buddies!</p> <p>I'm looking forward to traveling again, especially eager to get back to my international plans that were placed on a COVID hold.</p>



Wellness

By: Elizabeth Johnston



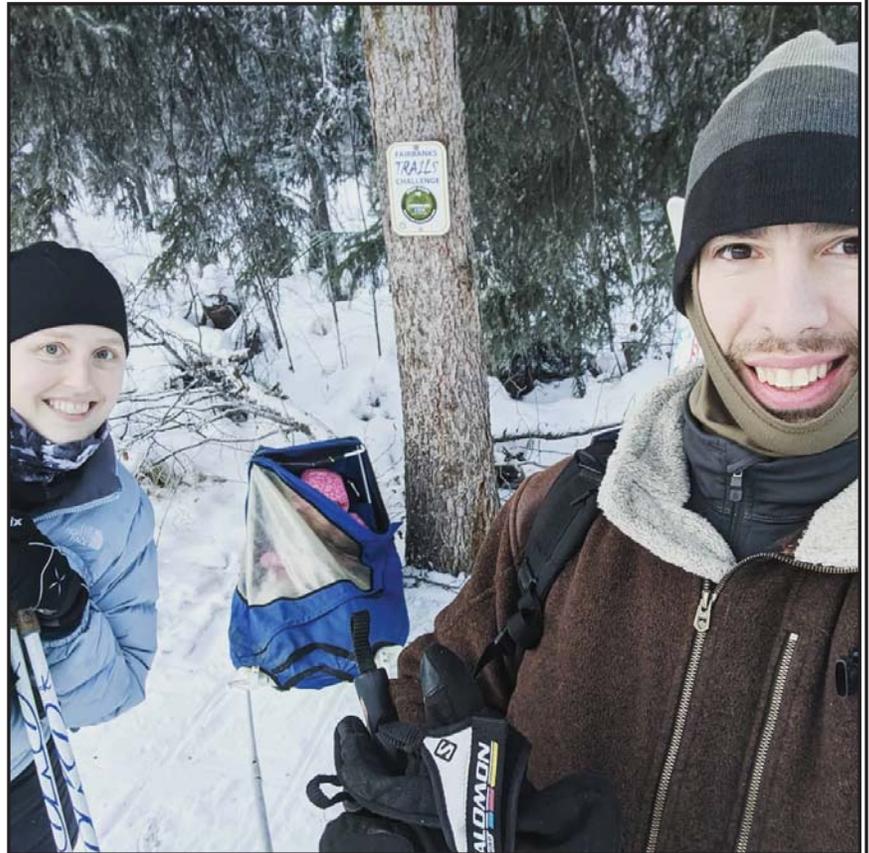
FAIRBANKS PARKS AND REC AGAIN HOLDING TRAILS CHALLENGE

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department is hosting another Winter Trails Challenge. The sign list was revealed in late December for this popular ongoing event, which is free and open to anyone. Participants have until April 30 to find at least 10 Trails Challenge signs hidden around local trail systems and share their photos with each sign.

This winter's challenge features trails at local recreation areas including Birch Hill, Tanana Lakes, Chena Lake, Skyline Ridge Park, Pearl Creek Nordic Ski Park and more. Five of the trails are ski only, and several are non-motorized, but six are motorized, multi-use, so there is something for everyone.

Anyone can participate by finding the Trails Challenge signs and sharing their photos on social media using the hashtag "#fnsbtrails" or by emailing their photos to parks@fnsb.us.

Anyone who finds at least 10 signs will receive the Trailblazer Award and be entered in a prize drawing. Participants under age 10 need to find at least 5 signs to win the Junior Trailblazer Award.



For more information on this year's challenge, see:

- Trails Challenge page at <https://tinyurl.com/y8mlkkuv>
- Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2687304928198988/>
- List of trails and directions to trailheads: <https://tinyurl.com/ybklr6u5>



Lunchtime Activities

Cutter, Isaac, Blake, and Robin bundled up for a lunchtime ski to debate the merits of waxable vs waxless skis. Which do you prefer?

Do you like to be active during your lunch hour? If so, what activities do you enjoy doing during that time?

We have seen many employees go skiing, go for walks/runs, walk on the tread-desk, do yoga in the wellness room, ride their bikes, etc.



Fairbanks Recycling Guide 2020



- aluminum cans
- batteries - household
- batteries - vehicle
- cardboard
- CFL bulbs
- electronics
- fluorescent tubes
- packaging material
- paper
- plastic #1 & #2
- plastic bags
- steel cans
- scrap metal



FNSB
Central Recycling Facility (CRF)
 1855 Marika Rd
 907-374-6616
 Tues-Fri noon-5:30pm
 Sat 9am-5pm
<http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/pw/Pages/CentralRecyclingFacility.aspx>



C&R Pipe and Steel Inc.
 401 E Van Horn Rd
 907-456-8386
 summer:
 Mon-Fri 7am-5:30pm
 winter:
 Mon-Fri 7:30am-5pm



K&K Recycling
 1262 Old Richardson Hwy
 907-488-1819
 Mon-Sat 8am-5pm
<https://kandkrecycling.net>



Home Depot
 1301 Old Steese Hwy
 907-451-9003
 Mon-Sat 6am-9pm



Green Star of Interior Alaska
 1101 Well St.
 907-452-4152
 Mon-Sat 10am-4pm
<https://iagreenstar.org>



The UPS Store
 607 Old Steese Hwy
 907-452-2221
 Mon-Fri 8:30am-6:30pm
 Sat 9am-5pm



Fred Meyer East & West
 930 Old Steese Hwy &
 3755 Airport Way
 Mon-Sun 6am-11pm

Safeway
 30 College Road &
 3627 Airport Way
 Mon-Sun 5am-1am

Walmart
 537 Johansen Expy
 Mon-Sun 7am-8:30pm



Batteries + Bulbs
 3027 Airport Way
 907-328-4040
 Mon-Sat 8am-8pm

ABS Alaskan Inc.
 2130 Van Horn Rd
 907-452-2002
 Outdoor bin drop 24/7

How to Use this Guide

The icons represent different materials that are recyclable in Fairbanks. Locations where items can be recycled are listed below each icon. Guidelines about what can be included and what should be left out are listed on the other side of this guide.

January 2021 ~ Upcoming Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day—Design Alaska Closed	2
3	4	5	6 Massages	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Birthday Cake	16
17	18	19	20 Massages	21 401K Lunchbyte	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Managers' Meeting	29	30
31						

January Birthdays

Eliza Cink	January 21	
Ciarin Connor	January 27	
Emily Winfield	January 29	

February Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 14—Valentine's Day

Classifieds

Design Alaska Anniversaries

Florian Kienle	19th Anniversary	January 10
Jennifer Centers	2nd Anniversary	January 28

The cake for our birthday celebration in December was a delicious vanilla cake with vanilla frosting from Larae's Breads, Pies, and Espresso.

