Bringing the Aleutians East Borough, the AEB School District and Eastern Aleutian Tribes together by sharing common goals.

Alaska DMV: Real ID Deadline is Oct. 1, 2020

According to the Alaska Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), starting on Oct. 1, 2020, the Department of Homeland Security requires that your driver’s license or ID card be Real ID compliant if you’d like to use it as identification to board domestic flights or enter military bases and most federal facilities. The DMV recently added a location to process REAL ID applications: the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (ANC). The ANC-DMV, located at 4600 Postmark Drive in the North Terminal, will only accept credit card payments, and you must make an appointment prior to arriving, which will create almost no wait time. To schedule an appointment, visit the following link: http://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/
For more information and a checklist of the documents that you will need, visit these links:
https://online.dmv.alaska.gov/RealIDChecklist/Home/Checklist#/ and
https://doa.alaska.gov/dmv/akol/ID%20News.htm

PUBLIC NOTICE
NELSON LAGOON DOCK CLOSURE
MAY 1 – JULY 31, 2020

The Aleutians East Borough will be conducting repairs on the
Nelson Lagoon Dock.
The dock will be closed for use May 1 through July 31, 2020.
For more information please contact Anne Bailey at (907) 274-7580
or at aballey@aeboro.org
Information from Alaska Tribal Broadband LLC for Tribes:

FCC’s “Tribal Priority Window” for Key Broadband Asset: Tribes Can Get Valuable Wireless Spectrum License for Free

Much of Alaska’s mostly rural tribal lands are positioned at the very bottom of what’s known as the “digital divide” which references the “have’s” and “have nots” in access to satisfactory broadband services. In July 2019, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued an Order that will elevate broadband services for the nation’s federally recognized tribes, including those in Alaska. The Order established a Tribal Priority Window, the first ever by the FCC, setting aside a time period when eligible tribes can apply for and receive a valuable 2.5 GHz wireless spectrum license for free, before the FCC initiates a country-wide auction for this spectrum to everyone else. Wireless spectrums are expensive and typically account for 30-35% of a wireless service provider’s asset base. The 2.5 GHz spectrum has exceptional value as it is considered a prime spectrum that supports the emerging global 5G technology, which significantly increases broadband speeds and data handling capacity. The FCC will provide the 2.5 GHz licenses to eligible tribes submitting applications during the Tribal Priority Window for free. The clock has started. The “Window” opened February 3 and closes on August 3, 2020.

Harold Johnston, a native Hawaiian with an extensive telecommunications background, began an initiative last fall, through his consulting company, Alaska 5G, to educate Alaska Native entities on the spectrum opportunity. One continuing feedback from tribal groups was that they understood the spectrum value, but they didn’t have the technical or managerial expertise to act on the opportunity--- they needed somebody to “drive the bus” as one tribal leader stated. In response, Johnston formed Alaska Tribal Broadband LLC (ATB), a company totally dedicated to improving broadband services on Alaska Native lands. ATB is available to assist the tribes in preparing and filing the license applications. That is only the first step. Equally important are developing and implementing a plan that answers the question, “What do we do with the spectrum once we get it?”. ATB suggests that the following tasks are required to maximize the benefits that come with owning the spectrum license:

1. Meet FCC buildout requirements to deliver service within the licensed area to 50% of the population by the end of year-2 after license award, and to 80% by the end of year-5.

2. Maximize revenue and broadband service deliverables from service providers desiring to lease the tribes’ excess spectrum frequencies.

3. Develop a strategic tribal broadband plan on a regional basis that optimizes broadband service for the region’s tribes and villages. The Plan should include:
• Service requirements and pricing
• Network design, Infrastructure costs and funding sources
• Middle-mile service provider options
• Operations and maintenance costs
• Tribal jobs and training opportunities

Tribes have a unique opportunity to acquire at no cost, a valuable asset that can play a major role in improving broadband in their communities. They must act now or lose the opportunity!

Contact: Harold Johnston / 808-291-0750 /
hjohnston@akTribalBroadband.com

If you have news you’d like to share or if you’d like to subscribe, please email ltanis@aeboro.org or call Laura Tanis at (907) 274-7579.

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