

January 2020, Issue# 60



Palmer CITY LINKS

Bugge Park

by Marilyn Bennett

This is the first in a series of articles about the parks in the City of Palmer. The City is in the process of implementing an "Adopt A Park" program. This program is to recognize the people who have been looking after the parks and find others who would like to become involved in the program by adopting their neighborhood park.

In 2005 the city of Palmer took over management of the parks within its boundaries from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in order to better serve the residents of Palmer.

This week I would like to highlight Bugge Park. This park is the small playground area bordered by the Glenn Highway and Cobb Street. It seems to be a popular playground. When I stopped there at various times over the summer there were always lots of kids enjoying the playground equipment.

I was curious about why they had named the park Bugge Park, so I took a trip to

the Palmer Museum. There I discovered that John Bugge was a Norwegian farmer who came to this area in 1914 with three of his friends by steamship. These fellows were the first homesteaders in the Palmer area. John Bugge homesteaded 320 acres where the Palmer-Wasilla Highway and Glenn Highway intersect.

The new Fred Meyer store sits on



what was once his hay field. The old cabin depicted in the mural at Fred Meyers is the one built by John Bugge. John set aside a portion of his land to be given to the Territory of Alaska to build a State Capital when Alaska became a state.

Instead of a capital we have a playground on the site. Some might say that is a much better use of the land.

The park has a variety of playground equipment and room for the children to run. The City hopes to plant a vegetation barrier between the playground and the highway this year. The City is looking for ways to make our parks more welcoming to the people of Palmer.

The Lions Club of Palmer has worked to

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clean up this park once a year. Usually early in the spring they rake, hoe, weed and spruce up whatever needs to be addressed. The Club has done the work at this park for many years and they have stated that they plan to continue this task for as long as they are able.

If anyone wants to help the Lions Club in their yearly cleanup you may contact Bert Verall at: lionbert.44@gmail.com.

For those of you who want to get involved with the "Adopt A Park" program please contact a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Representative at: cnall@palmerak.org. If you have historical information or special memories about any of the city parks please contact: marilynjbennett@yahoo.com.

In the winter we have many other activities to keep both adults and children busy. Come Spring I certainly look forward to enjoying our city parks. Whether it is watching the little ones getting on a swing for the first time or the teenagers risking life and limb at the skate park. Just having these small parks to give a respite from the hustle and bustle of modern life is wonderful. Looking forward to hearing from those of you who love the parks and the history of this area as I do.

(Photo Courtesy of Marilyn Bennett)

Palmer Museum Kicks off Membership Drive

For the Love of Palmer

On February 5th, we will be having our annual museum membership meeting at the museum. In addition to electing board members and giving reports, we are asking attendees to



help us with our next exhibit! We are devoting a wall to photos of what folks love about our town. Email us your favorite photo of Palmer with the caption "I love doing/seeing ____ in Palmer, Alaska!" or bring a copy with you to the museum (any size will do). We hope to see you there!

Artist of the Week

Our hit summer exhibit is back! Artist of the

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Week returns to the museum this May, where we will feature 15 Valley artists in a rotating weekly display. Last summer, over 26,000 people experienced the exhibit, providing a wonderful economic and publicity boost to artists and a showcase to visitors of Palmer talent. Our deadline for applicants is February 15th, and information for entries can be found on our website palmermuseum.org

(Article Courtesy of S.Dinges)



Coach Redbeard Goes to Africa!

The beloved coach for PAHA Ice Mice Program, Tim Z. known as Redbeard spent the holidays in Africa. Although his players in Palmer missed him during the trip, Coach Redbeard represented

Alaska well making new friends in the large World of Hockey out there. Day after day I watch coach Redbeard do amazing coaching for the PAHA Kids in Alaska. He does it the right way with his knowledge and he is full of positive energy. It is was nice to see him sharing that love of hockey worldwide!

Great Job Redbeard and welcome home!

(Article and Photos Courtesy of S.MacSwain)



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Coming Up...

Every Monday in Feb & Mar @ Library

*Listening Post – 10:30am – 1pm

Every Tue in Feb & Mar @ Library

Baby Lap sit (0-2) – 10am

2-Year-Old Storytime – 11am

Every Thu in Feb & Mar @ Library

3 – 5-Year-Old Storytime – 11am

Feb & Mar @ MTA Events Center*

Every Mon Tue, Wed, Thu and Fri

Public Skate – 12noon – 1pm

Every Mon, Tue, Wed & Thu

Stick Time – 1pm – 2pm

Feb 3 Friends of the Library Meeting –
5:30pm

Feb 17 Library and City Offices

CLOSED/President’s Day

Feb 21 ClassicFilm – 7pm @ Library

Feb 21 Middle School Movie Night – Library
– 6pm

Mar 16 Basket Donation Drop Off starts –
Library – 10am

Mar 30 - 31 Basket Auction – Library - 6pm

*Time may be a subject to change. Please contact
MTA Event Center at 907-746-4231

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