



## Tax Bills Postponed, Anchorage Named "Small City of the Future."

### Quote of the Week

*"I believe this slogan fits many people in our great state. Alaskans go all out; we're always up to going out into nature, connecting and having a good time."*

-Kelsey Pratt,  
Anchorage,  
5/7/07,  
Anchorage  
Daily News  
Letter to the Editor  
regarding the  
Anchorage slogan  
Big Wild Life.

### Coming Up...

Mayor Begich travels to Fairbanks Wednesday to observe the Alaska Shield/Northern Edge military exercises.

Click to [subscribe](#) or [unsubscribe](#) from "Muni News" or for more information contact the mayor's office:  
P.O. Box 196650  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
343-7100  
[mayor@muni.org](mailto:mayor@muni.org)

**Muni Postpones Tax Bills.** The Assembly postponed the mailing date for property tax bills until May 30th. Mayor Begich proposed the delay so revenue sharing approved by the Legislature during the current session could be used to provide additional property tax relief this year. Last year, Anchorage received \$22 million in funding from the state. These funds will be distributed to taxpayers in the form of property tax credit that will appear on this year's property tax bills. Any revenue sharing approved by the legislature before it adjourns on May 16th will be used to increase the amount of this year's property tax credit. Typically, the property tax bill is sent on May 15 with the first half payment due June 15th. Because of the delay in the billing date, the deadline for the first half payment will be moved back to June 30th.

**Anchorage Named Most Business Friendly City.** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) magazine named Anchorage as a North American "Small City of the Future." FDI selected Anchorage for its business-friendly practices evident in the lack of personal income and sales taxes, low property mill rate, and number of out-of-state companies already investing in the city. More than 18,000 jobs in Anchorage are attributed to out-of-state private sector employers. The Anchorage Economic Development Corporation nominated the city and worked with the researchers to showcase Anchorage's business benefits. Anchorage ranks #4 in small cities (population 100,000 – 500,000) for business friendliness. Mobile, AL, tops the business-friendly, small city list and is followed by Windsor, Ontario; Greenville, SC; Anchorage and Moncton, New Brunswick.

**Improvements to Westchester Lagoon Change Water Levels.** This summer the water level in Westchester Lagoon will be lower than normal to enable completion of the utility relocation phase of the Chester Creek Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project and to protect nesting birds. The project will improve the natural condition of the creek, restore fish passage, and enable the city to better manage creek water and protect property during high water and storm events. Utility lines need to be relocated on the Cook Inlet side of the railroad tracks at the mouth of Chester Creek. Two lines were successfully moved last summer and the final line is being relocated this spring.

**2007 Ron Hammett Award Recipient**-On behalf of the Senior Citizens Advisory Commission, Mayor Begich gave the 2007 Ron Hammett Award to Ella Craig (center), a long-time advocate for Alaska's seniors for a lifetime of work advocating for older Alaskans. Also in the photo is long time senior activist AnnaBell Stevens.



Click to enlarge.