



# A message from Tim Rittal ...

FALL, 2017

## OF VARIOUS AND SUNDRY ITEMS....

The Dimond High class of 1977 had their 40th reunion in June. Ann's on the planning committee, and learned a few things as she and her friends worked their way to a successful evening event at the **Anchorage Zoo**. What a wonderful facility to hold a gathering of up to 150 people. **Gateway Hall** is located off the east parking lot and they had tables, chairs, a kitchen, sound and video equipment for rent at a very reasonable rate. The people were easy to work with and accommodating.

Things have changed in the past several years and getting a liquor license for a special event has become quite the quagmire of hoops to jump through. We ended up hiring **Humpy's** to provide the bar, complete with servers, glasses, and beer and wine. For a nominal fee they set everything up, manned the cash bar, and took everything away. Call them at 907/276-2337.

Did you know the **library offers audiobooks and digital books** to download onto your digital device? It's all **free**, and you can check them out for up to 21 days, and then re-check them out when you haven't listened or read them all yet! The audiobooks use the free app, **OverDrive**, and once you figure out how to navigate and load books, it's easy to listen to them while you're driving, walking, or working around the house. Check it out!

Speaking of libraries....Ann's reading the most fascinating book....**Word by Word, The Secret Life of Dictionaries** by **Kory Stamper**. She's a lexicographer with Miriam-Webster, and she writes about how dictionaries are written! It's a fascinating look into the world of finding new words, which ones to include in the dictionary, defining them, figuring out the correct pronunciation, researching the derivations and dating the word. If you like words, this book is a fun read!

We had our driveway resealed this summer, and used **Alaska Quality Sealcoat**. They were terrific. They gave us a bid, which we thought was high until we realized the work they were going to do. They first came and prepped the area, getting rid of moss and weeds and leaves along the edges of the driveway. They spent a day sealing the cracks and breaks with a rubbery cement. And then they spent two days sealing the driveway twice. They were clean, professional, and very considerate of our schedule with our bed and breakfast. They were worth every penny and we now have a very smooth driveway. Call them at 907/344-1082.

Do you use **VRBO (Vacation Rental By Owner)** to find places to stay around the world? Did you know they are now owned by Expedia?

And that they charge their users a "service fee" on top of the price of your rental? As consumers we find this greedy. As a bed and breakfast advertiser we find this deplorable. If you find a place you'd like to stay on VRBO, you might try searching the internet to see if you can contact the owner of the property directly to save yourself this "service fee." In our experience that fee is about 10% of the base price of the accommodations. If you'd like to read more about the mergers that caused this switch from a wonderful website full of vacation rentals to a booking service full of fees, google **GeekWire** for their 2016 article about frustrated homeowners and Expedia's VRBO.

Speaking of travel, do you fly on **Alaska Airlines**? Have you tried their **free GoGoEntertainment** app? It's pretty incredible, and did we mention, free? *The key is to download the app before you travel.* Once you're onboard and at 10,000 feet, you can open your WiFi and the app and search out and watch, for free, a movie or TV show. (There are instructions for use on the placard in the seat pocket in front of you.) You can also **FreeChat** with the device, which is a pretty cool way to touch base with those 30,000 feet below you! You no longer need to purchase the Digiplayer if you don't want to. The movies are fairly recent. Recently Ann also used the Alaska Airlines app to follow the flight's path and pre-order a meal. Remember to download these apps before you travel.

From visiting friend **Monte Lamer**, check out **Cheapwheels Rent-a-Car** for your family and friends who are coming north, especially in the summer as an car rental option. Monte found his car clean, in good condition, and easy to pickup. Located on Jewel Lake Road, their phone number is 907/561-8627.

From alert readers **Linda McLaughlin** and **Nancy Harbour**, if you need help moving things within your home (furniture from one room to another), across town, or out of state, check out **Superman Movers**. Nancy was very pleased with their services, and highly recommends them. Call them at 907/644-0307.

Ann and her niece, Hannah, were invited to fish from the banks of the **Great Alaska Adventure Lodge** as guests of the owner. They had a great day of fishing and brought home three reds. Great Alaska features fishing trips up the Kenai River, fly-in trips, as well as bear-viewing trips across the inlet. We were impressed with their professionalism, their services, and their facilities. Check them out at [www.greatalaska.com](http://www.greatalaska.com) or call them at 907/262-4515.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS....

- August 21 School starts (Anchorage)
- September 4 Labor Day
- October 5 PFD Direct Deposit Date
- November 5 Daylight Saving Time ends



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