



Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce

The Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce supports economic development and economic diversity that complements the community oriented nature of this area. Bear Paw is coordinated and annually sponsored by the Chugiak-Eagle River Chamber of Commerce with the support of many of the businesses, chamber members, nonprofit organizations, and community residents who volunteer tirelessly.

Located just 12 miles north of Anchorage, residents have access to all the urban amenities and the benefit of living in a community that has a unique identity and home town pride. The population of Chugiak-Eagle River is estimated to be approximately 35,000 according to the Alaska Department of Labor. Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson is less than eight miles from downtown Eagle River and many members of the military and their families call this community home.

Bear Paw Festival began as a small two-day event in 1985 and has grown to a five-day annual festival, hosting nearly 50,000 attendees each year. The Festival includes a 5K Race, a 300 yard Running with the Bears Race (because after 300 yards, it just isn't fun anymore!), Grand Parade, Slippery Salmon Olympics, Human Foosball, Xtratuf Bling Your Boots Competition, Handyman Relay Race, Giant Jenga, Bear Paws Got Talent Show, Pageant and/or Amateur Talent Show, Live Music, Magician, Teddy Bear Picnic, Chopped Salmon Throwdown, Ice Cream Eating Contest, I-Did-A-Duck (Rotary activity), and carnival rides, food and other entertainment! Annually, Bear Paw Awards are given out by the Chamber and sponsored by various businesses to recognize community members who are outstanding citizens; likewise, annual scholarships are awarded to our area youth who have excelled in academics, writing, or other talents and receive assistance toward college expenses.

The Chamber of Commerce is staffed with an Executive Director, Dana Thorp Patterson and an Event Director, Merry Braham. The **2015 -2016 Executive Board of Directors** includes Board President John Sims, Board Vice-President Colin Fay, Secretary Curtis McQueen, Treasurer Crystal Kennedy, and Legislative Liaison Susan Wallen. The general Board of Directors is comprised of twenty-five members who work and/or reside in the region and help guide the direction of the Chamber while representing various industries and interests of Chugiak and Eagle River, Alaska.

The Chamber of Commerce supports businesses to help them grow, connects businesses to customers whom they need, and finds solutions to business challenges.

Become a member today!

www.cer.org

www.bearpawfestival.org

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