



DOWNTOWN UPDATE

SUMMER TOURISTS HAVE ARRIVED

KTUU Channel 2 did a story on Monday about the rosy predictions for this summer's tourist season. According to the story, **the Alaska Travel Industry Association (ATIA) projects a 2.5 percent increase in visitors to Alaska this summer** – that's about 40,000 more people coming to visit our state. And those who come to visit tend to stay longer, while the trend in other destinations is the opposite.

[Click here](#) to view the article online. It features interviews with Shirley Cobble – from **Shirley's Hotdogs** – and the owners of the new **Virtu Gallery** on 4th Avenue who had this to say about Downtown: **"The whole feel of the downtown area, I think, is emerging."**

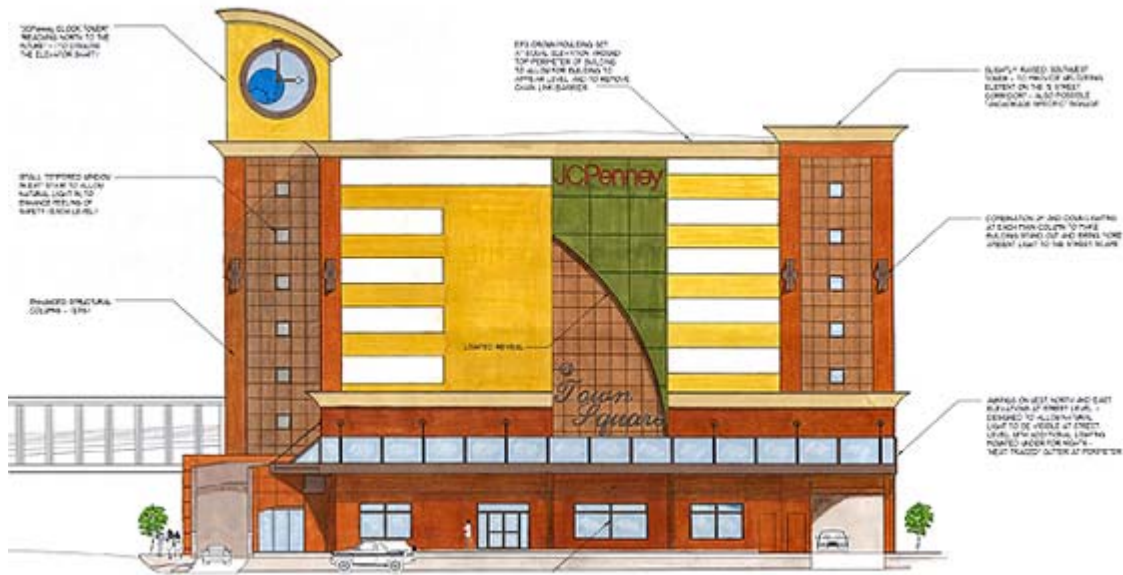
FACELIFT BEGINS ON PENNEY'S GARAGE

New paint, improved lighting, safer elevators and security guards are just part of the \$1.6 million renovation underway at the **JC Penney Garage** in downtown Anchorage.

The first color of a multi-phase paint job is being put on the garage. The color scheme of cinnamon, sage, brown and a taupe-colored crown molding is designed to make the garage more inviting and a focal point for downtown.

The Anchorage Community Development Authority took over management of the garage in October as part of the administration's commitment to adding more parking spaces downtown. The garage has been under-utilized in recent years, and the security measures along with the renovation are designed to make it a safer, more enticing place to park.

For additional information, please contact Wendy Mikowski, Development Director of Anchorage Community Development Authority at 297-4431.



NAT'L HUNGER AWARENESS DAY AND NEW MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Please join **Anchorage's First Lady Deborah Bonito, United Way of Anchorage and Food Bank of Alaska** on June 6 – **National Hunger Awareness Day** – to celebrate and christen **the first mobile food pantry in Alaska**.

This innovative program, made possible by Anchorage East Rotary Club, will provide fresh foods to hungry people right where they live.

Join **the First Lady** and many others **next Tuesday, June 6th, at 10:30 a.m. on the south entrance (the Town Square entrance) of the Alaska Performing Arts Center** for the christening of the new mobile food pantry.

Following the christening, everyone is invited to a **Bean-A-Fit** lunch at City Hall, with the proceeds benefiting **Beans Café**.

To RSVP for the event, please call **Food Bank of Alaska** at 272-3663 or email Merri Mike Adams, FBA Director of Development, at madams@foodbankofalaska.org

HELP FUND DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY PATROL

The Anchorage Cabaret, Hotel, Restaurant & Retailers Association (CHARR) in collaboration with the **Downtown Bar Association** is working to establish a **Downtown Community Patrol**.

The Downtown Community Patrol will consist of two teams of two professional security guards **patrolling the downtown streets on Friday and Saturday nights between 12:00 a.m. and 4:00 a.m.** to provide safer streets for customers, employees, and the community.

The Downtown Community Patrol will:

- Patrol the downtown core area
- Utilize car, bike and foot patrolling
- Report incidents directly to Anchorage Police
- Prevent victimization with an emphasis on sexual assault crimes

- Track reports and incidents to measure effectiveness
- Work with local businesses and agencies, APD, government officials and other community patrols to address problems

CHARR would like to ask downtown businesses to help sponsor the Downtown Community Patrol with a yearly donation of \$500 or \$1000. Businesses that choose to help sponsor the **Downtown Community Patrol** will be recognized at public events, on posters, in newspaper ads, on radio & television, in **CHARR** newsletters, and at all press events.

In addition, there are tax advantages to corporate and individual gift giving: **all contributions are tax-deductible!** But the best part is that **the Downtown Community Patrol** will patrol our neighborhood, protecting businesses and residents as they do their nightly rounds.

If you are interested in contributing to the Downtown Community Patrol – or if you have any questions or comments – please **contact Anchorage CHARR** at 646-4628 or email anchoragecharr@gci.net

ARTWORKING SHOW AND FUNDRAISER AT SHIP CREEK CENTER

The 2nd Annual ArtWorking juried art show and fundraiser opens at the Ship Creek Center this Friday, June 2 with a free public reception from 5 – 8 p.m. that will include a meet-and-greet with participating artists, a tour of the exhibit, live music, appetizers and a no-host bar.

ArtWorking, which features nearly 50 emerging Alaska artists, is more a diverse, colorful art exhibit that seeks to promote and encourage Alaska's many talented – yet largely unknown – artists while supporting the work of two community-based organizations – **Stone Soup Group (SSG)** and the **Mountain View Arts & Culture District Association (MACD)**.

During the exhibition, visitors can vote for their favorite piece, bid on artwork in the silent auction, and learn about the artists and beneficiaries. Beginning in July, limited edition posters of the 1st place artwork will also be available for purchase.

On September 9, the artwork will be **sold in a live and silent auction**, held in conjunction with the Latino Lions Club Fall Fiesta. Proceeds from the poster sales and auction will go to support the work of participating artists, **SSG** and **MACD**.

ArtWorking will be on display at the Ship Creek Center until September 3.

For Fall Fiesta tickets or more information on **ArtWorking**, please visit the [ArtWorking website](#) or contact Ship Creek management via [email](#) or by telephone 278-3263. To learn more about **Stone Soup Group**, call 907-561-3701 or [email](#). For more on **Mountain View Arts & Culture District Association**, call 907-227-7546 or [email](#).



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The Vision of Anchorage Downtown Partnership, Ltd. is to be a not-for-profit organization that is a recognized symbol that promotes and advocates, in collaboration with the Municipality and the community at large, for a vital, "year around," clean, safe Downtown Anchorage for those who live, work and visit Downtown.