

Birchwood Community Council  
September, 2005 Newsletter

Just a quick reminder to everyone. In August we asked you to review and comment on the Guidelines for Growth that the community put together for our new Comprehensive Plan and told you where to find a copy to read. We want to hear from you, either at this meeting or ASAP via e-mail to me, at [barb@mtaonline.net](mailto:barb@mtaonline.net). I will have a conceptual land use map showing you some of the proposed density, along with new business and industrial expansions. All of you living near Birchwood airport should know that the industrial use will expand greatly out there...clear to Peters Creek. At the last community meeting we found out that they want us to finish this update in October. Assemblyperson Debbie Ossiander got the MOA to agree to not approve the re-write of Title 21 until we got our Comprehensive Plan updated and it is taking a lot longer than what they thought it would, so the pressure is on to move forward quickly.

The Large Domestic Animal Ordinance will be heard by the Assembly on October 18<sup>th</sup>. All of you horse, cow, and llama owners had better plan on turning out at this public hearing. The only item on the Assembly agenda will be this ordinance so you won't have to sit through a bunch of other action items. Those of you that are neighbors to people who have these large animals should come and testify also. A copy of the proposed ordinance along with staff recommendations of why they want it regulated can be found in the Birchwood Council box at the library. When you come to our council meeting this month and have an opinion on this, we need to hear it. I will be testifying on behalf of the Birchwood membership as well as attending a work session held by the Assembly and MOA staff on 9/23.

We still haven't seen the contents of the agreement between Eklutna, Inc. and the MOA regarding Mt. Baldy access and the trade of Birchwood/Chugiak parkland for that access. We are told it hasn't been finalized yet. They don't need our approval to do this but our Parks & Rec Board has to agree to it.

The railroad isn't sure they can afford to straighten their tracks at the Beach Lake crossing now. The solution to the problem ice lenses they found raised the cost a couple more million. They are searching out their options this November. Has anyone checked out the work they are doing on their sidings near Birchwood Airport? They just finished relocating the propane business

and plan on adding four additional sidings, from 4400 to 6200 feet each in length. They will be working through the winter on the track so they can have it all done before summer comes again.

The Council has received the 65% design plans for the public water and sewer to be completed when the Old Glenn Hwy is upgraded. The school district hasn't sent us anything yet so we don't know where the lines will be placed on South Birchwood Loop. On the Chugiak Council side, the water line will be on the west side of the highway after fronting the Harold Loop area on the east side by Fire Lake (crosses the Old Glenn there). The sewer line will be on the east side. The Darby/Monastary improvement districts failed so it's coming right down the Old Glenn, although Lakeside Drive still has time to change their mind. A copy will be available for viewing and comment at our meeting.

Eagle River downtown sure is changing. Carl's Jr. is coming to town and a 60 unit complex is going in just south of Tips Bar. Since Alaska Housing is financing this, it must be affordable or low income housing. It looks so bare where they are putting more housing on Business Blvd, you would think they would have left a buffer of trees or something.

Bobbi Wells/Chairman