



The Fairview Press

Serving Fairview where "People Make The Difference"

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING": BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**DIVERSITY
IS OUR
STRENGTH**

Wednesday, February 1, 2006, Anchorage's Mayor Mark Begich kicked off Black History Month by issuing a Proclamation and delivering a heartfelt speech honoring African-Americans through-out our Nation's history who have helped to make the United States of America the great Nation that it is.



Mayor Begich acknowledged the great contributions that the African-American Experience has made to our society and culture, and urged all of Anchorage's Citizens to participate in the many events scheduled during Black History Month.

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." What you might not know is that black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated.

Although blacks have been in America at least

as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month,



and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G.

Woodson.

Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard.

The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population—and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Study of Afro-American Life and History (continued page 6))

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*Tentative Agenda Topics
For the February Meeting*

- An update by the Chair of the Neighborhood Plan Committee
- A presentation regarding volunteer opportunities for the 2006 Wheelchair Games
- Community & Committee Reports
- Community Comments & Concerns

"Freedom is never given; it is won."

A Phillip Randolph

"I've fought in three wars and three more wouldn't be too many to defend my country. I love America and as she has weaknesses or ills, I'll hold her hand."

General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. USAF
1920-1978

Take our Black History Quiz on page 4 of this month's issue!

THE COUNCIL'S ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MARCH 9, 2006 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S JANUARY MEETING

Meeting called to order by President Darrel Hess at 7:09 pm.

Secretary's Report, Sharon Chamard:

There was no quorum, hence there was no motion or vote to accept the minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

12/1/05 Balance forward
\$5,758.37

Deposits

12/29 Mug sales 30.00

Total Deposits \$30.00

Balance \$5,788.37

Expenses

12/17 Council holiday party (Darrel Hess)
302.17

12/30 Alaska's Best Water
23.00

12/30 ACS (Patrol hotline)
19.27

Total Expenses \$344.44

1/2/06 Balance forward \$5,443.93

Darrel Hess said he will ask Treasurer Harry Deuber to have the books audited by the March 2006 elections.

Guests and Presentations:

Brad Doggett, DOWL Engineers, on the 13th and Gambell Project

The presentation began with a brief description of the project. It was originally planned as a Highway Safety Improvement Project only, to deal primarily with rear-end collisions at the intersection. But this was not satisfactory to the Fairview Community Council (FVCC). The FVCC was able to find additional sources of funding for landscaping and pedestrian amenities. Brad then displayed five plans, each focusing on a different aspect and area of the intersection. These plans had been prioritized at a community design workshop at DOWL Engineers in November, with the first priority plan including a 12-foot median on 13th west of Gambell, and landscaping and fencing on the intersection's northwest corner, in the area currently being used for parking. Brad pointed out that

these plans are conceptual only, and that cost estimates reflect large-diameter trees. In response to concerns raised by the Neighborhood Plan committee about the possibility of loitering on the median, landscaping like prickly bushes could be included.

Discussion followed the presentation. Joe Freemann of the Mental Health Consumer Web said his initial reaction was that the plan is great. He said the open area in the parking lot is an open invitation for foolishness. Kent Harrington from V.F. Grace said they are not prepared to give up the parking spaces, because they need them for the building that's there now, or if they build something else. They have plans to build a warehouse on five lots, with the warehouse running right up to Gambell Street. Brad said that if that warehouse was built, they would have to comply with Title 21, which specifies a setback and buffer. Darrel Hess asked about the timeline for building the warehouse. Kent said it was planned for this year. Darrel asked if, in the event that the warehouse is not built this year, V.F. Grace has any proactive plans for dealing with the problem at that corner. Kent replied that there are no plans, but that the corner has been a problem for years, even when the building was a spa shop.

Kent asked what the reason for the project was, and whether it is mostly about beautification. Brad answered that the project's purpose is to deal with rear-end collisions at the intersection. Kent suggested blocking off the north side entrance to Carr's front parking lot; Brad said they had looked into that possibility, but there wouldn't be fire access. Allen Kemplen said that if V.F. Grace is planning to build a large warehouse, they will have to get approval for replatting and alleyway vacation. Kent said V.F. Grace already owns the alleyway, and as long as they maintain fire access, they can do what they want.

Joe Freemann said that although the plan will deal with the problem at the corner, the people will just move down the street. Brad replied that the project is not about social engineering. Darrel agreed, and said

it's not obvious that the people will just move down the street, because the area is a generator of social disorder.

Allen said this area has been designated by the municipality as a community center, and the FVCC would like the cooperation of the property owners to improve the area to make it look better. Claris Syren said something needs to be done there, because there are many walkers in the neighborhood, but many people don't walk there, and this has got to hurt the Carr's grocery store. Joe said that the staff at the Computer Connection try their best. They call when people need Community service Patrol, but there is a problem with public inebriation in the city, and there is no place for the people to go.

Allen Kemplen moved that the sense of the Fairview Community Council is that it approves the conceptual design presented by DOWL Engineers for the proposed intersection improvements at 13th and Gambell and the use of Municipal Road Bond funds designated for Fairview Street and Pedestrian Improvements to fund pedestrian safety and landscaping, subject to approval of the final plans by the Executive Board of the Fairview Community Council. Sharon Chamard seconded the motion. There being no quorum, this was a sense of the body motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed 8-0.

Kent did not support the motion, and said that if V.F. Grace loses ten parking spots, it will turn a \$400,000 property into unbuildable property. Allen said that the owners of V.F. Grace were at the design workshop and were not opposed to the conceptual design. Kent said that he just talked to the owners, and the loss of the parking spots is an issue.

Sergeant Cindi Stanton, Anchorage Police Department

Cindi urged people to submit the feedback forms because the input helps APD. The deadline is January 20th. Last year, there were only eight comments received from the entire municipality.

Regarding the nuisance call ordinance, Cindi said she sent a bunch of letters and

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S JANUARY MEETING

one ticket to property owners last year. Eleven of the twelve properties cleaned up their acts. Property owners have a clean slate as of January 1st, so people should start calling again to report problems.

Doe Anderson, Northwest Parks and Recreation District

Doe introduced Jamie Acton and Amy Danzl, the new programmers for the Spenard and Fairview Recreation Centers, respectively. Their jobs will be to work with the School District and the communities to set up recreational programming. Work on the football stadium will not be complete by the Wheelchair Games.

There is a meeting for people from the northwest community council areas to discuss pedestrian planning issues at Romig Junior High on February 2nd. Allen Kemplen asked if it would be possible to have someone come talk to the FVCC individually, because Fairview has had a long-standing track record for pedestrian safety, and we have definite ideas about what we want to do. Doe said she would look into it.

All-day events are planned at the various Rec. Centers on Martin Luther King Day. Mayor Begich will be making remarks at the Fairview Rec. Center during the lunch from 12:00-1:30.

Fairbanks Park is on the primary list for improvements for 2006. Money has been allocated. Sharon Chamard said there are things that the FVCC wants to do there that are beyond the scope of usual "Clean & Green" things. Doe said we could set up a forum to talk about what will be done, and you can also use a Parks Foundation Challenge Grant, which is a matching grant, up to \$40,000, for \$80,000 total. Allen commented on a recent article in the Anchorage Daily News on pedestrian safety. Of the top five most dangerous streets in the city for pedestrians, four are in Fairview (Sixth Avenue—from I St. to Ingra St., Gambell Street—from 5th to 20th Ave., Ingra Street—from 20th to 5th Ave., and Fifth Avenue—from Reeve Blvd to L St.).

Doe said that Jeff Dillon would be pre-

senting on the Park Strip plans at the South Addition Community Council meeting next week.

16th Avenue Terrace workshop

The workshop was held yesterday evening at the Senior Center; it was a good meeting. The study has been funded through the 2004 budget. The planner worked through the summer to collect data. So far the data show that the medians on 15th Ave. led to changes and increases in traffic. 16th Avenue Terrace, especially, is very narrow, particularly in the winter when there is lots of snow. But the problem is beyond just 16th Avenue Terrace; in the area between Karluk and Medfra, on the alleys between 15th and 16th Aves, there is apartment building parking, and thus lots of vehicles in the alleys. There are also no sidewalks on 16th Ave. There are concerns about pedestrian safety. The consultants and city representatives were at the workshop listening, and will put together a list of alternatives in the next 6-8 weeks, and then will meet again with the community. The reconnaissance report will be completed by May 2006. The FVCC was able to get \$900,000 put into the 2007 road bond, so we have a study to find solutions, and money to implement the solution. Darrel Hess commented that a similar meeting was held in 1999, so he addressed people at the workshop and let them know that there is money, so this will get done. Darrel also reported that Paul Kanitz stood up during the workshop and thanked Darrel and other members of the Executive Board. Darrel said he thinks Paul Kanitz deserves a lot of credit for keeping this issue on the burner, and has done a lot of work.

Committee and Community Reports:

Education Committee, Dale Myhill

The next meeting of the committee will be on January 17th at 6 pm at the Gateway Learning Center. Darrel Hess remarked that Fairview Elementary is one of only 30 schools in the state that received a notice from Governor Murkowski for making significant improvement. A lot of credit it due to the Education Committee and Nine

Star. It is also great that Nancy Murkowski recently came to Fairview to read to students at the school; Darrel said if there are were no objections, he will write thank you letters to Mrs. Murkowski and Nine Star.

Fairview Recreation Center, Amy Danzl

At the Martin Luther King Day event, the service group RSVP will give away 750 books. A fried chicken lunch will be provided by Lucky Wishbone. There was an essay contest in the schools and the winners will be announced then. In the afternoon, hip hop and Polynesian dancers will be coming to dance and give lessons. Dave Brossard reported that there has been some noticeable progress on the interior painting of the facility, but it will take a while.

Neighborhood Plan Committee

A large map depicting a conceptual design of the Fairview Parkway alignment was made available for those who wished to look at it. Problems with the project relate to the prioritization of state transportation funds. The immediate priority should be meeting the congestion demands in Anchorage, primarily through the construction of the Fairview Parkway. State regulations govern the use of unarmarked transportation money. The Governor took 48% of the fund directed towards the National Highway System and put it towards the two bridge projects, which left only a bit for the rest of the NHS, which includes Gambell and Ingra Streets. It is important to meet with state representatives and ask for money to fund an environmental impact study on the Fairview Parkway.

The Assembly has given assent for us to start working with municipal staff and the Assembly's Title 21 committee to talk about how we can move forward with our Neighborhood Plan. We will probably be the first neighborhood to get ours approved. We will be a role model for the rest of the city. Darrel commented that this was all done without a lot of money, unlike other neighborhoods, which is a testament to the leadership of the Neighborhood Plan committee.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNCIL'S JANUARY MEETING

Public Safety Committee, Sharon Chamard

Things are fairly quiet. Community Patrol is surveilling a property with suspicious activity and is also working with the landlord on solving problems there. People are encouraged to send in their comments to

Chief Monegan on the feedback forms mentioned earlier by Cindi Stanton.

Community Comments and Concerns:

Regina Manteufel reported that she recently did a surprise tour of Brother Francis Shelter and Beans Café, and everything

was in order.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Chamard, Secretary.

JOHNNY & LES VISIT FAIRVIEW ELEMENTARY

This past November, Fairview Elementary hosted two very special visitors. On November 14th, Representative Les Gara spent the day reading with students. Les stressed to students the importance of reading, and spoke of the worlds of adventure that reading can open for them.

On November 20th, Senator Johnny Ellis visited several classes and answered questions about life as a State Senator. Johnny encouraged students to study hard in school, and told them he hoped

many of them would chose Public Service as adults. He noted that one or more of them could be a State Senator in the future, or Mayor, or Governor!

Johnny & Les both enjoyed their time at Fairview Elementary and look forward to future visits. Thanks Johnny & Les for your continued commitment to quality public education for our children.

Johnny & Les: We'll see you at the mid-session break! We look forward to your update on projects of interest to Fairview!



Senator Johnny Ellis & Fairview Elementary Principal Dr. Marc Robinson.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BLACK HISTORY!

1. Who is the first African American to serve as Secretary of State of the United States?
2. She has held the following notable positions in both academia and government: Provost at Stanford University, National Security Advisor to the President of the United States and Secretary of State of the United States. Who is she?
3. True or False: Bessie Coleman was the first African American to earn an International Pilot's License.
4. Who was the first American woman runner to win three gold medals in the Olympic games?
5. Who was the first black woman selected to be an astronaut by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)?
6. Who was the first black woman to serve in the United States Congress? She represented the 12th District of New York from 1969 until 1982.
7. True or False: Madame C.J. Walker was the first African American millionaire.
8. Who was the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court?
9. What Major League Baseball team was the first to play an African American Player?
10. Who was the person who developed the process for preserving blood plasma and also was the first medical director of the first American Red Cross Blood Bank in the U.S.?
11. True or False: Toni Morrison was the first African American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
12. True or False: Sidney Poitier was the first African American to win an Oscar.
13. Which doctor performed the first successful open heart surgery?
14. In 2003, the Forbes Magazine list of American billionaires included what African American talk show hostess?
15. This person, who is one of the best known agricultural scientists in history, devised more than 300 uses for the peanut.

The answers to our quiz can be found on page 5. If you score less than 10, you need to take Remedial Black History!

CHAPPIE JAMES POST 34 DEDICATED

Friday, February 3, 2006, Mayor Mark Begich helped rededicate American Legion Chappie James Post 34, by Proclaiming the day "General Daniel "Chappie" James, Jr. Day" in Anchorage, and encouraging our city's residents to remember and honor General James, and his contributions to our Nation.

Post 34's rededication was part of the Municipality of Anchorage's Black History Month Celebration. In his remarks Mayor Begich made note of General James 35 years of service in the United States Air Force, and the incredible 179 air combat missions he flew in Korea and Vietnam.

Mr. Mayfield Evans of Post 34 thanked the Mayor and the Members of the Anchorage Assembly for their support of the Post's liquor license transfer, and noted the helpful support of Municipal Staff during the process of moving the Post into Fairview. He also thanked the Fairview Community Council for their support, and renewed Post 34's commitment to the Neighborhood.



In his remarks Fairview Community Council Chair Darrel Hess noted that February was the appropriate month to celebrate, remember and honor General James: Celebrating his birth in February 1920, remembering his passing in February 1978 and honoring the incredible 58 years between those milestones.

Hess also noted that the greatest accomplishment of General James and the other members of the 99th Pursuit Squadron (the famous Red Tails, or Tuskegee Airmen) in WW II was successfully fighting a war on two fronts: The enemies of America, freedom and democracy on one front, and the enemies of equality, dignity and respect on the other front.

Hess further noted that the Black Experience in the U.S. Armed Forces in the first half of the 20th Century did much to spur the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's.

Fellowship and food (catered by Roscoe's) was enjoyed by all, including FVCC Secretary Sharon Chamard, Assemblyman Allan and Mrs. Pam Tesche and Office of Equal Opportunity Director Celeste Hodge. **Welcome to Fairview Post 34!**

Post 34 invites all honorably discharged veterans or active duty personnel in Fairview to join, or if you are the son, daughter or widow of a veteran, auxiliary memberships are available! **STOP BY POST 34 AT 916 INGRA& JOIN!**

BLACK HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS:

- Collin Powell became the first African American Secretary of State in 2000.
- Condoleezza Rice
- True. "Queen Bess," Bessie Coleman was the first black woman ever to fly an airplane and the first African American to earn an International Pilots License.
- Wilma Rudolph won the 100-meter dash and the 200-meter dash, and then anchored the victorious 400-meter relay team in the Rome Olympics in 1960.
- In 1986 Dr. Mae C. Jemison was selected along with 14 other candidates out of a pool of 2,000 applicants to join NASA. She served as a mission specialist.
- Shirley Chisholm. She also became the first black woman to actively run for the presidency of the United States in 1972.
- True. Madame C.J. Walker (Sarah Breedlove) established a very lucrative business that produced beauty supplies for African Americans.
- Thurgood Marshall. President Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to serve on the Supreme Court in 1967. Thurgood Marshall was an outspoken proponent of civil rights. He argued Brown vs. Board of Education, the Supreme Court case that ended segregation in public schools.
- The Brooklyn Dodgers brought Jackie Robinson up to the Major Leagues in 1947. Jackie Robinson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.
- Dr. Charles Richard Drew was not only a medical doctor but also a talented researcher. He completed his medical degree at McGill University and graduated from Columbia University in 1940 with a Doctor of Science degree. He was the first African American to receive that degree. In his dissertation, "Banked Blood: A Study in Blood Preservation," Dr. Drew showed that liquid plasma can be preserved longer than whole blood
- True. Toni Morrison won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1993. Some of her noted works include The Bluest Eye, Tar Baby and Beloved.
- False. Hattie McDaniel won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her role as Mammy in Gone With The Wind.
- Dr. Daniel Hale Williams performed the first successful open heart procedure in 1893. He performed the first successful closure of a wound of the heart and pericardium. Later that year President Cleveland named Dr. Williams Surgeon and Chief at Freedom Hospital, where doctors from around the country watched him perform surgeries.
- Oprah Winfrey. According to Forbes, she is the first African American billionaire. Ms. Winfrey not only is a talk show hostess but is also an actress, a producer and a production company owner. She also successfully launched O Magazine.
- George Washington Carver. Some of the peanut-based products that he created include ink, soap, dyes, varnishing cream, rubbing oils, and Worcestershire sauce. Contrary to popular belief, Mr. Carver did not create peanut butter.

How did you do?

AS PART OF THE COUNCIL'S CONTINUING EFFORTS TO CRAFT A NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN FOR FAIRVIEW, LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE COUNCIL'S FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL MEETINGS WILL BE DEVOTED TO THIS ISSUE.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL RESIDENTS, BUSI-

NESSES, INSTITUTIONS & PROPERTY OWNERS IN FAIRVIEW TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS, AND PARTICIPATE IN THIS VERY PUBLIC AND IMPORTANT PORCESS!

IT IS YOUR NEIGHBORHHOD, AND THE COUNCIL NEEDS YOUR INPUT AND

FEEDBACK AS WE CRAFT THE PLAN.

FOR MORE INORMATION, CONTACT NHP COMMITTEE CHAIR ALLEN KEMPLN: 274-9772; KEMPLN@ALASKA.NET, OR COUNCIL CHAIR DARREL HESS; 258-3714; GMPEON@ALASKA.NET.

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected Journal of Negro History. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

From this humble beginning in 1926, Dr. Woodson’s dream has evolved into an annual month-long celebration of the long, often hard, but ultimately victorious and uplifting, journey of Blacks through America’s history.

A journey which changed that history for the better, and contributed much to our Nation and our Society, and taught us that indeed, **“All Men (Persons) are created EQUAL.”**

Celebrate Black History, not just during one month, but through-

out the year, keeping THE DREAM alive in your hearts!

No words can capture the Black Experience in American History better than those written by the great James Weldon Johnson in his epic song/poem in 1900:

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and Heaven ring,

Ring with the harmonies of liberty;

Let our rejoicing rise, high as the listening skies,

Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,

Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;

Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,

Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,

Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;

Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet,

Come to the place for which our

fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered, We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered;

Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,

Thou Who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Thou Who hast by Thy might, led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.

Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.

Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,

True to our God, true to our native land.

CELEBRATE, HONOR & LIVE THE DREAM

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