

The Fairview Press

JUNE 2009

“Serving Fairview, Where People Make The Difference”

Board Vacancy

Dee Kennedy announced her resignation from the Executive Board on May 7th, although she will remain involved with the Council as the liaison from Central Lutheran Church. We would like to thank her for her service to the Fairview Community. Anyone interested in running in a special election for the vacated member-at-large position should contact Sharon Chamard at 222-0649 or chamard@gci.net.

Fairview Elementary School principal honored

Roger LeBlanc, the principal of Fairview Elementary School and past principal of Mountain View Elementary School, has been selected as the 2009 Alaska Distinguished Principal by the Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals (AAESP). Among



FCC Delegate Needed

Harry Deuber will be stepping down as the Fairview Community Council delegate to the Federation of Community Councils (FCC). The FCC meets monthly. Our delegate would be expected to attend these meetings, represent the interests of the Fairview Community Council to the FCC, and report back to the Council on a regular basis.

Anyone interested in serving as our delegate to the FCC should contact Sharon Chamard at 222-0649 or chamard@gci.net.

his accomplishments in his career as principal in Mountain View, his school was selected as one of two Title 1 Distinguished Schools in the State of Alaska for the 2007-08 school year. He led Mountain View Elementary School, the most under-performing elementary school in the Anchorage School District for several years, to seven consecutive years of academic improvement under the No Child Left Behind Act.

COUNCIL CONTACTS

President: Sharon Chamard
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Neighborhood Plan
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Revitalization Strategy
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Jane's Walk Anchorage

We had great sunny weather on Saturday, May 2 for Janes Walk Anchorage. As a part of the second international "Jane's Walk," at least 20 people showed up with dogs and babies in tow to have coffee and tromp through Fairview and explore our urban environment. Council members acted as tour guides as we made our way from the Chester Creek trails through the heart of Fairview and finally on to downtown. It was a great way to get in touch with each other and with our neighborhood. We successfully built community



through this unique event. For more info on what happened during Jane's Walk in Anchorage and around the world visit www.janeswalkusa.org.

Spring Clean-Up Day!

The Fairview Community Council had four trucks with volunteers out on Saturday, May for Spring Clean Up activities. The Clean Team members went through the neighborhood picking up large items (couches, beds, water heaters, tires and rims, stoves, dryers, etc.) for placement in two large roll-away dumpsters located at the Fairview Community Recreation Center. The teams worked from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and after filling the dumpsters sat down for a barbecue hosted by Council President Sharon Chamard. Kudos to these volunteers for improving the quality of life in our neighborhood.

“The only way to make sure people you agree with can speak is to support the rights of people you don't agree with.”

—Eleanor Holmes Norton



Fairview Oral History Project Nears Completion

At the May General Membership meeting, Leadership Anchorage participants Regan Garden, Kokayi Nosakhere, Jose Rodriguez, Mary Rydesky, and Mariko Sarafin premiered their documentary on community activism in the Fairview Community. Their goal was to create a visual story of people that live and breathe and grow old there. Learning about Fairview's history and its dwellers' dreams, and remembering that they are a community of people that want a comfortable and bright place in which to live and raise their kids and grandkids is the story's theme. As videographer Mariko noted, "We are teaching the people of Fairview that there are ears that want to hear their stories, and want to know about why Fairview is worth fighting for." Added Kokayi, "We are seeing what others have done within this solid, stable community and what they are willing to keep doing for the growth of it. We hope that newer and older residents will be inspired to get together and work for what is right for their living spaces." Community leaders interviewed included Celeste Benson, Vince Casey, George Harrison, Allen Kemplen, Lee Ross, Seamore Snell Jr., and Claris Syren.

Fairview Community Council president, Sharon Chamard, presented the proposal to implement this project. Leadership Anchorage team members Regan Garden, Kokayi Nosakhere, Jose Rodriguez, Mary Rydesky, and Mariko Sarafin created the project's plan and completed tasks scheduled over several months. The final product is a DVD illustrating the project's goal - to show why and how community members take action for the betterment of their living environment. "The team brainstormed about ideas, resources, schedules and other aspects of project. Then, with the help of Sharon and Kokayi, we contacted community activists that would be willing to speak conversationally while being recorded on film," Jose recounted. Then, with the generosity of Progressive Media Alaska, the team captured the activists' thoughts and memories on mini DV tape and began to turn the tapes into a media production, including editing the interviews into a cohesive story. According to Regan, "This DVD will be available for viewing by the youth in and around Fairview, as well as to Council

members, churches, other organizations, and general audiences." Further, it will serve as a cornerstone for ongoing efforts to create an oral history of residents who think of themselves as ordinary, but whose aggregate efforts have been extraordinary in creating a thriving community - a neighborhood - within Anchorage."



(L-R: Mariko Sarafin, Jose Rodriguez, Mary Rydesky, Regan Garden, Kokayi Nosakhere. Photo by Gene Storm)

May's Council Meeting Highlights

Michael Howard Secretary's Report "The highlight of the May membership meeting was the presentation of the **Fairview Oral History Project** by the Leadership Anchorage Team. The group contributed this volunteer project that will be a treasured piece of our neighborhood history. Group members interviewed long-time Fairview residents and rabblers and compiled the footage into a quality DVD format for the Council. Wesley Oistad and Mark Swenson from HDL contractors presented about the upcoming construction activities at Merrill Field this summer. There will be some noise during normal daytime hours due to the dynamic compaction activities. The Membership Development Committee will meet 6pm on the first Tuesday of each

month at the New Sagaya Downtown Market Kaladi. Contact Paul Benson at 441-5774. The Revitalization Committee meeting has received the Council's approval to sign a MOU with the Department of Neighborhoods as we work to involve the public in the development of the Fairview Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy. This an exciting development, and we look forward to moving forward. The committee holds its regularly-scheduled meetings every other Friday at the NVision building on 13th and Gambel. The community is invited to attend! Summer meetings happen May 22; June 5, 19; July 3, 17, 31. Contact Michael Howard at 222-1268 or michaelhowardak@gmail.com."

Fairview Block Party

The Membership committee is gearing up to assist with the Neighborhood Block Party in July. Anyone wishing to help with the event may contact Paul Benson @ 441-5774.

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday June 2 2t 6pm in the food court of Sagaya City Market, 13th and I Street.



The Fairview Community Recreation Center will be closed from June 1-14, 2009 for the annual refinishing of the gym floor.

Next Council Meetings:

- Board meets **June 4th** from 7:00 to 9:00 pm (open to public) at the Anchorage Senior Center 1300 E. 19th Ave. The **July 2nd** meeting will be at the Fairview Community Recreation Center.
- General Membership meets **June 11th** from 7:00 to 9:00pm (open to the public) at the Central Lutheran Church 1420 Cordova St. The **July 9th** meeting will be at the Fairview Community Recreation Center.