



# SCENIC FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

November 2003

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Date: 11-21-03

## Process of Subdivision Development

The Municipality has been asked to provide a speaker for our November meeting to describe the process of developing a subdivision. Many questions about this process have risen over the last two years as a result of the development of Barrett Estates on the 22 acres of the Tudor & Muldoon curve and the condo development at Tudor and Patterson.

We are hoping to discuss the various steps in development, such as:

- How is a new subdivision plat established?
- Which Municipal departments are involved?
  - What do they review?
- What is the role of the Planning & Zoning Commission?
- When does the Assembly become involved?
- What issues require input from the Community Council?
- What and when are the areas of public comment?
- How are restrictions on the plat amended?
  - Is the public notified?
  - How are changes approved?
- How is the project monitored for compliance?
- Who are the Municipal contacts for information and complaints?

As you can see, this presentation is being structured to help us understand what the citizen's role is in the process of land development.

## Proposed fire hydrant tax

The Assembly has scheduled a special election on November 25 to consider implementation of an area-wide tax dedicated to the maintenance of fire hydrants within the Municipality. The added tax revenues are considered necessary by the Assembly to avoid some reductions in the workforce of the Fire Department because of budget constraints. The election is being held immediately before the Assembly must make its final decisions on the 2004 Municipal budget.

Members of the Fire Department will attend our November Council meeting and describe the effects budget reductions might have on response times to fires, the overall readiness of the department and the deployment of equipment. Of special interest to our Community Council will be the effect on the newly constructed Station #14, scheduled to be opened at Tudor & Baxter at the end of the year.

## Tudor Road Sound Barrier

Thanks to the persistent investigations by **Janice Johnstone**, many issues regarding utility easements on a land parcel associated with the proposed sound barrier have been raised and are being considered by the State Department of Transportation and the Municipality.

The funding available is now considered insufficient for the project, but our State Representative Harry Crawford is working for additional funds.

Any new information will be presented at the November Community Council meeting.

## Municipal Notification Requirements

The Planning Department of the Municipality is considering changes to its existing requirements to notify in writing all residents within 500 feet of certain land use changes. The new system would instead require residents to sign up with the Municipality if they desire to be notified in the future of any changes within their neighborhood. The Community Council is expected to send comments to the Municipality on this proposed change.

## Municipal Budget

The Municipality of Anchorage has released its proposed 2004 operating and capital budgets on which the Assembly has scheduled worksessions and public testimony.

During the transition to the new administration and from subsequent administrative reviews, a significant funding deficit was discovered which requires many spending cuts and other actions that will greatly impact the Municipality.

It is a citizen's responsibility to learn as much as possible about these proposed changes and voice one's suggestions and concerns to the Mayor and the Assembly.

