

Community Councils Center
Mountain View Community Council
3350 Commercial Drive, Ste. #230
Anchorage AK 99501-3077
~Citizens Building Better Neighborhoods~

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February 2009

Mountain View Community Council News

Mountain View Community Center
315 North Price Street
February 9, 2009

7:00 Call to Order

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Approval of January Minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report
- Approval of February Agenda
- Introductions



7:20 Reports and Announcements

- Assembly Report - Patrick Flynn
- Legislative Report - Sen. Wielechowski/Rep. Gruenberg
- Written Reports - Community Center, Mountain View Patrol, Job Center, Crime Committee, Code Enforcement, Neighborhood Plan, Other prepared by Amy Grant, ACLT

Guest Speakers for February 9, 2009:

- 8:00 Winter Snow Removal- Daniel Southard, Street Maintenance
- 8:10 Mountain View Trailer Arts Center- Bruce Farnsworth
- 8:20 Community Justice Center Panel Training- Rob Wood
- 8:30 Anchorage Community Land Trust- Jewel Jones
- 8:40 Old Business
- 8:50 New Business

Next Council Executive Meeting
Monday, February 23, 2009 at 5:30 PM
Anchorage Community Land Trust Building
This is an open meeting - You are welcome

Economic Advisors Support Bonds

Anchorage business leaders and economic advisors voiced nearly unanimous support for the bond package proposed by the Municipality of Anchorage and the Anchorage School District. The bonds were discussed at a meeting of Acting Mayor Matt Claman with his economic advisory panel, Thursday, Jan. 29. The panel considered the bond proposals in light of the per capita debt ratio, the Municipality's bond rating, and other pertinent factors. The bonds, totaling approximately \$156 million, represent a variety of projects from public safety and fire protection improvements to school remodels and repairs. The package will be considered by the Assembly at its Feb. 3, 2009 session.

Closing the \$17 Million Budget Gap

Less than a month into his position, Acting Mayor Matt Claman Friday announced progress his administration has made to close the \$17 million budget gap. Claman reiterated the Municipality's current purchasing policies with department heads, eliminated the MuniMart purchasing system in conjunction with the Assembly's abolishment of the Cooperative Services Authority in Dec. 2008, and cancelled extended hours for the Property Appraisal Department. Acting Mayor Claman continues to work with administration officials, department heads and employees to identify ways to fill the revenue shortfall.

Acting Mayor Reduces Costs

In an effort to narrow the Municipality's \$17 million budget deficit, Claman has determined Saturday shifts along with extended workday hours at the Property Appraisal Department should be discontinued. The hours had been extended during the week and Saturdays, but few people came to the office during these hours. The lack of public use does not justify the overtime cost of approximately \$10,000. The Municipal assessment staff will continue to monitor communication on the web site and respond to phone messages. The public can contact the assessment division at 907-343-6500 or on the municipal web site at www.muni.org. Beginning today the Assessment office will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed Saturday and Sunday.

Daniel Slattery, KIMCO, To Report on Glenn Square

Daniel Slattery, representing the Glenn Square Mall, will report to the community on next steps for mall completion at the March 9 monthly community council meeting.

Thank you to our donors! The Mountain View Community Council and all its members would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for your contribution. Citizens like yourself make a big difference in our community. We need more people like you!

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MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
1989 USA NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR
President: Don Crandall 272-8088
Treasurer: Niki Burrows 274-1179
Mountain View Patrol: 223-9524

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Mail your donation to: Mountain View Community Council,
PO Box 142824, Anchorage, AK 99514 • Thank you so much!

Community Justice Center in Need of Panelists to Train

The planned Mountain View Community Justice Center anticipates holding an orientation meeting for citizens from across the city to provide background information on a three person panel which would consider legal infractions from littering to graffiti to misdemeanors such as shop lifting which could plausibly be referred to a community panel for review. The community panelists would be trained in a specific process and the decision of the panel would be binding on the resident whose infraction is heard by the panel. It is a way to avoid using court time for small offenses which the average citizen would be able to adjudicate together with two other citizens. The citizen panel background information was originally going to be discussed on January 14 in the community room in the recreation center but ice forced school closure that day so the meeting was cancelled. Rob Wood from Division of Juvenile Justice and David Alexander will re-schedule the event in the next few weeks. Please be on the look-out for its occurrence so that you can be informed on the process and so that you have an opportunity to [give your opinion at the training](#).

President's Message Don Crandall, MVCC President

A continuing issue in Mountain View during the winter months is snow removal. With the assistance of Assembly member Patrick Flynn, I've spoken with municipal street maintenance supervisor Dan Southard who looked at the situation on Flower Street with Patrick, myself, and MVCC Secretary David Alexander on February 3. Dan will be able to come to the February 9 meeting and report directly to you, but, basically, a plan for opposite side of the street parking had been devised in the months prior to Randy Smith's sudden death. As the transition began to the community leadership post-Randy, the clear sidewalks initiative got shelved. However, street maintenance is now prepared to post some streets for no parking so that the plows can clear the sidewalks and the street from the curb out. The sloping curbs allow complete snow removal on some streets. We'll hear the full report from Dan Southard on the 9th and you are invited to come with questions.

Catholic Social Services to Sadler Building

Last week, the Mountain View Community Council executive committee voted unanimously to support the move of Catholic Social Services from E. 20th near the high school to the renovated Sadler's Building in Mountain View. This move is a benefit to the Anchorage Community Land Trust which had vacant space in this building and it appears to be a good fit for the many social programs that CSS runs. CSS will be moving out of approximately the same number of square feet at its present location into the building currently housing Camp Fire among other services.

Bragaw Street Tunnel Cameras Not Operating

No one has yet committed to put the cameras in the Bragaw Street pedestrian tunnels into operation. The amount needed to keep the cameras running is considerable so it is not a small thing for a company to pick up this expense. One company that may consider operating the cameras for the community is GCI. The cameras are a major safety feature for the community which had been requested by the design group. Now that they are installed, the problem is to get them working for public use.

Anchorage United for Youth Convenes

Anchorage United for Youth brought together youth service providers from around the city on Friday, January 30 at UAA to discuss prevention, intervention, education, employment, family support, attitude change, and delinquency reduction. The effort, spearheaded by the United Way, has already held two youth summits, and it is anticipated that there will be a summit held quarterly. A number of high school students from East attended and testified to those strategies and interventions they believed were effective in giving youth a better start on work and family life. This effort seeks to get institutional and individual commitments to the United for Youth Plan.

Whither the Mountain View Road Art?

Don Crandall along with other Mountain View Community Council members has been inquiring patiently about our anticipated road art for Mountain View Drive. Along with an archway across the Drive, there were supposed to be smaller decorative fixtures at intersections and spaced evenly along the finished roadway. Despite inquiries of the municipality and discussions with Darrel Hess from the city, there is no concrete word on whether, or if, the road art will be a part of the Phase 4 construction this year. Some efforts, of course, have been made including a refurbishment of Margaret Hugi-Lewis' Garden Art Project on the triangle formed by Mountain View Drive where it meets commercial.

Road Wise Alaska Campaign Starts

Starting February 1, 2009, The Bureau of Highway Patrol (BHP) begins a new installment of the Road Wise AK Campaign to educate the public on the Screen Device Law. The Campaign kicks off with a Public Safety Announcement outlining, according to state law, what actions a driver can and cannot take involving electronic devices while driving on Alaska roads. While drivers can view a mobile phone's screen display with caller ID information on it, it is illegal to view the phone to read or create text messages. BHP recommends that drivers who wish to use the text message function on their phone pull over to a safe location, such as a highway pull out or a parking lot, and to put their vehicle in park. **It is illegal to text while stopped at traffic light or a stop sign.** For nearly 40 years it has been illegal for a vehicle in the state of Alaska to be equipped with a monitor viewable from the driver's seat regardless of its operational status. The Video Monitoring law is an addition to this older administrative code as technological advances have provided drivers with many more distraction which impedes their ability to safely operate their vehicles. AST warns the public that administrative code also prohibits drivers

from using any form of head gear that reduces their ability to hear, such as ear phones or headsets used in conjunction with iPods, etc. To view the new PSA, go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/asthwsads> or [RWA Visual Display Law 09 \(.wmv\)](#)

Driving a motor vehicle with a screen device operating; unlawful installation of television, monitor, or similar device (a) A person commits the crime of driving with a screen device operating if (1) the person is driving a motor vehicle; (2) the vehicle has a television, video monitor, portable computer, or any other similar means capable of providing a visual display that is in full view of a driver in a normal driving position while the vehicle is in motion; and (3) the monitor or visual display is operating while the person is driving.
 (b) A person may not install or alter equipment described in (a)(2) of this section that allows the images to be viewed by the driver in a normal driving position while the vehicle is in motion.
 (c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section do not apply to
 (1) **portable cellular telephones or personal data assistants being used for verbal communication or displaying caller identification information**

13 AAC 04.260. Television receivers and headsets (a) A motor vehicle driven in this state may not be equipped with television-type receiving equipment located where the viewer or screen is visible from the driver's seat.

(b) A driver of a motor vehicle may not wear a headset, headphones, or other headgear designed for receiving sound and transmitting sound to the driver, or wear ear plugs or a similar device which reduces the driver's hearing ability while driving.
 (c) This section does not prohibit the use of television-type or headgear-receiving equipment used exclusively for safety or law enforcement purposes, used for and designed to improve a driver's hearing ability, or navigational devices such as Global Positioning System (GPS) or Loran.