

Mountain View Needs You!

The Anchorage Municipal Assembly adopted the Anchorage Bowl 2020 Comprehensive Plan in February 2001. A key strategy to achieve the goals and objectives of this 2020 Plan is development of Neighborhood Plans. The Mountain View Community Council Neighborhood Planning Committee has begun working on a Neighborhood Plan. The Committee meets Friday evenings at 7 p.m. at Mountain View Community Center. Your opinion and presence in our community are very important! The Neighborhood Plan may change the commercial corridor and the residential area in ways that will affect you. We encourage you to become part of our community building process and join us in shaping the future of Mountain View. Please share your thoughts about improvements that you would like to see in Mountain View. There are NO wrong ideas—what are yours?

Mountain View Community Council last met on September 10th and the Executive Meeting, an open meeting at which everyone was welcome, was held September 24th at La Costa Del Mar Restaurant.

If you are interested in donating to the list of items on Mountain View's wish list, contact President George Smith at 223-4818. Mountain View residents are thanked for meeting monthly needs. Council Treasurer Niki Burrows said "You are the best community in the Municipality by far!! No other Council gets such participation and support. Your Executive Committee truly appreciates you! As your Treasurer, I really appreciate those "As Needed" donations—it makes my job so much easier to be able to put the money where we need it! THANK YOU!"

Knowles Fumbles Katie John Case

by Sen. Loren Leman
Northwest Anchorage and
Eimendorf Air Force Base
Senate Majority Leader

Gov. Knowles has announced that he will not appeal the Katie John case to the U.S. Supreme Court. This is a mistake.

I have met and respect Katie John, the Athabaskan matriarch who operates a fish wheel on the upper stretches of the Copper River drainage, and support her right to subsistence harvest. I too have Alaska Native heritage, mine mixed with Asian and European blood during the last 200 years in Alaska. I was raised in a family dependent on fishing.

However, this case really has very little to do with Katie John. It also has little to do with subsistence. It has a lot to do with federal control of Alaska. Al-

to work toward a solution to the ongoing subsistence priority debate. This will take leadership — and a willingness to bring people together. The ultimate solution is going to take a constitutional amendment to allow a subsistence priority based on residence. However, it will also take clarifying changes to ANILCA and a workable state statute.

I am continuing to work with former Gov. Jay Hammond, our congressional delegation and others to forge a compromise that most Alaskans can accept — and that 14 members of the Senate and 27 members of the House will support. I have invited the Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska Outdoor Council to join us.

Everybody will have to give up a little to make this possible — but in the end, I believe we will have a solution that will protect subsistence harvesters, restore

The development of a comprehensive neighborhood plan for Fairview continued throughout August and September with a series of workshops held in various parts of Fairview. The first workshop was held at the Rec Center on August 29th. Thirty residents attended the workshop on community planning. Participants helped identify the issues that are most important to them. Ideas and strategies for solving neighborhood problems were discussed, as well as what qualities of the neighborhood they appreciated and enjoyed. A neighborhood survey of residents was mailed to residents encouraging everyone to participate.

Many ideas emerged from the planning workshop held at the Rec Center. Participants were asked what they liked about Fairview and what they would like to see in the future. Among the reasons the neighborhood is liked is its central, convenient location; the diversity of residents; the pedestrian amenities; the location of services; the new street landscaping; the mix of housing options; the sense of renewal in the area; neighbors and fellow residents and the active participa-

tion of those residents in solving problems.

Some of the discussion involved what folks would like to see in an ideal Fairview neighborhood. Among the ideas expressed were safer, cleaner streets, better maintained homes and yards, better code violation enforcement, more retail services, better public transportation and better maintained parks and landscaping.

Workshops are helping gather additional information to help discover the neighborhood's priority issues. Finding new ways to solve problems and to look for innovative ways to take advantage of strengths as a neighborhood are part of the tasks ahead.

The neighborhood plan steering committee has been meeting Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at the Rec Center, with the public invited. For the plan to be effective and really make a difference, community help and ideas are essential.

For further information on the Council, contact Fairview President Geraldine Lowe at 258-2588 or by e-mail at Lowe_Geraldine@msmail.asd.k12.us.

What the Heck Is Netricity?

spent on air conditioning to keep the existing server farms cool. When these factors are taken into consideration, the North Slope's natural gas (to generate electricity), isolation, and frigid temperatures seem to be assets.

Where's the rub? At this point, the owners of Netricity are proposing to buy currently undeveloped State of Alaska royalty gas. Thus far, the prices discussed are far below market rates. However, keep a few things in mind:

- 1.) We are at the early discussion stages of a concept. Many factors, including price, are subject to negotiation.
- 2.) The State's royalty gas is currently unused. It is in the ground, or, if it is taken out during oil production, it is being pumped back.
- 3.) The State could very likely get a better price for the gas, or trade the gas for cash or other considerations should a gas pipeline be built.
- 4.) A gas pipeline may or may not come to fruition in the near future.
- 5.) Netricity could conceivably buy

the gas from one of the producers on the North Slope.

The bottom line is this: Netricity is an interesting concept. However, the proposal needs further scrutiny. There needs to be due diligence by both the State and Netricity. So far, the Legislature has requested the Commissioner of Natural Resources to begin discussions with Netricity, to investigate the proposition, and to get back with what it discov-

ers. I have talked with officials in Natural Resources, and I am impressed with the fact that they are hawks when it comes to looking out for Alaska's best interests. It is my job to ensure this.

Should Netricity pass muster, the project has the potential to provide significant technology investment and permanent high-tech jobs, not in Sillcon Valley or Seattle, but right here in Alaska on the North Slope. With that in mind, Netricity warrants further investigation, a process that assesses risk versus reward, and promising opportunity versus real costs.