

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
August 2012 Newsletter

July Recap:

The HOCC meetings are always informative, and the July gathering was no exception. Besides learning about the O'Malley Road upgrade and how it will cut off access to H2Oasis, we had a presentation from Officer Natasha Welch about Community Action Policing and what it means to us. Representatives from Senator Meiers and Senator Giessel's offices also attended to give us a Legislative update and answer questions.

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Hot Button Issue:
O'Malley Road Construction Plans

The manager of H2Oasis has asked HOCC for assistance in altering State DOT's plans for the upgrade of O'Malley Road between New Seward and Lake Otis.

According to his report, DOT plans to put a median in that will block all but eastbound access to his business which has received over 1.2 million visitors and employs over 75 persons. Long-term plans for this 46-acre location include a hotel, which will be designed to serve the statewide visitors, especially traveling sports teams and cultural groups who enjoy the destination location of the water park and nearby shopping.

The property owner states that he has tried for 8 years to resolve this situation with the State, asking that the O'Malley upgrade respect his private property rights, including left turn lanes, curb cuts and driveways. This planned development received all necessary local and state permitting during the design phase, including from DOT. He states that he wishes to find solutions working with both the community and the DOT that respects the rights of access while creating jobs and supporting economic development with the community.

APD's Community Action Policing

Did you know that APD has a dedicated 7 person unit designed to assist neighborhood problems? These units are not regular patrol units, but instead work to solve local issues.

Officer Natasha Welch gave a presentation at our July meeting and explained the purpose of this unit. As an example, she described a Hillside situation recently resolved. This was a "party house" on a small street, where the young residents regularly entertained numerous friends. These evenings would cause a variety of concerns, from blocking streets and loud "party" noise to guns, underage drinking and multiple DUI offenses.

The CAP team tries to discover creative solutions for each individual neighborhood problem. In this case, Code 880 allows APD to charge residential property owners a response fee after eight reports (business limit is 100 calls). Once this residence reached the call limit, which quickly occurred thanks to vigilant neighbors, notification was made to the property owner of the party house. Faced with a huge fine, this individual took immediate steps to change the situation, with the result that the neighborhood no longer experiences issues from this house.

The CAP team responds to a myriad of local concerns. Graffiti Busters offers free graffiti removal, even graffiti on private property. They also assist neighborhoods in forming Neighborhood Watch groups.

<http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/Pages/ChugachAccessPlan.aspx>

This document has been submitted for municipal adoption by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (ADNR). This Plan is a joint effort between the ADNR and the Municipality. It is intended to serve as a tool to aid in securing public access to Chugach State Park. The Plan identifies potential access points, provides an inventory of existing secured access areas, and provides guidelines, policies, and methods for securing future Park access.

The Community Development Department and the State of Alaska want to hear your comments and recommendations on the Public Hearing Draft. This is the ideal time to review and comment on all aspects of the document so that the final plan reflects your input. This is the first of two opportunities to comment on the Chugach Access Plan. Recommendations and findings from the Planning and Zoning Commission process will be forwarded to the Assembly, which will also hold a public hearing before taking final action to adopt the Chugach Access Plan as a Comprehensive Plan element.

Written comments on the Public Hearing Draft may be submitted through August 31, 2012:

by mail:
 Chugach Access Plan, Planning Division
 MOA Community Development Department
 P.O. Box 196650, Anchorage, AK 99519-6650
 by fax: 343-7927

Comments may also be submitted through the Planning Division's Cases Online website at <http://munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm> (insert case number 2012-104) or through testimony in person at the scheduled Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

Abbott Road Improvements

The State DOT&PF is looking at alternatives for Abbott Road between Lake Otis and Birch. This section of road has the highest crash rate of all Hillside collector routes.

Primary scoping will begin, and may include a continuous two-way left turn lane; an eastbound acceleration lane; flattened hills; rehabilitation of the existing pathway on the north side of the road only; and a right turn lane from eastbound Abbott Road onto Birch.

More information on this project is at: <http://www.abbottroadrehab.com/>

HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

The number of crimes reported between July 1, 2012, and July 25, 2012, and the cumulative counts are recorded in the table below. Of note is that 14 thefts occurred in this reporting period, a high for the past few years. Most incidents occurred west of the Lake Otis corridor.

Crime Types	Monthly # of Incidents	2012 Yearly Total	Crime Types	Monthly # of Incidents	2012 Yearly Total
Theft	14	45	Liquor violations	0	0
Assaults	0	3	Disorderly conduct	0	0

Burglaries	1	9	Prostitution	0	0
Disturbances	2	16	Vehicle theft	0	4
Fraud/Forgery	0	3	Drugs	0	7
Vandalism	3	32	Drunk problem	0	0
Weapons	0	1	Homicide	0	0
DUI	0	1	Arson	0	1
Robbery	0	0	Other	0	5
Sexual assaults	0	0	Domestic violence	0	0

If you are a crime victim, please be sure to report it to the Anchorage Police Department so that the information is logged into the MOA's crime statistics database. **HOCC also wants to remind everyone that the APD does not log reports unless you ask for a case number. Please remember, if you are making any police report regarding anything from noise to vandalism or suspicious behavior, always ask for a case number.**

Compiled by Wayne Crayton, HOCC Steering Committee Member. Information is from Anchorage Police Department records at <http://crimemap.muni.org/>

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From the President's Desk

It seems as if summer is almost over without actually happening. The State Fair is just around the corner, and school supplies displayed on department store shelves. We're sending our high school graduates off to college, and preparing our younger children for their first year of school. Our cool weather crops are doing great, but tomatoes are a bust. Fishing has been as sporadic as sunshine, and hiking requires raingear. We're sighting in our rifles and getting gear together for season openings as the leaves turn golden.

On a more positive note, we had no problems with wildfires, and haven't had to drag hoses across the yard for a while. The moose have been feeding elsewhere, even if the bear have been a nuisance. The strawberries are amazing.

Our political season is ramping up, and we now have the time to look more closely at issues and stances. There will be at least one highly controversial Ballot Prop on the August election that will affect each of us, and incumbents and newbies are campaigning for our support.

While national elections have far-reaching consequences, local elections immediately affect our lives and our properties. The truth is that, as a solid "Red State", our vote for President, with our measly three electoral votes, is fairly meaningless. Far more important is our selection of the person we are sending to Juneau. This is the person who will help determine the future success of our state.

Spend some time on these rainy evenings and study the people that want your vote. Give them a call and ask questions on issues that are important to you. Look at the voting record of the incumbents, and the aspirations of those wishing to enter politics.

Fall is a good time to address our future.

*Pete Nolan, President
Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
hoccpresident@gmail.com*

Welcome New Members!

Thanks you for your support! Dues paying members are vital to our mission of two-way conversation and grassroots community input.

If you are not yet a dues-paying member, simply use the form at the bottom of this newsletter. Membership fee is only \$10 per person each year, and yes, we do accept larger contributions (please see instructions below). For our "snail mail" residents, you can become an "email person" by just letting us know, and save us some postage in the proces.

And remember to contact us with your comments and concerns, because YOU CAN make a difference! Feel free to pass this e-Newsletter on to your neighbors, then remind them to join.

**Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC
Enclosed is my contribution of \$10 per person for this year.**

Name:

Physical Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone (home & other)

E-Mail

Comments & Concerns:

**Mail to: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, 1120 Huffman Road,
Suite 24, PMB 420, Anchorage, AK 99515**

Please note: Donations in a higher amount are greatly appreciated. If you want your donation to be tax deductible, please make your check out to: FCC (Federation of Community Councils) on behalf of "Huffman O'Malley Community Council". Please send this donation to the above mailing address and a tax deductible receipt will be provided. Thank You!