

OCEANVIEW/OLD SEWARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
C/o 240 PACIFIC VIEW DRIVE, ANCHORAGE, AK 99515

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2003



There will be no meeting of the Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council in December. We will meet again on January 14, 2004 in the library of Oceanview Elementary School starting at 7:00 PM.

REZONE PETITION AT ELLEN & KLATT

The owner of this property is petitioning the Planning and Zoning Commission at a public hearing scheduled for January 5, 2004 to rezone the property from R1A to R2M. In July 2003, the owner filed a petition to build six tri-plexes (18 units) on the same property but withdrew the petition before the public hearing. We now understand that the developer will file a petition to rezone the property in order to build six duplexes (12 units).

The Executive Committee of the Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council held a special meeting to consider this latest proposal since the Community Council will not hold a general meeting until January, 2004. We again recommended in a letter to the Planning and Zoning Commission that the Commission disapproves the petition. This section of Oceanview comprises single-family homes and building high density housing units will be out of character with the neighborhood. See Letter 4 below.

Please show your support by attending the meeting on January 5.

COASTAL TRAIL

The proposed extension to the Coastal Trail is back on the front burner. Mayor Begich has requested and the Rasmuson Foundation has provided a grant of \$450,000 to complete the Draft Environmental Impact statement. The State is expected to transfer the trail project to the City at this month's AMATS meeting. There may be some strings attached. Whatever your views are concerning the Trail, to stay informed you need to follow the money trail.

ROADS IMPROVEMENTS

The DeArmoun Road improvements continue to dominate the proposed plans for road improvements in south Anchorage.

The Community Councils most affected by the project are Huffman/O'Malley, Rabbit Creek and Mid-Hillside. These councils have all drafted petitions expressing their views on the project. We will obtain copies of these resolutions and discuss what position if any we want to take on this project during the January meeting.

Two things remain the same.

- The majority of questions raised at the open house meeting held in October are still unanswered. Recent correspondence shows that AMATS either believes the public receives adequate notice or is unwilling to address process problems. See Letter 1 described below.
- There is still no process to solve the many points of view from the road users. A balance is needed that considers the homeowners who are directly impacted, safety of the road user as well as the pedestrians, bikers and equestrians and the general taxpayer.
The current system seems unable to bring all the users together to work out a solution that everyone can accept.

Other road projects in South Anchorage of concern to the Council are:

- C Street Extension at Minnesota planned for construction next year. In November we heard from Mr. Steve Lovs. See Letter 2 described below. Again, the road planners seem to have failed to predict the effect this road improvement will have on the truck routes to and from Anchorage Sand & Gravel.
- Converting Timberlane Road to a collector road. The Open House held on November 19 highlighted the problem with the current process. The Planners failed to take into consideration the concerns that residents expressed at the August Open House. The road project is over-designed with enhancement facilities that maximize impact on a neighborhood street. This street project will be part of the bond package in the April election. Your vote is your voice on this project.

LETTERS WRITTEN

Letters were written in accordance with resolutions passed during the November meeting of the Council as follows:

1. Mr. Mike Scott, regional director of the ADOT requesting response to questions raised at meetings on road improvements in South Anchorage. No answer has been received.

2. Mr. Lance Wilber, Director of the Municipal Traffic Department on the Minnesota and C Street intersection. No answer has been received.
3. Mayor Begich. On the proposed cuts to Fire Department personnel. The Mayor replied on November 21. Call Tim Bridgman if you want a copy of the Mayor's letter.
4. Planning & Zoning Commission regarding the Duryea petition to rezone his property from single family to a duplex.
5. Captain Nute of the Salvation Army for accommodating us at their church for the past several years.

For copies of these letters, call Tim Bridgman at 345-3614

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The revised bylaws, which were approved in September 2003, state that the current slate of officers is eligible to serve a year before staggering their terms. The current officers were elected to serve another year in starting in January 2004.

ANCHORAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

We are due to receive a report from Lt. Norsworthy of the Anchorage Police Department on the problem areas in the Oceanview area identified by the Council during the September meeting.

ONLINE ZONING NOTIFICATION

The Planning Department will no longer mail a report of the upcoming cases. This information is now available on line by going to <http://munimaps.muni.org/planning/notice.htm> or go to www.muni.org/planning and click on "online cases".

LEGISLATIVE & ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVES

Contact Senator Ben Stevens at Senator.Ben.Stevens@legis.state.ak.us and Representative Lesil McGuire at Representative_Lesil_McGuire@legis.state.ak.us.

Contact Janice Schamberg at jcschamberg@gci.net and Dick Tremaine at tremained@ci.anchorage.ak.us

GENERAL INFORMATION

For those who want more information on what's happening in the City, consult the Municipality website www.muni.org

CONTACT US

If you have any questions or concerns, contact your Community Council officers listed below:

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| • President | Tim Bridgman | 345-3614 |
| • Vice President | Hank Hosford | 522-8638 |
| • Secretary | Margaret Klatt | 345-5848 |
| • Treasurer | Mary Whitmore | 344-2831 |
| • FCC Rep | Vicki Hudson | 345-0011 |

Oceanview/Old Seward Community Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month at the Oceanview Elementary Scholl on Johns Road. Meetings start at 7:00PM.