

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
October 2009

Newsletter

September Meeting Recap

If you missed the September meeting, you missed a lot of good information! Our neighborhoods have had numerous drainage issues following road reconstruction, from rising water tables to flooding, broken pavement - even a solid driveway moved to the middle of a yard! Our roads are upgraded piecemeal, with no one overseeing the bigger picture, and the effects are causing true problems.

In addition, we had a fascinating conversation about Anchorage Fire Department's rolling closures and how they affect us. We discussed Alaska Waste's proposal submitted to the Regulatory Commission of Alaska that would mandate bear-proof trash cans for most of Hillside and increase our refuse rates. HOCC's Steering Committee also made a decision to offer tours of our area to nationwide attendees at the 2011 Neighborhood USA conference which will be held in Anchorage.

Hot Button Issue:

Planning and Zoning Commission/Hillside District Plan Update

As some of you already know, the Planning and Zoning Commission rescheduled the September HDP meeting on the Issue/Response Report to Monday, October 12, 2009. To download all the memos, updated maps and the original Issue/Response Report, simply go to the following link below:

http://www.hillsidedistrictplan.com/pdf/PUBLIC_HEARING_DRAFT/2009-090-Issue-Response_ALL.pdf. Please pay particular attention to Staff Memo 2 which explains modifications to the Land Use Map and highlights the Furrow Creek area along with the proposed overlay district. For those who have not yet visited the HDP consultant Agnew Beck's Web site, you can go to <http://www.hillsidedistrictplan.com/> to review all the HDP information.

Recently the PZC formed a subcommittee comprised of Commission members Nancy Pease, Bruce Phelps, and John Weddleton. This subcommittee will work with Municipal staff to address specific HDP issues and to make recommendations to the full PZC. Additional time was needed to address some of the HDP Issue/Response issues, hence the need to reschedule to October. Deliberations for the October 12th meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers of the Loussac Library.

Hope to see HOCC members and Hillside residents there!

President's Message:

By Christine Monette, HOCC President

From the President's Desk:

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank everyone that has participated in this Newsletter. My goal is to get out a quality product that appears in your inbox each month, and informs you about the Council, your neighborhoods, and your community.

Did you know that you can participate? If you have a particular item of interest, you can submit that information to us for publication. If it is lengthy, we can share the highlights and offer a link to your entire article. Homeowner's Associations, neighborhoods, or individuals within our boundaries are welcome to participate in this Newsletter, even if you are not a dues-paying member. Do you want to share an upcoming neighborhood event? Do you have a concern about a particular road, drainage or safety issue? Has recent or upcoming construction negatively impacted your property? Is your group working on a community project? Let us know! As a community we can often address issues more efficiently than individuals working alone. In many cases, Community Councils are the "first line of defense" in solving problems.

Our goal is to publish the HOCC Newsletter two weeks after each meeting, or about the first of each month. For members of the HOCC Steering Committee, remember that we are now doing an on-line collaboration for these Newsletters. We appreciate when you offer to write about a particular item of interest or concern regarding your own 'hot button' issues. If you wish to participate, please make sure and let me know.

Question of the Month

What wildlife have you seen in your neighborhood this year? Black bears, brown bears, moose, wolves? Rabbits? Lynx? Wolverine? Have you had any notable wildlife encounters? Have you or your neighbors experienced any problem encounters between pets and the wildlife? We'd like to know what you've seen and how it compares to last year. This information may prove important, so please respond!

Thanks to all who participated in last month's question. It is astonishing to realize how many problems, largely theft and vandalism, we have in our neighborhoods of late, and how little police presence there is on the Hillside.

How AFD's "Rolling Closures" Affect Hillside

Anchorage residents have learned a new term this year: "rolling closures". What does it mean? How can it affect you? Before we answer this, we must understand what happens at our fire stations.

There are four types of response units: Fire Engines, Mobile Intensive Care Units (Ambulances), Battalion Chiefs, and Truck Companies (ladder trucks).

A fire engine is the 'big red truck' we are used to seeing. Manned by three or four firefighters, they carry hoses and ground ladders, as well as advanced life support equipment. Ambulances carry two firefighters, one who is an Emergency Medical Technician, the other a Paramedic. There are eight ambulances to serve Anchorage and Eagle River. We have five ladder trucks, each carrying three personnel, who respond to major incidents. Tenders, with one driver, carry 2,500 gallons of water and support operations in areas without fire hydrants, such as Hillside.

In addition to the response units, AFD has Battalion Chiefs and Chief Medical Officers, generally driving red Suburbans. The Battalion Chief serves as the highest ranking officer on major incidents such as structure fires or vehicle accidents.

Our Hillside is home to Station 9 (Huffman), 8 (O'Malley) and 10 (Rabbit Creek). Our next back up station is 12 (Dimond & New Seward).

So, what is a "rolling closure"? When a fire station is affected by a "closure", that means one response unit is not available. It is "closed". For example, on Tuesday, Sept. 22, Tender 8 at the O'Malley station was closed for twelve hours. In other words, there was no Tender at the O'Malley Fire Station (Station 8). The other response unit was available. During the next twelve hour shift, the Tender will have an Engineer (Driver) manning it.

A "front line closure", on the other hand, is when an entire station is closed. This is rare, and employees are shifted around when possible.

On Hillside we have a unique situation where our stations are staffed with a Fire Engine and a Tender. Frequently the Fire Engine is "closed", leaving just the Tender staffed by one firefighter. This means that, for Hillside, we often have a station staffed by one Firefighter in a Tender to respond to both fires and emergency medical treatment of our residents. This could easily place Hillside in a difficult predicament.

You can find daily updates that will let you know the up-to-the-minute status of our fire departments at www.afdstatus.wordpress.com This is also a good discussion forum.

Welcome New Members!

Every week, it seems, we find in our HOCC mailbox new membership forms and renewals. These new additions to dues paying membership in HOCC are greatly appreciated, and help us serve our community. Thank you all for your support and we look forward to hearing more from you. We really enjoy a two-way conversation with all of our neighbors.

If you are not yet a dues-paying member, simply use the form at the bottom of this newsletter. Membership fee is only \$5 per year, and yes, we do accept larger contributions (please see instructions below for larger donations). Your donations pay for a gratuity for our meeting location, occasional community outreach events, and our priority - this newsletter! For our "snail mail" residents, you can become an "email person" by just letting us know, and save us some postage in the process! Thanks!

HOCC October Meeting

The October meeting will be held on Thursday October 15th. Meetings are held the third Thursday each month at 7 PM. We meet at the Christian Church of Anchorage, corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley. Enter on the O'Malley side and come downstairs!

**Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC
Enclosed is my contribution of \$5 per member for this year.**

Name: _____

**Physical
Address:** _____

Mailing Address:

Phone: (h) _____ **(other)** _____
E-Mail _____

**Comments &
Concerns:** _____

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

Please note: Tax deductible donations in a higher amount are greatly appreciated and accepted. For donations 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!