

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
February 2011 Newsletter

January Meeting Recap:

Those at the January meeting had a great opportunity to ask Assembly Member Jennifer Johnston questions about the state of our economy. We talked about potential new libraries, the need for a fiscal plan from the Anchorage School District, the potential for using public transportation for schools, and the future of the Title 21 Land Use Code. We also had a guest presenter sharing information about a potential upscale wine store in the old Ace Hardware location.

Neighborhood Crime Statistics

Hillside IS NOT crime free! Steering Committee Member Wayne Crayton has agreed to put together monthly statistics from APD that will keep us informed of what has happened in our neighborhoods. If you are the victim of a crime, be sure to report it to the Anchorage Police Department so that the information is shown on official logs.

Compiled Crime Statistics for the HOCC Area (December 17, 2010 - January 19, 2011):

Theft Reports	6	Disturbances	2
Assaults	4	Weapons Offense	1
Fraud / Forgeries	4	Vehicle Theft	1
Burglaries	3	Other Offense	1

The majority of these crimes occurred in a corridor between Lake Otis (east), New Seward Highway (west), O'Malley (north), and DeArmoun (south).

Compiled by Wayne Crayton

Upcoming Meeting - Thursday Feb 17th

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, February 17, 2011. Remember that HOCC always meets on the third Thursday monthly at 7 PM, at the Christian Church of Anchorage, corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley. Enter on the O'Malley side, come downstairs, and enjoy some cookies and conversation.

Did You Know:

Anchorage Fire Station 8

Anchorage Fire Station 8 is located on O'Malley Road just above Birch and houses 4 Anchorage Firefighters and 2 Fire Apparatus (Engine / Tender). The Engine is staffed with 3 firefighters and is used primarily for fire suppression and emergency medical support. The Tender is a fire suppression support apparatus and holds 2500 gallons of water to assist with fires in non-hydranted areas, such as our Anchorage Hillside.

Fire Station 8 has a unique duty that they perform for our department during the day in between responding to 911 calls; they maintain the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) for the Anchorage Fire Department, Girdwood Fire Department, and Chugiak Fire Department. These technicians, certified by the manufacturer, take care of making sure our SCBA's are in top working order along with testing each firefighters mask yearly for a proper fit. By performing this function with on-duty firefighters we are able to help save money that would otherwise be spent sending these SCBA's out to be repaired and maintained.

Medically, Engine 8 is staffed with 3 EMT's and carries medical gear to provide patient stabilization during an emergency until a neighboring ambulance can arrive on-scene to transport the patient to one of our area hospitals. Their gear consist of medical interventions to help in a medical situation, trauma gear to support injuries due to a traumatic event, heart monitoring equipment, and medical oxygen. When you call 911 from the area surrounding Fire Station 8, this Engine will arrive first to start the initial treatment and assessment and then will be followed by ambulance. This provides the quickest most efficient service to you during your emergency.

As always, you are more than welcome to stop in and visit with your firefighters at Fire Station 8 or bring your family in for a tour.

Submitted by Anchorage Firefighter and HOCC Resident Brian Partch

Items of Interest?

Do you have an item of local interest you would like to share? Does your Homeowners Association, Road Service Area or Neighborhood group have information that needs to get out? Is there a particular concern on your street? Let us know! We can put your short pieces in the body of the newsletter, or link to longer items. Email your items to hoccpresident@gmail.com.

You can also attend our meetings and share your concerns in person. Community Councils exist to serve the community!

Message from the President

Why is it important to participate in a Community Council? Why should you attend these monthly meetings?

Many months ago, HOCC was approached about creating a "Safe Route" to Huffman Elementary School. As you may already know, Huffman Park, on the corner of Huffman and Elmore, has been almost unusable for a number of years. Between dark, overgrown trails and boggy areas filled with mosquitoes, it was not a place anyone wanted to use. Yet this is a route for Huffman Elementary schoolchildren!

The HOCC supported the Rasmussen grant to upgrade this park and donated to this privately funded project. But the Parks Department insisted on maintaining all the park's 'natural' vegetation, which includes masses of devils club and overgrown trails.

The ASD is in the process of upgrading the school's access and egress. The first design shared with the Council removed all but one entrance to the park. This eliminated the "Safe Route" and would force our elementary school students onto the street. HOCC asked that this design be reworked to provide access.

In other words, there is a massive disconnect between intra-governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies, contractors and subcontractors.

HOCC has requested the presence of representatives from all these groups at our March 17th meeting. But we also need your presence! If you attend either of the churches, have children at the school, live in the area or want to use the park, we need your input.

HOCC always meets on the third Thursday monthly, and all meetings are open to the public whether or not you are a dues-paying member. Although I wish we could read your mind, we really cannot represent you unless you let us know your thoughts on each subject!

I urge you to become involved in your Community Council. It is the only way we are truly successful!

Christine Monette, President

HALO Update

The next meeting of Home and Landowner's Organization, Inc. will be held Thursday, March 3rd. HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley. However, as this is the candidate forum event, this meeting will be held at O'Malleys on the Green. All the Assembly candidates in our areas have been invited, as well as representatives for the various bond issues.

For additional information on HALO please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Just a Random Thought...

The next local election is Tuesday, April 5th. Anchorage will be electing new Assembly members, the people that determine how much of the taxpayer's money we are going to spend each year. Because of this, local elections have a far bigger

impact on our checkbooks than national elections. Why is it, then, that only about 10% of us will show up to vote?

Public Record Notices going Online Only!

As of Sept 1, the Muni will only publish Public Notices online! They will no longer be in either the ADN or Alaska Journal of Commerce. This means the responsibility for learning about issues important to your neighborhoods rests on your shoulders. Furthermore, as we have learned, information published online and public notices are not always accurate. We urge you to verify all public notices by making a phone call to the agency involved if the notice involves your neighborhood. The phone number for each particular agency is listed in the Public Notice.

Property foreclosures and a few other items will still be published in print, but the only place to find meeting notices will be through the Muni website, www.muni.org. The exact page is: <http://www.muni.org/publicnotice/Pages/default.aspx> From there a variety of searches are available.

The Heritage Land Bank also places its commission meeting agendas on its own web page, so that there are two locations for opening and downloading upcoming agendas, as well as finding recent meeting agendas: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/hlb/Pages/HILBCommission.aspx>

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). Your donations pay for a gratuity for our meeting location, community outreach events, office supplies 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!

And remember to contact us with your comments and concerns, because YES you can make a difference if you get involved. 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 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!