

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

It's your HOCC!

May 2011 Newsletter

April Meeting Recap:

We had another great meeting with lots of valuable information and updates, including a presentation by Alaska Waste on their new mandatory roll cart changeover. We also heard an update on the Huffman & Elmore water reservoir, asked questions of Assembly Representative Jennifer Johnston, and talked with our Chugach Representatives about the proposed Hane Street substation.

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Hot Button Issue

Less Trash/More Money???

HOCC was pleased to have Calvin Miller of Alaska Waste at the April meeting to discuss the mandatory changeover to roll carts. Most of our area will be changed to this service in the Fall of 2012 if the Regulatory Commission of Alaska agrees. Miller admitted that the consumer will be charged a higher monthly fee for the removal of less garbage.

Miller is checking into the discrepancies of information available online. His information is that roll carts are guaranteed and will be replaced if lost, stolen or damaged. The Alaska Waste website states that there is a \$150 replacement fee for lost roll carts.

A concern of some is that the large receptacles are too bulky and heavy for much of our population to handle, especially as we live on a part of Hillside that is, well, hilly. Long, steep and unpaved driveways are not suitable for moving heavy trash cans, especially during inclement weather conditions. Miller believes that there is a possibility that "doorside" service may be available for an additional fee.

Information previously given to Alaska Waste customers was that the RCA had approved these changes. That information was factually incorrect, as the RCA will be taking comment on these proposed changes through May 16th. If you would like more information or want to comment on these proposed changes, visit

<http://rca.alaska.gov/RCAWeb/WhatsNew/PublicNoticesComments.aspx> and scroll down to TA 49-692 Alaska Waste Standard Can Phase Out.

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SAHS Sports Field Expansion

The Anchorage School District has taken over the Booster Club's sports field improvement application, as of the Urban Design Commission meeting of May 11th. The Commission decided to allow the site design change to create the improved baseball field and 1600-seat football/stadium. They included many of the conditions requested by the HOCC in response to valid concerns from adjoining neighbors.

We are looking forward to the turf installation this summer, and the baseball field improvement construction to begin this year.

Meanwhile, the Anchorage School District will be working towards the creation of adequate buffers promised in the 2001 site plan, which should resolve many issues currently faced by the adjoining neighbors.

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AWWU Elmore/Huffman Reservoir Update

Jeff Coleman, AWWU's project engineer on the Elmore/Huffman water reservoir reported to the Council that, as soon as road restrictions are lifted, excavation will begin. The tank has been changed from a Type 3 to a Type 1 tank, which is cast on-site and may prove stronger seismically. This change will require a larger crane that will be there for a longer duration. Coleman will keep the Council informed as this project continues.

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Water Well Monitoring Program Gains Speed

The first step towards protecting our water is to understand current conditions. The Municipality of Anchorage collects information on water quality when homes are sold. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation collects information from public wells annually.

As one part of the Well Water Protection Program recommended by the Hillside District Plan, HALO is funding a report on the current quality of our wells, using data already collected. This mapping will show historic and current conditions on Hillside.

HALO is asking for donations to offset the initial cost and annual updates. If you understand the importance of this issue to your future, please consider making a donation of any amount. Make your checks payable to HALO, Box 110096, Anchorage 99511. Write "well water quality report" on the memo line.

Submitted by John Weddleton, HDP Implementation Committee, Huffman/O'Malley Community Council member

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HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

Have you been keeping up with HOCC-area crime statistics? The HOCC area and surrounding

neighborhoods are not crime free! Compiled crime statistics for the HOCC-area (March 18 through May11) follow. Data is missing for the period April 22 through April 30. The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Assaults: 5 (12)	Other Undefined Offenses: : 2 (7)
Burglaries: 0 (7)	Theft Reports: 7 (16)
Disturbances: 5 (7)	Vandalism: 0 (3)
Drugs: 4 (5)	Vehicle Theft: 1 (2)
Fraud/Forgery: 3 (7)	Weapon Offense: 0 (1)
Liquor violations: 0 (1)	DUI: 1 (1)

The majority of crimes continue to occur in a corridor between Lake Otis (east), New Seward Highway (west), O'Malley Road (north), and DeArmoun Road (south). Noted were many reports of thefts at the Huffman Road commercial establishments; however, these reports are outside but adjacent to our HOCC boundary. 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.

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

Upcoming Meeting - Thursday May 19th

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, May 19, 2011.

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.

Items on the agenda for the meeting will include an update on the SAHS Public Hearing, the Baronik variance, and a new request for variance, this one on Jerome.

Also, council members will be asked to contribute opinions on the various proposed redistricting plans, two of which cut our council area in half. We will also be ranking the 2011-12 Capital Improvement Project priority list.

Attend and make your voice heard!

Some Quick Spring Cleaning Guideline's to Brush Clearing

Below is a simple set of guidelines that the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation office has produce as a reminder for residents as they prepare for spring yard cleaning:

The Anchorage Wildfire Mitigation Office has been receiving an increased number of calls

regarding burn permits and guidelines. We have updated all information on the AFD website to reflect the guidelines (www.muni.org/fire). Please call 267-4980 if you have any questions or concerns.

I. Planning to burn.

- Only spruce beetle killed wood may be burned.
- Permits are online at <http://afd.muni.org> or by calling 267-5020. Permit must be on site during burn.
- Residents must comply with the daily burn approval notice posted at <http://afd.muni.org> and recorded at 267-5020. Daily burn approval is dependent upon air quality, smoke dispersal, fire weather index, wind and regional fire activity.
- Burning is allowed between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

II. Prepare the burn area.

- Burn pile must be located at least 50 feet (in all directions) from any structure, power poles or lines, vehicles, trees, brush and dead grass.
- Burn pile maximum size is limited to 6 feet wide by 6 feet long by 3 feet high.
- Clear all combustible material before igniting your pile.
- Burn pile must be established on mineral soil (dirt or gravel, not peat)
- Only one burn pile may be burned at a time.
- A working telephone provided as the "On-site Contact Number" on the Burn Permit Application must be available at the burn site.
- A charged water hose is required; it must reach 20 feet beyond the burn pile.
- A shovel, rake, Pulaski or hoe must be provided for each adult in attendance.
- One responsible and able-bodied adult over the age of 18 must attend the fire at all times. Must be wearing protective clothing such as sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, gloves, long sleeved shirt.
- Fire must be extinguished immediately if wind speeds exceed 15 mph.

III. Recreational and Cooking Fires

- A recreational or cooking fire does not require a permit if it is contained within an area less than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. These fires must be located in a cleared area at least 25 feet from any structure, power poles, vehicles, trees, brush and dead grass. These fires must comply with the daily burn approval notice recorded at 267-5020 or at <http://afd.muni.org>.
- Recreational fires contained **within an approved outdoor fireplace or barbeque grill** do not require a permit if it has a total area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. It must be situated 15 feet or more from a structure. These devices are required to have a spark arrestor, chimney stack or screen over the top. The unit must be elevated off the ground at least 12 inches. These contained fires are allowed if burning is not approved for the day at 267-5020 or at <http://afd.muni.org>.
- The use of contained barbeque grills for cooking is not dependent upon burn day approval.
- Recreational or ceremonial fires larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height that do not follow all of the requirements for the residential burn permit require an inspection. Call Fire Prevention at 267-4900. Permit and inspection fees apply. Please schedule at least 2 weeks in advance.

Provided by HOCC Steering Committee Member and Anchorage Fire Fighter Brian Partch

HALO Update

The next meeting of Home and Landowner's Organization, Inc. will be held Thursday, June 2nd! HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley.

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

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From the President's Desk

I can hardly believe that two years have passed since I was first elected to the office of President! Looking back, it is satisfying to realize how much the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council accomplished during that time. Yet there is so much ahead of us! Costs are increasing, while our salaries and our property values are flat. We are currently involved in several issues important to our area and we know that we will be facing other issues in the future that will require us to work together to solve.

Each year in our May meeting, the HOCC elects a new Steering Committee and new Officers. We hope to gather together people from each of our unique neighborhoods, so that every area within our council boundaries is truly represented. We live in a unique area, with R-1 "city" lots and R-6 "suburban acres". Each of these neighborhoods serves an integral role in our community that must be protected.

Do you have time you could commit to take a true leadership role in our community? Serving on the Steering Committee requires just one meeting a month, with much of our business between meetings done on-line. We do ask individuals to take advisory roles in specific situations, and while it takes time, it is immensely rewarding. If you would like more information, please call our Nominating Committee Chair Katie at 333-2350 or or email her hocvicepresident@gmail.com

I thank each of you for giving me the privilege of serving our community in the capacity of Community Council President and I look forward to continuing my involvement a member of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council.

Christine Monette, President

Just a Random Thought...

Yea! Hip Hip Hurray! Global Warming! (finally!)

Huffman & Elmore Traffic Hazard?

Have you experienced traffic concerns at Huffman and Elmore? Does the Enstar box on

the northwest corner interfere with your line of sight? HOCC will be addressing this issue, perhaps asking Enstar to remove the slats from the chain link fence, perhaps asking that snow berms not be created at that corner. Would 'rumble strips' help alert southbound drivers to the stop sign? If you have an opinion or an idea, please attend the May meeting or contact us.

Are there other locations where you have encountered traffic safety issues? Please let us know!

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Public Record Notices going Online Only!

Have you noticed that you don't see any more Municipal Public Notices in the newspapers? All Public Notices are now online only. Also, remember that the responsibility lies with each of us to not only follow these Public Notices, but to verify them for accuracy. If you see a "blue sign" posted to a tree in your neighborhood, call the Planning Department immediately!

Online Public Notices are at: <http://www.muni.org/publicnotice/Pages/default.aspx> From there a variety of searches are available.

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!