

HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

Have you been keeping up with HOCC-area crime statistics? According to the recent survey, this is one of the most appreciated items in our monthly Newsletter.

These are the compiled crime statistics for the HOCC-area (July 1 - 31). The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Assaults: 1 (15)	Other Undefined Offenses: 0 (7)	Prostitution: 0 (3)
Burglaries: 1 (10)	Theft Reports: 5 (39)	Disorderly conduct:0 (1)
Disturbances: 3 (14)	Vandalism: 2 (9)	
Drugs: 0 (5)	Vehicle Theft: 1 (3)	
Fraud/Forgery: 1 (8)	Weapon Offense: 0 (1)	
Liquor violations: 0 (2)	DU: 0 (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). Reports of thefts continue to out pace the other crimes. 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/>

South High's Buffer to Become Reality

The new HOCC South High Neighborhood Committee is working towards real solutions to ease issues arising from the incompatibility of a high school placed in a residential area. One major source of conflict has been the lack of a promised 80' buffer between the school and private homes.

HOCC has assisted in bringing together the community, AWWU and ASD officials to resolve this particular concern. Real progress is being made to create and/or restore this originally promised buffer zone. Designs are now being made which will plant non-deciduous trees in this area, watering them for two years to allow them to gain appropriate strength, and allow native vegetation to regrow in this area. The entire section will be studied again next March, when deciduous trees are bare, to see where non-deciduous species need to be added for winter buffer.

Further plans will include altering existing use patterns to encourage new growth within this area.

It is encouraging to discover true commitment to this project from ASD Administration. A real buffer will go a long way towards finally improving the detrimental impact of the school upon the neighborhood.

Submitted by Christine Monette, HOCC Vice President and Chair, South High Neighborhood
Committee Chair

Vocabulary of the Month: “Variance”

Often, the Council will receive a packet from the Planning Department containing a request for a variance. The Council will research this request and make a choice of “support” or “non-support”.

So what is a variance?

Every structure and use planned for property within the Municipality is governed by Title 21. A structure or use that is outside of the blanket “allowed uses” of the underlying zoning district must obtain a variance. This is an official proclamation that says the use or structure of the request will be allowed despite the normal code, or laws, governing the zoning district.

For a knowledgeable individual seeking a variance, the local community council should be the first stop of the process. Those persons ask to be placed on the meeting agenda, where they will share their plans with their neighbors and hope to gain approval. As a hypothetical example, a property owner may wish to build a structure in the required yard setback. The council will examine the request and make recommendations of support or non-support to the Planning Department. Other examples of variance requests may include such things as housing animals, building decks, paving driveways, or erasing lot lines or obsolete right-of-ways.

Is there a word or acronym you would like defined? Let us know by contacting
HOCCnewslettereditor@gmail.com

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Cook Inlet Housing Authority’s Weatherization Program

Do you know someone who would benefit from a home weatherization? Could your home use energy upgrades? Cook Inlet Housing Authority is in charge of administering the Weatherization Program, a free service to qualifying homeowners and renters.

Successful applicants for this program will have a team evaluate their residence and determine what steps can be taken to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy loss. This can involve a number of steps, from increasing insulation to replacing doors and windows, even to upgrading to energy efficient heating systems and appliances.

This is not the program that refunds a percentage of expenses. Instead, the team will take charge of all the predetermined work, including contracting and materials.

If you are someone or know of someone who would benefit from this program, or a senior that would appreciate saving money on their energy bills, contact Danicia Shirayayev at 793-3730.

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From the President's Desk

In the course of my "day job" several weeks ago, I attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting. The person next to me introduced himself, although I had already recognized him as an area Senator. As I introduced myself, I called him by his title. He was surprised and pleased to realize that I was knowledgeable about local politics. I responded that I was active in my Community Council and was, in fact, the new President of Huffman/O'Malley.

"Huffman/O'Malley?" he replied, nodding. "That's an active group! I've heard lots of good comments about that Council! You folks are pretty successful! Congratulations!"

Driving back to town after the meeting, I thought about his words. Yes, we have a good Council. But I'm not the one that deserves congratulations.

While I was at my day job, our Secretary was at a meeting with ASD. Our Vice President and another member of our Steering Committee were working with the TVEHA group. Other Steering Committee members were checking into drainage issues on Eastwind and at Lake Otis, researching solutions at the Elmore & Huffman intersection, and compiling crime stats. Still others are creating a new data base, studying our by-laws, and working on the next newsletter.

The reason this Council is successful is that we have individuals who are willing to take a few minutes of their time to devote to something they believe in - their community. They are willing to see a task and step up to the plate. Each has their area of interest and knowledge to share.

For this, I thank all of you who have created this successful, cohesive unit called the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council. Even those stuck in Juneau know how great you are!

*Pete Nolan, President
Huffman/O'Malley Community Council*

Just a Random Thought...

Does the State Fair seem to start earlier each year, or are the summers just getting shorter?

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 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 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!