

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
June 2012 Newsletter

May Recap:

At the May meeting, HOCC elected a new Steering Committee and Officers. Thank you to all who have volunteered to help our community! We also adopted a ByLaws revision.

Special guest speaker APD Sergeant Mike Couturier of the Cyber Crime Unit, gave a fascinating presentation that everyone should hear. You can read more about it below.

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Hot Button Issue:
Facebook, Pediphiles and You
What all Parents Should Know

Did you know that 4 to 5% of all your children's Facebook "Friends" are pediphiles? That is the troubling truth, according to Sgt Mike Couturier of APD's Cyber Crime Unit. Sgt Couturier gave a startling presentation at the May HOCC meeting about the work of this federal task force. Many adults have no idea how to handle today's technology, and must become aware of the dangers facing their children.

Online users like to add to their 'friends' lists to make themselves look popular, and add photos that tell perverts everything they need to know about these people, from the schools they attend to their front yards. Sgt Couturier stated that no child needs any more than 200 Facebook 'friends'.

Do you know if your child has more than one Facebook account? Most children will admit that they keep a separate Facebook page for their parents to access, but will have three or four other sites that adults are unaware of.

Facebook is not the only place where children can get into trouble. My Yearbook is another popular site, and Stickam is a live video feed. Children as young as ten are posting videos with sexual content, and once an item is online, it is there forever.

Minors who "sext" (sending obscene or sexual content) are liable for up to three felony crimes: taking the picture, sending the picture, and keeping the picture. New laws will also enable misdemeanor prosecution for children who sext.

Surprisingly, the age at which most teens get into trouble is 15 or 16, when parents are attempting to let their children accept adult responsibilities. Bad decisions during this time may have lifetime consequences.

Sgt Couturier suggests that we will never be able to stop this problem, but can work towards reducing the numbers of children involved. He strongly suggest having firm rules, including not providing your children with web-capable phones, shutting off computers at a set hour daily, and keeping all computers in common areas, never in a child's bedroom. There are hundreds of sex offenders living in Anchorage, and most of these are in the South Anchorage area. He reminded the audience that there is no cure for pedifilia.

Couturier is available to talk to any interested group, and all parent groups and PTAs should invite him to give a presentation. Anyone interested can email him at mcouturier@muni.org or call at 786-2444.

June Meeting

Plan to attend the June 21st meeting of the HOCC. Remember that we always meet on the third Thursday monthly at 7 pm at the Shepherd of the Hills Church on Elmore Road at Klatt.

If you have any questions, please contact hoccpresident@gmail.com

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Just a Random Thought...

Watch out for this week's newborn moose. Their mothers give new meaning to the phrase "helicopter moms".

Anchorage Trails Plan

Do you use our trails? The Muni is developing a new Anchorage Trails Plan, which will focus on recreational trails and trail use. The Hillside District Plan trail map replaces the 1987 Trails Plan, but still needed is the labeling of Primary and Secondary trails.

Maps showing existing and planned trails are posted at the Loussac Library. More information can be found at: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/AMATS/Pages/AnchorageTrailsPlan.aspx>

Abbott Road Improvements

The State DOT&PF is looking at alternatives for Abbott Road between Lake Otis and Birch. This section of road has the highest crash rate of all Hillside collector routes.

Primary scoping will begin, and may include a continuous two-way left turn lane; an eastbound acceleration lane; flattened hills; rehabilitation of the existing pathway on the north side of the road only; and a right turn lane from eastbound Abbott Road onto Birch.

More information on this project is at: <http://www.abbottroadrehab.com/>

HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

The number of crimes reported between May 1, 2012, and May 29, 2012, and the cumulative counts are recorded in the table below.

Crime Types	Monthly # of Incidents	2012 Yearly Total	Crime Types	Monthly # of Incidents	2012 Yearly Total
Theft	6	24	Liquor violations	0	0
Assaults	3	3	Disorderly conduct	0	0
Burglaries	1	7	Prostitution	0	0
Disturbances	3	11	Vehicle theft	2	4
Fraud/Forgery	0	3	Drugs	1	7
Vandalism	5	27	Drunk problem	0	0
Weapons	0	0	Homicide	0	0

DUI	0	1	Arson	1	1
Robbery	0	0	Other	2	5
Sexual assaults	0	0	Domestic violence	0	0

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. **HOCC also wants to remind everyone that the APD does not log reports unless you ask for a case number. Please remember, if you are making any police report regarding anything from noise to vandalism or suspicious behavior, always ask for a case number.**

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

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From the President's Desk

Every month, I am reminded of just of just how impressive a group have stepped forward to represent our neighborhoods. From the Steering Committee members to the people of our community, the support always leaves me thankful that I live here.

Yes, there are other community councils, and many of them are very active. This is not always the case. A member from another Council area attended our last meeting, watching how we all participated in discussions, and how much knowledge was gathered in the room. He made the observation that he had never seen such involvement and commitment from such a diverse group of people. It made him want to work on his own Council.

What some of you may not know is that HOCC is held up as an example of the ideal community involvement. When other Councils look for guidance, the FCC recommends that they study ours.

If you read this newsletter and have never been to a Community Council meeting then I'd like to encourage you to join us. We will always be here when you need us for any community issues you may have, and you may find you enjoy the experience.

Please consider becoming active in your neighborhoods. We have a seat waiting for you!

*Pete Nolan, President
Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
hoccpresident@gmail.com*

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). For our "snail mail" residents, you can become an "email person" by just letting us know, and save us some postage in the proces.

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. If you want your donation 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!