

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

It's your HOCC!

Newsletter

May 2015

May 21st is the Annual Meeting!

Everyone is urged to attend the May Meeting of the HOCC, to participate and elect your new Steering Committee and Officers!

The HOCC makes an effort to have a Steering Committee that represents a wide variety of our area residents, from those in planned "curb & gutter" neighborhoods to those living on "country lane" roads. We exist to represent YOU, and the best way to accomplish that is for YOU to attend and take an ownership in your future and the future of development in the HOCC area of Anchorage! Don't wait until something happens in your neighborhoods that may take you by complete surprise, usually by then it is too late to be effective. So Please plan to Join us Thursday May 21st at 7pm and get involved.

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Hot Button Issue Future Land Development

This is the topic of our May meeting presentation. The Municipality of Anchorage is working on a new Land Use Planning Map to guide the city moving forward on the development and density of the development for all the areas in the City.

The HOCC area has a great deal of available rural land which makes this area a prime target for development by the Municipality. Regardless of the Hillside District Plan adopted in 2010. Which represents guidelines of development put forth by the residents and community members of the Hillside. Everyone needs to be informed and get involved before you have no say in future of development in your area.

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When is a Park not really a Park

In 2012, the Municipality of Anchorage chose, over strong neighborhood objection, a portion of Rabbit Creek Park for the relocation of Fire Station #9. The municipality was able to use the land as it was not designated park land, in spite of municipal signs clearly indicating 'Rabbit Creek Park' and it's useage as park for over 35 years. Over the last year, neighbors and HOCC have participated on the Fire Station design committee to minimize impacts to the neighbors. The Fire Station will be a good neighbor, but we will never get those trees and open park space back.

Parkland is a treasured resource in Anchorage, good for people and good for property values. HOCC has worked closely with other community councils over the past year in identifying many additional parks that were not appropriately zoned. Research showed that many undedicated park lands existed throughout the municipality, putting them at greater risk for development. After significant efforts by HOCC and other CC's, a list of these parks has been assembled and approved through the Parks and Recreation Committee (Resolution 2014-16). Assembly Member Jennifer Johnston submitted AO No.2015-25 'An ordinance

dedicating certain municipal properties for permanent or long-term park or recreational purposes', that was scheduled to be presented at the April 21st, 2015 Assembly meeting. It is the position of all the Community Councils that Parkland should be both dedicated by the Municipality as Parkland and zoning changes made within the Municipality to protect those dedicated Parks under Title 21, so that any change from Parkland to Development requires a vote of the citizens of the Municipality and not simply the desire of the administration in power at the time the change is sought.

Summer Road Construction for HOCC area

Construction projects of interest to the HOCC area slated to start this summer are:

1. O'Malley & Elmore Road Intersection Overhead Beacon: Install an overhead beacon and upgrade stop control to the intersection. The beacon will draw attention to the intersection and drivers at the intersection, helps with distracted driving in an area of proven conflict.
2. Old Seward Hwy: O'Malley to Dimond Blvd Resurfacing. This project will resurface the Old Seward Highway from O'Malley to Dimond Blvd. The project will mill and resurface the travel lanes for this 1.8 mile segment. The project will also include, as needed improvements to pedestrian curb ramps, guardrails, guardrail end treatments, dig-outs, drainage repair, sign replacements and striping.
3. Old Seward Hwy: Rabbit Creek to Brandon Street.
This project will resurface the Old Seward Highway from Rabbit Creek to Brandon St. The project will mill and resurface the travel lanes for this 1.8 mile segment. The project will also include, as needed, improvements to pedestrian curb ramps, guardrail, guardrail end treatments, dig-outs, drainage repair, sign replacement, replacement of bridge membrane and striping.

There will be many other projects going to construction this year so check out

511.alaska.gov

for road conditions before you travel around the state this summer.

SUMMER FIRE SAFETY

With a lack of snow and warm weather making a slow appearance we suddenly find ourselves motivated to move our yards along into summer. A favorite aspect of this clean up seems to be the use of a burn pile to eliminate trees and limbs that have fallen over winter.

Your Anchorage Fire Department would like to remind you of a few guidelines we ask our community to follow.

Only Spruce Beetle killed wood may be burned
Permits are available at <http://afd.muni.org>

Residents must comply with the daily burn approval (267-5020)

Daily burn approval is dependent upon air quality and the fire weather index

Burning is allowed between 9:00am and 9:00pm

You need to have a charged water hose and an operating phone nearby

Any other questions can be directed to our Wildfire Mitigation office during business hours at 267-4980.

Reminder: Recreational and Cooking fires are still allowed as long as they are contained within an area less than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. These fires must be located 25 feet from any structure, brush, or dead grass.

And finally, make sure you have a charged garden hose and a phone nearby as well. Just like the guidelines for open burning you must call 267-5020 the day you burn to assure the weather has been deemed safe to burn.

Remember these rules are in place for you and your neighbor's safety. You may get a visit from your local fire station, so have your safety measures in place (and burn permit if needed).

Enjoy your summer and as always you're more than welcome to

stop by any local fire station for more information or a visit.

**President's Message:
By Christine Monette, HOCC President**

It has been an interesting and rewarding year serving as your Community Council President, and I thank each and every one of you for this honor.

Working together, I hope we have moved towards creating a more efficient organization that more effectively meets the needs of each of our residents. It has be a rocky couple of years with some very controversial and divisive issues presented to our council. Together we have worked hard to reach a positive outcome for the members within our Community. Now that being said, It is impossible to make everyone happy, all the time, so it is even more important to get involved and become part of the solution in your community.

One of our major focuses this past year has been our By-Laws rewrite. Thanks to all of you who have assisted in this effort, especially Committee member Wayne Crayton who did most of the heavy lifting. You can access our new By-Laws on our new web page located on the FCC website.

<http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/home.html>

There you can access current and past agendas, minutes, resolutions and other items of interest and pertinent to HOCC. It is still a work in process and while I will be stepping down as your President this month, I will continue to represent HOCC as an FCC delegate, with my focus and energy in getting our webpage up to date with all our archived information.

Thank you all.

Christine Monette, hoccpresident@gmail.com

Items of Interest?

Do you have an item of local interest you would like to share? Does your Homeowner's 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!

Question of the Month

Would you like to become a member of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Steering Committee? We elect new members at the Annual Meeting each May. While it is a time commitment, it is also rewarding to know that on the most basic neighborhood level you are making a difference.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Monthly meetings are two hours, and there is some work we do in between via email. We are asked for input into a variety of projects that affect our community, and are able to add constructive ideas to many. We prefer having our Steering Committee representing a number of individual neighborhoods, as this gives us a good overview of the entire area.

Each Steering Committee member agrees to attend most meetings and participate in projects. We divide tasks based on each person's area of knowledge, expertise and interest. Working together, we hope to provide a quality representation of our community.

HALO Update

The Home and Landowners Organization, Inc. "HALO" will hold their Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 4th. This meeting will include the annual election of new officers and area representatives.

HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley. Visitors are always welcome to attend. For additional information on HALO please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Welcome New Members!

Thanks so 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. We like that "two-way" thing!

**Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC
Enclosed is my contribution of \$10.00 per person 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: 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!