

# Rabbit Creek Community Council

## NEWSLETTER JULY 2006

<http://www.communitycouncils.org/rabbit>

Rabbit Creek Community Council \* P.O. Box 112354 \* Anchorage, AK 99511-2354

### Letter from the Chair

You know it's summer when the flower garden on Rabbit Creek Road appears and the roads are swept clean giving pedestrians and cyclists space. Our community is a magnet for joggers and cyclists and folks just out walking the dogs. These well-documented pastimes were reflected in the Capitol Projects Needs Ranking Survey that most of you received. Thank you to those of you who took a few moments to inform the Council, the Municipality and the State of your ideas for our community. As in the past high on the list are our parks and connections to them. Also ranking at the top is the desire to see the Old Seward Highway behind Potter Marsh reconstructed, not just filling in the potholes but making it safe for everyone, drivers, walkers, joggers and cyclists. Traffic Calming was also at the top of the list. Extending Elmwood Road from DeArmoun to Rabbit Creek was given a huge thumb down due to speed and safety issues. This list is supposed to help guide which projects will be given priority in the coming years. Last year the Hillside District Plan was number one and it has been started although several years late. I guess we'll have to stick around to see how this list holds up. The Council meets again on July 14<sup>th</sup>. Be safe. Susanne

### New Trail Head for Rabbit Creek Greenbelt

The 80-acre non-motorized park is now accessible from five neighborhoods that surround the greenbelt. Bikes and horses are prohibited on the wilderness unpaved trails, but hikers can easily use the trail system year-round. The main trail head, off Old Rabbit Creek Road north of 140th, begins with a half-mile trail that leads to a bridge at Rabbit Creek. Another half-mile trail extends north towards DeArmoun Road where the trail head is not far from the current Birch Road trail. Neighborhood trail heads are designed so that residents can walk to the trails without driving, so parking is minimal or non-existent. Trail maintenance work parties are planned throughout the summer to help keep the lush vegetation from obliterating the trail and to complete a set of box steps. The greenbelt trail system has been developed over the past four years through the effort of dozens of volunteers. To volunteer, write to: [rabbitgreenbelt@yahoo.com](mailto:rabbitgreenbelt@yahoo.com).

### Keep Our Parks Safe From Vandalism

There has been an increasing amount of vandalism in Anchorage parks, including Ruth Arcand Park. If you notice any incidents occurring, please write down the license plate information and contact Anchorage Police Department.

For information on the following municipal planning issues, go to [munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm](http://munimaps.muni.org/planning/home3.htm), or call 343-7943 (Zoning), or 343-7942 (Platting).

### Platting ~ Loussac Library

S-11473 n.d. short plat Ashland Tract, Prom Pte. 6 lots.  
S11512-1, July 10, Subdivide 1 1-acre lot to 2 lots

### PLANNING & ZONING

2006-074, July 10, High voltage tower regulations

### Urban Design Commission

2006-073, July 7, Admin site plan review Rabbit Cr Church

### ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY Tuesdays, 6 PM Loussac Library

2006-052 July 11, Ashland Tract, Prom Pte, Amendment for sewers.

### 2006 Membership Form

Return to: Rabbit Creek Community Council, PO Box 112354, Anchorage, AK 99511

Dues (circle one): \$3 /person or \$5 /couple

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Location of property or rental within RC area \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

To receive the newsletter, circle the preferred format: **e-mail, U.S. Postage, none.**

E-Mail Only: Check if you wish to receive other notices from Municipality of Anchorage

## Rabbit Creek Community Council

### 2006 BOARD

**Chair:** Susanne Comellas  
**Vice Chair:** Wayne Skidmore  
345-3268, wayneskid@msn.com

**Secretary:** Charlie Barnwell  
**Treasurer:** Donna Van Flein  
243-1553

### Other Board Members

Charlie Barnwell  
Peter Johnson  
Dianne Holmes 345-1514  
Dick Tremaine  
Peter Crimp  
John Isby  
Gretchen Specht  
Ky Holland 345-2729  
Mike Flister, Alternate

## Rabbit Creek Flower Bed Blooms Again

For the 16<sup>th</sup> year the flower bed on Rabbit Creek Road has been planted by a handful of dedicated volunteers. The Council wishes to thank the generous donation of time and hard work that turn the ugly patch of an ashtray into a beautiful flower bed. The work is not over though. Please consider looking after the garden for a week this summer. Weeding and watering are critical in making this project successful. Contact Susanne at [badger1@acs.net](mailto:badger1@acs.net) or 345-8171.

## Summer Fun in the Parks

Anchorage Parks and Recreation offers a variety of fun activities for visitors and residents alike. We offer special events, classes, and programs for a wide variety interests and for people of all ages and abilities. View Activity Guide online at <http://www.muni.org/iceimages/parks/2006SpringGuide.pdf>.

## Forest Heights/Legacy Pointe Update

On June 20 the Assembly postponed the R-7 Rezone hearing indefinitely. No information has been provided to the public regarding the proposed Senior Housing Plan.

## Ashland Tract Requests Sewers

A six-acre parcel uphill from the main Prominence Pointe Subdivision is requesting an amendment to extend public sewers to the area. While city water is located just down-hill from the parcel, the developer is not asking for public water. Neither is the city requesting that both utilities be supplied together as is usually the recommendation. The Ashland Tract has been partially denuded of all vegetation—down to bedrock—because of blasting for gravel for use in road construction. The tract spans two watersheds. The proposed road system would lead to 32 undeveloped acres owned by the same developer. The council voted to deny the request for public sewers in May because the Hillsides District Plan (HDP), which is designed to locate such utility boundaries, is in progress. Many other components of the HDP would be usurped should the sewer amendment be granted, including road design for the larger area and density. The Assembly hearing is July 11

## Community Council/APD Liason Vacant

Cindi Stanton, who has acted as the Community Council Liaison Sergeant will be out on patrol until more police officers have been hired and trained. If you have questions for APD, Ms. Stanton can be contacted through dispatch, at 786-8900, ext. 0.

## Smoke Free Anchorage Hearing July 11

The Smokefree Anchorage Coalition is working to eliminate smoking in all workplaces by strengthening the Smokefree Anchorage Ordinance. To speak out regarding the effort eliminate second-hand smoke in Anchorage work places, attend the hearing at 5:30 p.m. on July 11 at the Assembly Chambers, Loussac Library. For more information go to AKlung.org.

## Bear Valley Fire Station Installs 1% for Art

The Bear Valley Fire Station will be installing the creation that comes from 1% for ART money. At last month's council meeting we got a preview and it is stunning. Look for it when you pass Fire Station #10.

## Links and Contacts

### Assembly members for Rabbit Creek

Janice Shamborg, 343-4124, [jcshamborg@gci.net](mailto:jcshamborg@gci.net)  
Chris Birch, 346-3265, [chrisbirch@gci.net](mailto:chrisbirch@gci.net)

### Zoning/Code Enforcement 343-8380

### Private Dev/Subdiv, 343-8310

### Planning Dept, Counter 343-7900

### Platting Dept, 343-7900

### State Legislature

Con Bunde, 800-892-4843;  
[Senator.Con.Bunde@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Senator.Con.Bunde@legis.state.ak.us)  
Rep. Michael C. Hawker, 800-478-4950,  
[Rep.Mike.Hawker@legis.state.ak.us](mailto:Rep.Mike.Hawker@legis.state.ak.us)

### LRSAs

South Goldenview: Brad Kutzer, 345-1712  
Birchtree Elmore: Ed Bosco, 345-4530; Ted Pease 345-1235

## **Rabbit Creek Community Council General Membership Summary of Meeting – June 8, 2006**

George Stewart spoke for the Smoke Free Anchorage Coalition on the upcoming ordinance that would ban smoking in bingo halls, bars, and small businesses. The ordinance text can be found at Aklung.org. He urged people to testify at the July 11<sup>th</sup> hearing and to contact Assembly members. Numerous large cities like New York have gone smoke free and bars have reported no loss of business because of it.

### *Announcements:*

The city Wood Disposal Lot at Minnesota and C Street is open seven days a week now.

Volunteers are desperately needed to help water the flower plot at the Rabbit Creek Overpass this summer. Contact Susanne at 345-8171.

### *Land Issues Update:*

The Forest Hts subdivision rezone has been postponed. In its place may be a high density (660 units) senior housing development that would not require a rezone of the PLI land.

The Ashland tract of Prominence Pointe may have sewers extended to the area if the Assembly grants the request. The council previously requested a denial until the Hillside District Plan is completed because residents should be setting the boundary for such components of the HDP like public utilities plus other accompanying issues like density and the road system. An extension of sewers in this manner would deny the residents of the larger area the ability to draft an effective HDP.

Shangri La East Subdivision lost an appeal before the Platting Board to change a condition requiring the design and funding (but not construction) of a collector road along Mt Air Dr before development can commence. The council has been working with the developer's representative and state legislators to secure funding.

The Capital Improvement List was discussed, but the lack of information on the list as to what the projects might involve plus lack of location for some parks left council members puzzled as to how to prioritize them before the deadline.

Sue Rodman of the Firewise program spoke on proposed projects in the area—Lt.Rabbit Cr Bluff Park and Griffin Park. She said there is a Memorandum of Understanding now between the city Parks Department and Firewise and it includes getting comments from councils before projects are started.

Lance Wilbur of the city Traffic Department presented the latest draft of the Hillside Sub Area Transportation Plan which includes a proposed road system for 500 undeveloped acres south of Bear Valley School. The map showed an occasional 10% grade on some roads which would prevent school buses from using them. The plan should go before the P/Z Commission in July.