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Federation of Community Councils
Mountain View Community Council
401 E Northern Lights Blvd., #204
Anchorage AK 99503-2814
Citizens Building Better Neighborhoods

April 2004

Mountain View Community Council News

Mountain View Community Council Meeting
Mountain View Community Recreation Center

315 Price

Monday - April 12, 2004

7 PM

Council Meeting Agenda

7:00 Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of February Minutes
Approval of Treasurer's Report
Approval of March Agenda
Introduction of Special Guests

7:15 Committee Reports

Assembly Report - Allan Tesche
Legislative Reports - Sen. Guess/Rep. Gruenberg
Community Center Report - Rick Henderson
Zoning Report - Kerry Hawkins
Mountain View Patrol - Fred Schriener
Community Recreation Center Adv Comm. - Tom Blackburn
8:00 Habitat for Humanity - Kim Ross
8:10 Fundraising Events - Barbara Hogan
8:20 Special Olympics - Jim Balamaci
8:30 World Changers - Lori Nealley
8:50 Mountain View Drive - Jacques Boutet
9:15 New Office - Sue Fison - ANHS
9:30 Anchorage Roads Committee - Jean McQuery
9:45 Old Business /New Business
10:00 ADJOURNMENT

Next Council Executive Meeting

Monday, April 26, 2004 at 7 PM

Mountain View Community Recreation Center

This is an open meeting - You are welcome

THIS NEWSLETTER WAS PAID FOR BY A GRANT FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

RIF Coca Cola Foundation Grant to Support Mountain View/Fairview Tutoring

Nine Star Enterprises, which operates the Anchorage Job Center in Mountain View learned recently that the Coca Cola Foundation would invest \$45,000 to pay for tutors to help K-3 readers maintain grade level over the summer. The money will support training, materials, and stipends at minimum wages for 16 youth ages 14-21 who will be recommended by partner agencies: Covenant House, Alaska Youth and Parent Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, and Nine Star Enterprises.

Two classes will be held, one in Mt. View and one in Fairview. The tutoring will take place between 9 am and 10:30 am Monday through Friday. Students will then take the Boys and Girls Club bus to the YMCA for an hour of swimming. The grant is titled "Reading and Recreation" and it is awarded as an ingenuity grant. The classes begin June 7 and end August 12.

The grant program is sponsored by Reading is Fundamental (RIF) which distributes books to elementary school students through sponsors. Nine Star has been a long time sponsor for distributions in both Mountain View and Fairview.

Other partners on the planning committee are the Mountain View PTA, Fairview Elementary School, AHFC Gateway, and the Alaska State Department of Labor Business Partnerships Division.

For more information, please call David Alexander at 279-7827 or email: davida@ninstar.com.

Email or Postal Mail?

The Assembly did not fully fund the operation of the Community Councils Center this year. The majority of the Federation of Community Councils Board of Delegates (each Council is represented) has voted to pare each Council's mailing list to the bare minimum. In this computer world, many people can receive their newsletter by email and this is the most cost effective way. If you would like to receive this newsletter by email and save us postage, please call 277-1977 and tell Charlene you are on Mountain View's list and want to receive this electronically.

Boys and Girls Club

Front Desk: 297-5403 Kid's Line: 297-5414
Teen Room: 297-5405

FROM THE GRASS ROOTS OF MOUNTAIN VIEW

The Mountain View Community Council and all its members would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks for your contribution. Citizens like yourself make a big difference in our community. **We need more people like you!**

Send to:

Mountain View Community Council President: Tom Blackburn
608 N Klevin 279-7535
Anchorage AK 99508-1438 Treasurer: Niki Burrows
274-1179

Name _____

Your donation in the amount of \$ _____ is Tax Deductible.

Received by: _____ Date: _____
Treasurer Received by Treasurer

MOUNTAIN VIEW COMMUNITY COUNCIL
1989 USA NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE YEAR

DONATION DISTRIBUTION

Received By: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work: _____

- \$ _____ **As Needed** \$ _____ Machine Maint/Repair
- \$ _____ Patrol Account \$ _____ Awards
- \$ _____ Office Supplies \$ _____ New Copier
- \$ _____ Computer Supplies \$ _____ Sunshine Account
- \$ _____ Phone \$ _____ Clean Up

E-Mail Address _____

Donation Needs

\$ 124.60	Neighborhood Planning
28.85	Office Supplies
248.86	Computer Supplies
296.32	Phone
206.87	Awards
271.50	Machine Maint/Repair
147.66	Sunshine Account
138.00	New Copier
791.76	Patrol Account
11.79	Fun Day
111.59	CleanUp
\$ 2377.80	Total

Thank you for meeting our needs every month. You are the best community in the Municipality by far! No other Council gets such participation and support. Your Executive Committee truly appreciates you!

As your Treasurer, I really appreciate those "As Needed" donations - it makes my job so much easier to be able to put the money where we need it at the time!! **THANK YOU!**

World Changers 2004!

We are happy to announce that World Changers will be returning to Anchorage again this summer. World Changers is a group of student volunteers who travel to various communities across the nation and around the world. Over the last three years, World Changers has been working in Mountain View repairing roofs, painting houses, landscaping, and repairing and constructing fences. This year Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services will be looking for 50 homeowners to participate in the World Changers' project.

We encourage anyone interested to contact us at our Mountain View office in the Success by Six building or by calling the Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services main office at 677-8490 so we can discuss the different options available. We look forward to our 4th year of exciting changes in the Mountain View neighborhood. Strong local participation will make this community collaboration a great success.

Mountain View: A Community on the Move

Mountain View is a culturally diverse neighborhood. At a recent Arts and Cultural District Steering Committee meeting, a member observed that she had not felt this sense of multicultural sharing since her days of living in Manhattan. Simply take a stroll down Mountain View Drive and you will find an eclectic mix of shops providing everything from Hawaiian dining to western wear, a camper park, Hispanic grocery, laundry & cleaners, churches, car washes, gas stations, and much more. The Red Apple sells a veritable cornucopia of cultural food.

As for a place to live, the single-family homes are one-of-a-kind and comfortable. It has a true feeling of neighborhood. People know each other and enjoy meeting on the sidewalks and in stores to talk. In the summer the parks overflow with children and families. The Community Center/Boys & Girls Club is a focal point of the community and serves as the meeting place for the Mountain View Community Council. The Council is an active and viable group, serving as a pilot for many programs, such as, the Community Patrols, Spring CleanUp Zoning enforcement, junk car removal.

Combine all of this with the plans for the Arts and Cultural District, Cook Inlet Housing's plans to build both single and multi-family quality units in the area, the fervor of people who love the place in which they live, and you could not ask for a better place to call your new home.

Volunteer Now

CleanUp - May 1 - 8, 2004 - Kerry Hawkins at 272-2697

Fun Day - July 4, 2004 - Niki at 274-1179

Join the Mountain View Community Patrol

Volunteer applications are being taken for the Mountain View Community Patrol. If you have a few hours a week and can pass a background check, your help is needed. Please call Fred at 223-9524.

Missing Flags!

Did you retrieve any flags from the Garden Art Park that had blown down? Several are missing and the Council would like to retrieve them, so they can be displayed again in the Spring. If you or someone you know has any of them, please drop them off at the Community Center/Boys & Girls Club, call Niki at 274-1179 to arrange for returning them. Thank you!

Meeting with David Boehlke

The meeting facilitator, David Boehlke, visiting from Washington D.C. at the invitation of ANHS to assist in the assessment of the Mountain View, Fairview and Government Hill neighborhoods. This was Mr. Boehlke's second visit to Anchorage. Two years ago he conducted a detailed "walk through" of Mountain View and Fairview. He was here to discuss with community residents and stakeholders their visions for Mountain View and their comments on the proposed Arts and Cultural District. He also shared his experience and expertise developing healthy neighborhoods, and opportunities on how area residents and business owners can envision and work toward a final "outcome."

Mr. Boehlke remarked on several observations he has made of the neighborhood:

"Positives" observed

- Mountain View has more "richness" than indicated by its "reputation."
- With its very wide diversity (age, race, tenure in country, etc.), the neighborhood "works."
- There are many lovely and unique homes in the neighborhood, but the public focuses only on the bad ones. Prices are affordable, and there are good quality homes available.

"Problems" observed

- The commercial district is very spread out.
- The neighborhood has a high level turnover in apartments (reflected in the schools). There is too much churning in the housing market.
- The neighborhood has a negative public image, which is unjustly and unfairly deserved.

Mr. Boehlke said the neighborhood needs new "glue" to tie it together. The Arts & Cultural District offers one strategy to do that.

Mr. Boehlke asked the group what changes they would like to see in Mountain View five years from now. Responses were:

- Prosperity
- Wooded lots to still be there
- Ethnic groups as a "neighborhood," and "community" run by people in the neighborhood
- A neighborhood that is a place of choice
- Mountain "View" as an adjective (capitalizing on the view)

- Sidewalks; good lighting; shoveling/plowing
- Garbage-free; dumpsters minimized
- Neighborhood that reflects American values
- Community members more tolerant and involved
- A neighborhood that attracts people

An example of how to achieve our goals is the Alaska Theatre of Youth expanding its programs, to include emphasizing drama/dance of the various cultures represented in Mountain View. Not only would this provide opportunities for youth to act and/or dance, youth and adults could participate in scenery construction, costuming, and so forth. This could become one way to showcase the various cultures of the area.

Another idea offered by Mr. Boehlke to help the neighborhood would be to have neighbors market homes in the neighborhood. Sometimes the best purchasers are friends, acquaintances and family members of people already living here. He emphasized capitalizing on and reinforcing the positive efforts of both multi-family and single-family property owners (i.e., locate the people who are "house proud" and value them). This will have a snowball effect.

In response to concerns about the possible rise in tax assessment due to improvements on properties, Mr. Boehlke said that people complain less about taxes if their property is getting better — people feel "ok" about taxes if they're for a valued place.

Mr. Boehlke reinforced the concept that real improvement will come through working on multiple pathways simultaneously: schools and church groups working with youth, promotion within the neighborhood, celebrating the many cultures through opportunities such as the Theatre of Youth, increased interest and participation of residents, etc. Another example would be to leverage the positive effect of Cook Inlet Housing's summer building projects (several new homes; re-design and downsizing of two multi-family properties) by working with homeowners on each side and across the street to make improvements to their properties as well. Cook Inlet Housing is actively seeking to work with the neighborhood by designing homes that will fit in with the unique character of homes that the neighborhood takes pride in.