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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

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June 2005

Mountain View Community Council News

Mountain View Community Council

Mountain View Community Recreation Center
315 North Price Street
Monday, June 13, 2005 @ 7:00 PM

Council Meeting Agenda

7:00 Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance
Approval of May Minutes
Approval of Treasurer's Report
Approval of June Agenda
Introductions

7:20 Committee Reports

Assembly Report - Allan Tesche
Legislative Report - Sen. Guess/Rep. Gruenberg
Community Center Report - Rick Henderson
Fundraising Report- Barbara Hogan
Zoning Report & Sidewalks- Kerry Hawkins
Mountain View Patrol - Fred Schriner
APD Report- Sgt. Cindy Stanton

Guest Speakers:

7:55	**Mountain View Unity Team-**Vonnie Anderson
8:00	**Homeward Bound-** Kenneth Scollon
8:10	**Community Land Trust-** Merten Bangeman-Johnson
8:25	**Anchorage Neighborhood Housing-** Lisa Mills
8:40	**Alaska Theatre of Youth-** Yngvil Vatn Guttu
8:50	**Habitat for Humanity-** Terry Bolton
9:00	**Mountain View Main Street-** Angela Jimenez
9:20	**Old Business**
9:25	**New Business**
10:00	**Adjournment**

Next Council Executive Meeting
Tuesday, June 28, 2005 at 7 PM
Mountain View Community Recreation Center
This is an open meeting - You are welcome

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY BY
ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETINGS

Community Council News in Brief

Dinosaurs of Darkness continues to September 15: DINOSAURS OF DARKNESS at the Alaska Museum of Natural History, 201 N. Bragaw, will feature displays of unusual DINOSAURS OF ALASKA, ANTARCTICA, and AUSTRALIA. Dinosaurs of Darkness is a riveting international touring exhibit featuring recently discovered dinosaurs that lived in the extreme polar regions of the globe, where darkness reigned in winter and temperatures plunged below freezing. See complete skeletons, models, skulls, fossil bones and teeth, eggs, nests, and mummies. The exhibit is also supported with interactive computer games, videos, and puzzles. The Museum is open Tue. - Sat. from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sun noon to 6 p.m. Admission during this special exhibit is $3 for students under age 18 and $5 for adults. For more information visit www.alaskamuseum.org or call 274-2400.

Hold Your Power. . . Claim That Trash: Don't let a litterbug claim your power and territory. He/she drops it and you grab it as fast as you can. It's your neighborhood! You may not have dropped the trash, but pride and empowerment comes from keeping your yard and the street free from trash accumlation. -Vonnie Anderson

Stake a Claim: You may not have dropped that litter in front of your apartment or home, but claim it! If you don't, who will? -Vonnie Anderson

Get Behind Weed 'n Seed: Weed 'n Seed is a neighborhood project. If it is going to work in Mountain View, the residents are going to have to support it. The police, the courts, the residents, the schools, and all Mountain View services play a role in keeping crime out and making this neighborhood the attractive place it can be. -Michael Evans

Mountain View in the Sun Postponed: The Mountain View in the Sun Committee is postponing the festival until a later date, possibly next summer. Although many of the elements of the Festival had come together, the Committee felt time was not on our side to do this Festival justice. It will be coming next year, and we can look forward to this block party spectacular. -Carolyn Kineen

Neighbors Wanted: Please contact Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services as we gather ideas for community development in the year ahead your opinion and involvement and needed to make Mountain View's rich history and culture work for us. Please call us. -Lisa Mills

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
P.O. Box 142824
Anchorage AK 99514

President: Thom Blackbird 441-2731
Treasurer: Barbara Hogan 250-9151
Mountain View Patrol: 277-4357

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

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$_____**As Needed**
$_____ Patrol Account
$ _____ Office Supplies
$ _____ Computer Supplies
$_____ Phone
$ _____Machine Maint/Repair
$ _____ Awards
$ _____ New Copier
$_____Sunshine Account
$_____Clean Up

E-Mail Address _____

Community Council News in Brief

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Neighborhood Policing- I just wanted to remind everyone that I will be available throughout the summer for concerns that may arise in Mountain View. Please call 786-2668 or 317-0985 (cell) to reach me. I'm available, and I appreciate your efforts to make the keep the neighborhood monitored so that we have a safer and healthier environment. -Sgt. Cindi K. Stanton

Making the Magic- Alaska Theatre of Youth has a long and varied program for the summer months. Please call 338-4902 for information on the 2005 summer events at the Mountain View Community Center and at the Performing Arts Center. The several conservatories are mostly for ages 8-18. -Yngvil Vatn Guttu

Tips for Landlords- Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services had a successful workshop at the Mountain View Community Center for community landlords. More will occur in the future. -Lisa Mills

Anchorage Historic Properties Inventory- An inventory is on-going and we are interested in finding out which buildings in the Mountain View Community may be of interest to residents for preservation (274-3600). -Gina Hollomon-Hulbert

Thanks from the Unity Team- You've heard about the good work done by the Unity Team in our community. We of the Unity Team wis to extend a heartfelt thank you to the residents who participated in the trash/litter segment of the Mountain View clean-up. Saturday, April 30th dawned a beautiful day and over seventy volunteers reached down to pick up litter on the streets of Mountain View. Thanks to several couples from Elmendorf for also participating in this humbling experience. A special kudos to the Samoan community for showing in force and providing a cook plus some great music for our barbeque following the clean-up. Thanks to Mayor Begich and ASD Superintendent Carol Comeau for giving words of community encouragement. Lastly, a special thanks to Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services for providing Lisa Mills to help with leadership of our Mountain View Unity Team. If you are a Mountain View resident, please join us.
-Vonnie Anderson

Local Youth in the News- Tiffany Murry and Elizabeth Bartlett were interviewed at the Anchorage Job Center- Mountain View by KIMO, Channel 13 News on Thursday, May 26 and were in a televised news story on youth finding employment. The two are working toward graduation and also working part time with a plan to work full time this summer. Students and adults looking for summer work can use the Resource Room at the Job Center, 297-5422.

June 2005

Community Council News in Brief

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Tyson Elementary School Piggy Bank Broken and Cash Stolen- The students at Tyson Elementary School had been contributing to a piggy bank destined to go to the Mchoke Orpanage in Malawi. School Nurse Ruth Nighswander and her husband Tom have worked there for forty years helping the residents with health care. As soon as the story was publicized in the Daily News, people around Anchorage responded and sent donations that more than covered the contributions which had been stolen.

Community Land Trust Offices- The Community Land Trust will have new offices next to Noble's Diner in the "pink building". Merten Bangemann-Johnson and Beth Silverberg from the Land Trust have been working with Mountain View in Motion committees to help with plans for the neighborhood.

RK Furniture a Fixture in Mountain View since 1954- Like many businesses and residents, RK has been in the community for a long time. RK has supplied finished and unfinished furtniture to Anchorage for 51years. Jim Becker, current owner, has been there for 39 years and his daughter Lori Becker has represented RK at the Community Council meetings. The store, still family owned and operated, offers solid wood furniture in pine, maple, oak, cherry, hickory, beech, and birch. They have a large collection of Amish made furniture. Located at 3116 Mountain View Drive (276-4232), they are open six days a week. Reasonable prices, distinctive products, and great service all make RK a good business in our great community.

Walking Hall of Art Gallery- The Mountain View in Motion Arts Subcommittee encourages you to enjoy First Friday, this June 3. Two locations are featuring exhibits- the Walking Hall of Art Gallery at Success by Six, 3350 Commercial Drive, and Noble's Diner, 4133 Mountain View Drive. "Mountain View in Pictures" is 6 to 7:30 this Friday, June 3 through August 26 at the Six Building and 6/3-6/24 at Noble's. Call Sherre Dueno about this event which will occur annually, 563-1958.

Cook Inlet Housing New Homes Available in Mountain View- The units available from Cook Inlet Housing (CIHA) began to be available for sale in May. They will be available for occupancy in August. Prices range from $189,000 to $203,000 with 3 and 4 bedroom models and 1 3/4-2 bathrooms. The homes have 1324-1750 square feet of living space with two car garages. Monthly payments range from $940 to $1,313 including tax and insurance. There are income requirements with a range between $40,600 and $76,550 based on family size. While minimum income requirements apply, the hope is that many Mountain View families can qualify. Call CIHA at 276-8822 to get more complete information on the homes.

Development in Mountain View?

On May 17, Mountain View residents woke up to a surprise. In Section B of the Daily News in an article by Anne Aurand, the P O'B Montgomery and Company development firm was reported to be planning a retail complex in the woods between Mountain View Drive, the Glenn, and Bragaw. The complex plan doesn't stretch East beneath Clark, but it covers 23 acres where the city has a transportation lot and Ed O'Neill and others have worked to clean up the forested area. The parcel was looked at as a positive step toward neighborhood revitalization because there was a 50,000 square foot arts facility in the planning, appropriate for the Arts and Cultural District. The plan, said David Irwin, would include 250,000 square feet of retail space. Anchors would run up to 35,000 at either end and there would be office spaces and between 75 and 100 townhouses. Running with a concept introduced by the Mountain View in Motion committees such as Main Street and the Arts Subcommittee, the developers proposed that some condos would be over retail shops in the development. The concept was initially viewed favorably by some, and Assemblyman Allan Tesche was quoted as observing the job creation would be a plus. Kep Pierce, however, was concerned that apartment houses don't fit with the plans that residents have formulated for the community over the past several years. Niki Burrows initial reaction was that an arts and cultural center with a stage for performers along with smaller shops,indigenous to the community from local entrepreneurs along the lines of Mary Hertert's Color Creek Art, was more a model than what was proposed.

Shortly after the article appeared a series of meetings among residents and business owners clarified the community's concerns which soon showed up as an article, again by Anne Aurand, on May 24. Highlighting the comments at the meetings and in the article, Clark Yerrington's observation is that a complex set of plans is underway and that this development isn't a good fit. Carolyn Kineen observed that she and her husband Rob were developing a going business at the new Noble's, and the planned development might retard efforts such as theirs to revitalize existing buildings and stores. That was the view of Kerry Hawkins who has been working tirelessly to keep the community clean (see Vonnie Anderson's encouragement to all of us for more litter patrol efforts elsewhere in the newsletter.) Kerry is also Vice President of the Community Council which hopes to have all such projects brought before it for neighborhood discussion. Niki Burrows also asked about the viability of stores in the Northway Mall- if businesses there aren't doing well, how would these similar, new stores fare?

Although Mayor Mark Begich feels the developers have been community oriented in their approach and that he had insisted on the planned arts facility, this position is not shared by the community business leaders and residents present at the several meetings to discuss the Montgomery proposal. As a summarzing comment, residents want a lot more information- and want it before an announcement appears publicly- before any development proceeds. Clark Yerrington, who owns two homes in the community, observes that the wants of residents and business owners helps welcome changes in housing and businesses. As Clark points out, and as Jay Brause asks, when do the residents have an opportunity to state their views on what they want? If that time is now, the residents and business owners don't appear ready for this plan, and probably will not be ready for it as proposed. They want a redevelopment that takes advantage of existing storefronts, that helps with individual rebuilding projects that create going businesses like Color Creek, that makes a pedestrian friendly Mountain View Drive, and that gives lead time for commenting on plans. More commentary is forthcoming from the Mountain View in Motion committees, and everyone expects that commentary to be constructive and to emphasize working with what exists. While everyone appreciates the gestures made by the developer toward the Mayor's strongly stated request for an arts facility and housing above retail stores, the community anxiety can't be abated until genuine revitalization is in motion. Putting plans for this development on the table is a backwards way of encouraging community support. What Mountain View needs right now is more businesses such as Noble's, the Hispanic Cultural Center, and Color Creek which genuinely represent the steps that need to be taken toward revitalization. These businesses can and will emerge without the distraction of a controversial development off the Glenn.

Donations

Your efforts to get contributions for our Mountain View Community Council would be most appreciated. We seem to be at a low ebb for contributions, and we have definite needs- the patrol cars for starters. What the Community Council spends benefits everyone- every resident and business in the community. Please help us with a personal effort to contact the businesspeople you know who can make a contribution. They've been generous in past. The Community Council officers and the committee chairs have done a fantastic job this year- just look at the success of the Council's Weed 'n Seed initiative! We all need to chip in to make Mountain View the place to live. This is a great community, and it takes a little effort on your part to keep it running. Please see our current financial statement at the next Council meeting on June 13th.