

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
December 2009

Newsletter

We need your help! The Huffman/O'Malley Community Council is sponsoring a petition to "Save our Furrow Creek Neighborhood!" Go to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/FurrowCreek/> to find the petition, and add your signature and your comments. Forward this newsletter or the link to each and every one of your family members, coworkers, friends and neighbors. Let them know we could use their help. The neighborhood has been against this project from the beginning, yet their voices have been ignored. This petition will be handed to the Assembly at the hearing. Uniting together, our voices must be heard.

Help us save our Furrow Creek Neighborhood!
Sign the Petition NOW!

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Shhhhhh..... It's a secret!

Special Recognition for George Arcand!

Most of us know George Arcand. He and his wife were integral parts in the foundation of Anchorage and Hillside, and responsible for our premier recreation destination, Arcand Park at Section 16. A member of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council almost forever, George is still Member Emeritus of the Steering Committee, his opinion always appreciated, and his institutional knowledge incredible.

The HOCC will be acknowledging the great contributions of George at our December meeting. We hope that all of those who have worked with George on projects throughout the years - especially all of our Hillside "Elders" - will join us in this special recognition. We will run the meeting as usual, but under "Continuing Business" will read our Proclamation and bring out the special plaque and perhaps a cake. This segment of the meeting will occur around 7:30 p.m. so that those who can't stay for the entire meeting might be able to stop in and say hello to George.

Put December 17th on your calendar now, and bring a friend! Just don't tell George!

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November Meeting Recap: What you missed

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT & PDF) and DOWL HKM co-hosted our November meeting. We had a light order of business, and then got down to the details of the plan.

Look for "Huffman Road Reconstruction" to find out what's happening.

Hot Button Issue

The Planning and Zoning Commission will approve and forward the Hillside District Plan to the Assembly. While the HDP is not "official" until the PZC approves the final version in December, no changes are being considered. This means that Furrow Creek is still in the crosshairs. Remember that, while the PZC's recommendations do not automatically rezone the area to high density, what they do is, for the first time ever, allow for potential high density rezones.

When the Assembly receives the document, it will be set for public hearing. The Assembly will then be able to make any changes they determine necessary, and may take several meetings to discuss the variety of aspects that the HDP addresses. This will be the best chance for the people to eliminate the disastrous ideas of the municipal planners regarding Furrow Creek. We will need an overwhelming crowd each and every night at the Assembly Chambers.

For those planning to attend, for residents, neighbors, friends and family throughout Anchorage, there is one sure way to make your desires known. The Huffman/O'Malley Community Council is sponsoring a petition to save our Furrow Creek neighborhood. Go to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/FurrowCreek/> to find the petition, and add your signature and your comments. Forward this newsletter and the link to all your family, coworkers, friends and neighbors. All we need is a name, no personal information. This petition will be handed to the Assembly at the hearing. If you would prefer to sign a hard copy petition, contact one of your Community Council representatives. Uniting together, our voices must be heard.

***Save our Furrow Creek Neighborhoods!
Sign the Petition NOW!***

Huffman Road Reconstruction Project Update

At last month's HOCC General Meeting, Steve Nobel, Project Engineer with DOWL HKM, presented the proposed plans for the road reconstruction from Lake Otis Parkway to Pintail Street. Upgrades include storm drain improvements, curb and gutter on both sides, and plans to repave this entire section so that it will tie into the

more recent upgrades at the intersection of Pintail/Cange Streets and Huffman Road. To view a cross section of these changes, go to the Web site www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm and click on View Cross Section.

Those present at November's meeting did ask questions regarding the Alaska State Department of Transportation's ability to properly maintain this segment of roadway. Others asked questions about drainage issues, the possibility of adding an additional turn lane, and if this portion of road could simply be repaved. Comments can be emailed through the Web site listed above.

Representatives from DOWL HKM were also present to answer questions and show the latest design plans for the three remaining Huffman Roundabouts slated for initial construction in 2010. You can visit www.hillsideroads.com to see where the roundabouts will be placed along Huffman Road (from Old Seward Highway to New Seward Highway). It appears the Web site has not posted the most current design plans for this segment of the project; however, this site does list contacts for DOWL HKM and the Public Participation Coordinator. People can still email their comments on the entire Huffman Road Project if they go to www.hillsideroads.com/huffmansubmit.htm.

Upcoming Meeting

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, Dec 17th. We meet the third Thursday monthly at 7 PM, at the Christian Church of Anchorage, corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley. Enter on the O'Malley side, come downstairs, and enjoy some cookies and conversation.

President's Message: By Christine Monette, HOCC President

As we roll to the close of the year, most of us are busy. Whether it is driving your children to rehearsals or holiday activities, closing out your quarterly or annual financial summaries, finishing your gift shopping, baking, addressing Christmas cards, preparing for vacation travel, or hosting parties or events, take just a few moments of quiet time just for yourself. Consider the year that is almost gone, and your own hopes for the year that lies ahead.

At our home, we celebrate Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ. In your home, it may be another special season, another special reason. Whatever your tradition, and however you celebrate, our hope is that this is a uniquely wonderful holiday for all, and that the New Year brings you joy. Season's Best!

Question of the Month

How fast was your road cleared following the recent snow dump? What about your paths? Did the snowplows leave snow berms in front of your driveway? Let us know, and don't forget to include whether you are on a State or Muni road or in a LSRA or USRA.

Thank you for your replies about road maintenance! It is obvious we've had some issues of real concern, including the complete lack of sweeping along the new section of Huffman. This section of the road has apparently never been swept, and two-year old birch saplings are growing on the concrete near storm drains. The gravel spreads into the road, and both drivers and bicyclists have had safety issues. You are also concerned about the lack of maintenance on the new hard surface trails and paths. The one highlight appears to be that, when you called road maintenance to fill potholes, the Muni hotline worked!

FCC News

News flash! Funding for our FCC Offices has been replaced in the Muni budget!

The initial budget deleted all funds for the Federation of Community Councils. This would have placed a huge burden on every one of the community councils since the FCC shares resources, coordinates mass mailings, emails information/newsletters and provides our Web site. They also coordinate between the councils and provide assistance to the 38 individual councils. We all need to support this important service!

HALO Update

"Home Fire Defense on the Hillside": It is a subject that concerns all of us. The Home and Landowners Organization, Inc., (HALO) hosted a meeting for the Hillside community with guest speakers from the Anchorage Fire Department. HALO meetings are held on the first Thursday monthly, 7 PM, at the Holy Spirit Retreat (corner O'Malley and Hillside), and are always open to the public.

The January meeting of HALO will be Thursday, January 7, and will feature representatives from the Anchorage Police Department. This will be a good opportunity to ask questions and learn how APD is working to protect our homes, schools and neighborhoods.

For additional information on HALO (Home and Landowners Organization) please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Just a Random Thought...

If roundabouts are less expensive to maintain and safer for drivers, why do you find back-to-back timed signal intersections in the wide open area of the new Elmore Road extension just south of Tudor Road?

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 \$5 per 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 \$5 per member 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!