

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
January 2010

Newsletter

December Meeting Recap: What you missed

We had a short business meeting, and a long party! Thanks to all of you who helped us surprise George Arcand! You did a great job keeping it a secret! George and his wife Ruth helped create much of what we enjoy today, including Sections 16 and 36. HOCC presented George with a plaque and we all enjoyed cake while visiting.

We also had a rebuttal from the Citizen's Advisory Committee, who shared the downside of the Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority's plans.

The "Save our Furrow Creek Neighborhood!" petition is still up. Have you signed yet? Have you told everybody you know to add their names? Go to <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/FurrowCreek/> to find the petition. Uniting together, our voices must be heard.

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

**

Dues are Due!

Dues are due every new year, and while we hope everyone will "re-up", it is mandatory for Steering Committee members. If any of your contact information has changed, make sure to give the Secretary an update.

Happy New Year!

Hot Button Issue

Hillside District Plan

The Planning & Zoning Commission report has just been released, detailing 30 pages of recommendations for the Assembly. Unfortunately and as usual, the website <http://www.hillsidedistrictplan.com/> is woefully out of date. It is still touting the upcoming September and October 2009 meetings, and current information is not available online.

Many, including HALO, are hoping to 'fast track' the HDP, introducing it at the Assembly level in early February, and setting it for hearing in late February. It appears that few understand the implications of the existing document to our neighborhood, or the precedent it sets that will someday affect their own neighborhoods.

Plan to attend our January and February meetings, as we will have all the details available, including our HOCC response. Also remember that the Assembly public hearing is when we plan to submit our petition and when we will need every seat in the auditorium filled with those opposed to the plans for Furrow Creek. Go to: [tp://www.ipetitions.com/petition/FurrowCreek/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/FurrowCreek/) to sign the petition, and watch for the notice of hearing date. Remember that this is our last opportunity to effect change and protect our existing properties!

Huffman Road Reconstruction Project Update

Members of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council have been tracking the progress and changes of the Huffman Road Project for several years now. Many members of HOCC continue to have concerns about pedestrian safety since the construction of roundabouts will eliminate all pedestrian signals at these converted intersections. The latest changes to the project have been the Huffman upgrades proposed for the segment from Lake Otis Parkway to Pintail (cross section at <http://www.hillsideroads.com/huffXSections.htm>).

For anyone who missed the Alaska Department of Transportation /DOWL HKM's presentation at November's HOCC meeting, you can still go to the Huffman Road Project's Web site at <http://www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm>.

Right-of-way acquisition is under way with construction of the remaining roundabouts to start in 2010. DOWL HKM is in the process of updating the reports and documents page of the Web site, since the current designs posted (those listed from 2008) are out of date. Even though the designs will have changes, you can see what is currently posted by going to <http://www.hillsideroads.com/reports.htm>.

Comments can still be submitted at <http://www.hillsideroads.com/huffmansubmit.htm>. Contact information can also be found on the homepage at www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm for the design

consultants at DOWL HKM and project representatives from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities.

Upcoming Meeting

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, January 21, 2010. 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.

By-Laws Revision

HOCC member Mark Schroeder is working on a By-Laws revision for the Council. If you have any ideas you'd like to share, contact either Mark or the Secretary at hoccsecretary@gmail.com. We hope to have the revision ready to be posted and voted on at our annual meeting.

President's Message: By Christine Monette, HOCC President

Each month we have new faces at our Council meetings. Generally, it happens because a resident has just discovered something really bad that is facing their neighborhood. It is shocking to know that, with so many changes in store for our community, so little has been done by the Municipality to inform all of our residents about government's plans for our homes.

This is why your Community Council is vital. We fill in the gap, and, by working together, manage to keep informed about most issues and gather together to fight the most odious of the proposals.

This is also why we need each of you who receive this newsletter to talk to your friends and neighbors. Make sure they are on our mailing list. Make sure your homeowners association sends a representative, and that your church, school and home-based businesses are included. Print copies of this newsletter and hand them to your friends and the homes on either side of yours.

You may choose to be a dues-paying member, or you may opt to just receive the e-mail newsletter. The important thing is that you help spread the word to those around you. Anyone can sign up for our e-news either through the FCC or by contacting me directly.

Whether it's the Furrow Creek plans of the HDP, the new AWWU SAWIP water main up Elmore Road to Goldenview, the giant water tank at the corner of Huffman

and Elmore, the Huffman Road improvement project, or the next "wonderful new ideas" of our bureaucrats, the only way to really be in the loop is to be a part of the HOCC.

Make a New Year's resolution to help your community become informed. Together, we can make a difference!

Christine Monette, hoccpresident@gmail.com

Question of the Month

How fast was your road cleared following the recent snow dump? What about your paths? Did the snowplows leave 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!

HALO Update

Did you know that over 80% of all AFD calls in Anchorage are for medical emergencies? Last year, AFD had over 4,000 calls on the Hillside. Did you know that Anchorage has some of the highest cardiac "save" rates in the US? Members of the Anchorage Fire Department were featured guests at the January meeting of Home and Landowners Organization, Inc. (HALO), including HOCC's own Brian Partch, who shared this and other interesting information.

Changes which will affect all of Anchorage include the ability to charge the State for all emergency calls outside of the Muni service borders, including Glen Alps, and the fact that the emergency response dive team is now available year around. The best news, though, was the fact that no rolling closures are expected for 2010.

HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley. For additional information on HALO (Home and Landowners Organization) please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Just a Random Thought...

If Roundabouts are "the future", why weren't they used at Minnesota and Raspberry? Certainly there's enough land there to have a successful roundabout, and now current traffic issues will demand a signaled intersection.

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 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 \$5 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**