

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

Newsletter

April 15th is Tax Day and the Annual Meeting!

Everyone is urged to attend the April Meeting of the HOCC. Voting will be held on the new By-Laws and to elect your new Steering Committee and Officers!

The HOCC makes an effort to have a Steering Committee that represents a wide variety of our area residents, from those in planned "curb & gutter" neighborhoods to those living on "country lane" roads. We exist to represent YOU, and the best way to accomplish that is for YOU to attend!

Come join us Tax Day at 7 PM!

March Meeting Recap:

As always happens about this time each year, we were treated to a presentation from Anchorage Tomorrow. This group works together to share information about the variety of projects included in each year's bond and urge a "yes" vote. In a reprieve to taxpayers, missing this year was any group from the School Bonds Yes! group.

The Huffman Elementary School is finally going to get some relief from their road and traffic issues. A presentation by ASD's Dave Rein and representatives Wende Wilber and Don Porter showed initial ideas about how to improve vehicle circulation and create safer student areas. HOCC members suggested that this project coordinate with Parks and Rec on their hopes to improve the trail connections to the school. Contractors RM Consulting and the School District will stay in touch throughout this project.

We also had an update on Assembly events including the HDP from Assembly Representative Jennifer Johnston.

Hot Button Issue

Hillside District Plan - new Public Hearing date of Tuesday, April 13th!

Public Hearing on Case 2009-090, the Hillside District Plan (HDP), was postponed until the next Assembly Meeting, scheduled Tuesday, April 13. Thank you to Eagle River/Chugiak Representative Debbie Ossiander for insisting that the Assembly make the decision to let our residents go home instead of extending to midnight in hopes that it may perhaps be heard.

Meanwhile, our own Assembly Member Jennifer Johnston has created a proposed Amendment which would remove all plans for Furrow Creek from the HDP. Hip Hip Hurray! The HOCC Steering Committee has suggested several minor tweaks for this document, and support Johnston's overall efforts. Apparently Assembly Member Chris Birch will not be supporting this Amendment.

Residents and members of HOCC, put this date on your calendar now! The business meeting will be held beginning at 5 pm, and the HDP will be on the Agenda available the Friday before the meeting at: www.muni.org <http://www.muni.org/departments/assembly/pages/default.aspx>. The first quarter Budget revisions and Title 21 will also be on this agenda, so it is possible that the HDP could be postponed to a later date. We will send out a notice when the Assembly meeting Agenda is finalized.

We ask for the Community to do the same thing we planned last time. At some point during the discussion, an Assembly Member will ask how many persons in the audience support Jennifer Johnston's Amendment. This is when it will be important to have a room full of people to indicate their desire to remove the Furrow Creek plans. Unless you have a completely unique take on the Furrow Creek issue or are able to offer expert testimony, it is wise to have fewer persons taking individual hearing time. The major exception to this is if you are one of the neighbors who will be drastically impacted by these plans. It is always helpful for the Assembly to be able to put a human "face" on this issue. If you are one of our Founders, this will dramatically affect your life and your pocketbook, and the Assembly needs to meet you. Please attend! Otherwise, the HOCC will provide testimony about our stance.

Thank you all for your continued support of this issue. The inclusion of the "Furrow Creek Transition Area" would dramatically impact all of us.

Huffman Road Reconstruction Project Update

Information should be posted soon at www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm. Comments are still being accepted at <http://www.hillsideroads.com/huffmansubmit.htm>.

Upcoming Meeting

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, April 15, 2010. (Now THAT date should be easy to remember!) 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

The HOCC Steering Committee, under the leadership of ByLaws Chair Mark Schroeder, has been busily working to update our ByLaws. After months of work and a

special meeting, these new ByLaws have been sent out for a a review period. We will vote on adopting these new guidelines at our Annual Meeting in April.

**President's Message:
By Christine Monette, HOCC President**

It has been an interesting and rewarding year serving as your Community Council President, and I thank each and every one of you for this honor. Working together, I hope we have moved towards creating a more efficient organization that more effectively meets the needs of each of our residents.

One of our major focuses has been on having a regular Newsletter in your mailbox early each month. Thanks to all of you who have assisted in this effort, and for all of you who have told us how much you appreciate the information! It makes my day!

We have also been working towards streamlining the duties and making a "handbook" of officer duties to pass on to those who will occupy these seats next. We want to have a consistency from year to year, so that, in the future, your leadership will not have to wonder what we did, why we did it, and what we were supposed to do next. You have, I hope, noticed that we are working for the future, the next five, ten and fifty years.

I would especially like to thank those that have assisted so greatly in creating a successful year for our Council, including all of our Steering Committee members: Frank Carini, Lori Carini (Secretary), Wayne Crayton, Joe Finnie, Tami Holt, Katie Nolan (Vice President), Pete Nolan, Brian Partch, Jim Pekar, Paul Rasmussen, Melissa Schmidt (treasurer), Mark Schroeder, Tim Stevens, Wayne Westberg, and George Arcand, our Steering Committee Member Emeritus.

Thank you all.

Christine Monette, hoccpresident@gmail.com

Items of Interest?

Do you have an item of local interest you would like to share? Does your Homeowner's Association, Road Service Area or Neighborhood group have information that needs to get out? Is there a particular concern on your street? Let us know! We can put your short pieces in the body of the newsletter, or link to longer items. Email your items to hoccpresident@gmail.com.

You can also attend our meetings and share your concerns in person. Community Councils exist to serve the community!

Question of the Month

Would you like to become a member of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Steering Committee? We elect new members at the Annual Meeting each April. While it is a time commitment, it is also rewarding to know that on the most basic neighborhood level you are making a difference.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM. Monthly meetings are two hours, and there is some work we do in between via email. We are asked for input into a variety of projects that affect our community, and are able to add constructive ideas to many. We prefer having our Steering Committee representing a number of individual neighborhoods, as this gives us a good overview of the entire area.

Each Steering Committee member agrees to attend most meetings and participate in projects. We divide tasks based on each person's area of knowledge, expertise and interest. Working together, we hope to provide a quality representation of our community.

Join us at the April meeting!

HALO Update

The Home and Landowners Organization, Inc. "HALO" will hold their Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 6th. This meeting will feature a presentation of Safety & Emergency Preparedness by guest speakers, and the door prizes (always popular, always plentiful!) will include home and auto emergency packs. This meeting will also include the annual election of new officers and area representatives.

At the April meeting, HALO voted unanimously to write letters in support of HOCC's position regarding Furrow Creek. HALO has always supported the individual councils in their needs and requests, and their additional support in our HDP request is greatly appreciated.

HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley. Visitors are always welcome to attend. For additional information on HALO please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Just a Random Thought...

Why is it that each time a pothole is filled forty others come up beside it? Do we need to "think dandelion" and pull the pothole up by the roots?

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**

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!