

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

# Newsletter

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## **May Meeting Recap:**

The Huffman/O'Malley Community Council has ranked our top priorities for the 2010 Capital Improvements List, and discovered our bottom priorities. Top priorities included any project that would be funded by local residents in their Limited Road Service Areas and work on Birch Road. Bottom priorities included anything that would drastically alter local roads, require massive funding, or affect property owners through eminent domain.

Mike Billmaier, The Muni Land Use Enforcement Officer, gave an interesting presentation and answered numerous questions. The Muni has 8 officers to serve from Knik Arm to Portage, enforcing Title 21 (Land Use) and Title 15 (Environmental) regulations. The federally-funded "Rust In Peace" program removes unwanted cars from private property, and the Muni has created a "One-Stop" complaint program. This allows residents to make just one phone call or email and have your issues addressed by the appropriate agency, instead of searching for the right agency for your individual issue. It can be found at 343-4141, or go to [www.muni.org/contents1/codeviol.cfm](http://www.muni.org/contents1/codeviol.cfm). Anyone wishing to contact Billmaier directly can reach him at [billmaiermj@muni.org](mailto:billmaiermj@muni.org).

Primary Elections will be held in August, and with the primaries come candidates and ballot groups. We got the opportunity to meet local candidates including Mark Moronell and Steve Pratt.

Mark Moronell is a cardiologist with a successful practice that is vying for Con Bunde's old Senate Seat. This "free-market guy" talked about the need for a smarter, smaller government, and highlighted his commitment to better health care, including medicare clinics. His website is [www.moronellforalaskasenate.com](http://www.moronellforalaskasenate.com), email [moronellforalaskasenate@gmail.com](mailto:moronellforalaskasenate@gmail.com), and phone is 242-5415.

Steve Pratt is running for State House District 31. He is an economist that has been involved in a number of major projects and has taught as a substitute teacher for middle and high schools. As an economist, he cited his opinion that the last Legislature voted for \$1 billion dollars of projects that no one reviewed. He invites questions to [voteforpratt@acsalaska.net](mailto:voteforpratt@acsalaska.net), [www.voteforstevepratt.com](http://www.voteforstevepratt.com), or by calling 345-0032.

Representative Bob Lynn also attended the May meeting, giving a synopsis of the last session. He explained that every House legislator was required to vote "yes" on the operating budget despite questions as to the appropriateness of the budget. This is a condition for any leadership position imposed by the party. He also detailed his disappointment and once again failing to pass his legislation that would tie drivers license renewal dates to visa expiration dates.

Also attending and giving a short presentation was Jason Cline, a paid lobbyist for Prop. 1 ballot sponsors. This ballot measure is titled "The Anti-Corruption Act", but the packet of information shared did not include the actual five pages of ballot language. Cline did not know who was paying his salary or funding the "Clean Team Alaska"

campaign, or if the funding was from Outside. He did say that it would make it illegal to pay lobbyists or lobby with public (taxpayer) money and is designed to curb the influence of special interest groups that work for the government.

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## Hot Button Issue

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### AFD Alert - Spring Burn Restrictions

Members of Station 9 attended the May meeting to remind all residents that burn restrictions are always in effect "from break-up to green-up". The Muni Woodlot is now open at 100th Ave and C Streets.

Outdoor fireplaces can not be used when set on flammable structures (decks) or closer than 25 foot from a structure. Slash pile burning requires a permit, and cooking or ceremonial fires are limited to 3 x 3 x 3'. Call the Burn Hot-line at 267-5020 for daily information, or visit AFD website [afd.muni.org](http://afd.muni.org)

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## SAWIP Begins Phase II Construction

As vehicle drivers and homeowners have discovered, construction on the final stretch of the Anchorage Water & Wastewater Utility's Hillside Water Transmission Main (South Anchorage Water Improvement Project) has begun. This project will run underneath Elmore Road from Abbott Road to the 135th Avenue booster station.

Work will occur daily from 7 am to 8 pm. There will be occasional road closures starting in May. The O'Malley and Elmore Road intersection has been closed, and the Huffman -Elmore intersection is scheduled for construction in July. The section of Elmore Road by the roundabout will be closed mid-June. Road construction is scheduled to end in August before school starts. All neighbors will be informed of specific road closures that will affect them, and the contractor plans to offer a shuttle service for those unable to use their driveways during construction days.

The restoration of a traditional creek crossing, including bank work and restoration, should be completed in this month (as soon as the water levels recede from breakup), at a cost of approximately \$250,000. The water reservoir planned for the corner of Huffman and Elmore is working through the Conditional Use Permit process.

HOCC is still asking that AWWU work with the State DOT & PF on solving the drainage issues along Elmore Road during this construction process. This would prevent the necessity of having two separate projects that would each create construction closures along Elmore Road. So far, the State has no funding for this project at this time and will instead try to reconstruct the road some other year.

You can visit [www.awwu.biz/SAWIP](http://www.awwu.biz/SAWIP) to learn more about this project.

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## **New Chugach Substation on O'Malley**

Chugach Electric is putting in for a Conditional Use Permit for a new substation on property they are purchasing at 2940 O'Malley Road, next to the Greek Orthodox Church. This two-acre parcel will need to be leveled and the corner at Hane excavated. A vegetative buffer is planned for the sides. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2013-14.

While there are not that many new homes in our area, skyrocketing electric consumption is creating the need for this new substation. Apparently, today's usage of everything from cell phone chargers to our new plasma televisions are dramatically altering our usage patterns.

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## **Huffman Road Reconstruction Project Update**

Information should be posted soon at [www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm](http://www.hillsideroads.com/huffmanscope.htm). Comments are still being accepted at <http://www.hillsideroads.com/huffmansubmit.htm>. This project is also on the 2010 Capital Improvement Project list. Read about the rest of this list at "Capital Improvement Projects".

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## **Upcoming Meeting**

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, June 17, 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.

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

Welcome to Summer In Alaska! Yes, this is the reason we put up with winter. Long, glorious days, filled with sunshine. Strawberries covered in white blossoms, rhubarb reaching to the skies, baskets full of colorful blooms. Refreshing walks down the trails, playing catch with the dogs, and children riding their bikes. And neighbors! We wave to them in passing all winter long, safely surrounded by the heated air in our trucks. But it is Summer in Alaska when those wonderful friendships are renewed, as we're watering the lawn and planting annuals, hiking the trails and picking strawberries.

Is there a neighbor on your block who could use just a bit of help this spring? The widow that's having a bit of a problem keeping the lawn mowed, the Hillside founder who would appreciate a basket of pansies for his front porch? How about the overworked family down the street? Each of us can call to mind someone we know who could use a bit of old-fashioned Hillside neighborliness.

One of the most fun and rewarding things we can do is anonymous gifts, something done without expecting thanks, or something that we know will put a smile on another's face.

Let's all do something special this spring!

Christine Monette, [hoccpresident@gmail.com](mailto:hoccpresident@gmail.com)

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## Items of Interest?

Do you have an item of local interest you would like to share? Does your Homeowners 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](mailto:hoccpresident@gmail.com).

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

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## Question of the Month

Does your neighbor have an ever-expanding collection of junk cars parked haphazardly next door to your garden? Did the local shade-tree mechanic properly dispose of the old oil he just changed? Did the neighbor on the next street build their new barn on your property? Have they expanded their lawn into the greenbelt or fenced off a public trail?

Call the Muni's new Troubleshooter Hotline at 343-4141. And give us a call with your issue, too! The more voices addressing these problems the better!

Remember to call the Muni Pothole Hot-line at 343-6363 to report potholes. This service works quickly to correct these holes in our roads. Add the number to your speed dial.

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## HALO Update

The next meeting of Home and Landowner's Organization, Inc. will be held Thursday, August 5th, at 7 PM. Yes, that means there is no July meeting due to the holiday weekend.

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](http://www.anchoragehalo.org)

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## Just a Random Thought...

AWWU will be tearing up Elmore Road from O'Malley to the roundabout at South High. Elmore Road northbound from Huffman has drainage issues created by the "improvements" done in the 90's, which should be addressed. Yet AWWU cannot get

ADOT&PF to address these issues at the same time. Instead, in a couple of years, ADOT&PF will once again tear up Elmore Road. Two issues, two separate construction projects, one stretch of pavement.

Would a private business ever do things this way?

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**Welcome New Members!**

Thanks you 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 \$10 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, because YES you can make a difference if you get involved.

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**Yes, I want to become a contributing member of HOCC  
Enclosed is my contribution of \$5 per person for this year.**

**Name:**

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**Physical Address:**

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**Mailing Address:**

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**Phone: (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (other) \_\_\_\_\_**

**E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_**

**Comments & Concerns:**

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**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!