

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

It's your HOCC!

November 2010 Newsletter

Happy Thanksgiving!

October Meeting Recap:

Did you attend the September meeting? If so, you got to discuss budget issues with Assembly Representative Chris Birch, State issues with Representative Bob Lynn, and learn all about the creation of a new HALO work group that will be writing guidelines for the HDP well water protection program. You participated in a lively conversation about the Begich administration's union contracts that have the Muni locked into 7 to 9% wage increases each year, and discussed spending cuts or revenue increases.

You also got the opportunity to visit with Lupe Marroquin, candidate for State House, and discuss State budget issues.

Huffman Park Needs YOU!

The HOCC has made an initial donation of \$100 to the efforts at Huffman Park. We are asking that our members donate the rest. If each person would give \$5 per person or \$10 per family, the goal would be met. This community effort puts the people in charge of funding these vital safety improvements.

Checks should be made out to the *Anchorage Park Foundation* and mail it to Anchorage Park Foundation, 715 L. St., Suite 200, Anchorage, AK 99501. In the "memo" section, write "Huffman Park". Your donations will go straight into the fund.

Thank you!

Hot Button Issue

Proposed Muni Budget Affects Rabbit Creek Fire Station

With the influx of new homes on Upper Hillside in the early 1980's, Mayor George Sullivan recommended that the Rabbit Creek Fire Station be moved from its location off the

Seward Highway near Potter Marsh to its present location near Bear Valley Elementary School. This move dramatically improved response times to these Upper Hillside neighborhoods.

Unfortunately, the proposed budget for 2011 recommends drastic alterations to this successful solution.

Rabbit Creek Fire Station is currently staffed with a three-person crew on Fire Engine 10 and a single firefighter on Tender 10. Engine 10 responds to both fire and medical emergencies. Tender 10 is a 2500-gallon water truck used to back up Fire Engines in areas without fire hydrants (most of Hillside). Water tenders are not equipped to serve as primary resource for fire attack or to respond to medical emergencies.

Closing Engine 10 will essentially close the entire station, as liability issues require minimum staffing of two personnel. In all likelihood, this will dramatically increase response times for the Rabbit Creek area. In the winter, expect doubled response times, as Hillside apparatus must operate with chains, limiting top speeds to 30 mph. Station 8 (O'Malley Road near Alaska Zoo) and Station 9 (Huffman & Old Seward) will provide response. Under ideal driving circumstances, both are a minimum of five minutes away from Station 10.

Medical responses remain the greatest majority of AFD calls, and time is of the essence, especially with stroke or heart attack, where time equals tissue loss. As most realize, one individual alone cannot perform effective CPR, assess cardiac rhythms, establish patient airways or IV access or package patients for transport. This means that effective treatment cannot truly begin until more personnel arrive on the scene.

All Hillside residents are aware of the danger of fire, whether it be in a home or in the forest. Successful firefighting demands quick response. With spruce bark beetle killed trees, frequency of high winds, steep topography and a limited road system, the best method of preventing massive property loss is to speed adequate resources to the fire. It will only take five minutes for a small kitchen fire to engulf an entire structure. This five minutes could be as simple as a response difference from the Huffman Station.

The Rabbit Creek Community Council recently passed a resolution asking that Engine 10 remain in full service at Station 10. Those in agreement with this resolution are urged to contact Assembly Members Chris Birch at 346-3265 and Jennifer Johnston at 346-1087.

Submitted by Brian Partch, AFD Firefighter and Huffman/O'Malley Community Council Steering Committee Member. You can read more info at www.afdstatus.org

Upcoming Meeting

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, November

18, 2010. Remember that HOCC always meets on 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.

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.

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

Message from the President

Thanksgiving..... a time to sit back and give thanks for the many blessings in our lives. Our family, our friends, our favorite pets. Our jobs, the roof over our heads and the fireplace that keeps us warm. The food on the table, the beauty of the world around us, the glory of each sunrise and sunset.

We're fortunate to live in Alaska, where the economy is still fairly strong. We're fortunate to live in America, where we can get fed up with the campaign season but still have the right to vote.

It is my hope that each of us will take a moment and think about our precious gifts. Take a moment and tell someone thanks. If your life includes God, take time to thank Him for these blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours.

Christine Monette, President

SAWIP Phase II Construction

Yes, it's November. And yes, that little leak is apparently still leaking...

The burlap gift wrap will be removed from the fire hydrants when they are operable. Until then, we need to wait to approach our homeowners insurance carrier.

Construction on the 5-million-gallon water tank at the corner of Elmore and Huffman will

begin next spring. For more information on this project, visit www.awwu.biz/SAWIP

HALO Update

The next meeting of Home and Landowner's Organization, Inc. will be held Thursday, December 2nd. 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 please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Just a Random Thought...

Remember when it used to take eons for Christmas to arrive? And when stores waited until after Thanksgiving to set out Christmas decorations?

Public Record Notices going Online Only!

As of Sept 1, the Muni will only publish Public Notices online! They will no longer be in either the ADN or Alaska Journal of Commerce.

Property foreclosures and a few other items will still be published in print, but the only place to find meeting notices will be through the Muni website, www.muni.org. The exact page is: <http://www.muni.org/publicnotice/Pages/default.aspx> From there a variety of searches are available.

The Heritage Land Bank also places its commission meeting agendas on its own web page, so that there are two locations for opening and downloading upcoming agendas, as well as finding recent meeting agendas: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/hlb/Pages/HLBCommission.aspx>

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. Feel free to pass this e-Newsletter on to your neighbors, then remind them to join.

**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 (home & 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!