

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

It's your HOCC!

December 2010 - January 2011

Newsletter

Happy New Year!

November and December Meetings Recap:

If you attended the November meeting, you heard about the Municipal Budget and received the official MOA "Citizen's Guide to the Budget" from Sarah Erkman from the Mayor's office. You also discovered that our Rabbit Creek greenbelt issue has finally been addressed, and heard the updates on the Hillside District Plan. You were also among the first to find out about a newly planned youth rehabilitative care facility and discussed proposed Enstar tariffs.

Those who attended the December meeting also received a Google tutorial, and helped plan our 2011 Newsletters. Thank you!

Huffman Park Needs YOU!

Last month we asked you to help the Huffman Park revitalization efforts. The HOCC made an initial donation of \$100, hoping that our members would donate the rest of the sum we hoped to raise to the efforts at Huffman Park. This community effort puts the people in charge of funding these vital safety improvements. We asked for \$5 per person or \$10 per family.

You came through! Thank you so very much to all that sent a check or made a cash donation at a meeting. We almost made our goal!

There is still time to participate in this worthwhile effort. You can make out a check payable 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.

Again, thank you!

Hot Button Issue

Recent discussions regarding the proposed cuts to our Anchorage Fire Department Hillside Stations had brought up questions at recent HOCC meetings towards call volume. Here is a quick breakdown (as of 12/12/10):

A look at the monthly averages for actual AFD responses during the past year gives us a

better understanding of how AFD serves our community. These responses range from car fires to full structure fires, and the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) numbers can be anything ranging from sledding accidents to cardiac arrests.

Fire Station 10 Rabbit Creek

Medical Calls: 108
Fire Calls: 98
Total: 201

Fire Station 8 O'Malley Road

Medical Calls: 320
Fire Calls: 186
Total: 506

Fire Station 9 Huffman Road

Medical Calls: 844
Fire Calls: 398
Total: 1242

Statistically these numbers spike the last two months of every year due to cold weather and increased activity over the holidays. Each of these fire stations serving the Hillside are strategically placed per a geographic location providing the best possible coverage in response times to these areas.

As always, Firefighters remind all of us to stay safe this holiday season. You are invited to drop by your local fire station for a tour and a cup of coffee. AFD will be there 24 hours a day and seven days a week to serve our community.

Submitted by Brian Partch, HOCC Steering Committee member and AFD firefighter.

Upcoming Meeting

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2011. 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.

Huffman/Pintail Intersection

Have we heard from you regarding this problem intersection? We've heard from almost everybody else!

Consensus is that this intersection must be addressed, and that not one of you prefers a roundabout. In fact, should a roundabout be the eventual decision, you have already figured out

your alternative routes! In Spring 2007, HOCC wrote a Resolution on this dangerous intersection and asked for the creation of a school zone. Since our last newsletter, we have heard of three - possibly four - new accidents.

This intersection will be on the agenda at upcoming meetings. Keep in touch for updates.

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

2010 has been a busy and successful year for the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council. We have accomplished several huge projects, including a complete re-write of our ByLaws, fighting tooth-and-nail to preserve low densities in Furrow Creek, and firmly establishing this newsletter. We have gained new friends along the way, strengthened old friendships, and shared laughter as a community.

Community Councils are a unique way of involving residents in their government. Our Community Council system is unique to Alaska and is recognized by the Anchorage Municipal Charter, so your involvement can and does make a difference. If you are tired of finding out about what will effect you and your neighborhood after it is to late to make a difference, get involved with your Community Council and help effect a positive change for you neighborhood and families. Together we can keep Anchorage the wonderful place it is to live.

Christine Monette, President

HALO Update

The next meeting of Home and Landowner's Organization, Inc. will be held Thursday, February 2nd. HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley. Also, be sure to add it to your calendar now - HALO will hold a Candidate Forum on Thursday, March 3rd, at O'Malley's on the Green. All the Assembly candidates in our areas have been invited, as well as representatives for the various bond issues.

For additional information on HALO please visit www.anchoragehalo.org

Just a Random Thought...

If it's warmer in Alaska than most of the Lower 48, is that evidence of global warming or just lucky for us?

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. This means the responsibility for learning about issues important to your neighborhoods rests on your shoulders. Furthermore, as we have learned, information published online and public notices are not always accurate. We urge you to verify all public notices by making a phone call to the agency involved if the notice involves your neighborhood. The phone number for each particular agency is listed in the Public Notice.

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 \$10 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!