

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council
It's your HOCC!
June 2011 Newsletter

May Meeting Recap:

Thank you to all the outgoing members of the Steering Committee, and welcome all the new members! At the May meeting, eleven people were elected to serve as your representatives for the next twelve months. We also thank Dick Tremaine, FCC President, for presiding over our elections.

The May meeting included two variance requests, an update on the AWWU reservoir, and a chance to visit with Senator Cathy Giessel. Thank you to all who participated in this meeting.

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Hot Button Issue
Elmore Road & Huffman Intersection Safety Concerns

The situation at the Huffman & Elmore intersection was discussed at a recent meeting, and, about the same time the Council was talking about this problem intersection there was yet another head-on injury accident.

We are inviting a variety of involved entities to attend our June meeting and see what can be done to improve visibility and reduce accidents at this corner. There are a number of small solutions that could perhaps be effective, including removing the slats from the chain link fence surrounding the Enstar box. Other ideas that have been suggested include creating "rumble strips" on Elmore from the O'Malley side to alert drivers to the oncoming stop sign; asking both the Muni and State snow removal crews to avoid placing berms at the corner near the Enstar box; and creating a driver education pamphlet for students applying for parking permits at South High.

If you would like to participate in this conversation, or have another potential solution, please attend our June 16th meeting.

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Survey Results

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Membership Survey. Following is a quick synopsis of your feedback.

1. The Elmore & Huffman intersection is your greatest concern, followed by O'Malley and Elmore. Your most-suggested fix to Elmore & Huffman was to move the Enstar box out of the right-of-way.

2. Many of you have experienced minor criminal issues since the construction of South High and currently experience traffic issues, noise and littering caused by students. You want to see APD and the School District enforce "closed" hours. Overall, you are pleased with APD patrols and

response times, but want more enforcement around South High.

3. Drainage issues are experienced at Willene (did construction cover a creek?) and downhill of South High (curb and gutter have created a pond).

4. Many of you are upset at the fact that O'Malley Road has no safe pedestrian trail, and want this made a priority. You also want more APD attention to speeding on side roads and South High access points.

5. People particularly appreciate the "Crime Statistics" article each month, but would also like to see more in-depth study of these numbers.

6. You would like municipal phone numbers published in this Newsletter.

7. You would like more information about HOCC, including how the Steering Committee are selected and their responsibilities.

8. You would like the Council to address school bus stop safety issues, stop the construction of roundabouts, and work towards the creation of a major sports stadium at the Anchorage Sports Park (C St & Klatt Road) instead of at South High. You are concerned about creating another Mulcahey Stadium in our backyards.

9. You wish we could make our elected representatives more responsive.

10. You are concerned about how neighborhood streets are used for "cut through" traffic, and want either speed bumps or potholes and broken pavement left un-fixed.

11. You appreciate the hard work and two-way communication of your Community Council, attend some meetings, and enjoy this Newsletter. You are concerned that many of your neighbors do not know about Councils, and want better publicity.

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AWWU Elmore/Huffman Reservoir Update

Jeff Coleman, AWWU's project engineer on the Elmore/Huffman water reservoir reported to the Council that excavation has begun. Prep work began on Monday, June 6, including the tie in to the street. Work will be done from 7 am to 7 pm. Coleman will keep the Council informed as this project continues.

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HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

Have you been keeping up with HOCC-area crime statistics? According to the recent survey, this is one of the most appreciated items in our monthly Newsletter.

These are the compiled crime statistics for the HOCC-area (May 12 through June 2). The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Assaults: 1 (13)
Burglaries: 1(8)
Disturbances: 1 (8)
Drugs: 0 (5)
Fraud/Forgery: 0 (7)

Other Undefined Offenses: : 0 (7)
Theft Reports: 4 (20)
Vandalism: 0 (3)
Vehicle Theft: 0 (2)
Weapon Offense: 0 (1)

Prostitution 2 (2)

Liquor violations: 1 (2)

DUI: 1 (1)

The majority of crimes continue to occur in a corridor between Lake Otis (east), New Seward Highway (west), O'Malley Road (north), and DeArmoun Road (south). Noted were many reports of thefts at the Huffman Road commercial establishments; however, these reports are outside but adjacent to our HOCC boundary.

If you are a crime victim, please be sure to report it to the Anchorage Police Department so that the information is logged into the MOA's crime statistics database.

Compiled by Wayne Crayton, HOCC Steering Committee Member. Information is from Anchorage Police Department records at <http://crimemap.muni.org/>

Upcoming Meeting - Thursday June 16th

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, June 16, 2011. Items on the agenda will include the proposed redistricting plans, our feedback on the proposed CIP list, and the Rabbit Creek Greenbelt encroachment remediation. We are also inviting representatives of Enstar, PM & E, and local and state DOTs to the June meeting to discuss safety improvements to the Elmore and Huffman intersection.

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.

Attend and make your voice heard!

Chugach Electric Substation

Chugach is still looking for a larger property that is better suited to hold this large substation. Do you know of large lots near the O'Malley corridor that may be available?

Meanwhile, they will continue to clear the Hane Street property of existing structures and items, including items that need HazMat disposal.

Who is HOCC and What do we do?

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council is one of over thirty Community Councils within the Greater Anchorage area. Created in the Municipal Charter, these councils serve as a community "grassroots" government. Councils are self-determining and can advise government and elected officials.

Anyone can attend the monthly meetings of a Community Council, and can offer their opinions on a variety of issues, from proposed re-zonings and ordinances to variances and future road

construction.

Most Councils are run under Robert's Rules, with individual By-Laws. HOCC is led by a Steering Committee elected from within the general membership at an annual meeting. These individuals agree to represent the needs of their community for their term. Each incoming Steering Committee selects their Officers.

Additionally, the HOCC has an electronic newsletter and sends out annual surveys to its membership, striving for communication with all residents within our boundaries. Anyone can sign up for any Council mailing list by visiting <http://www.communitycouncils.org/>

We try to keep our meetings tight, and adjourn by 9 pm. Please consider giving us two hours of your time each month.

Important Phone Numbers

CrimeStoppers Hotline	561-7867	Municipal Pothole Hotline	343-6363
Animal Control (24 hour)	343-8119	Municipal Ombudsman	343-4464
APD General Info	786-8500	Burn Info	267-5020
Noise Complaints	343-4200	Neighborhood Watch	786-8585
Mayor's Office	343-4431, 343-7100		

Thank You

A special Thank You to the residents of Turnagain View Estates Homeowners Association for their continued support of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council. It is appreciated!

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HALO Update

The next meeting of Home and Landowner's Organization, Inc. will be held Thursday, July 7th. HALO always meets on the first Thursday monthly, 7 p.m., at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner Hillside and O'Malley.

Home and Landowners Organization, Inc., was formed at the incorporation of Hillside into the Municipality. Today it serves as a separate entity that exists to protect the future of Hillside. Unlike Community Councils, HALO is not affiliated in any way with the Municipality.

The HALO Newsletter is an informative and topical communication that offers articles on a wide variety of subjects of interest to Hillside residents, including information on septic systems and wells. Their meetings feature guest speakers and items of interest regarding Hillside issues.

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

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From the President's Desk

As the new President of the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, I know I have my work cut out for me following the example of outgoing President Christine Monette. Under her leadership, this Council has become one of the most active and successful in Anchorage.

One of the things Christine did the best was to delegate many of the myriad of projects to wonderful and competent volunteers. If you have a special area of expertise or interest, please let one of our Council representatives know. When we have specific items that require specific knowledge, it is a blessing to know where to turn for assistance. By working together, we can ensure a bright future for our entire community.

I also appreciate your quick responses to our annual survey. Your responses will be discussed, and your ideas and suggestions are greatly appreciated. It was interesting to note that only about half of you attend HOCC meetings, but virtually all of you enjoy reading this newsletter.

If you have issues that you feel need further scrutiny, please do not hesitate to contact the HOCC. The system of Community Councils was established under Municipal Charter to serve as a form of true "grassroots" government, where every citizen can offer direct input. Yet the entire system rests upon your shoulders. Each of us has this privilege, and working together, we can create a better tomorrow.

Pete Nolan, President
hoccpresident@gmail.com

Just a Random Thought...

We've had enough rain to help with "green up".

Now can we please have more "warm up"?

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 YOU CAN make a difference! 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!