

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

June Meeting Recap:

At our June meeting, we had an update on Huffman Park and the AWWU water tank at Huffman and Elmore. We discussed intersection safety, drainage issues, and the South High plans and existing problems with "closed hours" use of the school. In addition, we instituted new committees and chairs.

Having our legislators in town is wonderful for communication! Thank you Senator Cathy Giessel for staying for the entire meeting! The items that are important to the Council are important to the entire community.

For Your Calendar
Park Cleanup on July 30th!

Have you noticed the work being accomplished on Huffman Park? This is a joint community effort under the leadership of Trinity Presbyterian and Huffman Elementary PTA, supported by Huffman/O'Malley Community Council.

As you are probably aware, Huffman Park had almost been abandoned due to overgrowth, drainage and safety issues. Cleanup efforts began last year, with funding donations dedicated to the effort. What remains is several miles of devils club and heavy underbrush that needs to be removed to create wide, safe trails for our children and our community.

Huffman Park is a "Safe Routes to School" program and is a route to Huffman Elementary and other local schools. Cleaning and clearing are needed before it can actually be a "safe" route again. Several workdays with hundreds of volunteer hours have been logged, many by scout troops. The park will be closed July 17 to remove old exercise equipment and rebuild the trail.

On Saturday, July 30th, there will be a "Devils Club Eradication Day" at the park from 9 am to 2 pm, followed by a picnic lunch for all volunteers. Able volunteers are needed, especially adults and teens. Protective wear, tools and equipment will be provided, as will music, games and entertainment for children.

Getting rid of the devils club will open up the park, improve safety and visibility. Please consider giving a couple of hours of your time to assist this valuable effort. We will work until noon, then enjoy some food and relaxation. Be sure to wear appropriate clothing.

For more information, contact Megan Holliday at mholliday@trinityalaska.org

Cook Inlet Housing Authority
Weatherization Program

The Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) has a Weatherization Program designed to provide assistance to homeowners, landlords and renters to help make their residence more energy efficient. The goal of this program is to reduce energy costs, improve homeowner comfort and safety, and increase the long-term durability of the dwelling.

To qualify, household income may not exceed 100% of the area median income, adjusted for family size. Priority is given to the elderly, persons with disabilities, households with children under six, low-income households, and emergencies.

Danicia Shirayayev of CIHA will attend the July HOCC meeting and share details of this program. If you have questions or know someone who may be interested, invite them to join you on the 21st.

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AWWU Elmore/Huffman Reservoir Update

Work on the tank is well underway, and for the concrete phase of the project, work will begin at 4:30 am daily. Affected neighbors have been notified of this schedule. There will be a road closure to repave after the water main tie-in.

AWWU is doing a great job of keeping HOCC informed on this project.

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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 (June 3 - 30). The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Assaults: 1 (14)	Other Undefined Offenses: : 0 (7)	Prostitution 1 (3)
Burglaries: 1 (9)	Theft Reports: 14 (34)	Disorderly conduct 1 (1)
Disturbances: 3 (11)	Vandalism: 4 (7)	
Drugs: 0 (5)	Vehicle Theft: 0 (2)	
Fraud/Forgery: 0 (7)	Weapon Offense: 0 (1)	
Liquor violations: 0 (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). Reports of thefts continue 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/>

Looking Out For Our Children

The Anchorage Fire Department is not just about responding to emergencies after they occur. AFD also searches for methods to actively prevent fires, injuries, and illness in the community.

In 2005, a partnership was formed between AFD and SafeKids Alaska to enhance injury prevention for Anchorage children. At that time approximately 30 firefighters volunteered to be trained in a 40-hour course on Child Occupant Safety and receive national certification as Child Passenger Safety Technicians. This enabled these techs to work with families to ensure that a child's safety seat is installed correctly, which provides the greatest level of protection in case of a vehicle accident. The Technicians are required by their certification to re-certify every other year; this entails continuing education and demonstration of proficiency in front of the programs executives.

Through this program each station now has a supply of child passenger safety seats that they are able to distribute at a reduced cost for families in financial need. A free inspection ensures that every child is as safe as possible. This program has benefited numerous families and, potentially, saved lives. In addition, technicians created a specially designed safety seat for ambulance transports three years ago, and this equipment has been added to each MICU's inventory. This was made possible through our partnership at no cost to the taxpayers of Anchorage.

To date the program has expanded to include more than 50 active techs, is now included in new hire academy's teaching, and includes child bicycle safety. These programs have supplied all AFD Stations with bike helmets to be handed out after a quick fitting by an Anchorage Firefighter. In just the past 3 years we have distributed several thousand properly-fitted helmets to the children of Anchorage.

These firefighters choose to participate in this program solely to solve safety issues faced by Anchorage residents. Protecting children in vehicles and at play helps prevent later emergency calls.

The next time you are wondering if your child's safety seat is properly installed or if your youth have outgrown their bike helmets, stop by your local fire station. Your Anchorage firefighters are ready and willing to help our community.

Submitted by Brian Partch, HOCC Steering Committee Member and firefighter.

Upcoming Meeting - Thursday July 21st

Put it on your calendar now! Our next meeting will be held Thursday, July 21, 2011. Items on the

agenda will include drainage issues at several locations, updates on South High and usage issues, and the Chugach Park draft proposals. We will have a special presentation on the Cook Inlet Housing Authority (CIHA) Weatherization Program, and Enstar's John Sims will be available to discuss the facility at Elmore and Huffman.

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!

Intersection Safety ***Huffman and Elmore***

HOCC has been discussing intersection safety at Huffman and Elmore Roads. Those of you who have driven this route know that for southbound drivers, visibility, especially downhill, is quite limited.

Partial solutions we have requested include removing the slats from the chain link fence around the Enstar pipeline facility on the northwest corner. We have also asked that both Muni and State plows avoid stacking snow near this facility, which further decreases line-of-sight.

Moving the 'white line' in the southbound Elmore lane closer to the intersection will remove the need to stop twice, 'nose out' into the intersection to see what eastbound traffic is doing.

Driver awareness of the laws concerning intersections is also needed. Take a moment and remember the 'yield' and 'right-of-way' rules of the road, and remind young drivers of these laws.

Working together, we can create a safer intersection.

Vocabulary of the Month: **"Title 21"**

Municipal Charter and Municipal Code are the rules established that line out how we govern Anchorage. These rules are put into separate categories or "Titles", with each Title covering a specific topic. For example, Animals are governed under Title 17 while sanitation is Title 15.

Title 21 is the Anchorage Land Use Code. This Title lines out exactly what can be done with properties within the Municipal limits.

Each Title is divided numerically into smaller sections. If, for example, you want to build a small shed without a permanent foundation, you would look at Title 21 Chapter 45 "Supplemental District Regulations". There, you would go to Section 030, "Accessory buildings". 21.45.030 "Accessory buildings" will give you the answer about building your small shed. "A." under this section states that "No accessory building shall be erected or maintained in any required yard, except that:" and A.2. says "sheds of 150 square feet or less and not attached to a foundation may be erected in a required

side or rear yard”.

Therefore, 21.45.030.A.2 gives you the permission to build a small shed, even in a setback.

Is there a word or acronym you would like defined? Let us know by contacting HOCCnewslettereditor@gmail.com

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HALO Update

HALO, Inc will hold a special meeting regarding the Draft Chugach Plan on July 7, 7 PM, at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner O’Malley and Hillside. Anyone interested in the Park is urged to attend. 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

Would you help us try an experiment?

New census figures show that the average resident has only lived in Anchorage five years. Those moving from other Alaska areas are generally familiar with our community council system of grassroots government. Those from other places are surprised at our system of involving the public at the neighborhood level.

Attached at the end of this newsletter issue is HOCC’s “Welcome, Neighbor” letter. This letter is designed so that you can print it, put your name at the bottom of the page, and hand it to someone in your neighborhood.

HOCC would love to have everyone within our boundaries involved in the council, reading the newsletter, and attending meetings. This will never happen unless they know we exist!

If each reader will make an effort to reach out to one new person, we could immediately improve our efforts towards building a strong, effective neighborhood outreach. Please take a moment right now, print the “welcome” letter, and hand it to the new family on your block.

Thank you!

Pete Nolan, President
hoccpresident@gmail.com

Just a Random Thought...

Aahhh, summer! Enjoy the fullness of lengthy days, the bright green leaves of trees, the scent of fresh-mown grass, the call of robins and squirrels, the multicolored flowers as they bloom... and the "back-up" beeps of the construction equipment.

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!

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Hello Neighbor!

Did you know that the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) is the only city in the United States to have established Community Councils to afford citizens an opportunity for maximum community involvement and self-determination? It's true!

Community Councils were written into our MOA Charter and offer neighborhoods the fantastic opportunity to be involved on a true neighborhood level. Community Councils receive the earliest notice from the MOA of neighborhood changes, whether rezonings or variances, new construction and development, or changes to MOA Code and local ordinances. Community Councils provide a forum for neighbors to discuss issues of concern, reach a consensus on those issues, and provide feedback to our Assembly representatives and other MOA officials.

Elected officials, including our Assembly and State representatives, often attend our Huffman-O'Malley Community Council (HOCC) meetings and are available to answer our questions about local and state issues and upcoming debates, and listen to our opinions as they consider their decisions. We often request attendance from MOA Departments and contractors to update us on construction and other changes to our area, or have representatives from the Fire and Police departments or other agencies attend. Our State officials often join us when not in Juneau, and when important decisions are to be made, they are available for conference calls during our meetings.

Each year members of the HOCC elect a Steering Committee to represent you, and attempts are made to have a wide variety of neighborhoods represented on the Steering Committee to enhance our knowledge of unique neighborhood concerns. The HOCC is often the first and best source of problems that may affect your neighborhood or you individually.

We would love to meet you at one of our monthly Steering Committee meetings! We meet on the 3rd Thursday at 7 pm at the Christian Church of Anchorage, at the corner of Lake Otis Blvd. and O'Malley Road. Please enter through the door on the O'Malley Road side of the building and head downstairs. Join us for refreshments and discussion, and bring your teens to learn about this basic level of their city government. We also send a monthly E-News to let you know about current neighborhood and area events. Make sure we have your email address so you can be included in receiving this valuable information.

As a resident of this area, you are already a member of the HOCC. We receive no government funding, and rely on contributing members for our expenses. Your household may become a contributing member for as little as a \$10-per person donation.

If you have a question, please feel free to contact us at hoccpresident@gmail.com.

We hope to see you at an upcoming meeting!

HOCC Member

Phone

EMail