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

July Meeting Recap:

The July meeting gave us updates on the Elmore water reservoir construction, the establishment of the South High buffer, the communications tower planned for Elmore Road; and the Anchorage School Board's Policy Committee actions.

Senator Giessel's aide Lindsay Williams gave us a short lesson in the Capital Improvement Budget, and Danicia Shiryayev shared information about the Cook Inlet Housing Authority's Weatherization Program.

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Huffman Park Cleanup a Success

Thank you to all who participated in the Huffman Park "Devils Club Eradication Day". This event was a great success, clearing miles of devils club from the trails of this "Safe Route to School". Volunteers from neighborhoods, churches and schools participated in this effort. Especially appreciated were students from South High, who fearlessly muscled their way through the devils club forests in spectacular feats of trailblazing!

Special recognition to Megan Holliday, the Director of Children's Ministry at Trinity Presbyterian and to Huffman Elementary parents who spearheaded this effort.

Thank you to all!

Upcoming Meeting - Thursday August 18th

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The next Huffman/O'Malley meeting will be held Thursday, August 18, 2011. Items on the agenda will include updates on the South High and AWWU Reservoir construction, the greenbelt remediation, and continued efforts to improve safety at the intersection of Huffman and Elmore.

Our special guest speaker will be Dan Coffey. As most of us know, Dan has recently completed his recommendations for the "S" version of the Title 21 revision, and it has been given to the Mayor. The S version is now under study by the Department of Law and the Planning Department. After review, proposed Title 21 revisions will go to the Planning and Zoning Commission, where the public hearings will begin. Once through PZC, it will go to the Assembly, again with public hearings before final approval.

Those of us that have been following this lengthy process know that the entire title was provisionally adopted in segments, but never coordinated along the way. Others have issues

with various aspects, including design standard requirements. One section of the provisionally adopted Code even eliminates the role Community Councils play in land use issues such as rezonings and variances! Dan will clear up misconceptions and be available for questions. Please note that priority will be given to questions from HOCC residents. Expect a lively discussion!

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!

SHOCK CHLORINATING YOUR WATER WELL

Everyone should chlorinate their water well at least once per year as part of a good maintenance program. Because of well access problems this should probably be done in the summer. If you have orange to black staining in your toilet bowls, you have an iron problem and chlorination will help precipitate out the iron and manganese which commonly cause the staining. Following is the outline of the simple process of shock chlorination.

Pour a quart of Clorox into a five gallon bucket and fill the bucket with water. Take this to the wellhead and remove the well cap (normally this will require a 9/16" wrench). Run a hose from a hose bib over to the well and run the hose stream of water down into the well. Slowly pour the five gallon bucket of Clorox mix into the stream of water going down the well. Swish the hose around so that you totally wet down the inner surface of the well casing. Continue doing this until you get a strong chlorine smell coming out of the hose. Continue pumping for several minutes after you obtain the strong smell to assure that you have chlorinated the well thoroughly.

Next, go into the house and run water from every tap, one at a time, until you get the strong chlorine smell at each. In this manner you are decontaminating all of the piping in the house. Once these operations are complete, there should be no water usage for a 6 to 8 hour contact period in the house. So, obviously the best time for chlorination is just before bedtime or when you know there will be no one in the house needing water.

After the contact period, run water out of all the taps until the chlorine smell has dissipated and you can stand to use the water. Initially, the water may be very discolored or, if you have an iron bacteria problem, maybe even sludgy. Run it until it is clean. If the staining persists repeat the above process. It may take several treatments before you've gotten rid of the iron bacteria. If the mild staining persists, you may just have high minerals in the aquifer and may want to consider a water treatment system but most of the time this procedure will take care of the problem.

Submitted by Wayne Westberg, MGWC and member of the Huffman/O'Malley Community
Council. If you have questions, contact Wayne at w44west@gci.net

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 (July 1 - 31). The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Assaults: 1 (15) Other Undefined Offenses: 0 (7) Prostitution: 0 (3)

Burglaries: 1 (10) Theft Reports: 5 (39) Disorderly conduct:0 (1)

Disturbances: 3 (14) Vandalism: 2 (9)
Drugs: 0 (5) Vehicle Theft: 1 (3)
Fraud/Forgery: 1 (8) Weapon Offense: 0 (1)

Liquor violations: 0 (2) DU: 0 (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 to out pace the other crimes. 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/

South High's Buffer to Become Reality

The new HOCC South High Neighborhood Committee is working towards real solutions to ease issues arising from the incompatibility of a high school placed in a residential area. One major source of conflict has been the lack of a promised 80' buffer between the school and private homes.

HOCC has assisted in bringing together the community, AWWU and ASD officials to resolve this particular concern. Real progress is being made to create and/or restore this originally promised buffer zone. Designs are now being made which will plant non-deciduous trees in this area, watering them for two years to allow them to gain appropriate strength, and allow native vegetation to regrow in this area. The entire section will be studied again next March, when deciduous trees are bare, to see where non-deciduous species need to be added for winter buffer.

Further plans will include altering existing use patterns to encourage new growth within this area.

It is encouraging to discover true commitment to this project from ASD Administration. A real buffer will go a long way towards finally improving the detrimental impact of the school upon the neighborhood.

Submitted by Christine Monette, HOCC Vice President and Chair, South High Neighborhood Committee Chair

Vocabulary of the Month: "Variance"

Often, the Council will receive a packet from the Planning Department containing a request for a variance. The Council will research this request and make a choice of "support" or "non-support".

So what is a variance?

Every structure and use planned for property within the Municipality is governed by Title 21. A structure or use that is outside of the blanket "allowed uses" of the underlying zoning district must obtain a variance. This is an official proclamation that says the use or structure of the request will be allowed despite the normal code, or laws, governing the zoning district.

For a knowledgeable individual seeking a variance, the local community council should be the first stop of the process. Those persons ask to be placed on the meeting agenda, where they will share their plans with their neighbors and hope to gain approval. As a hypothetical example, a property owner may wish to build a structure in the required yard setback. The council will examine the request and make recommendations of support or non-support to the Planning Department. Other examples of variance requests may include such things as housing animals, building decks, paving driveways, or erasing lot lines or obsolete right-of-ways.

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

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Cook Inlet Housing Authority's Weatherization Program

Do you know someone who would benefit from a home weatherization? Could your home use energy upgrades? Cook Inlet Housing Authority is in charge of administering the Weatherization Program, a free service to qualifying homeowners and renters.

Successful applicants for this program will have a team evaluate their residence and determine what steps can be taken to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy loss. This can involve a number of steps, from increasing insulation to replacing doors and windows, even to upgrading to energy efficient heating systems and appliances.

This is not the program that refunds a percentage of expenses. Instead, the team will take charge of all the predetermined work, including contracting and materials.

If you are someone or know of someone who would benefit from this program, or a senior that would appreciate saving money on their energy bills, contact Danicia Shiryayev at 793-3730.

From the President's Desk

In the course of my "day job" several weeks ago, I attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting. The person next to me introduced himself, although I had already recognized him as an area Senator. As I introduced myself, I called him by his title. He was surprised and pleased to realize that I was knowledgeable about local politics. I responded that I was active in my Community Council and was, in fact, the new President of Huffman/O'Malley.

"Huffman/O'Malley?" he replied, nodding. "That's an active group! I've heard lots of good comments about that Council! You folks are pretty successful! Congratulations!"

Driving back to town after the meeting, I thought about his words. Yes, we have a good Council. But I'm not the one that deserves congratulations.

While I was at my day job, our Secretary was at a meeting with ASD. Our Vice President and another member of our Steering Committee were working with the TVEHA group. Other Steering Committee members were checking into drainage issues on Eastwind and at Lake Otis, researching solutions at the Elmore & Huffman intersection, and compiling crime stats. Still others are creating a new data base, studying our by-laws, and working on the next newsletter.

The reason this Council is successful is that we have individuals who are willing to take a few minutes of their time to devote to something they believe in - their community. They are willing to see a task and step up to the plate. Each has their area of interest and knowledge to share.

For this, I thank all of you who have created this successful, cohesive unit called the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council. Even those stuck in Juneau know how great you are!

Just a Random Thought...

Does the State Fair seem to start earlier each year, or are the summers just getting shorter?

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!