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

September Recap:

Were you one of the new faces at the September meeting? If so, you got to hear about the plans for Chugach Park, including new access points and improved parking, and eventual plans to close off one entrance and create a fee station. You also had the opportunity to hear from Tom Korosei of Parks & Recreation and let him know your commitment to returning privately appropriated greenbelt area to native conditions.

NOTE: The Huffman/O'Malley Community Council will have a new meeting location beginning in November! We will be hosted by the Shepherd of the Hills Church on Elmore Road.

Municipal Budget Input Wanted

Have you visited the new Muni Budget Website yet? There is even a place where we can take a survey about your thoughts for the future and where we should be spending our tax dollars. You can also sign up for the new budget newsletter.

The 2012-2013 budget process will begin with Assembly discussion on Oct 1, Public Hearings beginning on Nov 8. The online survey will obviously become part of this discussion. Visit www.munibudget.org and offer your opinion on this vital subject.

Special note: Did you read the annual Press Picks results? The Anchorage Press holds voting each year for "Best of" awards. Mayor Dan Sullivan was named "Best Local Politician" by Anchorage voters. Congratulations, Mayor Sullivan!

Upcoming Meeting - Thursday October 20th

The next Huffman/O'Malley meeting will be held Thursday, October 20, at 7 pm.

Items on the agenda will include updates on the greenbelt remediation issue. Special guests will include a rescheduled Brenda Hewitt of the State Department of Transportation, talking about Huffman Road traffic concerns and future plans. We will also continue our discussion about the park trespass issue, and discuss the recent Constitution Day event held by South High School students.

Remember this is our last meeting to be held at the Christian Church of Anchorage!

New Meeting Location in November! Shepherd of the Hills

Beginning with the November meeting, the Huffman/O'Malley Community Council will meet at the Shepherd of the Hills Church on Elmore Road, between O'Malley and Lake Otis. This is the lovely cedar-framed church located at the corner of Klatt and Elmore, next to the vacant lot that backs up to Huffman Park.

We will meet downstairs at our normal 7 pm time. There a large parking lot in the front of the church. Enter through the front doors. Turn left into the sanctuary and you will find the stairway. The meeting room is at the bottom of the stairs. Pastor Fred Voss will be available the first few meetings to make sure things go right.

We thank the Christian Church of Anchorage for allowing us to meet there for so many years!

HOCC - Area Crime Statistics

We provide these monthly crime statistics so that we all understand what is happening in our area and take appropriate precautions. Theft is a continuing problem that we should all be aware of. We know you appreciate the updates, and thank you for your feedback.

These are the compiled crime statistics for the HOCC-area (Sept. 1 - 26). The cumulative amount of reported offenses (beginning December 17, 2010 to date) are in parentheses.

Theft Reports: 6 (49) Drugs: 0 (5)

Assaults: 0 (15)

Burglaries: 2 (16)

Disturbances: 2 (16)

Vehicle Theft: 2 (6)

Liquor violations: 0 (2)

Weapon Offense: 0 (1)

Fraud/Forgery: 0 (10) DUI: 0 (1)

Vandalism: 0 (10) Disorderly conduct: 0 (1)

Other Undefined Offenses: 1 (8) Prostitution: 0 (3)

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/

Vocabulary of the Month: "Accessory Buildings"

On most Hillside properties, a residence is defined as the "primary" structure on the lot. This may be a single or multi-family residential structure. The primary "use" of the lot is residential. Anything else on the lot is secondary, or "accessory" to the primary use.

An "accessory building" is a structure that is secondary to the primary structure (residence). In our typical R-6 suburban large lot residential areas, we often find accessory buildings to be barns, separated

garages, sheds, animal enclosures, greenhouses, occasionally other living quarters.

Accessory buildings can be placed in a required yard setback only if they are less than 150 square feet and not attached to a foundation or adjacent to an alley. Accessory buildings can not be built closer than ten feet away from the principal structure.

If you decide to build an accessory structure, check out the rules in Title 21 to verify your zoning area setback before you begin. You can find our complete Municipal Codes at municode.com

Is there a word or acronym you would like defined? Let us know by contacting

<u>HOCCnewslettereditor@gmail.com</u>

Bear - Be Aware!!

Be aware that there have been several sightings of a large brown bear in the Jerome and O'Malley area. Bears are on the move, getting ready for winter. Take precautions when walking your dog!

From the President's Desk

It was wonderful to see so many new faces again this month! We hope you felt comfortable at our meeting, learned something, and had the opportunity to share. We want to help address your individual issues and resolve concerns. Your community council is the 'first stop' with your government.

Now I would like you to think about something. If we helped solve your issue, will we not see you again until you have another concern?

That would be a tragedy.

You see, we do the best work when we work together. Each of us has unique talents, abilities, and personalities. Young and old, different backgrounds and experiences, newcomers and original homesteaders - we need your viewpoint.

If you can not always attend meetings, then try to attend two or three times a year. The important thing is that you know your community council is also your community.

And please, always feel free to contact any of us if you would like to share information or have questions.

Pete Nolan, President Huffman/O'Malley Community Council <u>hoccpresident@gmail.com</u>

Just a Random Thought...

How many vegetables could our gardens produce with just another 30 days of Summer or so????

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!