

Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

P.O. Box 113006, Anchorage, AK 99511

www.HuffmanOmalleyCC.org

July 2003 Newsletter

Next meeting **July 17th** at 7:00 pm,
Grace Lutheran Church, Corner of O'Malley & Elmore Roads

If you are receiving this newsletter by traditional mail and have the ability to receive e-mail, please change to the e-mail version. It saves the HOCC in copying and postage costs.

JULY 17TH MEETING AGENDA

Grace Lutheran Church, corner of O'Malley and Elmore Roads 7pm, July 17, 2003

The July Agenda, in addition to those things addressed in this newsletter, will include Cheryl Frasca from Governor Murkowski's office to talk about budget issues, and Art Weeks the new Municipal Library Director, who was kind enough to send a short article for this newsletter describing what type of input he is wanting from the community..

HOCC MEETING LOCATION CHANGING

The HOCC and other community groups have used Grace Lutheran Church as their meeting place for many years. Sadly, Grace is outgrowing their space and cannot allow these groups to meet there anymore. We thank Grace for all the years of allowing us to use your beautiful church and will miss being there.

The HOCC is currently looking for a new location within the HOCC boundaries to hold its monthly meetings starting with the September meeting. The new meeting location will be published in next month's newsletter and on our website after the decision has been made.

RIGHT TO FARM, PERSONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a luncheon seminar at O'Malleys on the Green on July 28th from 11:30-3:00. Come enjoy a great lunch and learn about your personal property rights, the right to farm, and meet your farming neighbors. For further information, please contact the HOCC or Vicki Trytten at 271-2424 ext. 125. Please let your farming friends know and we look forward to seeing you there.

TALUS WEST VARIANCE

The HOCC has received a new variance request. Case number 2003-123 is a variance from AMC 21.40.080.G that would allow a house and garage to encroach into the required 50-foot rear yard setback. Legal description is Talus West Subdivision, Block 5, Lot 21. The applicants have a house and garage at this location. If the variance is granted, they will be constructing a section of the house that will join the house and garage. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request, please contact the HOCC.

LAKE OTIS GRAVEL PIT

The developer had their Geotechnical Commission hearing July 8th, we are awaiting the final resolution describing the Commission's findings. They will be published in next month's newsletter.

Platting will be on the evening of September 8th in front of the Planning & Zoning Commission. Remember, this is for the ENTIRE gravel pit and does not take into account the park plan.

Pioneer Community Development, Inc. (the park plan people) are now established and working on fundraising. To be added to their mailing list or for further information, please contact Ryan Stencil.

PCD, Inc. has signed an agreement with The Alaska Community Foundation to oversee all financial transactions. Among other things, this partnership makes possible that donations can be made in any form, including cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, IRA funds, insurance proceeds, or just about any other asset. All donations are tax deductible.

ELK'S CLUB IN TANGLEWOOD

The Elk's Club has leased the clubhouse at the Tanglewood Golf Course. The Elk's Club was in the previous location downtown since 1935. The Elk's will be transferring their club liquor license to this location. Because of the time crunch and cost, the HOCC could not mail a questionnaire for all members, instead sent an email to those on their e-mail list for comments. The vast majority of comments were positive.

A club liquor license is very restrictive, only members and their personal guests may be served at the establishment. The Elk's does not normally open until 4:00, and only on limited days.

ADA PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION

The HOCC has received notice that construction will be beginning at Forsythe Park and Birch Park to make them ADA-accessible. If you have questions, please contact:

Jerry Hansen
MOA Project Manager
343-8143.

ELMORE ROAD RENAMING

Last week, everyone got notice of a proposal by the former Mayor to officially rename Bragaw Street, Abbott Loop Road, and Elmore Road The Martin Luther King, Jr. Parkway. No one is happy and we're working with those affected to make this go away with the former Mayor.

The neighborhoods' concerns have nothing to do with the name as was reported in the Daily News, but with many other aspects of the proposal including:

-A "parkway" is defined as a major arterial roadway. Elmore does not meet this classification, it is a smaller designation of a collector street. This would essentially upgrade Elmore's designation without a public hearing.

-This would be the fifth name change for this stretch of Elmore. Every time it changes, the affected residents have to change all their billing addresses, driver's license, voter's registration, etc. As far as the credit reporting agencies are concerned, you moved, so for the people who have lived on Elmore for 30 years, their credit reports show they have moved four times, this would be the fifth.

Naming a park seems much more appropriate for the contributions that Dr. King made. He stood for peace and equality, not development of roads. And if my history is right, I don't know if he would like his name associated with anything the government shoved down the throats of citizens.

ART WEEKS, MUNICIPAL LIBRARIAN

Municipal Librarian Telephone: 343-2983 or E-Mail: weeksal@ci.anchorage.ak.us

Anchorage Municipal Libraries: Serving South Anchorage

How should our public library system best serve the people of the Municipality of Anchorage? Should we concentrate on a central library facility to serve the Anchorage bowl or should we be developing a system of branch libraries to serve the children, students and the families of our neighborhoods?

During a time of diminishing public funds, this question becomes crucial as we plan for our future. South Anchorage is currently served by the Samson-Diamond Branch, located at the Diamond Center. Is this the best location for a branch library? Should another branch be located in one of the growing neighborhoods of South Anchorage? If so, what size should these branches be and what services should they provide?

The Huffman-O'Malley neighborhood is one that deserves consideration for a neighborhood branch. A public library enhances the quality of a neighborhood, especially one in which people have chosen to purchase homes and raise families.

A vision of a branch library would be one in which people will find popular reading materials, information important to daily life, a study center for students, and a meeting place for programs of interest to the community. Such a library would have evening and weekend hours most convenient for people's busy lives. As Municipal Librarian, I look forward to meeting the Huffman-O'Malley Community Council to explore the idea of branch libraries in South Anchorage.

I/we want to become a contributing member of HOCC.
Enclosed is my \$5 - \$250 yearly contribution.

NAME: _____

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Mail to: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council, PO Box 113006, Anchorage, AK 99511