



Area-G  
Home  
And  
Landowners  
Organization, Inc.

P.O. Box 110096  
Anchorage, AK 99511-0096

## Home and Landowners Organization, Inc.

### NOVEMBER 2009 Newsletter

<http://www.anchoragehalo.org>

**HOLY SPIRIT RETREAT HOUSE  
(10980 Hillside Drive)  
7-9 PM**

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS!**

**NOVEMBER 5, 2009**

**HALO BYLAWS revisions**

**DECEMBER 3, 2009 FORUM:**

**HOME FIRE DEFENSE ON THE HILLSIDE**

**GUEST SPEAKER from**

**ANCHORAGE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**All Hillside residents welcome.**

**Coffee and cookies**

#### **INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER ...**

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Chugach State Park Master Plan

Section 36 Update

Hillside District Plan – what's its current status?

## **Invasion of the Trash Bears** **by Beth Terry**

Ten years ago, bears regularly started getting into my neighborhood trash. Since then, this Hillside problem has only gotten worse. My own neighborhood rose to the occasion and adapted to the new reality of the Hillside. Bird feeders either came down or were left empty for the summer, neighbors quit putting their trash out early, and those with outdoor receptacles either beefed them up, electrified them, or rented a "bear rack".

Then, a nearby rental property changed ownership. The outdoor trash receptacle soon became a 24 hour "All You Can Eat Bear Buffet". I called and let the owners know of their chronic problem. The following year I sent a letter explaining the extreme danger to children cutting the street corner on bikes. Due to lack of response, I asked Fish and Game what my options were. They sent out a trooper who told me that if I wanted to get serious and pursue a ticket, what I really needed was a picture of an actual bear eating out of the receptacle.

Well how hard could that be? I'd seen bears, moose, ravens and dogs eating out of the offending bin. Little did I know that I was only at the beginning of a six year period of my life now known as "Trash Bear Hell".

Summer 2005 was a slow bear year in the neighborhood, there must've been abundant salmon and berries, but 2006 brought bears galore. I experienced the biggest adrenaline rush of my life when my daughter reported that a bear was "acting really interested" in my then four year old son. Outdoors, I found a black bear literally stalking my 35 lb. son from only 15 feet away. The intent bear completely ignored me when I rushed at it, shouting. It only ran off after I started flinging rocks and chasing it while screaming like a crazed banshee. I had a sore throat for two days. After that, my children were mostly confined to playing outdoors in a small fenced area. Although I often saw bears strolling across my front lawn after feasting on the neighbor's trash, without a direct view of the receptacle, the incriminating picture continued to elude me.

In 2007 we travelled, but my new neighbor and trash bear ally, Jane, reported plenty of bear action. I told her of the picture requirement, believing that with two of us, we'd have quick success. Wrong again! Even in the Crazy Bear Year of 2008, we were skunked again.

Then, this Spring, three young bears moved in. I threw rocks and the neighbor dogs constantly gave chase, but the draw of the trash bin was powerful. Then one night, the dogs caught the two tiniest cubs in the bin and treed them. The dogs were put away, and we waited. Finally, success! Shortly after Jane e-mailed our pictures to Fish and Game, the owner of the Bear Buffet was issued a \$300 ticket. Within a couple of days, the trash bin was electrified.

(continued on page 3....)

But the ticket was challenged. Our trooper had warned us that wildlife violations were not usually considered serious and that if we did not testify, the ticket would likely be thrown out. When the owner claimed that she had no prior knowledge of a bear problem, I found myself wishing that I'd sent my early letter Certified with Return Receipt. We could see that the judge was contemplating tossing the ticket out, but then Jane and I spoke, and the ticket stood. Somewhat to our dismay (when you spend nearly five years trying to get an incriminating picture, then pay \$8.00 to park for half an hour, you kind of want revenge), the judge waived \$200 of the \$300 fine.

I grew up playing in these exact same woods in the 60's and 70's. Back then we ran freely, giving no thought at all to bears. The bears were not habituated to human smelling garbage, and gave us a wide berth. But because of the increase in population on the Hillside, and the lax handling of garbage, my own children have basically been held captive in a small fenced area on our five acres. Despite that, we dearly love to watch our wildlife, and would hate to lose that to a hunt. The thought of bullets flying around in such a populated place really does not appeal to me either.

The three cubs disappeared immediately after the Bear Buffet was electrified. In fact, we haven't seen a single bear since. This experience leads me to believe that the answer to Hillside trash bears is ENFORCEMENT. I'm now convinced that once you hit people in the pocketbook, they'll clean up their act. At a recent HALO meeting, Hillside Assemblywoman Jennifer Johnston mentioned the possibility of trash companies providing bear proof cans in problem areas like the Hillside. I like the idea, as long as those of us who've already dealt with the problem aren't forced to spend additional funds. Whatever we do, keeping our wildlife truly wild will be well worth it!

## **LIFE SIGNS FOR THE LIBRARY**

**By Sharon Clawson**

On October 9, 2009, Bill Wilson, a consultant hired by the Anchorage Library Foundation, conducted a south side meeting attended by a dozen community members. In addition to neighborhood sessions, a survey on the Anchorage Public Library's web site tallied input from over 5,000 library patrons.

Samson-Diamond Branch Library attracts area-wide residents and visitors. It is a branch that provides convenience to many Anchorage residents whether they live on the south side of town or not. Recently, a prominent and permanent sign on the outside of the Mall lets folks know there is indeed a library inside.

Another sign of life for the Samson-Diamond Branch is that it remains open under the Mayor's 2010 budget proposal. This proposal reduces the budget for the Anchorage Public Library system by 9.9% compared to 2009, considering the cumulative reductions that began in the first quarter of 2009. Library personnel decreased by 4.6% between 2003 and 2009, while for the Municipality overall nonpublic safety personnel increased 36%. The 2010 budget proposal results in a decrease of 17.4% in library staffing since 2003.

At the Samson-Diamond there is a loss of two part-time positions, a reduction in hours/days, and the hiring freeze leaves the position of youth services librarian vacant at this time. Kudos to remaining library staff and volunteers throughout our library system who provide essential and enriching library services to cardholders whose numbers increased by ten percent during 2008.

The Anchorage Library Foundation will hold a public town hall meeting at Loussac on November 10 at 5:30 pm. Our participation can impact the present and future life of our Anchorage libraries.

Sources: Bill Wilson of Himmel and Wilson; Karen Keller, Director of Anchorage Public Library; "Anchorage Public Library Annual Report 2008."

### **HALO WEBSITE**

**<http://www.anchoragehalo.org>**

Thanks to Bjarne Holm, HALO has a new website filled with current information about issues affecting Hillside homeowners. Check it often for the latest happenings.

**<http://www.anchoragehalo.org>**

## **Chugach State Park Master Plan**

**By Robin Holm**

I attended one of the informational meetings regarding the new draft for the master trail plan for Chugach State Park. I was a bit late but got most of it. There are some vacant seats on the citizen advisory board if anyone maybe interested. The meeting basically went over the new draft of the plan and asked for any comments or addition. We were encourage to add comment on the web site <http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/parks/units/chugach/planning.htm>

My regret is the lack of horse trails in the Hillside area and I will comment on that issue. In the draft plan there was a great deal of talk about the different users and criteria for their trails. A long description of the 5 different classes of trails, ranging from single, small, dirt types to paved trails. Throughout all of these descriptions I saw no reference to new accesses to the park from the different neighborhoods. We all know that this is an ever-rising problem as more lots are developed along the park's boundary. It appears t be a good plan but I'm not sure when or how they will secure the funds to get it started.

## **Section 36 Update**

Section 36 is a 640 acre parcel of land southeast of Bear Valley Elementary School. The Master Plan calls for the land to be transferred from the Heritage Land Bank to MOA Parks and Recreation for management.

There are 3 conceptual plans under discussion, all of which are low-level development. Concept 1 consists of a few trails, portable toilets and limited parking. Concept 2 has constructed toilet faililities, more developed trails, and parking. Concept 3 adds cross country ski trails and low impact winter warming hut.

There will be a public meeting about the Conceptual Design Phase of the Master Plan for Section 36 in the multi-purpose room at Goldenview Elementary School on November 10th starting at 5:30 PM.

Public comment is being accepted before November 30 at the Section 36 website: <http://www.muni.org/parks/Section36MPComments.cfm>

Here is a link to more information about the Section 36 Master Plan project: <http://www.muni.org/Departments/parks/Pages/Section36MPDocus.aspx>

## HOW TO RECEIVE OUR EMAILED UPDATES

HALO strives to keep you informed. Therefore, it is important that we have accurate emails, so that you may receive our great newsletters. If you are not receiving our emails, or are NOT on the email list, call Judy Moerlein (346-3784) and leave a message.

HALO does not have the extensive email abilities that Community Councils have. Therefore, we thank those Community Councils for sending out our notices in their newsletters.

## THANKS TO THESE MEMBERS

HALO is most grateful to the following people who have donated to our Legal Fund. (This is "over and above" their membership dues of \$10/family.)

### **ELIZABETH M. PUTTRE**

DUANE MILLER & LINDA MCALISTER

### **LT.COL. THEO J. HELLER (RET) & MARY PAT HELLER**

MARIAN E. RANDALL

### **CHRIS & BECKY CLAPPER**

GEORGINE MEYER

### **LARRY & LYNNETTE MOTZ**

THEODORE & CLAIRE PEASE

### **NANCY FELTON & CHRIS ALLARD**

JEANNE A. BUSSEY

### **KEN & D.J. HAGEN**

ROGER & KEN OLESON

### **NORM & KATHY WILDER**

BOBBI WELLS

### **BERNIE LEAS**

PAT ABNEY

### **DAVID COTTRELL**

CAROL FRIES & ART WEINER

### **SUSAN OLSEN**

SALLIE LONG

### **NEAL & MARIAN HAGLUND**

GEORGINE S. MEYER

### **KEN & ANNE RICHARDSON**

BRIAN & OPHELIA BARLOW

### **CHRIS & BECKY CLAPPER**

BOB & MARY DAUENHAUER

### **ED O'NEILL**

KURT REIN

### **DIANA BURCH**

ED SCUSTER

### **R.E. & DIANNE CUNNINGHAM**

MARGARET A TURNER,

### **DARRELL & KATNLEEN BLYSMA**

JOYCE BARNETT

### **ROBERT C. WEEL**

ANN & DON FALL

### **WILLIAM & RENA PETERSON**

CHARLES SEVCIK

## **HALO Mission and Goals**

Home And Landowners Organization, Inc. (HALO) was formed in 1969 and incorporated in 1974, the same year the Borough was absorbed into the Municipality under the Home Rule Charter. The area encompassed by HALO includes the original five G-areas (an early zoning designation), which is roughly southeast Anchorage, bounded on the north by Dowling Road and on the west by the Seward Highway.

HALO is a volunteer non-profit organization supported by its members. HALO's mission is to advocate for rural, low-density neighborhoods in southeast Anchorage.

The Board of Directors holds a business meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Holy Spirit Center, corner of Hillside Drive and O'Malley Road, and meetings are open to all. Assembly Representative and State Legislators are invited to participate at monthly meetings. Annual Meeting and elections are held in May. Dues are \$10 per year.

**HALO Monthly Meetings  
First Thursday of every month  
Holy Spirit Center  
(O'Malley & Hillside Dr)  
7 PM  
All meetings are open to the  
public.**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008-2009**

President – Wayne Westburg  
Vice President – Rodney Powell  
Secretary – Dianne Holmes  
Treasurer – David Cottrell, CPA/ Judy Moerlein  
Past President – Chris Hamre

### **Board members:**

District 1: Sharon Clawson/Kathy Clawson, Bill Lamoreaux/Beth Terry  
District 2: Jim Barnett, Robin Holm  
District 3: Cathy Giessel, Wayne Westburg  
District 4: Jeanne/Steve McKee, Gerry Guay  
District 5: vacant seat, Rodney Powell

Webmaster: Bjarne Holm  
Newsletter Editor: Cathy Giessel



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**FORUM – FIREFIGHTERS ON THE  
HILLSIDE**

**Nov. 4, 2009 from 7-9 PM  
Holy Spirit Retreat House  
At O’Malley and Hillside Drive**

Please fill out this form (all information remains confidential) and return it with your \$10 annual dues to:  
**HALO, PO Box 110096, Anchorage, AK 99511**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Property Address/Subdivision &  
acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

(Kept CONFIDENTIAL for meeting & important events notices only)

New Member     Renewal     \$10/yr /family

Optional donation to Legal Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Special area of  
interest/expertise \_\_\_\_\_