

HALO, Neighbors!

The Newsletter of Home And Landowners Organization, Inc.

February 2011

Next HALO Meeting --Thursday, March 3rd

Candidate Forum!

HALO's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 3rd, 2011. This will be the Candidate Forum for the Spring Municipal elections. It will start at 7 pm at O'Malleys on the Green.

All Candidates for our area Assembly Representatives (East, South and Mid-Town) and School Board Candidates have been invited to attend this lively event. Written questions come from the audience, and we always have great munchies.

February Meeting Recap

Final plans were made for the March Candidate Forum, and a discussion was held regarding updating our membership and mailing lists for the new electronic newsletter. Except for our Candidate events, all Board meetings are held at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner of Hillside and O'Malley, and always on the first Thursday monthly at 7 pm. Guests are always welcome to attend and join the conversation.

Title 21 update

The board received an update on the Title 21 Rewrite process. They were asked if they felt that it was important to us and for the HDP (given that implementation of the HDP is not forthcoming). The process has stalled, yet there is only one chapter and a few sections left to complete. A letter from the MOA last August, in response to BOMA's (Building Owners and Managers Association) complaints about Title 21, included a statement that the provisionally adopted chapters can be formally adopted without finishing the whole Rewrite. Upon hearing agreement that Title 21 is important to HALO's goals, the Board voted to write a letter to Assembly members and mayor requesting that the Title 21 chapters that have already been provisionally adopted, be voted into ordinance.

Submitted by Dianne Holmes, HALO Secretary

Did you receive a hard-copy of the HALO Neighbors! Quarterly Recap?

If you receive this email newsletter, you are already on our electronic mailing list. In order to 'spread the word' and encourage everyone to participate in HALO, would you please hand your hard copy of the HALO Neighbors! Quarterly Recap to someone who is not on our list--maybe a friend, our new neighbor or someone in your Homeowner's Association?

We will appreciate it!

From your Newsletter Editor.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who have recently donated to HALO's Legal Fund: Pat Blake, Pam Barbeau, Erin & Florian Boroski, Corinne Smith & Paul Button, Michael & Linda Smith.

As you know, the HALO Legal Fund is used any time Hillside faces a challenge that needs more than an individual effort.

Also, thank you to the Community Councils who have donated to the Candidate Forum event: Rabbit Creek and Mid-Hillside. As you know, it takes funds to create these successful events. If your council would like to contribute, please contact Judy Moerlein.

HALO Website

Visit the HALO, Inc. web site at <http://www.anchoragehalo.org/>. Learn more about your organization and issues of special interest for residents on the Hillside. If you have comments, or would like submit postings on the web site, please contact: Bjarne Holm at bjarneholm9@hotmail.com

HALO Neighbors Newsletter

If you have an idea for an article, or a question you would like to have discussed with your friends and neighbors, let us know. We also encourage to forward this newsletter to your neighbors and help them become involved in their community. Or better yet, print a copy and hand it to someone!

From the President's Desk

Dear Hillside Residents and Friends:

HALO has always been an institution that residents appreciate. Many of you regularly join

us for our popular candidate forums. You often attend our monthly board meetings and participate in our lively discussions about issues which affect you and your neighbors, and those of you that are not able to attend still know that you are welcomed at any time. Readers are finding our HALO Newsletter informative and helpful. Yet we are faced with a situation where only about 20% of those on our mailing list pay our small annual dues.

Everything we do is by volunteer efforts. We work together because we understand the value of this group. Yet our dues barely cover the cost of programs such as our candidate forums and our mailings. This is a limiting factor to our success in representing the interests of Hillside residents.

In light of this situation, I am asking each of you to please show your support by becoming a current dues-paying member. Your renewal date is on the mailing label of this newsletter.

You can either mail your \$10 dues to HALO at P.O. Box 110096, Anchorage, AK 99511 or pay your current dues at the March candidate forum.

Thank you for participating in this unique form of community!

WAYNE WESTBERG, HALO President
presidenthalo@gmail.com

HDP Implementation Committee Update

Your HALO Hillside District Plan Implementation Committee has made some tremendous strides forward in implementing a water well protection program! This committee has a great deal of experience and expertise in this area, and has received wonderful cooperation from Municipal On-Site and Information Technology Departments.

Most recently, the Committee has taken thirty years of city data and made a map of Hillside that shows every well, both private and community, color-coded to show levels of nitrate. The map is "clickable", and when you hover over or click on a well, you can see each exact value. The entirety shows potential problem areas, and actual values. The data can be immediately converted to categorize by dates, so if a well had issues that grouting solved, it shows that data.

Additional graphs show trends, and can be sorted to either dates or amounts. Together, this information gives the Committee the actual hard data to base the future upon. These facts give reality, not suppositions, and will be the base line for the future. We will also know when remediation is necessary.

The next goal of the Committee is to write a plan to use in the future. How much will it cost to have this information updated annually? Right now, the work is done through many volunteer hours. Still, the Committee believes we can keep it to a reasonable cost, utilizing annual data from Municipal COSAs.

Committee members are Pat Hansen, Jim Munter, Mike Kenny, Wayne Westberg, Lori Davey, John Reese, Ted Moore and John Weddleton.

Submitted by John Weddleton. If you have any questions about the HDP Implementation Committee or would like to attend a future meeting, contact John at 317-0222.

Join Your Friends and Neighbors at HALO

Are you a HALO member? Dues are only \$10 a year. The HALO Board meets on first Thursday

of each month, at 7 pm, at the Holy Spirit Retreat, on the southwest corner of Hillside and O'Malley. Our elected representatives often join us and it is the perfect place to learn about what is going on with and in your community. All meetings are open to the public, and every effort is made to announce any change in date, time or location.

HALO is a non-profit, grass roots organization formed in 1969 (before the merger of the City of Anchorage and the Greater Anchorage Borough) for the purpose of advocating for rural neighborhoods in Southeast Anchorage. Today, HALO's boundaries include all or part of eight Community Councils: Abbott Loop, Basher, Bear Valley, Glen Alps, Hillside East, Huffman/O'Malley, Mid-Hillside and Rabbit Creek. Residents outside of the HALO area also join to support our goals and share in our activities.

While we work closely with Community Councils, HALO is in a unique place that separates us from the Municipal government. Besides our successful Candidate Forums, we address the broad issues that affect residents in SE Anchorage. We encourage membership in both HALO and your area Community Council. It is vital for us to be informed and work together on local issues, especially as we face today's issues.

Name

Phone (home)

Phone (alternate, optional)

Mailing Address

Property Address (to determine your "G" area)

E-Mail Address (newsletters are sent by email unless specifically requested to be sent by USPS):

New Member Renewal

I would be interested in serving as a board member

I would be willing to work with a committee

Dues Enclosed _____ (\$10 per year)

Donation to Legal Fund _____ (optional)

Print and send to: HALO, P.O. Box 110096, Anchorage, AK 99511

(Email addresses are invaluable for timely notification. All information remains confidential!)