

# HALO, Neighbors!

*The Newsletter of Home And Landowners Organization, Inc.*

May 2011

## For Your Calendar

The next board meeting of HALO is **Thursday, June 2nd**. Remember that the HALO board always meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7 pm at the Holy Spirit Retreat, corner of O'Malley and Hillside Drive. Everyone is invited to attend these meetings and take part in the lively discussions.

## May Meeting Recap

The Annual HALO Meeting in May was one for the 'highlight' reels. Between the fascinating and informational presentation from Municipal Assessor Marty McGee to the great door prizes, HALO once again proved its value to our Hillside community.

The questions to our Municipal Tax Assessor show that there is real need for much more information to educate the public on the very involved tax assessment process. There is a "department manual" of process formulas and "algorithms" which was mentioned but not presented or explained. The audience asked for more information to be available online, including formulas and definitions. There was a strong sense that people felt this is a subject which needs much more attention and should be the subject of another future presentation.

We also had a presentation from Chris Agnew of Agnew::Beck on the new city test well project that is being planned for the northwest corner of the BLM's Campbell Tract and a presentation from Chris Monette on the South Anchorage football stadium plans.

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## The Water Well Monitoring Program Gains Speed

A first step towards protecting our water is to understand current conditions. The Municipality of Anchorage collects information on water quality when homes are sold. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation collects information from public wells annually.

As one part of the Well Water Protection Program recommended by the Hillside District Plan, HALO will fund a report on the quality of the Hillside's well water(aka-groundwater) using the data that has already been collected by the MOA and the State. This report will also provide a map showing historic and current conditions on Hillside.

HALO recognizes the importance of this program and has offered to guarantee funding for the project if donations fall short of the \$5,000 needed for the initial report. Any donations exceeding that report will be used for publicizing and printing and future updates.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, you can send your donation to HALO, Box 110096,

Anchorage, AK 99511. Note on your check "Well Water Quality Report".

*--submitted by John Weddleton, HDP Implementation Committee*

Treasurer's Note: Thank you to all who have contributed to our Well Water Protection Fund, including: John Weddleton, Judy Moerlein, Motznik Information Services, Bernie & Barbara Leas, Jennifer Johnston, Gary & Deb Apperson, Mid-Hillside Community Council, Jackie Morrison/Bob Price, Michael T. Kenny, Marilyn M. Barbeau, Robert & Connie Weel, Patrick and Theresa Huffmann, Wayne Westberg, Susan Olsen, Huffman O'Malley Community Council, Katie & Peter Nolan, Nancy and Joel Campbell.

*--Judy Moerlein, HALO Treasurer*

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## **Some Quick Spring Cleaning Guidelines to Brush Clearing**

The Anchorage Wildfire Mitigation Office has been receiving an increased number of calls regarding burn permits and guidelines. We have updated all information on the AFD website to reflect the guidelines ([www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire)). Please call 267-4980 if you have any questions or concerns.

Below is a simple set of guidelines that the Anchorage Fire Department's Wildfire Mitigation office has produce as a reminder for residents as they prepare for spring yard cleaning.

### I. Planning to burn.

- ~Only spruce beetle killed wood may be burned.
- ~Permits are online at <http://afd.muni.org> or by calling 267-5020. Permit must be on site during burn.
- ~ Residents must comply with the daily burn approval notice posted at <http://afd.muni.org> and recorded at 267-5020. Daily burn approval is dependent upon air quality, smoke dispersal, fire weather index, wind and regional fire activity.
- ~Burning is allowed between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm.

### II. Prepare the burn area.

- ~Burn pile must be located at least 50 feet (in all directions) from any structure, power poles or lines, vehicles, trees, brush and dead grass.
- ~Burn pile maximum size is limited to 6 feet wide by 6 feet long by 3 feet high.
- ~Clear all combustible material before igniting your pile.
- ~ Burn pile must be established on mineral soil (dirt or gravel, not peat)
- ~ Only one burn pile may be burned at a time.
- ~ A working telephone provided as the "On-site Contact Number" on the Burn Permit Application must be available at the burn site.
- ~A charged water hose is required; it must reach 20 feet beyond the burn pile.
- ~ A shovel, rake, Pulaski or hoe must be provided for each adult in attendance.
- ~One responsible and able-bodied adult over the age of 18 must attend the fire at all times. Must be wearing protective clothing such as sturdy shoes or boots, long pants, gloves, long sleeved shirt.
- ~Fire must be extinguished immediately if wind speeds exceed 15 mph.

### III. Recreational and Cooking Fires

~A recreational or cooking fire does not require a permit if it is contained within an area less than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height. These fires must be located in a cleared area at least 25 feet from any structure, power poles, vehicles, trees, brush and dead grass. These fires must comply with the daily burn approval notice recorded at 267-5020 or at <http://afd.muni.org>.

~ Recreational fires contained within an approved outdoor fireplace or barbeque grill do not require a permit if it has a total area of 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height. It must be situated 15 feet or more from a structure. These devices are required to have a spark arrestor, chimney stack or screen over the top. The unit must be elevated off the ground at least 12 inches. These contained fires are allowed if burning is not approved for the day at 267-5020 or at <http://afd.muni.org>.

~ The use of contained barbeque grills for cooking is not dependent upon burn day approval.

~ Recreational or ceremonial fires larger than 3 feet in diameter and 2 feet in height that do not follow all of the requirements for the residential burn permit require an inspection. Call Fire Prevention at 267-4900. Permit and inspection fees apply. Please schedule at least 2 weeks in advance.

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*Provided by HOCC Steering Committee Member and Anchorage Fire Fighter Brian Partch*

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### **New HALO Board Selected**

New representatives were elected at the May Annual Meeting. Thank you to those willing to serve their community, including John Weddleton and Matt Burkholder.

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### **HALO Website**

The HALO, Inc. web site at <http://www.anchoragehalo.org/> has current information, history, and links to everything important on Hillside, including the final version of the Hillside District Plan.

All of the informative articles from our Newsletter Education Series can also be found there, including the valuable series on both septic systems and water wells. You can also look at minutes from past meetings and find details of many subjects important to Hillside residents.

If you have comments, or would like to submit postings on the web site, please contact: Bjarne Holm at [bjarneholm9@hotmail.com](mailto:bjarneholm9@hotmail.com)

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### **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 you 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!

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## ***From the President's Desk***

As mentioned above, we had another great annual meeting with good attendance and a full agenda.

One thing I would like everyone to be considering this year, as we begin to pursue the implementation of some of the proposals in the Hillside District Plan (on our own without city government direction!!) , is more participation in the discussions at HALO and your community council meetings. I have heard some complaints about the large Huffman construction project, which is just starting. The tenor of these comments has been along the lines of the "waste of tax payers' money" and doubt about the need for the roundabouts, etc. My response is that this design has been around for 3 years and there have been multiple presentations to the councils where there was opportunity make your thoughts known. The responsibility to keep current on these types of things and to have timely input is YOURS. The best way to do this is by attending our meetings and reading the minutes. I encourage you to do so and participate--get involved. We need fresh thoughts, input and board members!! This was very evident during the "non-election" where we're faced with asking the same people to serve year after year. I would love to see an election where we actually have people contesting for the board seats. Attend our meetings and SPEAK UP! I promise you'll be heard.

*--from Wayne Westberg, HALO President*

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## **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. (One of the "associate members", from Birchwood, is a member until 2018. She generously contributes to the Legal Fund each year, as she understands all too well how vital this fund can be when our zoning is threatened!!)

Our Legal Funds were created to assist in issues of importance to ALL of the participating Community Councils listed above. These generous folks have contributed to this fund along with their dues since the last issue: Brian & Judy Partch, Helmut & Linda Fuchs, Gene & Sharon Janigo, and DuWayne Ruzicka. Thank you, ALL!

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

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Phone (home)

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Phone (alternate, optional)

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Mailing Address

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Property Address (to determine your "G" area)

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

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\_\_\_\_\_ 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!)**