



## HALO Neighbors!

The Newsletter of Home and LandOwners Organization, Inc      Spring 2021

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### Message from the President

Okay, so I'll admit that I'm really tired of Zoom meetings..... and I'll admit that Zoom meetings really make sense, especially when it's cold or when we get a big snow dump!

We have had a busy new year. Thank you to our Board member Marc June and Assembly Representative John Weddleton for the Zoning 101 Seminar. It was a tremendous educational opportunity for us all.

Thank you to all who made our Candidate Forum a success. To carry off an event of this magnitude truly took a team effort. We had notes of appreciation from many of the candidates, especially mentioning the professional look of the forum and the evenhandedness of the audience. Thank you to Marc, our Moderator; Frank and Lizzie for fielding questions, our timer Seth Duggan, our watchdog Pete, and our technical genius Scott Jensen of Jensen/Hall Creative. And a special thank you to Senator Josh Revak and Senator Roger Holland. Without their help the result would have been far less! If you missed the Forum, check out our website for the video. You can find it at [anchoragehalo.org](http://anchoragehalo.org)

Our focus this Spring will be on Hillside's wildfire risk. The Hillside Resilience Committee will host the second annual Firewise Seminar on April 20th at 7 pm. This Seminar will give all of us a chance to do our own Firewise Home Assessment and maybe even win a door prize! Look for more info in the notes from AFD Batt Chief Michael Davidson and from Senator Roger Holland later in this newsletter.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in May. If you are interested in serving on the nominations committee or would like to represent your area, please let me know. This is also the meeting where we can update ByLaws. Meanwhile, our next meeting will be on April Fool's day. I don't know what that means for the meeting, but be sure to join us and find out!

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## ZOOM LINKS

You can access all of HALOs Zoom events by using this information.

To join HALO at the our regular meetings on your device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4554195765> Meeting ID: 455 419 5765

To join on your phone, call:

669 900 6833 or 253 215 8782 Meeting ID: 455 419 5765

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## Resilience Committee

The next meeting of the Resilience Committee will be at 7 pm on Monday, April 19. Go to :

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89426013048?pwd=VVRITjUrYTF6cTV1MIFzcDBkWFVUUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 2601 3048 Passcode: 418634

The Hillside Wildfire/Firewise Awareness seminar will be at 7 pm on April 20th on Zoom, and will include a self-assessment of your property and door prizes. Find the Seminar at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85732599664?pwd=ckl5bis5Q3dhbHRHUXhCb1Q0Uzladz09>

Meeting ID: 857 3259 9664 Passcode: 274663 or Phone - +16699006833 + meeting ID and PC

For valuable information, visit: [McKinley Infographic | FRAMES](#) *Lessons learned from the McKinley wildfire of 2019*

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## Spring Message from AFD

Although the cold temperatures remain, spring is just around the corner! With the changing of the seasons the Anchorage Fire Department would like to remind all homeowners of some considerations to both reduce the threat to their home from a wildfire as well as to prepare should a wildfire occur. AFD recommends that homeowners consider completing the AFD Firewise Self Assessment, this document will help homeowners identify and implement strategies to reduce the threat of a wildfire to their home.

Should a wildfire threaten your neighborhood, strategies and important reminders for a safe evacuation process can be found on the AFD Safe Evacuation list. Remember to include your 5 P's, people, pets, pills, photo's, and important papers if you are directed to evacuate your residence!

The Municipality of Anchorage does intend to facilitate woodlots in both Anchorage and Eagle River again in 2021. Our goal is generally to open these by early May but the exact opening date is dictated in large part by how quickly snow melts as the lots are located in areas also used as snow dumps. The Woodlots are operated by an independent contractor who also sets the rates for disposal, these rates have not yet been determined for 2021.

AFD continues to operate our Firewise Home Assessment Program as grant funding allows. Currently AFD is working to complete a backlog of requests for home assessments from the 2020 summer as our ability to conduct assessments was constrained by the Covid-19 pandemic. A reminder to homeowners considering this program, the program will not reimburse all costs associated with mitigation and improvements, a maximum of \$500 per homeowner is available for reimbursement, although the costs associated with the designated improvements often exceed this amount.

We look forward to the changing of the seasons and a welcoming of spring! At AFD we also look forward to the community's participation in working to make each of our homes and neighborhoods Firewise. More information on the Firewise program, recommendations for homeowners, and information on burning requirements can be found on the AFD website located at [www.muni.org/fire](http://www.muni.org/fire).

--AFD Battalion Chief Michael Davidson

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# My Firewise Home

Senator Roger Holland

Moving to the Anchorage Hillside, I worried about the risk of wildfire to our neighborhood and our new home. When I heard of the Firewise Program, I quickly signed up for the home evaluation.

I learned a lot about vegetation and how it would affect our home in the two hours spent on the evaluation. Professionals call it the “fire triangle” of heat, fuel and oxygen. And this fuel includes natural - trees, leaves, bushes - and those we create - houses, sheds, gas cans.

A “grandfather” hemlock is so close to our home that its branches enclose an upper deck. We love that tree, the life it creates, the shade it gives, the birds that call it home. Our evaluator shared all the reasons that particular tree should go - its age, its location too close to the house, and roots that are probably damaging our home’s foundation. If it fell... My wife and I are still in discussions about our hemlock.

The next idea our evaluator suggested was that my brand-new firewood shed was too close to the house. Yes, it was an improvement over the last owner’s practice of storing firewood under the deck. But the shed, at 15 feet away from the house, needed to be moved at least another ten foot out.

I learned how important it was to “limb” all the trees to a height of at least four feet. “Limbing” is actually “de-limbing”, or removing all the branches close to the ground. This prevents the pathway for a fire to travel from the grass up into the tree canopy, or treetops. Up there, fire will quickly access the fuel and jump from tree to tree, and even across roads. While a few of his suggestions are still under consideration, that one became a priority.

We were really surprised to discover exactly how many trees were on our property. Our evaluator spent time teaching me appropriate spacing and how important it was to thin immature trees. All in all, I ended up eliminating about 120 trees from my property, taking four truckloads of slash to the woodlot.

It is a considerable relief to realize how much healthier my trees are and how much safer we are from the dangers of wildfire. While the latest snowfalls will add moisture to our ground, we face danger every Spring from breakup to greenup. Thanks to the Firewise Program, I know we are better prepared for the Anchorage wildfire season.

If you have questions about our experience with the Firewise Program, please give me a call. My cell phone number is 907-351-8277.

Roger Holland  
Senator, District N  
907-351-8277

**2020-2021 HALO Board Member Contact List**

**A Seats Elected on Even Years, B Seats on Odd**

**Area G-1 Seat A** (Dowling/Birch/O'Malley/New Seward)  
Lizzie Newell lizzenewellscifi@gmail.com  
**Seat B**  
Sarah Denson 2lps4sjd@gmail.com

**Area G-2 Seat A** (East of Birch/Huffman)  
Nancy Kaufman njkaufman@gci.net  
ANCHALOSecretary@gmail.com  
**Seat B**  
Brena Doolen brena\_doolen@hotmail.com  
Carmela Warfield carmelajwarfield@gmail.com

**Area G-3 Seat A** (O'Malley/Birch/Rabbit Creek/New Seward)  
Christine Monette ANCHALOTreasurer@gmail.com  
Susan Richards stone\_creek1@yahoo.com  
**Seat B**  
Katie Nolan PresidentHALO@gmail.com  
Julie Coulombe coulombe.julie@yahoo.com

**Area G-4 Seat A** (Roughly Birch/Rabbit Creek to East)  
Gail Morrison gmorrison@alliedgis.com  
Rodney Powell sub@mooseak.net  
**Seat B**  
Pat Abney paabney@gmail.com  
Marc June Junelawyer@cs.com

**Area G-5 Seat A** (Rabbit Creek CC area)  
Peter Johnson joy.peter.ak@gmail.com  
Frank Pugh ANCHALOVicePresident@gmail.com  
**Seat B**  
Mike Kenny mvk@bearvalleyak.net

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## For Your Calendar

HALO Meetings are held at 7 pm on the first Thursday of each month. We meet at Holy Spirit Retreat (corner Hillside & O'Malley) OR during restrictions, on Zoom.

-- April HALO Board Meeting Thursday, April 1 at 7 pm--

-- Resilience Committee Meeting Monday, April 19 at 7 pm --

-- Firewise Zoom Seminar with Home Assessment Tuesday April 20 at 7 pm--

-- HALO Annual Meeting Thursday, May 6 at 7 pm--

## Join HALO

If you haven't already paid your dues this year, you can do it now or on our website. HALO is supported solely by membership dues and donations. Dues are just \$10 per year, and your participation ensures the future of this worthwhile organization.

Do you have a neighbor who should be involved in HALO? Please forward this E-Newsletter to them!

Print this page and return it with your membership dues. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Physical Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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