

For Immediate Release – June 12, 2010

Juneau Commission on Aging

OLDER RESIDENTS URGED TO COMPLETE SURVEY ABOUT SERVICES

Juneau residents who are 55 or older are being given the opportunity to create a “wish list” for future services available to seniors. This “wish list” will be compiled from the “2010 Needs Survey for Older CBJ Residents” which is being distributed now throughout the borough by members of the Juneau Commission on Aging.

Since 1990 the number of Juneau residents aged 55 and over has more than doubled. Times change, needs change, but change does not happen over night. Information is key and that has to come from the seniors themselves. They know what they want and need, and this is their chance to communicate that. The survey responses will supply the information required, and constitute a “wish list” that will help local officials and providers gain a better sense of what is needed for Juneau’s aging population.

This is the chance for a Juneau resident, 55 or older, to help influence what services could be available to them when needed. Now is the time for seniors to express their views even if they expect to live independently for a number of years to come.

There have been two previous surveys in Juneau. The first was “The Golden Resource Survey” in 1989, which resulted in the building of Fireweed Place, an independent living apartment building for seniors.

The last survey, “The Senior Citizen Needs Survey” in 1998, resulted in the building of Wildflower Court Long Term Care facility. Past surveys also were

instrumental in the development of Smith Hall at the St. Vincent dePaul complex near the airport.

“A “wish list” can become a reality only if people participate in this survey and let their wishes be known,” said Renee Guerin, who is coordinating publicity for the project.

The Commission is joined by the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly and Senior Citizen Support Services, Inc., in conducting this survey. Collaboration with the University of Alaska Southeast School of Public Administration will produce an analysis and final report on the responses in the fall of 2010. That “wish list” will be available to the officials who can make a difference in the future.

Copies of the survey are available at local libraries, senior centers, Fireweed Place and through organizations.

“Fill it out, fold it over, tape it closed and leave it at any Library or Senior Center, in the drop box at City Hall, or mail back post paid,” urged Guerin. “The opinions of older residents really do count.”

All completed surveys should be returned by July 30, 2010.

The Commission members are Lorilyn Swanson, Lee Ann See, Anne Schultz, Robert Thibodeau, Mary Jefferson, Dan Kassner and Guerin. Inquiries may be made by calling the City Clerk’s office.