

October 18, 2021    **COMMUNITY PRIDE**

To: Honorable Mayor Frank Seludo and Saxman City Council Members

In the late 1960's my late husband William Olsen was gifted our property in Saxman by his mother, Annie Olsen. This neighborhood began in the 70's. The owners were William Olsen, Karen Olsen Murphy, sister of William Olsen, William (Bill) Williams, Eugene Trout and later Mike Nelson.

The group filed an easement to take a piece of each of our lots which enabled us to build a private road. At that time it was not connected to the Saxman road system. It came directly off of Tongass Highway. This was the beginning of what was much later **incorrectly** called Coho Road.

The neighborhood was a very good one with everyone, through the years, making improvements. Decks were built, yards, flowers and trees were planted. We all had much pride in our street and community.

Several of us held positions within the city, from council members to mayor, to the first Cape Fox Corporation Board of Directors. Bill Williams later went on to hold a position as a legislator for the state of Alaska. Both Karen and I served on the Saxman city council.

With the addition of Eagle Avenue and then Wolf Street we were later connected to the Saxman road system. New houses were built on these streets.

Through the years we sadly watched parts of the community go from one of pride to one of dismay. Elders passed on and there became a change in the look of Saxman. Pride in the community waned as the beauty was becoming a thing of the past. What happened?

At the current time those of us left, Karen Olsen Huff, and Sydney Olsen Burton, have remained owners while the other homes on our street have passed on to a generation who it seems have ceased to have the same feeling for the community. Some houses have become a dumping ground for garbage, wrecked cars and a general lack of pride. Drugs have become a serious issue. Property value has decreased.

At this time, because of age and a need for more accommodating housing the two of us remaining will be forced to sell and move on but we both feel the same pride in our homes and community as we always have.

The problem I am addressing to you today concerns two houses located on the lower half of Wolf St. My biggest concern is the last house. (see enclosures) In a very short time this home has gone from a nice home to one of utter trash. The other house has been accumulating for some time but it appears they are in

the process of cleaning up the area. These homes will gravely affect our property value for resale.

I have worked very hard keeping up my home and property. It is a beautiful home with a fantastic view. A perfect home for some young family starting out just as we did.

The sale of this house comes with much sadness. I have so many good memories. But due to physical problems and aging I am unable to reside here any longer. I truly need the equity to enable me to move on. I am not asking for anything other than, these homes clean up their exteriors. I will not be able to sell my home and get fair market value because of the decrease in property value. I am asking them to put there homes back the way they were. Please, as the council help me in achieving this goal.

Showing pride in your community is showing pride in yourself.

I appreciate all of you and know that your work on the council is not an easy job. I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sydney Burton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Sydney (Olsen) Burton  
907-254-0566















