

The Beach comber



HMC Newsletter November - December 2016



President's Message

Last Wednesday, November 9th, I was struggling to find enough items to talk about. I sent an email to the Board asking for ideas. Then Friday arrived and the world changed not only for Brigitte Vogel but also for every member of HMC Management.

By now you should have heard a version of what happened, the main points being that the Pierce County pager system failed to notify our ferry crew of the emergency. In addition, the backup procedure, a phone call to our senior captain, who was on vacation but on island, was not used. The result was a 20-minute delay. Whether or not this would have changed the outcome is a matter of conjecture. An island member and island friend lost her home. I can think of nothing worst than loss of home other than death.

At the Board meeting the following day a number of members either wanted to know why it happened or what we could do to prevent this from happening again. Mike Shettlesworth is current chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Mike agreed to meet with all interested parties after the Board meeting and develop a plan as to what to do to help us rather than depending on the Pierce County Fire Department (Key Peninsula). If you are interested in being involved with this effort please contact Mike Shettlesworth.

The Board sent a letter to Guy Allen, Fire Chief Pierce County Fire District #16. The following questions were included:

1. Why did the Fire Department activate a system that had not been tested for compatibility with the "antiquated system", their description, that

- was supplied to the island by the fire department?
- 2. Was a Tuesday test attempted? With what result?
- 3. Why did the dispatcher not make the backup phone call to Captain Farris?
- 4. Why are you taking up to a month to test the new "digital pagers" on the island for to insure activation coverage?
- 5. How can Herron Island be certain of a fire or medical aid response today?

According to Fire Chief Guy Allen the weekly pager test on November 1st and November 8th failed. The fire department was not informed of this failure. In addition the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system that went into service on November 1st was determined on November 15th that "there is a compatibility issue with the old alpha paging system and the new CAD system. Unfortunately there is not a current solution to this problem so the alpha pagers are likely going away permanently."

This morning the local Fire Chief Hal Wolverton was on the island to test a modern VHF pager system. When first offered to your ferry crews a year ago there "were issues with adequate signal strength and complaints from the ferry crew about the bulky pager in comparison to the alpha pagers." This morning the new VHF pagers were still encountering dead zones. Currently, the Fire Department is asking our ferry crew to download an app to their phones that works with the CAD system.

Also included in our letter to Guy Allen were a number of suggestions that came out of the Members Input session.

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President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

- 1. Train island residents to operate the fire truck that is stored on Herron Island and grant permission to the members to operate the truck.
- 2. If you don't want to grant us access to the truck, then gift it to us along with the instruction manual.
- 3. Or post two volunteers from the Home station on Herron Island. They can come over on the last ferry in the evening and leave on the first ferry in the morning. That is from 7 pm to 6:15 am. A standard 12-hour shift.

Guy Allen has turned down all of the above suggestions. "Training residents on the operation of the fire engine to respond in a haphazard capacity with no affiliation to the fire district would be irresponsible." No comment was made to item 2. Asking non-Herron residents to stand shift on Herron Island "is an unrealistic expectation".

According to Guy Allen, "Rather than trying to assign blame, I am more interested in finding solutions so we can avoid any future repeat of this incident"

As of this morning, and in my opinion, we have a patch at best. I wish I could be more positive in the short term. An idea for a permanent solution, based on a comment from the Fire Chief's written response, was thought of to fix to the ferry crew notification system. That suggestion is being researched now for viability and hopefully we should have an answer early next week of the idea's feasibility.

Please see the Emergency Preparedness Committee notice. To that I would add clearing of deadfall, ditches and consider a defensible space for your home.

Mike Graham, President HMC Board of Directors

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

The day after the ferry returned from dry dock Sam Argo and Chris Kibsgaard, Dale Miller, Dave Royer, Jack Wells, Rich Urfer and George Ed Whitfield removed the docks for the winter. Prior to the storm the laterals were remove.

Gary Wanzong and Sam Argo are developing a plan to repair the docks. Eric Bergson is now chair of the Parks Committee. If you use the small boat docks for your boat, or for fishing or for watching sunrise and sunsets consider calling Eric and adding your name to the list of volunteers who are willing to perform this work. This will not be a one-day project, but could take up to two winters to complete. I may not be able to do the heavy lifting, but I can handle a paintbrush.

The second project is the North Beach Landscaping. The Board has approved the purchase of the supplies needed for this project. Without heavy equipment the work will need to be done by hand. If you can handle a shovel and a wheel barrel and use the North Beach come join the fun.

The Roads Committee would like to thank all the owners who cleaned their ditches of growth prior to our first storm of the season.

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HMC Beachcomber November - December 2016

Island Manager Claudia Ellsworth (253) 884-9350 **HMC Board of Directors** Mike Graham, President (253) 884-9796 Gary Wanzong, VP and Co-Treasurer (253) 884-9350

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Important Phone Numbers

Ferd Reichlin, Secretary

Sherri Anderson, Co-Treasurer

Sam Argo, Member-at-Large

Additional Contacts	
Charles Smith, Water Repair	(206) 707-4645
Charles Smith, Water Committee	(206) 707-4645
Gary Wanzong, Finance Committee	(253) 884-9350
Jack Wells, Roads Committee	(253) 884-0850
Max Hochanadel, Rules Committee	(253) 884-9350
Eric Bergson, Parks Committee	(253) 830-4413
Mike Shettlesworth, Emergency Prep.	(253) 884-6919
Land Use Chair, Vacant	
Fred Fath, Technology Committee	(206) 246-7016
Carolyn Anspach, Transportation Comm.	(253) 380-3852
Carolyn Snyder, Office Manager	(253) 884-9350
Ken Freeman, Beachcomber/Webmaster	(231) 544-2456

Herron Island Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The office is CLOSED Monday, Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday, and after 2:00 PM on Fridays before Board meetings.

Office Phone: (253) 884-9350 Office Fax: (253) 884-5047

Website: http://www.herronisland.org

Office email: Office@herronisland.org

HMC Water email: HMCWater@herronsland.org Manager email: HMCManager@herronisland.org Beachcomber email: beachcomber@herronisland.org

Parks email: HMCParks@herronisland.org

Member Input to Board: MemberInput@herronisland.org

911 **Emergency** Ferry Cell phone (253) 691-1457

(Cell phone to be used for scheduling heavy loads, big vehicles or having something in tow, and for information regarding ferry services.)

Ferry Business

- Call ahead if you are planning to use the ferry for a trailer, boat, or large vehicle!
- Only those guests with valid passes will be allowed on the ferry.
- Plan your arrival at the dock at least 5 minutes before the scheduled time of departure.
- Walks-ons are not to be on the dock or ramp when cars are being loaded. Watch crew for permission to board.
- Only service and delivery people may charge fares.

WE HAVE EXPERIENCED GUESTS AND SERVICE PEOPLE EXPECTING TO COME OVER TO THE ISLAND WITHOUT GUEST PASSES. THIS VIOLATES THE ACCESS POLICY THAT WAS PUT IN PLACE FOR ALL OF OUR SECURITY. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR GUEST HAS A VALID GUEST PASS SIGNED BY YOU TO ENSURE THEY ARE ABLE TO RIDE THE FERRY, BLANK GUEST PASSES ARE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS AT THE OFFICE, BY MAIL, AND ON THE FERRY.

Nondiscrimination Statement

If you wish to file a Civil Rights complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint form, found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html

or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at:

> U.S. Department of Agriculture Director, Office of Adjudication 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Or fax to (202) 690-7442 or email to

program.intake@usda.gov.

Beachcomber news items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday after the monthly Board meeting on the second Saturday of the month. Items MUST be emailed in electronic format to beachcomber@herronisland.org. Include your name and phone number in case any questions arise. Paid advertisements are to be arranged with the HMC office PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

Island Manager Report November 12, 2016

Administration.

Thanks to all who assisted while the ferry was out of service, keeping a spot open at the dock. And to the volunteers who helped bring in the small boat docks, and complete the barricade at Maple and East Herron.

Thanks to the BOOSTERs for the paint job on the Herron Island sign. It looks great. Would someone like to pour cement around the base of the "Herron Island Ferry" sign on the mainland side, and improve its posture? Let the office know, please.

Another group of volunteers took advantage of the ferry's absence to prepare envelopes for future mailing by stamping them, and catch up on office filing of property records.

Electronic Voting Process: Recently I participated in an online process for the election of board members in another organization. Each member was sent an electronic ballot with a unique identifier. A copy of the ballot proposals was linked to the ballot. For our membership, the cost would range from perhaps \$800-\$1200. HMC spends at least that much on elections, in the purchase of ballot envelopes, inside envelopes, printed ballots, and stamps. In addition, considerable staff and volunteer time is consumed in the creation of the ballots and counting ballots on election day. We'll continue to gather information on this process and costs to see if it might benefit HMC.

Water Operations: Charles Smith will report.

Broken Hydrant: Northwest Water Systems will take the lead in replacing the broken fire hydrant on Maple Drive. They will be engaging Caseco, subcontractor on the water distribution system, to do the dirt work and replace the hydrant. We should have a start date on this soon. The company responsible for the hydrant breakage will pay the costs of replacement.

It is a good idea to use the 811 Call Before You Dig utility locate service prior to doing any excavation.

The Exceptions Report/Leak List - If a Member is on the Leak List for September and the Member is NOT in residence on the Island, the HI Water Department will be turning the Member's water service off at the meter and contacting the Member via leak list letter. The water service will NOT be locked by HI Water Department. This is an effort to conserve water resources and help prevent damage at properties that will not be occupied during the winter.

HI Water Department recommends that if a Member is not going to be in residence on the Island for a period of time, that Member should turn off the water service at the meter. It is up to the Member to provide a lock for the valve at the meter box unless requested of the HI Water Department by the Member. It's also a good idea to provide a spare key to a trusted neighbor just in case someone needs access.

Water Committee Report: Charles Smith will report for the committee.

Fire Department Liaison: No calls while the ferry was out of service.

Parks:

The small docks are aging and in need of some extra repairs including rusted bolts holding on the floats and the failure of some of the floats themselves. As previously discussed, deck coatings are on island and will be applied before the docks go back out. The small boat docks were removed when we received news of the pending storm, which turned out to be much lesser impact than forecasted. The docks are now on the beach awaiting maintenance.

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Island Manager Report (Continued from Page 4)

There is a rainwater runoff issue at the SW corner of Goodpastor Park near the sign. A great spring project would be to work on drainage there to keep erosion from occurring on the hillside and make that corner less mushy all year round.

Expect a survey link in your inbox soon. The committee will be meeting to explore how to best use all our public spaces and we want your input! If you do not receive emails from the HMC office, be sure to get on the list!

The small boat docks were removed when we received news of the pending storm, which turned out to be much lower impact than forecasted. The docks are now on the beach awaiting maintenance.

The storm did cause damage to the beachfront at North Beach, undermining some of the benches and causing erosion damage. Volunteers reset the benches, and maintenance plans are in the works for the beachfront landscaping. Lots of volunteer opportunities!

Peninsula Light will no longer maintain the lights at the small boat docks, as the utility has no equipment on the pole. Future maintenance will be HMC's responsibility.

Roads: Committee Report.

Due to Steve Kramer's absence from the island, some projects are delayed. The committee is in search of a nearby contractor who might be able to fil in until Steve returns. A barrier was built at the corner of East Herron and Maple, as a warning to motorists. Bids are being taken on resurfacing and leveling Ferry Hill Road. So far the bids are ranging around \$35,000.

Rules: There are now four outstanding Rules complaints; one scheduled for hearing November 12.

Herron Island Ferry:

Fall Ferry Inspection: The ferry returned sooner than expected after biennial maintenance and Coast Guard inspection. John Farris will report. The shaft seals installed four years ago have apparently reduced wear and tear on the propeller shafts, which has reduced the frequency of shaft replacement. This is good financial news. The Seattle location caused considerable additional expense in housing the crew and mileage reimbursement. It was no easy task for the crew to coordinate transportation. Thanks to the family members who were available to help with the long drives. When all the costs are in, the Board will review them to evaluate the impact of the change of location and effect on the crew.

Dolphin Replacement Project: HMC has leased tidelands under the ferry terminals and at the small boat docks since 1980. This lease expired long ago, but automatically carried over. Renegotiating the lease was a low priority for DNR. Twice this Island Manager has met with DNR staff and provided information for a renegotiation. DNR was not motivated to renegotiate the lease terms during the small boat dock project, or the ramp painting, but the dolphin project caught their attention in July, and caused an immediate stop to our July bid process and dolphin replacement construction in December/January. Now we have a draft lease, but they will not review it internally until we have all our permits in order. The permit horizon (USACE, NMFS and WADFW) is perhaps 45-90 days out. Add the DNR process to that, and there may not be a dolphin replacement in 2017. Meanwhile, our interim lender has been waiting two years, and USDA project approval occurred over a year ago. Our Engineers are meeting with the three permit grantors to try to expedite the process, but we will not know the outcome until past the date we planned to go to bid – mid December. The permit

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Island Manager Report (Continued from Page 5)

agencies have also indicated that we may be required to complete a marbled murrelet or marine mammals monitoring plan for the project.

Final building and demolition permit approval from Pierce County is also pending. There are two permits for each side, mainland and island.

In addition, DNR is requiring soil contamination tests at three locations. They must approve the locations and review the test results before construction can occur. The Board has approved this additional work, at a cost of \$30,000, and it will begin immediately November 14. Additional financial security and other requirements are contained in the new 39 page draft lease agreement.

As a result of all this activity, we requested, and received, an extension of time from USDA to December 31, 2018 to complete and close out the project.

Electronic passenger logs: Training occurred on Friday in the use of an electronic passenger log using IPads. Next week the crew will begin using the IPads to record passenger and vehicle traffic, which records should be uploadable to the office, reducing the possibility for error.

Ferry Crew: Dan Morgan will complete training soon as a standby deck hand. We have a third candidate who lives in Longbranch, and a fourth who is an island resident. In addition, we have a standby captain candidate who is waiting to train. Our standby captains are two – one is frequently out of town, and the other is Steve Wiggins, who has been able to fill in recent vacancies.

Health Care: All five covered employees are scheduled for a health assessment that should result in a lowering of this year's premiums by 7.5%. Employees participating will receive a \$100 gift card.

<u>Transportation Committee</u>: Members of the Transportation committee will meet with the Board concerning the White Paper later this month. Training with the Ferry crew on the new Ferry application "KISS" will take place this Friday. This should help eliminate errors and help streamline the data flow between the ferry and the office.

Technology: No report.

<u>Legal Liaison:</u> We currently have 10 delinquencies, four of which are with the attorney for collections. Delinquency rate 2.6%. Last year at this time we had 12 delinquencies. Currently, HMC has 381 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.



Thank you to all who came out to attend Herron Island's Annual Thanksgiving potluck. It was great to see so many people, both new faces and old. We hope everyone enjoyed great food, a fun raffle and auction, and the best calendars!



Sincerely, HI Boosters

Boosters Calendar

2017 Herron Island Boosters calendars now available for \$15. Contact Leslie Sanderson at Ldsanderson@jps.net. These can be delivered on island or mailed to you for the cost plus shipping.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH CALLING ALL MEMBERS – PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE HERRON ISLAND EMERGENCY RESPONSE!

Our hearts go out to Brigitte Vogel whose home was tragically lost this month in a fire. This fire had the potential to destroy a large part of Herron Island had it occurred during the dry, hot summer months.

Your Emergency Preparedness Committee is working to put in place procedures to respond to emergencies while awaiting assistance from Pierce County Fire District 16. These *possible* procedures include:

- ♦ Notification of emergency event to Herron Island residents by use of an alarm
- Notification of Emergency Preparedness Committee Members by use of an automatic email or phone call system
- ◆ Ongoing training for all Herron Island residents on the use of our Water Department Maintenance Trailer which carries emergency response equipment and Island map with pertinent detail
- ◆ Compilation of data to be kept with the Water Utility Trailer, i.e., a list of Island residents who have Water Department Maintenance Trailer training, instructions for using the Water Utility Trailer
- ♦ Compile and distribute to Island residents a list of proper personal emergency response attire (footwear, gloves, etc.) that Island residents may add to their home emergency kits
- ♦ Any other helpful procedures that may come to light as the Committee goes forward.

The Herron Island Emergency Preparedness Committee is meeting monthly in order to expedite the adoption of emergency response procedures and invites all residents to participate.

Emergency Preparedness Committee will meet Saturday, Dec. 11, at 12:30 in the Community Building

For Further Information contact Mike Shettlesworth at 253-884-6919



Holiday Office Closures

The HMC Office will close for the Thursday, November 24, Thanksgiving Holiday, and the Friday following, November 25. Christmas Day falls on Sunday this year, and so office hours will not be affected.

No Beachcomber in December



The Beachcomber is published nine times per year. There will be no issues in October, December, or February.

Water Statements

Water statements have been mailed or emailed, depending on what you are signed up for.

If you have not received yours, please contact the office, and a copy of your statement will be emailed to you.

Thanks, HIWD

Volunteers

And as always, "Thank You" to the many volunteers who are always available to help on getting projects completed around the Island. Each Month the Island Manager has a list of those who have helped during the month in the Manager's report. This saves Members lots of money that isn't going out to paid help.





Lending Library

A new lending library has been installed at 1216 West Herron Blvd at Joyce Major's house near the road. Help yourself to a book and leave one in its place. Enjoy!

Package Delivery



If you order packages to be delivered to the mainland terminal, please track their delivery so you can be available to pick them up or make other arrangements. It is not the responsibility of the ferry crew.



BEACHCOMBER INPUT POLICY

The Board is the owner and publisher of the Beachcomber. The Board approves Beachcomber articles and advertisements and has the right to refuse to publish items submitted. Beachcomber news items must be submitted by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday after the monthly Board meeting which is on the second Saturday of the month. Items MUST be emailed in electronic format such as word or publisher to beachcomber@herronisland.org. Include your name and phone number in case any questions arise. Paid advertisements are to be arranged with the HMC office PRIOR TO PUBLICATION.

HMC Board of Directors

Board Member Email Addresses

HMCMikeGraham@herronisland.org

HMCGaryWanzong@herronisland.org

HMCFerdReichlin@herronisland.org

HMCSherriAnderson@herronisland.org

HMCSamArgo@herronisland.org

Please use these email addresses for all future communications to Board Members. They can be accessed on our website (herronisland.org) under the HMC Board tab.

Committee Email Addresses

HMCRules@herronisland.org

HMCTechnology@herron.island.org

HMCRoads@herronisland.org

HMCEmergPrep@herronisland.org

HMCLandUse@herronisland.org

HMCTransportation@herronisland.org





Boat and RV Washing

The Herron Island Rules (on the website) specify that boat and RV washing must be done on the owner's property and with the owner's water supply. A quick rinse at North Beach is OK to remove the salt water, but take your boat, car or RV home if it needs a thorough washing.

Thank You!!

Are You on the List?



HMC now has 383 Member email addresses on the notification list. If you want to get notice of the online Beachcomber, or get the latest on windstorms, power outages, water line breakages, or other news, please send an email to office@herronisland.org and request that your email address be added. To be used for HMC purposes only.

Herron Island Calendar

Check the official Herron Island Calendar on the web site for committee meetings, activities and times. Click the "Calendar" button in the left column of the Home Page.

Fallen Behind on your Assessment?

If you owe \$200 or less, you may get access to the island by paying the delinquency in cash to the deckhand. At the March 14 meeting, the Board increased the limit from \$100 to \$200.

Website Photos

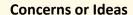
If you have any photos from island activities that you would like to share on our website, please send them to webmaster@herronisland.org.





Reimbursements

Requests for reimbursement must be accompanied by a receipt and received by the office by the Thursday before the Board Meeting to be included in the list of bills to be approved by the Board. Failure to get your bill in on time will result in a delay in payment until the following month.



All Members are invited to voice their concerns or ideas by using the Member Input email address, contacting the Board Members or the HMC Office:

MemberInput@herronisland.org

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SUMMER SCHEDULE ONLY Apr 1—Sep 30 ADDED RUNS INDICATED BY * AND SHADING (Not available Oct 1—Mar 31)											Mar 31)		
HOLIDAY SCHEDULES (Ferry runs start from Island)													
Thanksgiving 8:30a—9:00a		11:30a—Noon 6:30		6:30p-	:30p—7:00p Memorial Day		al Day	Same as Sunday					
Christmas Day 8:30a—9:00a		6:30p-		6:30p-	-7:00p Independence Day		ay	Same as Sunday					
New Years Day 8:30a—9:00a			11:30a-	11:30a—Noon 6:30p—7:00p			Labor Day			Same as Sunday			



Ferry Brochure

A printable ferry brochure, along with the ferry schedule combining summer and winter schedules, is now available on the HMC website at www.herronisland.org. Check under Ferry Schedule and Printable Brochure.

Thanks to Terrill Chilson for preparing this simpler version of the old schedules.

Tide Tables

Plots of the monthly tide tables are available on our website (herronisland.org). The plots are for nearby McMicken Island, which is the NOAA data point closest to Herron Island.



HMC Beachcomber November - December 2016

(Note: HMC Management neither endorses advertisers nor vouches for their being properly licensed.)



(Paid Advertisement)

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted: Anyone interested in selling their personal mailbox on the mainland, please contact Betty Eccles at bettyeccles@gmail.com or 206-940-5439 It will be much appreciated if one becomes available.

Non-commercial ads of 100 words or less will be accepted for inclusion in this section free of charge. Please email your ad to beachcomber@herronisland.org, Subject: Beachcomber Ad. The ad must be resubmitted for each issue in which it is to be printed.