

The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter September/October 2020



President's Message

Happy Autumn 2020 to Herron Islanders. I sincerely hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy quality time with family and friends on Herron Island this summer. The pandemic has certainly changed our lives.

A late run of summer this year provided glorious sunshine, sunrises, sunsets and warm weather. Our appreciation of Herron Island and Puget Sound remains a constant in our lives.

As you are reading this, our beloved ferry, the Charlie Wells, will be out of the water in dry dock at Stabbert Maritime shipyard. This year, in addition to undergoing routine maintenance and US Coast Guard inspections, the vessel will have major repairs to sections of the hull. We all hope that the maintenance, inspections and repairs go as smoothly as possible.

I apologize to those who were affected by the recent ramp problems. This has been a difficult year for our ferry service. As you will recall, back in January, we had a series of service interruptions due to ramp motor failures. This past month the electronics that power the island ramp motor failed, mostly due to advanced aging. The motor and electronics were repaired and the ferry returned to service. I want to reassure you that HMC understands how important dependable ferry service is. We are in the process of obtaining cost estimates to upgrade the electronic control systems on both ramps in order to make them young again and dependable well into the future.

Another area of challenge involving our ferry is revising the process by which we line up on the mainland. Under orders from Pierce County, we have had to abandon our long-time practice of forming a single-file line of vehicles along Herron Road. The best alternative to queuing for the ferry

was to create a multi-lane waiting area between the parking lot and beach. Understandably, it can be confusing to know which line to park in. We are looking at how to make the process of lining up for the ferry easier to understand. Your patience and understanding are immeasurably appreciated during this process of adjustments and continuous quality improvement.

Shifting gears to another serious topic – Covid-19 safety. I want to thank all of you doing a good job of wearing your masks and practicing social distancing. The number of Covid-19 cases in Pierce County is declining. While we all need to remain vigilant, the trend is a good one.

In early September we experienced an unusually strong windstorm on the island. Making the storm even worse, the wind was coming from the north. As a result of this unseasonal event, our small boat dock sustained significant damage. The Small Boat Dock Committee, quick to respond and led by Sherri Anderson, has evaluated the dock. The team has been very hard at work making repairs. I especially want to thank Andy Anderson, Bill Placek, Bob Clark and Curt Haney for immediately getting to work on repairing the dock. This is a perfect example of how our community continues to come together in a time of need.

There is no question that this has been a very challenging year for a variety of reasons. However, it's going to take a lot more than pandemics, ramp failures, windstorms, and smoke-filled air to defeat us. We will finish 2020 standing strong with resolve to make 2021 a good year.

Stay safe and thanks for listening,

Reed West, Your HMC Board President

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Are You on the List?

HMC now has 420 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.

Board Member Email Addresses

HMCReedWest@herronisland.org

HMCChetLatimer@herronisland.org

HMCScottYoung@herronisland.org

HMCMerryKogut@herronisland.org

HMCKathyDeuster@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. Please submit your questions, comments, and suggestions to MemberInput@herronisland.org

Winter Ferry Schedule Starts October 1st

Our winter ferry schedule kicks in on October 1st. The winter schedule differs only slightly from the summer schedule by adding back in the 2:30-3:00 runs on Saturday and Sunday and removing those runs on Fridays. There are no 7:30-8:00 a.m. ferries on Saturday and Sunday in the winter schedule.

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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 Roads email: HMCRoads@herronisland.org

Member Input email: MemberInput@herronisland.org

Emergency 911 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 September 12, 2020

Administration

Thank you to members for remembering to make appointments at the office so items are ready for swift pickup. Also, thanks to all for wearing masks when you come in.

Ferry Dry Dock Dates - Thursday, September 17 to Friday, Oct 2

Wednesday, September 16, will be the last day of ferry service prior to shipyard.

These dates are always subject to change depending on length of time in the shipyard due to US Coast Guard required work list. This year may require plating work on the keel, in voids and on the car deck. HMC will not know the full extent until the USCG examines the ferry within the first few days at shipyard.

Garbage Pickup - Monday, September 14

American Disposal** will pick up trash on Monday, September 14. Thank you to Carolyn who had to wait over two hours, two days in a row, to confirm this due to system problems with American Disposal.

**On return of the ferry American Disposal will allow 1 extra can for each missed pickup date.

Parking Lot/Lanes/Ferry Access Policy

The 4th lane will stanchions disassembled for the duration of the shipyard period to allow for additional parking in the lot.

Please be aware there has been some theft activity of gas recently. The parking lot is available for parking at your own risk. While the cameras are filming 24/7, they do not always get a clear photograph of a license plates making reporting difficult. HMC encourages reporting all theft to the Sheriff's Office on the non-emergency line.

In addition, during the dry dock time period HMC will review the lanes for flow and efficiency. Also, a review will made of reservations for service providers coming to the island. This will involve a review of current unwritten expectations so that a solution can be ultimately added to the Ferry Access Policy.

Voyage to Stabbert Maritime

The Charlie Wells will leave Herron Island on Thursday, September 17, 2020, approximately 9:00 a.m. to head to Stabbert Maritime. This involves catching the outgoing tide going through the Tacoma Narrows in order to be propelled through those rough waters. In addition, the ferry will go through the Ballard Locks before arriving late afternoon at Stabbert.

Track the ferry to the shipyard and back using this web address: www.MarineTraffic.com online, or you may download the free Vessel Finder Lite app for your phone in order to track the progress of the ferry and crew.

(Continued on Page 5)

Island Manager Report (Continued from Page 4)

From Derek Young's Office / Pierce County Council Member | District 7

Be informed, sign up for PC Alert

The fires in East Pierce County remind us of the importance of being connected, so when an emergency strikes, we're informed.

Don't wait for an emergency to connect to Pierce County's emergency alert system.

Through PC Alert, residents sign up to receive notifications about emergencies that affect the areas/locations they care about. The service is free, and people select what information they want to receive and their geographical areas.

When severe weather hits, flooding occurs, or unexpected road closures arise, the county's emergency management system will send out time-sensitive messages. Alerts are also used for missing person bulletins and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

Alerts can be received via home, mobile or business phone, email address, text message, and more. Users can receive alerts on up to 10 different devices. Users only receive alerts for the communities they choose and will not receive alerts for areas that don't affect them.

Read more on the <u>Pierce County Department of Emergency Management website</u>. Text pealert to 888777 or <u>sign up here</u>.

Legal Liaison: There are 11 delinguencies; all with our attorney for action.

Departments/Committees

Maintenance: Gary Wanzong – To report

Parks: Dale Miller – No report – Thank you to those that worked at Nature Park

<u>Policies</u>: Mike Gage – No report **Roads**: Dan Marten – To report

Emergency Preparedness: Ken Higgins - No report

Water: Frank Harrison - No report

<u>Small Boat Docks:</u> Sherri Anderson – To report <u>Rules:</u> Mike Fassio: No hearings scheduled

Herron Island Emergency Preparedness

- Protect your home and property with a defensible zone. 30 feet around your home.
- Clean up undergrowth, ground cover and debris.
- Landscape with fire resistant plants and hardscape (rocks, gravel, concrete).

During these times with smoke and bad air make sure your air conditioners are set to recirculate the air and not draw in outside air. Same with your cars.

Cloth masks work well to stop the spread of respiratory droplets, but offer little protection for smoke and ash particulates. Only N95 or better for smoke and ash.

More info can be found at Pierce County Emergency Management and FEMA.

https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/104/Emergency-Management

https://www.fema.gov/

Welcome, New Islanders!

HMC welcomes new Members to Herron Island:

- Robert & Mary Yanak
- Rebecca & Danny Adamson





Mainland Ferry Lanes

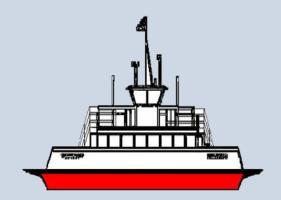
Thank you for your patience as HMC works through its new mainland ferry lanes and reduced parking area. As you know if you've visited the island recently, there are now FOUR lanes to get onto the ferry. The fourth lane, made from ropes, poles, and buckets, can be adjusted for use according to traffic needs during the busy season on the island. Please share the following information with your guests:

- 1. Lane 1. Pull up to the white painted line at the front of the lane. Park bumper to bumper. The last car in Lane 1 should not extend beyond the white painted line at the end of the lane.
- 2. Lane 2. Pull up to the white painted line at the front of the lane. Park bumper to bumper. The last car in Lane 2 should not extend beyond the white painted line at the end of the lane.
- 3. Lane 3. This lane is on gravel on the north (water) side of Lane 1. Pull up to the telephone pole at the front of the lane leaving enough room to pull out in front of Lane 1. Park bumper to bumper. The last vehicle in Lane 3 should end at the street sign with the arrow pointing left and right. If cars are parked bumper to bumper nine vehicles should fit in Lane 3.
- 4. Lane 4 is on the south (fence) side of the lanes, and it is currently made out of ropes, poles, and buckets. Park bumper to bumper. (Lane 4 may be adjusted for winter use. We'll keep you informed.)

If the ferry is shuttling, it is possible that vehicles will be left in lanes 3 or 4 that are actually ahead of more recently arriving vehicles that drive into lanes 1 or 2. This may be confusing. If you are in doubt and no crew member is present, please attempt to ask earlier-arriving drivers where the end of the line is.

- 5. Do not park on the street coming down the hill; use the side street instead, along the water. On Fridays and Saturdays when ferry/cars are particularly busy, HMC may station an extra crew member on the mainland area to direct traffic. Please follow his or her directions.
- 6. Make sure you leave the exit lane empty so traffic can exit the ferry.
- 7. If you or your guests park in the parking lot, please park (or have them park) as close to the fence, and as close to one another, as possible to save space.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as HMC continues to work through these changes.



Now that the summer season is over, the Boosters will be taking down the "We Love Our Ferry Crew" banner. We want to keep it in good condition for the future, and not let it be damaged by harsh weather in the coming months.

We appreciate the extra work the crew has taken on during these unusual times of Covid-19, and wish the Charlie Wells safe travels to and from Seattle for dry dock.

2021 Herron Island Calendar



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS DEADLINE OCTOBER 5th

We are now collecting photo entries to be considered for the 2021 Herron Island calendar, put out by the Boosters Club. We have so many talented photographers out here who capture the beauty and uniqueness of the island. Please send your best to Howard Owen at hvo guitar@yahoo.com.

- Limit 3 per person.
- Landscape format only
- Send at the highest resolution possible. This is very important, as decisions are sometimes made based on how well a photo can be enlarged.
- Please put Boosters Calendar in the subject line.

Special Note: We are considering having the back cover be a collage dedicated to the unusual circumstances of this year. (Goodbye to 2020!) If you have photo(s) to be considered for that, please specify that when you submit yours. Examples would be the special drive-by celebrations, people working or visiting with their masks on, the recent high-wind boat rescues from the docks, and other circumstances that shout, "What ELSE could happen this year?"



HI DIRECTORY

September 30th is the cut-off day to be included in the 2021 HI Directory. If you would like to be included or have changes to be made, please send the information to Carolyn Anspach at anspach@comcast.net

You can have any or all of the following information included:

Last name, First name(s) Island Address Mailing Address Phone # home and cell(s) Email address

We are making every effort to have correct and current information. If you have any doubts about your data, please contact Carolyn at the above email address. Remind your island friends and neighbors, so that they can be included if they would like to be. This is especially important in the case of new island members. We have a great data base that we update and add to, as needed. *Please note that this is a Boosters project, and does not come from the HMC office.* Hope to see your name in print.

MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
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								8:30	9:00				

^{***} ferry will not operate during these times to allow for mandatory crew breaks. This includes shuttle runs.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES - SUMMER

Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day run on the Sunday schedule.

			WII	NTER FERE	RY SCHED	ULE - OCT	OBER 1 TI	HROUGH	MARCH 3	1			
MON	VDAY	TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
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				70-	HOLIDA	Y SCHEDU	JLES - WII	NTER					
Thanksgiving		8:30am - 9:00am		11:30am - noon		6:30pm	- 7:00pm						
Christn	nas Day	8:30am - 9:00am		6:30pm -		- 7:00pm							
New Ye	ars Day	8:30am	- 9:00am	11:30ar	n - noon	6:30pm	- 7:00pm						

NOTE: Check for low tide ferry cancellations. They are posted on the HMC website.

Reservations must be made with the ferry when towing or a vehicle exceeds 25 feet prior to arrival.

Ferry Cell Phone: 253-691-1457. Users are asked to arrive at least ten minutes before the scheduled departure time.

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Feri	y Rates	35		
Ferry User Fees	Member	Guest		
Vehicle (up through 20') & Driver	\$8.00	\$20.00		
Passenger	s & Walk-C	Ons		
Age 12 and Over	\$3.00	\$3.00		
Age 5 - 11	\$1.00	\$1.00		
Under Age 5	Free	Free		
Vehicle I	Length Fare	es		
21' through 30'	\$16.00	\$32.00		
31' through 40'	\$24.00	\$48.00		
41' through 50'	\$32.00	\$64.00		
51' through 60"	\$40.00	\$80.00		
Special Runs	\$175.00	\$175.00		
911 Medical Runs off the Island	Free	Free		

Basic Ferry Safety Rules

Smoking is not permitted.

Marijuana is not permitted.

Open alcoholic beverages are prohibited (RCW 46.61.519)

Passengers must remain behind the safety lines in place across each end of the ferry.

Passengers must remain in vehicles or passenger cabin while ferry is loading/unloading vehicles.

Passengers under the age of 13 must be under adult supervision at all times. Passengers ages 13-17 who are unaccompanied by an adult must remain in the cabin until a crewmember tells them they may leave.

Propane tanks must be shut off and sealed prior to boarding.

Gasoline is allowed in CG/UL-approved portable containers no more than six (6) gallons in size with no signs of deterioration that could affect sits integrity. Containers must be properly secured for transit and cannot exceed a total volume of twelve (12) gallons on any one trip.

Access Policy Main Points

Member vehicles must have a valid HMC Sticker. (If sicker is invalid guest rates apply.)

Guests must provide a completed guest pass to the deckhand/purser, filled out and signed by a Member, to be admitted onto the ferry.

Roundtrip payment is required on the mainland side by cash or check.

Charges to Members can only be authorized for utility, service or delivery services.

A reservation must be made in advance and confirmed by the ferry Captain to transport any combination (in-tow) of any length and/or single vehicles longer that 25 feet.

Maximum gross weight is 40,000 pds.

Maximum vehicle length is 60 feet.

Loading/Unloading Procedures

Speed limit on the ramps and boat is 5 MPH.

Follow all directions given by crew.

Set parking break and turn off engine when loaded.

Do not start engine until directed by the crew.

Turn off all vehicle lights while on the ferry, ramp or pier during loading and/or unloading.

To load vehicles proceed to the concrete pier when light turns green. Proceed one vehicle at a time down the wooden ramp and wait at bottom until directed by crew to drive onto the ferry. Follow instructions of crew where and when to park.

To exit the ferry restart your engine and release parking break only when directed by crew. Exit ferry as directed by crew.

Foot passengers may not board when light is green. Passengers are to remain in cabin when ferry is docking or at dock.

Boarding/Shuttling

Ferry crew may begin boarding 10 minutes prior to scheduled departure.

Vehicles/passengers must arrive no later than five minutes before the scheduled departure time to ensure a place either on the current run or a shuttle.

Vehicles/passengers arriving after the five minute cutoff time are not assured a place either on the current run or shuttle.

If additional vehicles/passengers arrive after the cutoff and prior to the final shuttle departure they will only be accommodated as space permits on the shuttle. Any remaining vehicles must wait until the next scheduled run.

The ferry may not make shuttle runs if the ferry crew reach legal work hour limits. Some shuttles may not be made to assure the ferry crew gets required breaks.

Holiday Restrictions

Combinations (in-tow) of any length and/or single vehicles longer than 25 feet will not be transported after noon, the Thursday before Memorial and Labor Day holiday weekends.

Restriction dates will be posted for the Independence Day holiday.

Ferry Cell Phone

253-691-1457

Call the ferry to schedule heavy loads, when towing vehicles and any vehicle longer than 25 feet. Confirmed reservation is required by the ferry Captain prior to loading.

Member Responsibility

Members are responsible for their guests actions at all times and to assure a completely filled out guest pass is issued to their guest prior to the guest arriving at the ferry.



(Paid Advertisement)