

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks Ban

Herron Island Members and Guests,

Due to the extremely dry conditions, the state wide burn ban, the Governor's and the Key Peninsula Fire Chief's request that personal fireworks not be used this year, the Board has agreed to ban all fireworks to include North Beach. (Please see section 3.F-2 and F-5 of the rules.) This decision was not taken lightly and it is with regret that we had to take this step. The risk of a fire starting in either dry grass or within the trees and the delay for the fire department to arrive on scene puts both property and lives at a far greater risk this year than in previous years. If you have not heard we did have a tree fire on the island the weekend of June 13<sup>th</sup> and it took the fire department over 45 minutes to arrive. Observant neighbors reacted quickly with garden hoses and got the fire under control before it became overwhelming. Last year sparks from the North Beach fire pit traveled several lots and started a grass fire and again alert neighbors were able to bring under control. I have been involved personally with two large grass fires while in the military and when tall open dry areas of grass burns it moves fast and hot, and garden hoses have no impact. Due to the dry grass and stressed trees Janet, Mike and I, along with a larger contingency of Members and the Island Manager have voice their concerns either by email or directly with the Board. Members strongly feel that this year weather conditions do not warrant the risk of allowing fireworks. Again, this decision was not taken lightly and it is regretful that we had to make it since we know this impacts family plans and excitement for the children.

Some other questions have been raised regarding the use of grills and camp fires. Hopefully this helps to answer those questions:

- Gas and electric barbecue grills are allowed.
- Gas fired patio fire pits are allowed.
- No open pit wood or charcoal fires are allowed.
- Charcoal and wood pellet barbecue grills are not allowed.
- Campfires are not allowed, either open pit or contained.
- Open flame items such as candles and tiki torches are not allowed.

If you have questions please ask using email address [memberinput@herronisland.org](mailto:memberinput@herronisland.org).

Please be considerate and careful this summer with any source of fire. Weather conditions have created a tinder box on lots that have not been mowed; trees are extremely dry and easily can catch fire.

Gary Wanzong

(With concurrence from Janet Podell and Mike Graham. Sherri Anderson and Sam Argo have abstained from this discussion.)