



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

July 2004



<http://www.herronisland.org>

## President's Message

With summer finally here, we can all enjoy the warm, sunny weather and beautiful scenery that convinced most of us to become Herron Islanders. Unfortunately, summer also means that we get to worry about fire, crowds, and, in recent years, West Nile Virus.

Pierce County has declared the summer burn ban as of 8:00 a.m., July 10th. This ban will continue until the return of steady rain this fall. The only fires allowed by the county under the ban are campfires which must be contained in a concrete or metal fire pit with at least a 10 foot horizontal and 20 foot vertical clearance from any vegetation, not be larger than three feet across, and be attended at all times by an alert individual with access to a shovel and either five gallons of water or a charged garden hose. If the hazard worsens, the Board may impose a total ban on outdoor burning on the island. We have two island residents who are volunteer firefighters training with the Key Peninsula district to respond with the island fire engine and two other residents qualified as pump operators, so we will soon have a limited on-island defensive capability. Although the law prohibits firefighters from entering a burning building unless four fully qualified firefighters are present, our volunteers will be able to help keep the fire from spreading to surrounding structures and vegetation until our

ferry can transport mainland firefighting equipment to the island. We should also be getting a newer fire engine this summer. Island Manager Doug Allen, who is a retired battalion chief, has had discussions with the fire department regarding the installation of equipment on the new engine that will provide improved protection for the island. The first line of defense will always be to observe all burn bans and to follow all burn laws when no ban is in force. A cardinal rule is to never abandon a live fire. This should be common sense, but it seems to be lacking in a few of our members and guests. They need to remember that in addition to island fines and fire department penalties, they will be charged for any special ferry runs required because of their illegal actions.

The West Nile Virus season has just begun and we don't know how severe it will be, but enough people were nervous about it last year that I think it merits discussion. In the five years since WNV was first diagnosed in the United States, there has never been a known human infection in Washington state. Two horses and two birds were diagnosed in Washington in 2002 and there were a couple of suspected human cases last year that turned out to be false alarms. That's the extent of it. Of the humans who are infected, most will have no symptoms, 1 in 5 will have mild flu-like symptoms, and 1 in 150 will have serious symptoms. Nationwide, 264 people died of the virus in 2003 and one so far this year. Not to minimize any death, but



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let's compare these numbers with those of the flu, which in an average year infects 10 to 20 per cent of Americans and kills 36,000. Nobody appears to be overly concerned about the flu, but some seem to think that West Nile Virus is a modern-day plague. If WNV spreads into western Washington, we may need to take aggressive mosquito abatement action. Until then, I think we can safely watch and wait.

With the increase in island population during the summer, the law of averages predicts that our crime rate will go up. That's exactly what seems to have happened in the last few weeks. Vehicles were broken into and possessions stolen at our mainland parking lot, the gas tanks of the Asplundh trucks were twice drained, and playground equipment was vandalized. We even had several HMC trees cut down (not by Asplundh), the heavier material apparently taken for firewood, and a big pile of brush left behind. It's hard to fathom what goes through the minds of vandals and thieves, but one characteristic that they share is a "me first" attitude. I don't think it's unfair to characterize these people as parasites who never contribute a thing but feed off the honest efforts of others. Unfortunately, most of them don't get caught. All we can do is remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity. We also need to remember that our crime rate is still well below that of the mainland.

The combination of extreme low tides and huge crowds over the Independence Day

weekend played havoc with our ferry schedule. Two members asked me why we can't schedule special runs to reduce the lines. As long as we operate within the federally-mandated maximum crew workday hours and announce the changes in advance, I don't see why we can't make some adjustments. We'll work with the crew to find a practical solution. At least the upcoming Labor Day weekend has no low-tide cancellations, so any problems shouldn't be as severe as those of the 4th.

Some members have apparently been leaving their lawn sprinklers on all night to wet down the road in front of their houses. This wastes water and electricity and also accelerates the depreciation of our pump motors. We are working to increase the frequency of applications of salt water from our truck, and ask that you refrain from wasting fresh water and energy.

I'd like to commend our fire department volunteers on their response over the holiday weekend to a deck collapse that injured seven people. Bill and Claudia Jones, their son Bronson, and Office Manager Patti Jones' son Michael responded within minutes to the 911 call and rendered aid while our ferry brought two mainland ambulances and a team of paramedics and EMT's to the island. Two patients were transported in each of the mainland ambulances, while the remaining three were taken off on the fire department ambulance kept on the island. With Claudia driving and Bill and a mainland



firefighter tending the patients, they handed off one of the patients to a Gig Harbor paramedic unit that met them in Key Center and transported the other two to Allenmore Hospital in Tacoma. Bronson and Michael remained on the island in case any further emergencies occurred on the night of the 4th. This is one of the few times that the fire department has used the island ambulance and island volunteers to transport patients. I've said it before many times and I'll say it again: if you have an emergency, call 911 first! Bill, Claudia, and Michael are EMT's and Bronson is a firefighter. Their pagers will be activated as well as those of the ferry crew. In years past, the island seemed to have an unhealthy attitude that we have to fend for ourselves because it takes too long to get help from the mainland. I like to think that we've outgrown that, and I know for a fact that our relationship with the fire department has improved tremendously.

Two final items: Garage sales have long been a tradition on summer holiday weekends, and we haven't strictly enforced the rule that prohibits unauthorized signs on HMC property. Several of these signs were left up after the weekend. If you do have a garage sale, please remove your signs afterwards. Also, we'll count the votes for the water tank project at a special membership meeting on July 24th.

Questions or comments? Email me at [President@herronisland.org](mailto:President@herronisland.org).

**Ken Freeman**



### **BALLOT RESULTS FOR JULY 10, 2004**

#### **BALLOT 1: MAXIMUM NUMBER OF AUTO DECALS**

**YES: 104**

**NO: 13**

#### **BALLOT 2: NOTIFICATION TO AMEND THE BY-LAWS**

**YES: 104**

**NO: 16**

#### **BALLOT 3: CORPORATE NAME CHANGE**

**YES: 107**

**NO: 7**



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## Important Phone Numbers

### Island Manager

Doug Allen (253) 884-9350

### HMC Board of Trustees

Ken Freeman, President (253) 884-2749

Bill Zazzo, VP & Water (425) 823-1902

Fred Fath, Secretary/Treasurer (206) 246-7016

Joseph Pentheroudakis, Rules & Regs (206) 860-7535

Al Moren, Land Use & Roads (253) 884-2721

### Additional Responsibilities

Nick Huff, Transportation (253) 884-4663

Dick Mowry, Water Field Examiner (253) 884-7663

Dick Zottman, Water Field Examiner (253) 884-9920

Tracy Anspach, Parks (253) 588-1921

Patty Jones, Beachcomber

**Herron Island Office Hours: Monday 9:30-12:30;  
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 4:30. The office is  
CLOSED Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.**

Office Phone: (253) 884-9350

Office Fax: (253) 884-5047

**Website: <http://www.herronisland.org>**

Office Email: [Office@herronisland.org](mailto:Office@herronisland.org)

Manager email: [HMCManager@herronisland.org](mailto:HMCManager@herronisland.org)

Beachcomber: [hjonesp@yahoo.com](mailto:hjonesp@yahoo.com)

## **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.)*

## **Delinquency List as of July 2004**

BISENIUS—DICKINSON—KIRK, LeeRoy—KIRK, M  
(Estate of)—LAWRENCE—LEHMAN (DROUILLARD)—  
MARTIN, Sarah—OVERLAND—SMITH E.—  
TCHOCHIEV—TITZLER

RENTERS : CARLYLE,TOM

## 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.**

**LATELY 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. PROVIDING GUEST PASSES IS NOT PART OF THE DECKHAND'S JOB.**

**Beachcomber News Items need to be submitted to the HMC Office by the Friday after Monthly Meeting. Items may be handwritten (but please print), typed or emailed. Your name and phone number is to be included in case there are any questions. Paid advertisements are to be arranged through HMC Office.**



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## HMC Board Meeting Summary July 10, 2004

### Administration

- A reminder to all that the ferry goes into dry dock on September 20, and will go out of service late on Sunday, September 19.
- It is unknown at this point what small vessels, if any, will be available to take passengers to and from the island during the dry dock period.

### Information items

- Update on the mainland parking lot/wetlands issue: Pierce County has agreed to a reduced fee of \$265 for them to do the "wetlands delineation" that is required. The application, with payment, has been completed and was submitted to the County Planning Department in June.
- Peninsula Light Company has informed HMC that they intend to attempt installation of the new submarine power cable from the mainland to Herron Island at some point this fall. They have a "window" of time during which the State Department of Ecology will allow the seabed trenching for the cable. PenLight is concerned that they may not be able to supply 3-phase power to HMC's water pumps (well and booster) during a period of power disruption.
- Pierce County begins a burn ban on July 10. Only recreational fires in fire pits in approved campgrounds are allowed.

### Roads

- Additional qualified drivers for the water truck would be helpful, especially if available on weekdays. Bill Jones and Dick Mowry can be contacted for instruction and screening, and the Island Manager contacted for placement on the list of drivers. Insurance regulations require HMC obtaining driver's license info.

### Rules and Regulations

- The Board appointed Clarence Jones to the Rules Committee.
- The Board adopted the recently updated Rules and Regulations.

### Water

- The July routine water sampled failed the lab testing this week, even though a mild chlorination





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was done in the old reservoir the previous week. Now additional testing both this month and next are mandated. Though the contamination itself is not serious at this time, it underscores the need to build a new reservoir as soon as funding, permitting and engineering allow. The State Department of Health is watching the HMC water system closely.



## Burn Ban!!

### Office Address:

950 Farman AVE N

Phone: (360) 825-1631

E-mail: [sp\\_region@wadnr.gov](mailto:sp_region@wadnr.gov)

### County: Pierce

1) Effective at 8am, Saturday July 10th, 2004 a burn ban is in effect for Pierce County and shall remain in effect until further notice. Forest debris, silvicultural, land clearing and yard debris burning is banned. Recreational campfires are allowed if built in metal or concrete lined fire pits located in designated campgrounds, which have a 24 hour host, such as those typically found in local, county, and state parks and in commercial campgrounds. Again, the use of self-contained camp stoves is encouraged. Campfires are also allowed if located on private land with the landowner's permission and if built in an approved manner. These fires must be built in a metal or concrete fire pit, such as those typically found in designated campgrounds, grow to no larger than three feet across, be located in a clear spot, free from any vegetation for at least ten feet in a horizontal direction, including a twenty foot vertical clearance from overhanging branches, be attended at all times by an alert individual with immediate access to a shovel and either five gallons of water or a connected and charged water hose.



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**FOR SALE! SOLD! FOR SALE! SOLD! FOR SALE! SOLD! FOR SALE! SOLD! FOR SALE! SOLD!**

- Cute-n-cozy romantic 2 BR cabin! On east side w/60' medium bank waterfront! \$197,500
- METICULOUSLY MAINTAINED 3 BR 1.75 BA western view home w/bonus room, double & single car garages, RV carport, shop, greenhouse & more. All fenced. \$169,500
- Cozy 2 BR cabin; walk to S. Beach! Ready for summertime fun for you & yours~ \$85,000
- FIXER FUN: On double lot One bedroom cabin facing west with peek-a-view! \$78,500
  - Watch [www.HerronIsland.com](http://www.HerronIsland.com) for all new listings & updates~
- Sweeping S. Sound view lot! 3 BR septic in; water & power available. \$95,000
- Excellent building spot on two lots combined; 3 BR septic, water & power in! \$47,900
  - E. side view lot waits. Community septic, water & power available! \$32,500
  - Water! Power! Septic! All in! And a view too! Build here! \$32,500
- Western view lot! Great place to build 2-story home. Central location. \$27,500
  - Just over ½ acre for less than 10K!

**THINKING OF SELLING? FOR RESULTS CONTACT:**

**DALLAS AMIDON**, Resident Island Realtor

253-606-0972 Direct ~ 1-877-428-4996 Message ~ Home 253-884-6166

Visit: [www.HerronIsland.com](http://www.HerronIsland.com) ~ E-mail us at: [HerronIsland@hotmail.com](mailto:HerronIsland@hotmail.com)

Windermere Key Realty, Inc., See our ads in the Real Estate Book, Homes & Land, Gateway, News Tribune, & Key Peninsula News...working hard for you!





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Housewarming Weekend—August 14th & 15th

Vegetarian/fish potluck at 4:30pm on Saturday, August 14th. Please bring whatever you would like, but I'd appreciate if there would be no meat or fowl. All Islanders and their family and friends are invited—Please help spread the word!

Wine will be available—otherwise, byob.

PLUS: Third annual kayak tripe from Johnson Point to Herron Island.

Merry Kogut

22415 So. Herron Blvd.

Questions: 253-678-7218 (cell)





911

### **Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams**

#### **\*PREPAREDNESS MEETING - 7 p.m. 3rd Monday of every month at the Fire Station/Community building\***

I am glad to report we had a relatively safe July 4th with only one incident. However, some issues still need to be addressed to help further Island safety. Hopefully, when these are reviewed ways can be found to make holidays as safe and fun as possible.

During the last several PC-NET articles I have written about the concerns over the ever increasing threat of wildland fires. Although the terrain is currently not as dried out as it was this time last year, the danger is still there. The biggest cause of wildland fires are human beings. Campfires allowed to burn unattended, faulty electrical cords laying in tall grass, and lit cigarettes being tossed carelessly.

As was mentioned in the last Peninsula Gazette, lit cigarettes are not only a fire hazard but also classified as litter. The Department of Ecology has raised the fine given on anyone throwing a lit cigarette onto the ground whether walking or from their car to \$1,025. A lit cigarette is one that is not only still smoking but is still hot enough to burn skin. If you throw your cigarette onto the ground, please stomp on it with your foot to reduce the chance of the butt rolling away. If you see someone litter, call toll-free 866-LITTER1.

Also, an extra monthly meeting to be held on the first Friday of every month has been added to meet the different schedules that varying people have. Hopefully, this will allow more to attend and receive training. If you are unable to come for the Monday, we encourage everyone to try and make the Friday meeting. There is no commitment, only free training to help in the event of a disaster. If you are still unable to meet these times but wish to receive some training, just contact either Bronson or myself and we will work something out. Be safe!

Michael D. Jones  
First Aid Team Leader

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**Island AA meetings on Sundays at 9.30 am in  
the Fire Station/Community Building**

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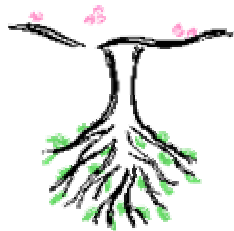
## July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Independence Day	5	6	7	8	9	10 Board Meeting 10am Booster 6pm
11	12 PC-NET 7pm	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Special Member-ship Meeting 10am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

## August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Board Meeting 10am Booster 6pm
15	15 PC-NET 7pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS!



Get involved! We need you! It's fun!

# BOOSTERS

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HERRON MAINTENANCE COMPANY

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Lakebay, WA 98349

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