



The Beachcomber

HMC Newsletter

January-February 2015



President's Message

2015 has officially started, the rain has returned with vengeance and with the holidays past we are back working on the various HMC projects. During the holidays it is hard to coordinate with vendors and in some cases we have to wait until we are within a new timeframe or window before we can proceed to the next phase. Some Members have asked for project updates so this is where we are at.

- Ramp Painting – we needed to wait until January to start getting bid specifications, permits and going out to bid for a contractor. Permits have expiration dates and January puts us in the window where the permits can be applied for and the work accomplished prior to the permits expiring. Also proposals can be obtained and contracts issued based on firm numbers.
- Dolphin Replacement – The committee working on the dolphin project continues to look at options and has visited other ferry docks in the area to look at those systems. Currently a request for proposal is being generated for design and cost comparison of various options. The goal is to put in what is needed for our size ferry at the lowest cost.
- Water Bill – The water committee continues to work on the tiered water billing system. Scheduled for this spring a statement of your water usage is to be sent to you with the proposed tiered fee schedule. Please see the notice in the Beachcomber regarding this subject.
- Roads – The Roads Committee is going out for bid to bring a barge of gravel to the island for immediate use on the roads where needed and

storage of the remainder. The cost per yard of gravel is less costly when purchased by the barge then being trucked on to the island. Also grading of the roads is going out for bid. The barge of gravel should arrive in March or April.

Another issue was brought up at January Board Meeting regarding our water system. At North Beach there are two hose bibs or faucets. Normally these are used to wash the boats off when pulled from the water. Since we do have Members that use their boats during the winter months for fishing the water is available for use. During the freezing weather someone has been leaving the faucets dripping water and we are guessing the intent is to prevent the faucets from freezing. The intentions are notable but not necessary for the North Beach faucets; they are frost free. If you see them dripping please turn them off. It saves water which also saves on the electrical bill that runs our water pumps.

This coming February 14th is Valentine's Day. February 14th is also a Saturday and the BOOSTERS are having a Valentine's Day dance at the Community Building. If you're looking for someplace to take your sweetheart here is your opportunity. If you don't have a better half come anyway, visit and enjoy getting out of the house. Inside the Beachcomber is a flyer with all the details.

The long range weather forecast last fall was for a warm and dry winter and NOAA only got half of it right. So while you are out and about on the island please be careful on the muddy and wet roads as they can be slick. With that I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable month.

Gary Wanzong, President
HMC Management Board of Directors

Important Phone Numbers**Island Manager**

Claudia Ellsworth (253) 884-9350

HMC Board of Directors

Gary Wanzong, President/Co-Treasurer (253) 884-9350
 Janet Podell, Vice-President (253) 884-1171
 Pat Zazzo, Co-Secretary (253) 884-6719
 Dianne DeGood, Co-Secretary (316) 794-8391(H)
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 Mike Graham, Co-Treasurer (253) 884-9796

Additional Contacts

Charles Smith, Water Repair (206) 707-4645
 Judy Greinke, Water Committee Chair (253) 857-5463
 G. Wanzong/M. Graham, Finance Comm. (253) 884-9350
 Jack Wells, Roads Committee Chair (253) 884-0850
 Alan DeGood, Rules Committee Chair (253) 884-9350
 Tracy Anspach, Parks (253) 588-1921
 Mike Shettlesworth, Emergency Prep. Chair (253) 884-6919
 Land Use Chair, Vacant
 Fred Fath, Technology Chair (206) 246-7016
 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@herronisland.org
 Manager email: HMCManager@herronisland.org
 Beachcomber email: beachcomber@herronisland.org
 Parks email: HMCParks@herronisland.org
 Member Input to Board: 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

In accordance with Federal law this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-2372 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).

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.**

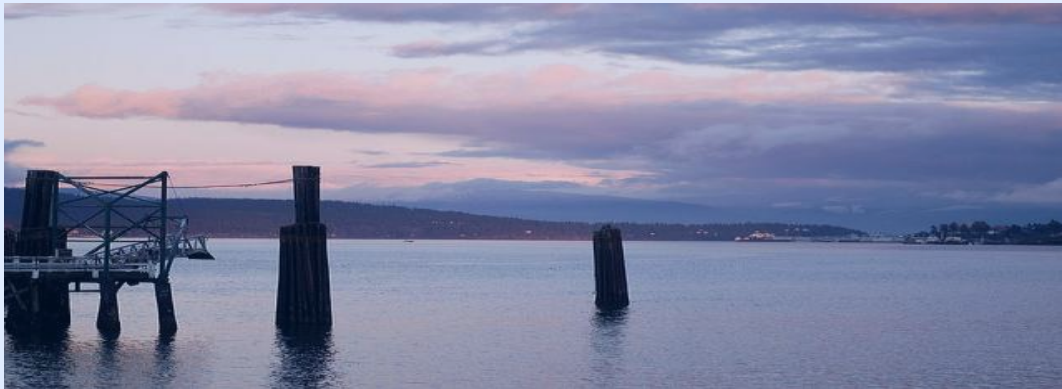
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Ferry Dolphins Replacement Update

The Dolphins Committee met again last week and began the process of creating a master project schedule. A Request For Proposal (RFP) for Engineering designs will be prepared and sent out to local engineering firms. We are also revisiting the monopole option following the receipt of additional information.

Stay tuned for more updates.....

**The Valve Key**

Do you need to turn your water meter on or off? This tool makes turning your water meter on and off easy. There's no need to get down on your hands and knees or get your hands dirty when you use this helpful tool. You can find it at Home Depot for under \$10.

Island Manager Report
January 10, 2015

Administration:

The meeting calendar on the HMC website is now being updated at the office and provided to the webmaster. If your committee is scheduling a meeting, please let the Island Manager know via email.

Another “button” has been added to the web page for information relating to the “Dolphin Replacement Project”. Currently it contains the 2010 original report and the 2014 update, with the 2010 report attached.

Because of continued vandalism of the notice board on the Community Building, the Office will no longer post Board minutes, Island Manager report or meeting agenda. Copies of these documents, when available, can be obtained from the HMC website or from the Office.

Tree Trimming: Tree trimmers spent three days on the island, clearing trees and brush away from Member service drops. Because this work had not been done for many years, they were unable to complete their work. (When Pen Light Asplundh tree trimmers were working on the island, they spent about eight weeks doing their work.) Tree trimmers will be out again next week, date to be determined.

The chips and mulch will be dumped at two locations on the island, available on a first come, first serve basis: Nature Park parking lot area; and Community Building parking lot. We will notify Members with an email when the work is to begin.

Water Operations: Everything is quiet so far on the water system. Mention needs to be made that someone has been leaving the water dripping at North Beach. The hydrants at North Beach are frost free and will not freeze and burst. They should be left turned off.

Water Committee Report: The Committee met to discuss rate development for the 2015-16 budget year. Issues include at what level to set the base rate, and when to bill for usage, the format and frequency of billing, and other factors. Format and content of the water bill is to some extent regulated at the State level. Judy Greinke will report.

Fire Department Liaison: Information on burn bans is posted on the www.herronisland.org website almost as quickly as it is generated by Pierce County, so that is the most reliable place to check for information.

Land Use: Nothing further regarding the Comp Plan Amendments. For those interested in geoduck farming, the Ken Peninsula News has been running a four part series which may be of interest. Most recently, the third installment included a discussion of environmental factors. The fourth and final article will cover economic factors of geoduck farming.

Emergency Preparedness: Committee Report. The Committee will meet following the Board meeting, at 12:30 p.m.

Parks: Committee Report from Tracy Anspach Tentatively, plan for a Parks work party on Saturday, February 28th, with the goals of installing fence around the sport court, assembling the new swing set, and if possible, reattaching the “No Wake” signs at North Beach. Lots of work, and many hands needed to help, including some new committee members.

Roads: Continued to work with member regarding drainage at intersection of driveway with South Herron, and whether drainage issue was associated with HMC culvert or neighbor’s property. Drainage on the northernmost part of West Herron

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Island Manager Report
(Continued from Page 4)

indicates that a member culvert may need to be expanded. Another drainage issue appears on Herron Lane, where during water system construction only one end of a drain pipe could be found, and drainage needs improvement.

Jack Wells is beginning the process of purchasing 1,500-2,000 tons 3/4 no minus gravel with estimated delivery date and pricing in March or April. Transportation should be less due to dropping fuel prices. Following delivery, road grading will be scheduled.

Pump Station Gate: Viking fence submitted a \$1,250 proposal for this additional gate. Work proposal was accepted by HMC Board last month, and the new gate will be installed January 16-21.

Reuse of the old reservoir as a storage facility could begin with the cutting of an opening into the structure to allow drying. Charles Smith will report.

Rules: No outstanding complaints.

Herron Island Ferry:

We are still dependent on one standby captain. We began training a new standby, who resigned after two days; another will begin January 20th, and we continue to interview candidates. Only one finished training and now has recently resigned. We may also be advertising for standby deck hand. The cycle of advertising, interviewing, backgrounding, and training is time consuming, costly and never-ending. Nevertheless, we should have two new candidates training soon, and hope that they will follow through after training. Standby deck hands are less of a problem to find and train. Currently we have two qualified, and are recruiting one more.

Ramp Painting:

The next step will be the submittal of 60% complete plans, specifications and cost estimate by January 15, 2015. HMC will have until February 15, 2015 to review these plans and specifications. Permitting is currently in progress.

Dolphin Replacement Project: An ad hoc committee led by Mike Graham met Tuesday. The discussion included construction options and whether we could get by with a monopile system. Additionally the group concluded that we have enough information to go forward with an RFP for Engineering support.

In order to create a Master Project Schedule the Committee brainstormed the elements that will need to be included. We then categorized those elements under major headings, including contracting, permitting, communications and temporary services to islanders. These requirements will become part of the process of engineer selection.

Technology: No report.

Legal Liaison: We currently have 25 delinquencies, seven of which are with the attorney for action, and three of which are making installment payments. Delinquency rate of 6.5%. Six are for amounts of less than \$100. Last year at this time we had 21 delinquencies with 9 at collections. Currently, HMC has 384 Assessable Units (down one from last month) and 397 Water customers.

Keeping You Informed - Future Water Billing January 2015

As you know, since the installation of our new water delivery system, we have been working towards a new water billing process based on members' actual water usage. The Water Committee has been meeting on a regular basis to establish fair water rates and usage "tiers" that will sustain our water system operation costs. As a Washington State non-profit organization we cannot make a profit but must be able to cover all our expenses which includes reserves. As you can imagine, that is a little tricky since the cost of operations will vary over time. In order to establish a fair system of rates we have collected a years worth of actual usage through monthly meter readings to see how much water each of our members is actually using on a daily, monthly and quarterly basis.

In the Spring, members will receive a "sample" water bill based on their actual usage for a given quarter. The intent of this bill is twofold: 1) To show your actual water consumption which could indicate a need for future water conservation, and 2) To give you a view of the Base fee and Tiered usage levels that will be in effect once the new water billing begins. Remember, this will be a sample bill for information only and will not require any payment from you.

The Base fee and tiered usage rates are common among all public water utilities and cover the administration and operating costs that go into maintaining our water system. Some consistent expenses covered by our fee schedule are: auditor, reserve study requirements, contract manager and water testing, Insurance, billing and mailing costs, excise taxes, repair parts and labor costs, State testing and inspections, water system maintenance and service requirements, wages for Administration and Water Distribution Manager, legal fees, reserves, and utilities.

Your water bill will contain elements that will look something like this:

TIER WATER USAGE (Average Daily Gallons per Month - ADG/M)

Base Fee:	0 to xxx ADG	\$ xx month
Tier 1:	xxx to xxx ADG	\$.x per gallon/month
Tier 2:	xxx to xxx ADG	\$.xx per gallon/month
Tier 3:	Over xxx ADG	\$.xxx per gallon/month

Average daily gallons per month will be used to calculate usage because the number of days between meter readings will vary each month. This occurs because we have part time office and water department employees and will help to keep member's bills more consistent. The cost per average gallon will increase with each tier to fulfill one of our state requirements to encourage water conservation. The sample bill will also contain additional information; i.e. water connection address, HMC member number, billing address, time period this water usage covers, and the USDA Loan fee if applicable to your membership. The USDA Loan fee will remain the same (\$44.55 billed quarterly) as it has since the inception of our loan in April 2013.

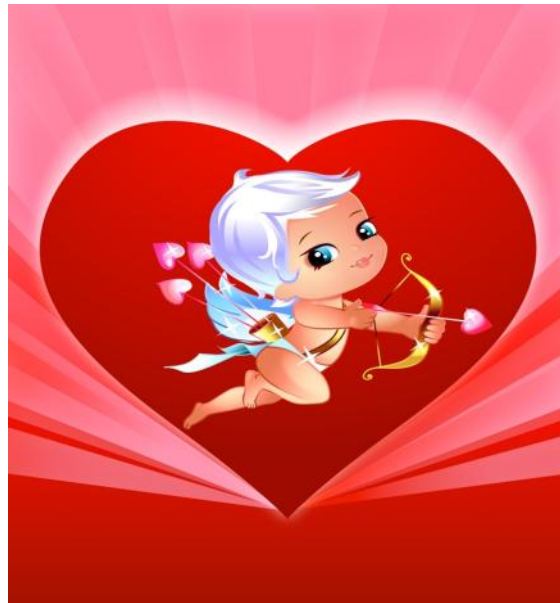
This is just a first look for your benefit. The actual rates and/or tiers may change based on new information that is received over the next several months. It is our intent to give you an advanced view of what your new water bill will contain. The Water Committee also intends to hold a Membership meeting in the Spring to further explain the upcoming change to our water billing system.





BOOSTERS

Valentine's Day Dance



When: Saturday, February 14th - 7:00 pm
Where: Community Center

Potluck Appetizers & Dessert Bar - Wear casual dress and your favorite dancing shoes - Bring your own drinks and any special dance CDs you may have

Join us for this fun winter break
with island friends



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH
PREPARING YOUR VEHICLE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Where will you be when an emergency occurs? Home is where the bulk of our 24 hour day is spent and so it is the most likely place you would be in an emergency. There are many things that can be done to mitigate personal and property injury at home and this forum has highlighted many of those efforts in the past and will do so going forward. The workplace is the second most likely place an emergency may occur. Many employers have instituted emergency procedures for their employees in the workplace. If this has not been done at your workplace, consider offering to assist your employer develop a plan. The third most likely place you'll encounter an emergency is in a vehicle. The following steps can get you safely through a potentially life-threatening emergency that occurs while you are in a vehicle.

- Fill up with gasoline in advance of a storm. Get in the habit of keeping your tank at least half full all year round. A power outage can hit anytime for a variety of reasons and when the power is out, fuel pumps don't function.
- Check your vehicle's tires. Make sure air pressure is correct and that the tread isn't worn out. Don't forget to check the spare tire as well. As weather cools you are likely to need additional air in your tires. In summer, proper air pressure can offset some of the damaging effect hot weather has on tires. Make sure you have the tools you need to change a tire and learn how to do it.
- Check your vehicle's windscreen wiper fluid level and antifreeze/coolant level.
- Carry jumper cables in your vehicle.
- Check your battery terminals for corrosion. Keep them clean and if your battery has water reservoir access make sure that the water level is proper as well.
- Make sure you carry water and non-perishable food for you and your passengers in case you get stranded.
- Keep a red cloth in your vehicle to tie on the antenna or door handle if you get stranded.
- Take your cell phone and keep a charging cable in your car.
- Keep a flashlight and extra batteries in your vehicle. Test that the flashlight works from time to time
- Other must-have items to have in your vehicle are walking shoes, a blanket, a tow strap, duck tape, and during the winter months, tire chains. Plan for your specific personal and family needs and add items to this list as necessary. Also, auto emergency kits are available for purchase at the Peninsula Light Office and Costco and other outlets. The Rainier Red Cross has survival kits available.

Protect yourself and your family.
Be prepared.



For information about Herron Island's Emergency Preparedness Committee contact
Mike Shettlesworth 884-6919 or Pat Zazzo 884-6719

Emergency Preparedness Meeting

There will be an Emergency Preparedness meeting at the Community Building on Saturday, March 14 at 12:30 PM. Contact person are Mike Shettlesworth 253-884-6919 and Pat Zazzo 253-882-6719

**Board Member Email Addresses**

HMCGaryWanzong@herronisland.org

HMCJanetPodell@herronisland.org

HMCDianneDeGood@herronisland.org

HMCPatZazzo@herronisland.org

HMCMikeGraham@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.

No Beachcomber in February

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

**Are You on the List?**

HMC now has 344 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.

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.



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.



Reminder

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.



Concerns or Ideas

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

WINTER FERRY SCHEDULE (10/1 through 3/31)

MON		TUE		WED		THUR		FRI		SAT		SUN	
IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.	IS.	ML.
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								8:30	9:00				



Thanksgiving and
New Years:

Lv. Island 8:30, 11:30, 6:30
Lv. Mainland 9:00, 12:00, 7:00

Christmas: Lv. Island 8:30, 6:30
Lv. Mainland 9:00, 7:00

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.



OWNER: STEVE KRAMER



RESIDENT/MEMBER SINCE 1959

EXCAVATION:

**SITE PREP, SEPTIC REPAIR, WATER
& POWER LINES & CULVERTS**

**RETAINING WALLS & STONE/
BLOCK WALLS**

HAULING:

**DRIVEWAY ROCK, TOPSOIL,
SAND MIX & DRAIN ROCK**

HOME REMODEL & REPAIR

**CARPET, VINYL & LAMINATE
INSTALLATION/REMOVAL**

DRIVEWAY MAINTENANCE

DECKS & ROOFING

SITE CLEAN-UP

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HOUSE PAINTING

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