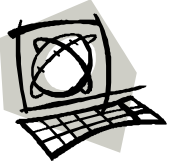




The Beachcomber

HMC Newsletter

JULY 2003



<http://www.herronisland.org>

President's Message

A fire broke out on the island last month, and were it not for the vigilance of a couple of our neighbors from Harstine Island it could have had disastrous consequences for all of us. A contractor illegally burned some building materials and the fire was abandoned. It spread downhill and over to some steps leading to the beach, from where it burned uphill toward the house. The fire was not visible from the street or neighbors' houses, but a couple from Harstine spotted it, called 911, and came over in their boat with some buckets. They notified Bill Zazzo, who strung some garden hoses from his property and poured water on the flames until our ferry brought over two wildfire trucks from the fire department. Two water tenders stood by at the mainland dock, but were not needed. Although some bushes caught fire, it fortunately did not spread through the vegetation.

This experience emphasizes two points that should be obvious: Burning of trash, scrap building materials, or anything else other than natural vegetation is *always* illegal, and fires should *never* be abandoned. Besides the relatively puny \$100 fine that owners can be assessed by HMC, both owners and contractors face thousands of dollars in fines and costs from the fire department and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency if they burn illegally. Please do not allow contractors to burn on your property at any time. Saving a few dollars in dump fees is not worth the risk to your finances or our safety. We have entered into our summer burn ban season, which will probably last into October. Although the use of small campfires and portable fire pits are allowed under the county ban, the Board has voted to prohibit them on the island during the ban because of our remote location and precarious fire situation.

Please observe these burn bans.

On a brighter note, Bill and Claudia Jones' son Bronson has been certified as a volunteer firefighter. Congratulations, Bronson! Bill will begin training with the fire department in September to become a pump operator, which will allow him to respond to fires with Bronson in the island fire engine. They will be legally prohibited from entering a burning house, but will be able to knock down exposure fires until our ferry is able to bring mainland firefighting equipment and personnel to the island. A few months ago Bill and Claudia became certified as EMT's, which allows them to respond to medical emergencies with the island ambulance, and Claudia is chairperson of our Emergency Preparedness Committee and is actively working with Pierce County to develop a plan for coordinating resources in the event of a disaster that would isolate us from outside help. I think Herron Island owes an enormous debt of gratitude to the Jones family for their services, as well as to Lt. Dee Dee Kerkes of the fire department, who has spent countless hours on the island training our medical responders.

I appreciate the email feedback that I've received in the past month. Most of it was positive, but some of you seem concerned that I sound like a big spender. I can only reply that, like many of us on the island, I'm well into the retirement phase of my life and have no desire to spend my golden years squandering my limited resources on unnecessary island expenditures.

A BURN BAN IS IN EFFECT ON HERRON ISLAND.

NO OUTDOOR BURNING IS ALLOWED.



Keeping in mind that any major spending requires Board and membership approval, let's discuss the costliest item looming on the horizon: replacement of our water system. As we've discussed before, the highest priority should be given to installing adequate fire hydrants on the island, but we must also consider replacing all of the pipes supplying our homes.

Our two usable hydrants produce approximately half of the flow rate considered minimally acceptable by the fire department. If a major fire were spreading across the island, we would have several engines, tenders and wildfire trucks attempting to control it. They would quickly empty their tanks and then would have to line up at the two hydrants for a slow refill. This lack of rapid turnaround capability could make a huge difference in the damage done to the island. We have the worst fire insurance industry rating possible, and some companies refuse to issue policies to island residents. Replacing our two-inch water lines with eight-inch pipes across the island along Maple Drive and installing four hydrants would significantly increase our firefighting ability and would cost approximately \$600 per member. Doug is attending to the details prior to requesting bids, and we could have a special assessment vote later this fall. This topic will receive high priority in discussions at the next few Board meetings.

As far as replacing the lines supplying our homes, I think we should squeeze as many years out of the old pipes as we can without allowing the system to disintegrate. To determine how many years that we can expect from our current system, I think we need professional help. We can tap a small amount from our \$58,000 water reserve account and have a qualified engineer examine and evaluate the system and give us an estimate of its useful life. If the leaks that we are seeing are caused only by deteriorating connections and joints or by localized cracks due to earth

movement, they can be cheaply repaired. However, if the overall system is deteriorating to the point of inevitable and widespread catastrophic failure, we have serious problems. In any event, we need to start saving for the new system starting with the FY 2004-2005 budget. How much to save each year will depend on the expected useful life of our current system. We have between now and the budget planning meetings next spring to decide how to go about this.

Included with this Beachcomber, you have received a copy of the proposed Amended Bylaws and a ballot asking for your vote for ratification or rejection of the proposal. The most significant change is in the assessment method. Based on a membership opinion poll, the proposed method allows homeowners to include all contiguous lots and one non-contiguous septic drain field lot to be included in a single assessment. Other non-contiguous lots or contiguous lots containing houses are to be levied additional assessments with one vote allotted for each assessment levied. We still have single-lot owners demanding that multiple-lot owners be levied a separate assessment for each lot owned, that they be given only a single vote, and that they be required to pay retroactively for each year that they were allowed to pay a single assessment. At the other extreme, we have multiple-lot owners threatening to sue to defend their "right" to accumulate as many properties as they want while paying a single assessment. I think most of us would agree that listening to these same arguments and threats over and over, year after year, has become tiresome and nonproductive. The Board has done its best to solicit opinions from the membership and to work with our attorney in making the proposal compliant with state law. If the proposal passes, we will phase in the new assessment plan over four years. If it fails, we will continue with our one-assessment-per-membership method. Let's get the vote over with and move on.



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July 2003

Pierce County seems to have made major progress in the definition and removal of junk cars. A law was passed in June that defines a junk vehicle as one that meets three of the following four conditions: it is at least three years old, it is missing certain critical parts, it is inoperable, and it is worth no more than its value as scrap. After talking to the Pierce County Responds office, I think a county officer would be willing to come to the island and take a tour with Doug and some Board members to scope out our problem. One difficulty could be that, as ratty as some of these vehicles look, they may not be missing parts and there may be no way that we can prove that they're inoperable or couldn't sell for more than their scrap value. The time that they've been sitting gathering dust is apparently not a factor. Depending on what the county officer tells us, we may want to consider enacting an island rule that is tougher than the county law. Both the current and proposed bylaws require membership approval of any rule restricting the use of private property, but if this rule is narrowly defined to apply only to junk vehicles I think it would pass. A more difficult problem will be enacting a rule that would stand up in court. We'll have to take this one step at a time, beginning with the visit of a county officer.

We had several burglaries over the Fourth of July weekend. I guess we have to expect an occasional rotten apple with over a thousand people visiting the island during summer holiday weekends, but we need to do everything in our power to fight them. Our best weapon is to stay alert. We don't want vigilantes challenging every stranger that they see, but if you see someone acting suspiciously try to get as complete a description as possible of the people and vehicles involved. If a crime occurs, please notify the sheriff even if the chances of solving the crime appear to be remote. Your information could be connected to other crimes and lead to a solution. We also ask that you report the crime to the office. While we are not a police force, if a member or guest can

be verified to be a threat to island health and safety the bylaws allow the Board to ban him or her from the island. This is a rare and extreme action, but it has been done in the past and we won't hesitate to do it again.

Our last item concerns mail delivery. Some of us had to give up our rural mail boxes at the mainland ferry dock and switch to Lakebay Post Office boxes because of the increasing number of mail thefts on the Key Peninsula. Max Hochanadel is organizing an effort to install banks of secure, locked boxes to replace the rural boxes. Rather than have to drive to Home and pay a ferry fee upon our return, we would be able to ride the ferry over as walk-ons, pick up our mail at the dock, and return at no charge. A first cut on cost is approximately \$70 for a small box. This would be a one-time cost, as opposed to the yearly Post Office charge. If you are interested in adding your name to the list or just want more information, please call Max at 884-6877 or email him at maxopal@centurytel.net. (Note: The email address has been corrected from that given in the Beachcomber that was mailed to you).

I promise that these messages will get shorter as the months go by, but we're in our busiest season and have a lot of issues to consider. If you have any questions or comments, please email me at President@herronisland.org and I'll get back to you.

Ken Freeman





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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
 Ferd Reichlin, Rules & Regs (206) 242-7847
 Al Moren, Land Use & Roads (253) 884-2721

Additional Responsibilities

Nick Huff, Transportation (253) 884-4663
 Dick Provencal, Water Repair (253) 884-2571
 Dick Mowry, Water Examiner (253) 884-7663
 Tracy Anspach, Parks, (253) 588-1921
 Patty Jones, Beachcomber

Herron Island Office Hours: Monday 9:30 as long as the necessary but at least until Noon; Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 4:30; Fridays as necessary. 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

Manager email: HMCManager@herronisland.org

Beachcomber: 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 April 21, 2003

BAKER, Larry	MARTIN, Sarah
BOYAKINS, May	MATTICE, John
COOPER, Marc	OVERLAND ESTATES/ J. Holt
DICKINSON, Linda	TITZLER, David
DROUILLARD, Joni	Renter: CARLYLE, Tom
KIRK, LeeRoy	EUBANK, Lance

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 to 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 deliver people may charge wares.

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 12th of each month. Items may be handwritten, 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 12, 2003

Administration

- Linda Shettlesworth has resigned as Office Manager Trainee. Patricia Haenen Jones has replaced her in that position and has started working with Barbara Huff.

Mosquito control: Pierce County Surface Water Management Agency was contacted. They do not plan to spray any properties at this time.

Transportation

- Update on hiring a new fill-in captain: Two candidates were interviewed recently but only one is available before August. Another decided not to pursue employment with HMC. It may be necessary to advertise further.
- Current fill-in captain: Late September appears to be the earliest that Megan Alford will have a new, upgraded license.

The Ferry Vehicular Access Policy update was put into effect by the Board.

Finance

- Member Brian Wilson recently brought a large crane to the island to be used in building construction. When coming off a barge it damaged some sections of the North Beach boat ramp, which already had some damaged parts. Brian has agreed to cover the cost of new materials (concrete and reinforcing steel) to build new ramp sections. A work party will have to be put together to pour new concrete sections and install them.
- The Trew property (deeded in lieu of payment) now belongs to HMC. This looks like a saleable parcel. The Board decided to place the sale proposal on the next HMC ballot.
- The Christman property is in the process of being deeded to HMC. Combined with the adjacent HMC parcels, this may be marketable.

Discussions with Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer's office resulted in lower assessed values on two more properties owned by HMC. This was accomplished without going through a formal appeals process.

Roads

- Road dust control continues. The various mechanical components (watering truck, electric pump station) have been working well.

There have been a number of complaints regarding people driving off-road vehicles recklessly on island roads as well as doing wheelstands and deliberately spinning circles and throwing gravel. There is a potential liability issue. The Board asked the Island Manager to re-write two relevant sections of the HMC rules.

Water

- A recent monthly coliform sample tested as "unsatisfactory." Per State Department of Health requirements we immediately took four additional samples, all of which tested fine (satisfactory). This indicates that the original sample was most likely inadvertently contaminated during the bottle filling, and that the water itself meets requirements.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/FIRE DEPARTMENT

PC NET EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS ORGANIZATION MEETING—August 23rd 11 AM at the Fire Station/Community Bldg

Remarks: Effective 8.00 a.m., Thursday July 10, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in cooperation with local fire departments/districts have restricted the size and location of recreational campfires in Pierce County and completely banned all forest debris/ silvicultural land clearing and yard debris burning. As a precautionary measure, effective 8 a.m., Thursday, July 10, the fire risk rating of Pierce County will be elevated to "High". For more information on local fire restrictions in Pierce County, call your local fire district, (253) 884-4222, the Fire Prevention Bureau at 253-798-7179 or 1-800-323-BURN or Herron Maintenance Co. Office at 253-884-9350.

Please use your ashtray!

SPECIAL MEETING

There will be a Special Meeting to count the Bylaws ballot & the sale of property owned by HMC ballot on Saturday, August 9, at Noon in the Community Building.

Captain John says:

For the safety of all Passengers and Ferry crew members , please
DO NOT USE YOUR CELL PHONE while loading.

Members can help by having correct change, no twenties please, and by making sure that all guest passes are filled out and ready.

Hey Everyone Guess What??

Captain John is having a birthday!

Saturday August 2nd!

Remember to wish him a Happy Birthday!



CONGRATULATIONS
TO

BRONSON JONES Our newest qualified volunteer firefighter.

THANK YOU to everyone who came to my assistance during the Memorial Day sailboat race. A special thanks to Tai Larson and his friend Kevin, Dallas Amidon, Bronson Jones, and all the other sailors who helped, plus the people on the docks and beach with their prayers. Thanks also to Tim and Curt who helped get the boat out of the water.

If anyone finds the tiller which floated away, please give us a call at 253-759-0874 or 884-5479.

We are grateful for all the help and kindnesses shown by so many Islanders!

-George & Norma Newcomb

Boosters

NEWS

- -Thank you to all who helped with our Fourth of July celebration.
- 2003 Auction and steak dinner is cancelled
- -Fourth of July winners:
 - Fun Run winners— Brie and Amy
 - Kayak winner—Cara Crowley
 - Blind Man's Dinghy Race winners—the Borgs
 - Sailboat Race winner—Mother Nature (no wind)

Labor Day Activities...back by popular demand!

August 31st:

9am Coffee and Cinnamon rolls

Tag sale and table rentals

New “Herron Island” shirts,
aprons, totes, hats and

license frames

11.30 am Burgers and Brats

5 pm Sailboat Race

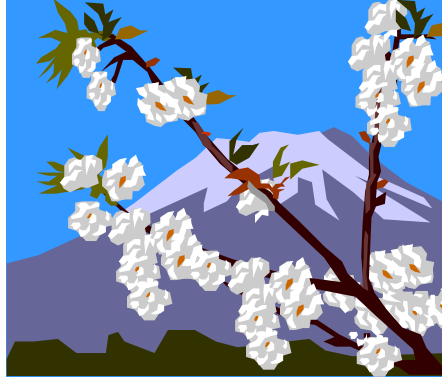
Time TBA Kid's games, Baseball games, Blind Man Dinghy Race, Kayak race, dance

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO
PARTICIPATE OR
JUST CHEER ON!



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IN MEMORIAM

ALMA ZAMBERLIN: Sadly, in June, 2003, Alma Zamberlin passed on. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

CHUCK GIFFORD: Long-time, active member of the Herron Island community will be sorely missed. He died Wednesday, July 16, after suffering a variety of ailments. He and his wife, Patty, sold their home on Herron Island five years ago to move to the high desert county of Arizona. Chuck served on the Board of Trustees several times, was responsible for organizing the first Herron Island garbage collection service, and was instrumental in getting the Community Building/Fire Station built. He will be fondly remember by all who knew him. Our prayers and thoughts go to Patty and family.

Notice re: Post Office Boxes on the Mainland — Contact Max Hochanadel at 884-6877
Post Office Boxes may be available on the Mainland depending on interest shown. A brochure with more details can be viewed at HMC Office upon request.

FREE Classifieds on the Web

HMC web site (www.herronisland.org) now has a classifieds section for members. Just send an email to webmaster@herronisland.org with the text of your ad.



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Notice of a Special Membership Meeting of Herron Maintenance Company

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article V of the Bylaws of the Herron Maintenance Company that a special meeting of the membership will be held on Saturday, August 9, 2003 at the hour of 12:00 Noon at the HMC Community Building. At the meeting, two (2) ballot proposals described below which have been set before the members by action of the Board of Trustees will be voted on.

Members may vote in person at the meeting or by mailing or delivering the enclosed absentee ballot to the HMC Office so that it is received prior to the time of the meeting. *Ballots will not be counted unless your name and signature appear on the large envelope.*

1. Pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws of the Herron Maintenance Company, the Board of Trustees has approved the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Herron Maintenance Company in the form published in the July 2003 issue of the Beachcomber for submission to the membership. The Board of Trustees recommends that they be approved by the membership. If approved by not less than a majority of the members in good standing who are either present in person at the meeting or voting by absentee ballot, the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Herron Maintenance Company will completely supersede, and replace in its entirety all previous Bylaws of Herron Maintenance Company.

2. Pursuant to Article VI of the Bylaws of the Herron Maintenance Company, the Board of Trustees has proposed the sale of the Herron Maintenance Company parcel located at 22405 North Fir for fair market value. The Board of Trustees recommends that the sale be approved by the membership.



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Official Ballot and Voting Instructions

1. Vote yes to accept any proposal set forth below. Vote no to reject it.
2. Insert your ballot in the envelope marked "Official Ballot" and seal the envelope. Do not put your name on this envelope. Do not place anything other than one Ballot in this envelope.
3. Place the small envelope marked "Official Ballot" in the large envelope. **You must sign the large envelope and make sure that your name and address appear on the large envelope. *If your name and signature do not appear on the outside of the large envelope, your vote will not be counted.***
4. To be considered a member in good standing and have your vote counted, all delinquent charges and assessments must be paid in full before the Ballots are counted.
5. Please make sure that your name is legible on the large envelope. If your name cannot be read, the ballot will not be counted.
6. Your absentee Ballot must be received in the HMC Office by 12:00 Noon, Saturday, August 9, 2003 to be counted. If you prefer to vote in person, please attend the special meeting. The Ballots will be counted at that time.

Proposition No. 1

(Amending of the Bylaws)

Use ballot received by USPS mail.

Shall the Amended and Restated Bylaws of Herron Maintenance Company, which were mailed with the July, 2003 Beachcomber, be approved by the membership?

☐

YES (For

☐

NO (Against

Proposition No. 2

(Sale of 22405 North Fir)

Shall the Herron Maintenance Company parcel located at 22405 North Fir be sold for fair market value?

Use ballot received by USPS mail.

☐

YES (For

☐

NO (Against



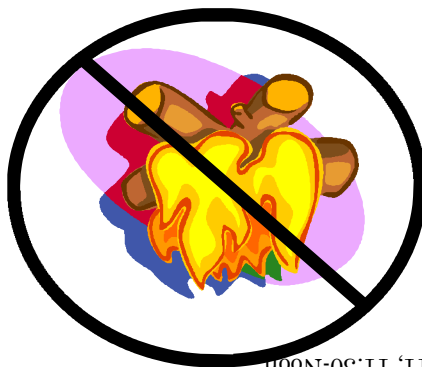
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JULY		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 <i>Board</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>10:30-11, 11:30- Noon cancelled</i>	28 <i>Noon-12:30 can- celled</i>	29 <i>Noon-12:30 can- celled</i>	30 <i>Noon-12:30 can- celled</i>	31		

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUGUST					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 <i>8:30-9 am can- celled</i>	9 <i>BOARD MTG. 10 AM SPECIAL MTG. NOON 9 no shuttle, 9:30-10, 10:30- 11 cancelled Boosters 6 pm</i>
10 <i>10 leaves early, 10:30-11, 11:30- Noon cancelled</i>	11 <i>Noon-12:30 cancelled</i>	12 <i>Noon-12:30 can- celled</i>	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21 <i>Transporta- tion Mtg.</i>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	THAT'S IT FOR THE LOW TIDE CANCELLA- TION FOR THIS YEAR!					

A note to all islanders - There is a **BURN BAN**. Help keep Herron Island safe!



Friday 8th..... 8:30-9
 Saturday 9th..... 9 no shuttle, 9:30-10, 11:30-Noon
 Sunday 10th..... 10 leaves early, 10:30-11, 11:30-Noon
 Monday 11th..... Noon-12:30
 Tuesday 12th..... Noon-12:30

August Cancellations

Get Involved! We need you!
BOOSTERS
 It's fun!

The Beachcomber

HERRON MAINTENANCE COMPANY

P.O. Box 119

Lakebay, WA 98349

Inside this issue...

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- *PROPOSED AMENDED BYLAWS & BALLOT*
- *SPECIAL MEETING—Saturday, August 9, Noon, Community Building to count the ballots*
- *Island Manager's Report*
- *Booster Events*
- ***BURN BAN IN EFFECT—NO OUTDOOR BURNING***