



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004



<http://www.herronisland.org>

## President's Message

Our ferry will begin its biennial dry dock beginning Monday, September 20th, and will be out of service for approximately two weeks. HMC is licensed and insured only for ferry operations and is prohibited from providing alternate transportation. In the past few years volunteers have generously offered pontoon boat rides from the North Beach to the mainland parking lot, but the pontoon boat will unfortunately not be available for this dry dock. Our main concern is transportation in the event of a medical or fire emergency. Island Manager Doug Allen will be talking to the fire department about placing additional equipment on the island for the two-week period, and we are seeking volunteers with boats who would be willing to be contacted by the department if they needed to bring personnel onto the island or take patients off. If the situation is life-threatening, Airlift Northwest can land at the playground and evacuate patients, but the helicopters are not always available. If you have a boat and would be willing to help, please contact the office. Only HMC and the fire department would have your number and you would be contacted only in an emergency. If we find anyone willing to provide a paid or volunteer water taxi service, we'll publish the information on the web site and by posted signs, but such an operation could not be sponsored by HMC. Please make your plans accordingly.

One of our ferry captains was injured on the job recently. He is thankfully recovered and back on the job, but the situation demonstrates how critically we depend on our small group of employees. Our second permanent captain had commitments to his other job and was only able to work for two extra days, and our only backup captain was fishing in Alaska. The injured captain was able to operate the ferry from the wheelhouse, but was prohibited by his doctor from climbing the ladder. If a set of metal stairs had not been found that allowed him to climb to the wheelhouse, we could have been without ferry service for several days. The only solution to the problem is to hire multiple backup captains. Doug has interviewed several candidates, but most are unwilling to stay overnight on the island. We currently have one off-island backup captain and one island resident who will obtain his 100-ton license later this year and then be qualified to operate the ferry. Doug will keep searching for one or two more. The cost of training and maintaining currency for a sufficient number of personnel to maintain uninterrupted ferry service is money well spent. Considering the many news items that we see about ferry disruptions on Puget Sound and the Columbia river, I think our employees do a remarkable job in providing reliable ferry service.

We have our annual assessment and a special water tank assessment coming due in the near future. Judging by the questions that our office staff and I have received, some



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

members are remarkably uninformed about island operations. We spent two years defining options for revising our assessment method. Various plans were fully discussed at board meetings and ballots were sent to all members asking for their preferences, including the option of leaving the assessment method unchanged. The membership voted in favor of a compromise plan that would allow adjacent lots to be assessed as one unit while discouraging the accumulation of multiple separate lots. It's disappointing that we still get questions such as "When did the assessment change?" and "How did you guys come up with that plan?" We also had a ballot in the June Beachcomber asking approval of a \$60 per membership special assessment to help pay for a replacement water storage tank. Although the proposal passed by a 90% margin of the voters, only one-third of the eligible members bothered to vote. Now we're being asked "What is this \$60 for?" and "Why do I have to pay this when I paid my regular assessment?" I realize that many of us are unable to volunteer to help on the island because of other commitments, but I see no reason why every one of us can't make a minimum effort to keep informed. The people to whom I'm addressing these comments are, of course, not reading this, but hopefully a few of them might eventually get the message.

You will find a ballot in this issue asking for your approval of the sale of an HMC lot on the southeast part of the island. The property is buildable and should net over

\$10,000, which requires membership approval. Please take the time to vote.

We'll try to post daily web site status reports on the ferry during dry dock.

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

**Ken Freeman**





# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## Notice of a Special Membership Meeting of Herron Maintenance Company

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 4 of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Herron Maintenance Company that a special meeting of the membership will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2004, at the hour of 12:00 Noon at the HMC Community Building. At the meeting, one (1) ballot proposal described below which has been set before the members by action of the Board of Directors 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. The Board of Directors has proposed that Division 6, Block 7, Lot 13, which is the property located at 22405 North Fir Street and owned by Herron Maintenance Company, be sold for the best market price. Pursuant to Section 2.5 of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Herron Maintenance Company, the Board of Directors has submitted the following ballot for membership approval of the sale.



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

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# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## Official Ballot and Voting Instructions

### Sample Only - Use Ballot Received by USPS Mail

1. Vote yes to accept the 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, September 11, 2004 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 (Sale of HMC Property)

Shall the proposed sale of the Herron Maintenance Company property located at 22405 North Fir Street and described as Division 6, Block 7, Lot 13 be approved by the membership?

☐

YES (For)

☐

NO (Against)



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

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# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## 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

KIRK, LeeRoy—KIRK, M (Estate of)—LAWRENCE—  
LEHMAN (DROUILLARD)—MARTIN, Sarah—  
OVERLAND—TCHOCHIEV—TITZLER

## 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.**





# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## HMC Board Meeting August 14, 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 considered unlikely that there will be any small boats available on a regular basis to take passengers to and from the island during the dry dock period.
- Several projects will probably be in progress in September and October: the ferry dry dock work, Peninsula Light Company submarine cable project (see below) and the replacement of the HMC water system reservoir.
- HMC still needs to have at least one more relief captain available.
- The I. M. expressed appreciation to Beverly and John Bohren for making their island cabin available to the relief captain while he twice stayed overnight on the island.
- Thanks also to Mike Shettlesworth and Allen Moren, who modified a portable steel stairway that allowed Captain Farris to get up to the wheelhouse on the ferry while his shoulder healed. Thanks to Kevin Kircher for donating the stairway.
- The Board decided to that a permanent stairway should be constructed on one end of the ferry cabin. This will result in a much safer way to ascend and descend to and from the wheelhouse, especially in inclement weather.
- The Board decided that the senior and disabled passes will no longer expire concurrently with the end of the fiscal year.
- A member asked that the Board consider whether it could allow the Boosters to auction off a two-week period (during the ferry dry dock) during which the successful bidder could have continuous use of one boat space at the small boat docks. It was decided that this would not be done at this time.

### Information items

- Following a request by the Island Manager to reduce the assessed value on one of the HMC-owned lots, the Pierce County Assessor's Office cut the value by 50%.
- A former relief captain for HMC filed for unemployment recently, a situation that threatened to adversely affect our level of unemployment tax. A written appeal to the State resulted in HMC being relieved of any tax penalties arising from this filing.





# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

- 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 believes that the "cut-over" from the old cable to the new will only entail a few hours of power outage to the island. More information will be disseminated as it is received.
- Due to the numerous heavy mailings that have been done this year we are using a larger amount of postage than is typical in past years.
- A letter has been received from a renter who proposes that he pay entirely for a tennis court to be built near the children's playground.
- Pierce County began a burn ban on July 10. Only recreational fires in fire pits in approved campgrounds are allowed.

## Emergency Preparedness/Fire Department

- Fire District 16 has taken delivery of four new fire engines, which are being outfitted with their complement of equipment. Replacement of the District's oldest pumper, the one on Herron Island, is expected soon.
- Fire District 16 Captain Chuck West recently experienced the loss of both his son and daughter-in-law in a mountain road accident. Diede Kerkes, who gave many volunteer hours training people on Herron Island in emergency response, has been ill and unable to work at Fire District Headquarters. The Board voted to send condolences to Captain West and a letter of appreciation to Ms. Kerkes.

## Land Use

- A member wishes to make an offer to buy HMC's lot at 1212 West Herron Boulevard. A request to a local real estate agent has been made, asking for comparable sales prices.
- HMC owns a lot on North Fir, which appears to be saleable. A request for comps has also been made regarding this location.

## Legal

- For Board discussion: a letter from a member has been received in which he states that water runoff he blames on HMC is an on-going problem. Inspection by the I.M. and a Board member indicates that the location of the residence at the bottom of a steep draw is the primary problem, and that HMC may have no responsibility.

## Transportation



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

- The "navy brake" on the island ferry ramp structure (it keeps the ramp from descending into the water while the ferry is not there) failed in July. Repairs were very difficult and expensive and in fact could not be fully completed in the field. It will be necessary to send the electric motor and brake assembly to the shop in Seattle to partially rebuild it. Therefore a new brake had to be purchased (a spare motor is already available) at a cost of over \$1800. Paired with the spare motor, it will give HMC the capability of quickly replacing a motor or brake if either should fail, and allow repairs to be done at the shop rather than getting an electrician and a mechanic out to the island.
- Since HMC obtained the correct type of ramp motors a couple of years ago there have been no motor failures. However, the brakes at each ramp were about nine years old and live in a marine environment that takes its toll on them.

## Water

- After the July routine water sample failed the laboratory testing for coliform bacteria, a second round of testing also failed. Due to the deteriorating reservoir and the summer heat, it has become necessary to manually chlorinate the reservoir on an as-needed basis. After starting the chlorination program, the five water samples tested in August were bacteria-free. A notice to all owners will go out in the August Beachcomber. The acquisition of a new and much larger reservoir is underway, and construction is expected to take place in October.

The roofing surface on the well house is badly deteriorated and needs immediate replacement, prior to the rainy season.



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## HERRON MAINTENANCE COMPANY

### IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT YOUR WATER SYSTEM

#### **Coliform maximum contaminant level (MCL) exceeded: Non-acute MCL**

August 14, 2004

The HMC water system, I.D. 325505, located in Pierce County, WA is required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants, including the presence of total coliform bacteria, on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards.

During the month of July this type of bacteria was detected.

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful bacteria may be present. Coliforms found in our July water samples were a warning of potential problems. The samples were further tested to see if bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli* were present. **None of these bacteria were found.**

You do not need to boil your water. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some elderly may be an increased risk and may want to contact their health care provider for additional guidance.

The suspected source of contamination is the concrete reservoir that holds water after it has been pumped from the wells and before it is pumped into the distribution system. The warm weather may have contributed to the problem. To eliminate the contamination, the reservoir and distribution system have been chlorinated, and will continue to be chlorinated on an as-needed basis. The old reservoir, which leaks, must be replaced. A new reservoir has been ordered and construction is expected to take place in October.

At this time:

- No action is required by users.

Five routine coliform samples required for the month of August have been collected and tested. No bacteria were found.

For more information you may contact HMC at 253.884.9350 or at P. O. Box 119, Lakebay, WA 98349.



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## Water Regatta

Congratulations to the following 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2004 winners:



### Sailboat Race

Monohull – George Newcomb  
and daughter, Linda

Multihull – No participants

### Kayak Race

*12'6" & under*

1. Bill Placek
2. Peter Huff
3. John Holm

*12'7" & over*

1. Brad Barkhartz
2. Cara Crowley
3. Todd Detreen



### Blind Man Dinghy Race

1. Tom Tighe & Curt Bray
2. Tim Jones & Heidi Ernest
3. Benjy Pugh & Giovanni



## Labor Day Weekend Schedule

<b>Sailboat Race</b>	<b>Saturday, Sept. 4, 2004</b>	<b>3:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Kayak Race</b>	<b>Sunday, Sept. 5, 2004</b>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

## Boosters

### Booster News

**Next meeting September 15th, 6p.m. at the Community Hall. Potluck and election of officers. If the weather is warm we will meet at the North Beach Pavilion.**

#### Raffle

**Three big prizes in one raffle!**

**Luxurious suite at Cabo San Lucas (valued at \$2,500)**

**Beautiful Stained Glass piece by Island resident Dana Gruber**

**Basket of "Island Stuff" Sweatshirt, t-shirt, coffee mugs etc.**

**Tickets on sale now from any Booster member. Only \$2.95 ea. Or 5 tickets for \$10.**

#### Labor Day Activities

**Saturday Sept. 4, 2004 Goodpastor Park**

**Baseball games East vs. West**

**Live music in the park and Dance 7-12**

**Raffle Drawing**

**Sunday September 5th, 2004 North Beach**

**Cinnamon rolls & coffee 9a.m.**

**Flea market tables for rent \$5**

**Booster's pots and books**

**Island wear, license plate covers, coffee cup sales**

**Burgers and Brauts 11:30**

**Kid's games 10a.m.**

**Water Regatta—Afternoon**



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

**For Sale! SOLD! For Sale! SOLD! For Sale! SOLD! For Sale! SOLD!**

*In the past month interest in the island properties has been brisk. Few properties remain available on the market. If you have been considering selling now is the time.*

FOR RESULTS CONTACT:

**DALLAS AMIDON**, Resident Island Realtor

253-606-0972 Direct~

877-428-4996 Message~ Home 253-884-6166

Visit: [www.HerronIsland.com](http://www.HerronIsland.com) ~E-mail: [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!*

Watch [www.HerronIsland.com](http://www.HerronIsland.com) for all new listings & updates~





# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

911

## Pierce County Neighborhood Emergency Teams

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

I have been overwhelmed by the amount of “thank you so much for all the training you have done with PC-Net and the Fire Department, Michael” comments that I have received over the past three months. In truth, while I am grateful to receive such thanks, at the same time I feel disappointment. I feel disappointment that people are so readily willing to say thank you but yet not join in themselves. The ones who do join in, are so few in number, that in the end it makes only a minimal difference.

The cold hard truth is that Herron Island’s Emergency Preparedness group is understaffed as are many other departments. We have the motive and the opportunity to create a force that can help protect Herron Island, we just need bodies. Training and information that normally costs hundreds of dollars per session is being offered for free right here on the island twice a month and yet hardly anyone is taking advantage of it. Free CPR, AED, and First Aid courses will be offered forthwith, but if we do not have a sizable class it will not be able to be held here on the Island. These classes normally cost \$35 per person. But if we get the number of people we need, it is free for everyone.

I am hoping to see many more people join in aiding the Island soon. I have heard numerous comments about why people don’t feel they can join in.; age is a large one. Age has nothing to do with it. Any person of any age can join in even if it is just manning a phone or speaking their opinion. Sometimes holding someone’s hand during a hard time can make all the difference.

Another one is the belief that the Fire Dept. will be there to take care of everything. Yes, the Fire Dept. WILL be there, but it will take time for them to reach us especially if something happens on a large scale footing. The Fire Department also needs new volunteers. Please do not think that you have to spend a great deal of time and effort. In most cases, you will have to devote no more than maybe an hour a month. Just one hour in exchange of protecting your home and the ones you love.

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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# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004



## CAPTAIN'S MESSAGE

The ferry will be out for dry dock service and repairs for approx. two weeks. A normal Sunday schedule will be held on Sept. 19th.

A notice for Labor Day—Combinations of any length and single vehicles will not be transported after Thursday noon during holiday weekends. Contact the Office if you have any further questions.

## August Cancellations

**Thurs 8-26** 8:30-9

**Sat 8-28** 10 LEAVES EARLY NO SHUTTLE  
10:30-11 & 11:30-12

**Sunday** 11 LEAVES EARLY NO SHUTTLE  
11:30 & 12

## A "Thank You" Note!

On behalf of Pat and Carmeta Francis and their guests, we would like to express our sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude to our Fire Department volunteers, namely: Bill & Claudia Jones, Bronson Jones, Patricia Jones the Office manager and Michael Jones for the quick response and the superb job they did during our most frightening experience on July 4th. The collapse of our deck was a frightening shock.

Our thanks also go to the ferry and ambulance crews.

Many thanks to our neighbors, the Crugers, Dr. Sailor and his family and all of the other neighbors who extended a helping hand.

Our report is that everyone who went to the various hospitals were checked out and no one had any life threatening injuries. However, the injuries incurred are being treated and nearly all have returned to their normal way of life.

We encourage everyone to check their decks regularly to avoid the trauma we experienced.

Thanks again to all, we really appreciate your efforts!

Sincerely,

Pat & Carmeta Francis



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

August 2004

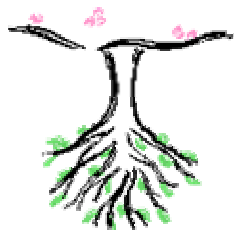
## August

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	16 PC-NET 7pm	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## September

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

WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS!



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

# BOOSTERS

## The Beachcomber

HERRON MAINTENANCE COMPANY

P.O. Box 119

Lakebay, WA 98349

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PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Lakebay, WA

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*Inside this issue...*

- *President's Message*
- *Island Manager's Report*
- *PC-NET*
- *Ballot Information*