



HMC Newsletter November/December 2020



President's Message

Happy holidays to everyone. I sincerely hope you find ways to celebrate and stay safe.

The pandemic continues to dominate our lives. Washington is experiencing a surge of covid-19 cases. The numbers of those who are sick, hospitalized and dead are worsening. Pierce County, where Herron Island is located, is reporting record numbers of new cases. Our health care system is nearing capacity. As a result, Governor Jay Inslee has re-imposed a series of recommendations and restrictions that affect us all. We are being asked to limit indoor gathering to only those in our households. Outdoor gatherings are limited to five people outside your household. Mask wearing is mandatory anytime you are around others in public.

To our Herron Island community, I urge you to follow these guidelines. Please wear your mask in the ferry line. If you must visit the office, make an appointment and please wear your mask. If we all work together, we can minimize the spread of Covid-19 in our community.

We were all relieved to see the return of the Charlie Wells, our ferry, after a long shipyard stay. We thank Captain Joe LaPoint and the crew for safely getting the ferry back home during a challenging windstorm. We all let out a collective sigh of relief when the boat was spotted in the protected waters of Case Inlet.

This year's shipyard dry dock took longer and was much more expensive than we had anticipated. The total bill exceeded \$400,000. Much of the money was for replacement of large sections of essential steel plating. We had planned for sections of the hull's steel plating to be

replaced. We did not anticipate large sections of the car deck would also need replacement. Some of this needed repair work was the result of deferred maintenance and some is simply because the ferry is aging.

Testing has shown that after these structural repairs the hull and car deck are now in good condition. We do not anticipate this type of extensive steel work will be required for many years. While there will always be repairs required on an aging vessel, we are hopeful that some of the exceptionally costly repairs are behind us for a while.

The good news is we had the money to pay the bill. The bad news is the funds we used within the HMC budget to pay the shipyard bill will need to be replenished.

The Board and Finance Committee will be reviewing our budget and making recommendations on the next course of action. Replenishing the funds used for the shipyard work, preparing the next fiscal year budget, and preparing for the future will all be under consideration. HMC's only sources of revenue are assessments, special assessments, and ferry fees. In one way or another, you will be asked to pay more. We promise to keep you informed, so our recommendations will not be a surprise.

Since I last wrote to you, we experienced more ferry service interruptions due to ramp system problems. We understand ferry service disruptions are frustrating. It is a top priority of HMC to find long-term solutions to these equipment failures.

(Continued on Page 2)

President's Message (Continued from Page 1)

Both ramp motors have now been upgraded to larger 5 hp units. This means they won't need to work as hard as the old 3hp motors and should be more dependable. The electronic controls for the ramp motors were installed over 30 years ago. They will also be upgraded soon. With the motors upgraded and the control systems replaced, our ramp systems should be more dependable. We are also seeking the advice of a marine consulting firm to make sure our equipment is properly maintained into the future.

We have heard from many of you that the current process by which we queue to load the ferry on the mainland is confusing. We continue to try to improve the process. The lane numbering order will be changed. More explanatory signage is planned. We hope that these changes will help make the

queuing and loading procedure easier to follow. Thank you for your input and patience.

As we near the end of another year, and a difficult year, I would like to thank our staff, our ferry crew and all our volunteers for their dedication, hard work, and generosity. They all work hard to keep our small community of Herron Island up and running.

It is an understatement to say this has been a very challenging year. But we're still here and hanging on. If we continue to work together as a community, we will persevere. Keep your head up (with your mask on). Better times are on the horizon.

Reed West Your HMC Board President

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HMC Beachcomber November/December 2020

Important Phone Numbers						
Island Manager						
Jane Wooster	(253) 884-9350					
HMC Board of Directors						
Reed West, President	(253) 884-9350					
Chet Latimer, Vice-President	(253) 884-9350					
Scott Young, Treasurer	(253) 884-9350					
Merry Kogut, Secretary	(253) 884-9350					
Kathy Deuster, Member-at-Large	(253) 884-9350					
Additional Contacts						
Frank Harrison, Water Repair	(253) 884-9350					
Frank Harrison, Water Committee	(253) 884-9350					
Gary Wanzong, Finance Committee	(253) 884-9350					
Dan Marten, Roads Committee	(253) 884-9350					
Mike Fassio, Rules Committee	(253) 884-9350					
Dale Miller, Parks Committee	(253) 884-9350					
Mike Gage, Policy Review Committee	(253) 884-9350					
Ken Higgins, Emergency Preparedness	(253) 884-9350					
Sherry Anderson, Small Boat Docks	(253) 884-9350					
Carolyn Snyder, Office Manager	(253) 884-9350					
Merry Kogut, HMC Calendar	(253) 884-8484					
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@herronsland.org Manager email: HMCManager@herronisland.org Beachcomber email: beachcomber@herronisland.org

Parks email: HMCParks@herronisland.org Roads email: HMCRoads@herronisland.org

Member Input email: 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

If you wish to file a Civil Rights complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint form, found online at:

http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint filing cust.html

or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form.

Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at:

U.S. Department of Agriculture Director, Office of Adjudication 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Or fax to (202) 690-7442 or email to

program.intake@usda.gov.

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.

Island Manager Report November 14, 2020

Administration

Thank you to Joe LaPoint for helping a sail-boater in need. HMC appreciates your skill in handling such an emergency.

The ferry will have hoses replaced next week <u>Thurs</u> vs. Tu or Weds due to staff shortage with the service provider. This will require cancellation of the noon runs and there will be no shuttles after the 9:00 run.

The engines are not serviced in dry dock to avoid an additional two weeks on that schedule. Periodic maintenance is required and HMC is replacing these due to bulging hoses. This may be related to the over-heating event after shipyard.

HMC will again be working with Art Anderson & Associates for replacement options for both ramp electrical connection boxes in the next month, these have not been updated or maintained since they were installed, approx. 1989. Parts are no longer available, the inside is rusty and corroded, this will happen on both ramps once HMC receives all information.

Holiday Office Closures

The HMC office will close as follows in observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day:

November 26 & 27 – Thanksgiving December 24 & 25 December 31 – New Year's Day

Fair Harbor Marina Christmas Ships Parade – Every year Fair Harbor has a Christmas Ships Parade around the area, this will occur December 11 & 12 this year.

Parking Lot Lanes

A review of lanes in the parking lot is underway, once input is compiled HMC will make some changes and add to the website along with a broadcast email.

Legal Liaison: There are 10 delinquencies; all with the attorney

Departments/Committees

Maintenance: Gary Wanzong – To report

<u>Parks</u>: Dale Miller – No report <u>Policies</u>: Mike Gage – No report <u>Roads</u>: Dan Marten – To report

Emergency Preparedness: Ken Higgins - No report

Water: Frank Harrison - No report

<u>Small Boat Docks:</u> Sherri Anderson – No report <u>Rules:</u> Mike Fassio <u>-</u> No hearings scheduled

Click here to view dry dock photos.



Are You on the List?

HMC now has 432 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.



Parking Lot Flooding

Both the mainland ferry and North Beach parking lots can flood this time of year. Please consider checking tide tables and weather reports before parking in either the North Beach or Mainland Ferry lot areas. Flooding is caused by a combination of high tides and windstorms. On occasion, the water has been high enough to reach the mailboxes in the mainland lot.

Board Member Email Addresses

HMCReedWest@herronisland.org

HMCChetLatimer@herronisland.org

HMCScottYoung@herronisland.org

HMCMerryKogut@herronisland.org

HMCKathyDeuster@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. Please submit your questions, comments, and suggestions to MemberInput@herronisland.org

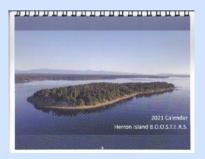
Directories and Calendars

The new Herron Island Directory is available from the Boosters for \$5.00. Calendars featuring photographs of Herron Island are available for \$15.00.

Greetings from the Herron Island Boosters!

We are ALL going to miss the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner this year and are really looking forward to having a glorious gathering in 2021. The ongoing pandemic has affected each of us in so many ways, especially how we interact with each other, individually and collectively. Despite all the restrictions, the Boosters have been and will continue to be active behind the scenes, reaching out to those in need, making sure the Community Center is clean and sanitary for those who work and occasionally meet in person there, and making ourselves available anytime someone wants to buy H.I. merchandise.

Volunteers are already coordinating plans to decorate the island for the holidays, which will help lift spirits and shift our focus from all that we are missing to all that we are grateful for. Anyone interested in helping should contact either Dana Gruber or Carolyn Anspach, both of whom are listed in the H.I. Directory.

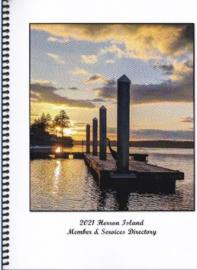


We are also delighted to announce that the 2021 calendars and directories are in and available to purchase. The prices remain the same as recent years at \$5.00 per directory and \$15.00 per calendar. Please call 253-884-1883 to make arrangements to pick yours up or have them mailed to you. Please also note that the cost of postage will be added to what you owe if we mail to you, which we would appreciate your sending once you have received your package.

This year we reached out to many of the small, local businesses along the Key Peninsula in an effort to support our local community. There are a number of businesses offering a "Herron Island Discount" of 10% off goods and services so please take the time to browse through the advertising section of the H.I. Directory. The Market in Key Center is now offering a shop online option on their website, which is great because it will make picking up groceries and other necessities for our friends and neighbors much easier. There are also ads for the KP Community Services (food bank and senior center) as well as The Mustard Seed Project, which also offers a variety of programs for seniors and those in need.

Please stay safe and healthy by wearing your mask and socially distancing,

Happy Holidays! Robin Kelly Herron Island Boosters President



Herron Island Emergency Preparedness

Now is a good time to check your generator before the long power outages.

- Check/Change the oil, make sure your fuel is fresh.
- Use portable generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas away from all doors, windows and vents.
- Make sure you have carbon monoxide alarms in your home.
- Do not use a generator in a wet area. This can cause shock or electrocution.
- Connect appliances to the generator with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Do not fuel your generator when it is running. Spilling gas on a hot engine can cause a fire.

Welcome, New Islanders!

HMC welcomes new Members to Herron Island:

- Theodore & Koren Jez
- Laura & Patrick Hernandez
- Suzanne & Larry Cessna
- Shawn & Corinne Spencer
- Virginia Anderson
- Heller Trust
- Hugh Lackey



No Beachcomber in December



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

Holiday Office Closures

The HMC office will be closed on Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th for Thanksgiving, and Thursday, December 24th and Friday, December 25th for Christmas.. Have a wonderful holiday!

Is your Auto Decal Current?



With the first half assessment billed and effective as of October 1st everyone should have their new auto decal affixed to the lower driver's side corner on the windshield of their car. These decals are required by the Ferry Access Policy to ensure that only members in good standing are able to access the ferry. Each decal has an expiration date and your vehicle's license number which must match the plate on your car. Only vehicles owned and registered in the name of the member or authorized renter can receive an auto decal. Swapping of decals or sharing with non-members is not permitted.

NOTE: If you have an expired decal on your vehicle and wish to board the ferry, (and the deckhand's IPad records shows you to be a member in good standing), you will be permitted to board but you will be charged the guest rate until the current decal is affixed. We realize that this may be an inconvenience for some, but please don't take it out on the ferry crew. They are just doing their job at the instructions of the HMC Board. It is in everyone's best interest that the Ferry Access Policy be followed. Please do your part and make sure your decal is current before you arrive at the ferry dock.

The complete Ferry Access Policy can be found on the front page of the HMC website.

Thank you.

Members Hiring Realtors on Herron Island



Any member hiring a realtor to sell their property must be aware of the risk of placing a real estate sign anywhere near a water meter. When placing signage for properties that are for sale, it is very important to be aware of where there may be underground utilities. During the recent ditch clearing, we noted two incidences where realtors have placed signage within inches of water and electrical lines. For example, if a water line is damaged, it would require turning the water off at the water main and impacting several properties until the damage has been addressed. If a significant repair is needed this may mean that people will not have water service for days. The best choice would be to call 811 (utility locators) before you dig. Members will be held liable for any damage to HMC water meters or surrounding pipe.

SCHEDULE OF MEMBERSHIP BILLINGS

Note: Bills that are not received or postmarked by the 25th of the month they are due are late and subject to a late fee.

General Assessments: Assessments for the general fund are billed semi-annually.

1st

Just a duick reminder!

half: Billed and Due October 1

half: Billed and Due April 1

Water Assessments: Assessments for water-related services are billed quarterly.

quarter: Billed and Due November 1

quarter: Billed and Due February 1

quarter: Billed and Due May 1

quarter: Billed and Due August 1

4th

Special Assessments: These are billed and due on the first day of the month as designated by the Board of Directors.

<u>Miscellaneous Billings</u>: These are other items billed to your Member account, such as charged Ferry fees for contractors. They are billed and due on the first day of the month following the month in which the item was processed.

As noted above Late Fees will be charged to your Member account if your payment is not received or postmarked by the 25th of the month in which the payment is due. Late Fees vary and can be found in



Got Junk? Please don't leave it on the roadside



In the past, we have seen discarded items left on the roadside with "Free" signs. Some unwanted items have even been left on other members' properties! Members are reminded that this is a Rules violation, not to mention unsightly. Everything from trailers, tables, chairs, televisions, barbecues and old bathtubs are being left on the road. HMC Rules Section E8 reads in part:

"Dumping of personal items is prohibited in all Common areas" (Class B). This prohibition also applies to leaving items with a "free" sign on them." (E8)"

Please dispose of your unwanted items properly. Thank you.

			SUIV	IMER FER	RY SCHED	ULE - APP	RIL 1 THRO	DUGH SEP	TEMBER :	30			
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
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								8:30	9:00				

^{***} ferry will not operate during these times to allow for mandatory crew breaks. This includes shuttle runs.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULES - SUMMER

Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day run on the Sunday schedule.

	198		WII	NTER FERF	RY SCHED	ULE - OCT	OBER 1 TI	HROUGH	MARCH 3	1			
MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
IS	ML	IS	ML	IS	ML	IS	ML	IS	ML	IS	ML	IS	ML
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-					HOLIDA	Y SCHEDU	JLES - WII	NTER					
Thanksgiving		8:30am - 9:00am		11:30am - noon		6:30pm - 7:00pm							
Christn	nas Day	8:30am - 9:00am		Î		6:30pm - 7:00pm							
New Ye	ars Day	8:30am	- 9:00am	11:30ar	n - noon 6:30pm - 7:00pm		- 7:00pm	i i					11

NOTE: Check for low tide ferry cancellations. They are posted on the HMC website.

Reservations must be made with the ferry when towing or a vehicle exceeds 25 feet prior to arrival.

Ferry Cell Phone: 253-691-1457. Users are asked to arrive at least ten minutes before the scheduled departure time.

Ferry Rates							
Ferry User Fees	Member	Guest					
Vehicle (up through 20') & Driver	\$8.00	\$20.00					
Passenger	s & Walk-C	Ons					
Age 12 and Over	\$3.00	\$3.00 \$1.00					
Age 5 - 11	\$1.00						
Under Age 5	Free	Free					
Vehicle I	ength Fare	es					
21' through 30'	\$16.00	\$32.00					
31' through 40'	\$24.00	\$48.00					
41' through 50'	\$32.00	\$64.00					
51' through 60"	\$40.00	\$80.00					
Special Runs	\$175.00	\$175.00					
911 Medical Runs off the Island	Free	Free					

Basic Ferry Safety Rules

Smoking is not permitted.

Marijuana is not permitted.

Open alcoholic beverages are prohibited (RCW 46.61.519)

Passengers must remain behind the safety lines in place across each end of the ferry.

Passengers must remain in vehicles or passenger cabin while ferry is loading/unloading vehicles.

Passengers under the age of 13 must be under adult supervision at all times. Passengers ages 13-17 who are unaccompanied by an adult must remain in the cabin until a crewmember tells them they may leave.

Propane tanks must be shut off and sealed prior to boarding.

Gasoline is allowed in CG/UL-approved portable containers no more than six (6) gallons in size with no signs of deterioration that could affect sits integrity. Containers must be properly secured for transit and cannot exceed a total volume of twelve (12) gallons on any one trip.

Access Policy Main Points

Member vehicles must have a valid HMC Sticker. (If sicker is invalid guest rates apply.)

Guests must provide a completed guest pass to the deckhand/purser, filled out and signed by a Member, to be admitted onto the ferry.

Roundtrip payment is required on the mainland side by cash or check.

Charges to Members can only be authorized for utility, service or delivery services.

A reservation must be made in advance and confirmed by the ferry Captain to transport any combination (in-tow) of any length and/or single vehicles longer that 25 feet.

Maximum gross weight is 40,000 pds.

Maximum vehicle length is 60 feet.

Loading/Unloading Procedures

Speed limit on the ramps and boat is 5 MPH.

Follow all directions given by crew.

Set parking break and turn off engine when loaded.

Do not start engine until directed by the crew.

Turn off all vehicle lights while on the ferry, ramp or pier during loading and/or unloading.

To load vehicles proceed to the concrete pier when light turns green. Proceed one vehicle at a time down the wooden ramp and wait at bottom until directed by crew to drive onto the ferry. Follow instructions of crew where and when to park.

To exit the ferry restart your engine and release parking break only when directed by crew. Exit ferry as directed by crew.

Foot passengers may not board when light is green. Passengers are to remain in cabin when ferry is docking or at dock.

Boarding/Shuttling

Ferry crew may begin boarding 10 minutes prior to scheduled departure.

Vehicles/passengers must arrive no later than five minutes before the scheduled departure time to ensure a place either on the current run or a shuttle.

Vehicles/passengers arriving after the five minute cutoff time are not assured a place either on the current run or shuttle.

If additional vehicles/passengers arrive after the cutoff and prior to the final shuttle departure they will only be accommodated as space permits on the shuttle. Any remaining vehicles must wait until the next scheduled run.

The ferry may not make shuttle runs if the ferry crew reach legal work hour limits. Some shuttles may not be made to assure the ferry crew gets required breaks.

Holiday Restrictions

Combinations (in-tow) of any length and/or single vehicles longer than 25 feet will not be transported after noon, the Thursday before Memorial and Labor Day holiday weekends.

Restriction dates will be posted for the Independence Day holiday.

Ferry Cell Phone

253-691-1457

Call the ferry to schedule heavy loads, when towing vehicles and any vehicle longer than 25 feet. Confirmed reservation is required by the ferry Captain prior to loading.

Member Responsibility

Members are responsible for their guests actions at all times and to assure a completely filled out guest pass is issued to their guest prior to the guest arriving at the ferry.



(Paid Advertisement)