



# The Beachcomber



HMC Newsletter

November-December 2008



<http://www.herronisland.org>

## President's Message

The November Board meeting was sparsely attended but several issues were discussed of importance to all members. There have been several items of correspondence regarding assessments and late fees. With the economic crises and the downturn in the real-estate market, some members have questioned our assessment level this year. When the finance committee put together the budget for this fiscal year, we had to increase spending for salaries for our employees and other cost increases. We also increased the budget to fund reserves for upcoming expenses for the ferry, docks, parks, roads, and water. We did this in March with the realization that it is necessary to anticipate our maintenance needs rather than wait for a disaster to happen or be hit with a large special assessment. We did not include the funding for the water system upgrade as the costs and approach for that is still being worked on. The result was the \$1500 per year assessment and fee schedule that was presented to and voted on by the total membership in June. Even though the assessment included a large increase, the vote by the membership overwhelming supported the budget and building of reserves. This vote reflects the interest in maintaining the Island's infrastructure and operations that benefit us all. The Board is looking at many options to curtail spending and costs in case our delinquency rate increases and there is a blurb in this Beachcomber on ways all members can give input to this effort. None of us are immune from the impacts of things going on in the economy but we must do the best we can to protect and maintain our Island resources.

Several have complained about late fees. The fee schedule, included in the budget proposal, and voted on this summer is set for the year and includes a \$30 late fee per month on any balance owed, however small. The assessments were due October 1st and had a grace period until October 31st for payment. We also accept payment by mail postmarked before November 1st as on-time. The fees then apply after this period just like they do in

most businesses and government operations. There are costs in tracking down late payments and that is part of the reason for the late fees as well as incentive to pay on time. The board has not waived the late fees in almost all cases but is in the process of reviewing a possible change for next year where the late fee may be reduced for very low balances due (like a ferry charge). Right now the late fee is the same for any amount due.

We ended the fiscal year with a small cash surplus over the \$40,000 that was planned in the budget. We are holding that surplus in case our assessment delinquency rate increases over the planned amount. The audit of our accounting will start soon with the results being available in the Spring. It looks right now that the Island is in good financial shape.

One of the reasons the Island is in good financial shape is due to the many tasks undertaken by volunteers. If we had to pay market rates for all that is done by volunteers, our costs would go up substantially. I know there are many tasks undertaken that I don't know about and many volunteers helping that go unacknowledged but I would like to cite some that I do. Judy Greinke has spent countless hours on the water committee and looking into mechanisms to reduce Island costs. Likewise, Allen Moren and Tracy Anspach are always working on road and park projects with little recognition. Mike Davis has spent a great deal of time on the water system and is now helping the disaster preparedness committee continue. Mike Shettlesworth is also working on that committee as well as the Transportation committee. Jack Wells, Kathy Deuster, and Dana Gruber have been completing work on the patio at the community building as well as the storage unit at North Beach. We all owe Judy, Allen, Tracy, Mike, Jack, Kathy, Dana, and Mike a debt of gratitude for all they do. Thanks.

Fred Fath  
President

**Important Phone Numbers****Island Manager**

Doug Allen (253) 884-9350

**HMC Board of Trustees**

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

Kathy Deuster, Vice-President (253) 884-6898

Janet Podell, Secretary (253) 874-2452

Judy Greinke, Assistant Treasurer (253) 857-5463

Eric Bergson, Board Member (253) 830-4413

**Additional Responsibilities**

Nick Huff, Co-Transportation Chairman (253) 884-4663

Mike Shettlesworth, Co-Transp. Chairman (253) 884-6919

Mike Davis, Water Chairman (253) 884-1423

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

Dick Zottman, Water Field Examiner (253) 884-9071

Scott Schultz, Water Repair (253) 884-3196

Merry Kogut, Rules Chairperson (253) 884-8484

Tracy Anspach, Parks Chairman (253) 588-1921

Allen Moren, Roads Chairman (253) 884-2721

VACANT, Emergency Prep. Chair

Kathy Deuster, Land Use Chair (253) 884-6898

Carolyn Snyder, Office Manager (253) 884-9350

Ken Freeman, Beachcomber/Webmaster (231) 544-2456

**Herron Island Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
9:30 am to 5:30 pm. The office is CLOSED Monday,  
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: [beachcomber@herronisland.org](mailto:beachcomber@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.)*

**Delinquency List as of November 11, 2008**

BALDWIN - O'NEILL - 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.**

**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.**

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](mailto: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.**

**Online Beachcomber**

If you wish to read your Beachcomber online at [www.herronisland.org](http://www.herronisland.org) and save HMC the price of printing and postage, please notify the office.

**HMC Management  
Board Meeting Summary  
November 8, 2008**

Administration

- Board members will hold a meeting with Aspen Surveying to go over what progress they have made so far with the road survey.
- The Board discussed the contract with FD 16 regarding use of Community Building, payment of certain costs and consideration of placing the electrical service in HMC's name. Board members will meet with FD 16's Board.
- The Board discussed ferry fueling cost reduction. A new proposal will be drawn up for consideration by Associated Petroleum and the Department of Ecology.
- The old cabinets in the Community Building are now surplus and bids may be submitted to purchase them.
- The Board discussed and reiterated that late payment fees, which are built into the annual budget, are due when payments, whether for the semi-annual assessment or any other fee, are received past the due date.
- The former ferry generator has been tuned up, the 30 amp cable obtained for it, and it now needs to be placed in position on the north side of the office.
- Replacement batteries for the donated radios that HMC received will be ordered.

Legal

- The O'Neill account is again delinquent and at the attorney for collection. However, this month's list of long-term delinquent accounts is at a low not seen in many years.
- The Board discussed the former Rucks property and the many vehicles on it.

Roads

- Road signs: the new signs still need installation.

Transportation

- Two persons, one an island resident, have expressed interest in applying for part-time deckhand positions.
- The island ferry terminal lighting has been re-aimed to reduce glare visible at homes on the mainland.

Water

- The final draft of the Water System Plan has been completed by Anchor Environmental and is under review by Engineer Bob Montgomery. It should arrive at HMC next week.
- Information was received from Evergreen Rural Water regarding the FTC's new Identity Theft Prevention Program.

## HERRON ISLAND BOARD LISTENS

One positive outcome from the downward trend in our economy is that nationwide people and communities today are working toward conservation. On Herron Island we also are looking at ways to economize and save. We need to save energy, time, water, and money.

The Herron Island Board is looking for positive and practical ways our island could conserve. We want to hear from our members about their IDEAS and SOLUTIONS to improve the island, possibly save money, and hopefully make things better. This is not set up as a complaint corner but rather, as a way to encourage all members to share their ideas and be a part of the solution.

Here is an example: A member came to the Board meeting and presented ideas on how we might conserve on fuel and therefore save some of our expenses for the ferry. His ideas were all considered and from that two positive outcomes resulted. On the 6:15 run, the ferry motor will be turned off during the 45 minute wait between runs when it is feasible and safe to do so and the ferry is now run at a slower speed. So far this has provided one extra day of fuel which is a savings. Member's ideas at work!

If you send us your ideas we may not be able to give you immediate feedback but we will listen and consider all suggestions to see if your solution would work for our island. We are looking for positive – inventive – new – workable – practical solutions that deal with conservation of some type.

Are you ready to be a part of the solution? Then we want to hear from you! Send your ideas to: [HIBoardListens@herronisland.org](mailto:HIBoardListens@herronisland.org).

### Next Beachcomber Issue

The Beachcomber is published nine times per year, and is not published in October, December, or February. The next issue will be in January.

### Welcome, New Islanders!

HMC welcomes the following new members to Herron Island:

- Brady Dickman and Brent Zottman
- Ronald Fugere
- Chester and Stacy Cybulski

### Reminders from the Board

- There is an additional 9:30/10:00 ferry run on Wednesday mornings from now through June 2009. The board will review the cost effectiveness of the run to determine if the run will be made permanent.
- It is HMC Management policy to not replace lost, stolen, or destroyed Ferry Tickets or Passes.
- With increased costs members may find that prepaying towards their assessments monthly or quarterly will reduce their financial burden when assessments come due. For more information, please contact the office.
- Small boat storage... With winter's high tides coming please remove your small boat, kayak, canoe, etc. from the storage area on the south-east end of north beach or risk losing it. Use of the area is at your own risk.

### Carport Roof Construction

The construction of the carport roof at the Community building has finally been completed. The final step of installing the ceiling was done last week. Thanks to all the volunteers who stepped up to help with this project. Mike Shettlesworth, Mike Davis, Todd Stone, Karl Schafer and to Nick Huff for loaning us his equipment. Your time and effort was very much appreciated. I also want to thank Dana Gruber and Nancy Wells for preparing a fantastic lunch. We all enjoyed it!

Jack Wells

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

MON		TUE		WED		THUR		FRI		SAT		SUN	
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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

**Herron Island New Listings**

**1321 NW Madrona Way, \$199,00**  
Updated inside and out with Water View  
Has 3 bedroom septic system  
Buoy and Beach Rights

**216 & 218 Fir Lane, \$199,000**  
Cute & Cozy "A" Frame with Water View  
Vacant lot next door included with septic and  
water already in. Power on street.

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We invite you to visit our new and changed web site  
for all my listings: [herronisland.com](http://herronisland.com)

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Always listing and selling here on our special island.

**DALLAS AMIDON**, Island Resident Realtor

Cell: **253-606-0972** Home: **253-884-6166**

E-mail: [HerronIsland@hotmail.com](mailto:HerronIsland@hotmail.com)

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WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS!



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

# BOOSTERS

## The Beachcomber

HMC MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 119

Lakebay, WA 98349

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*Inside this issue...*

- *President's Message*
- *New Board Email Address*
- *Revised Order Form*