



# The Beachcomber



## President's Message

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone. I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable Holiday season!

Thanks to the Boosters for the wonderful Thanksgiving potluck gathering. Thanks to all the Members who attended this gala event to make it as usual a huge success. There were a lot of nice prizes. Hope everyone enjoyed this event.

**Sherri Anderson, President  
HMC Board of Directors**

Trees: Take a closer look at your trees on your property. With the dry summer and now the recent rain and winds, trees are vulnerable to cause damage. The ground is so saturated that trees are being uprooted with ease.

Ramp Painting project: The ramp painting project has been completed. Thank you to all Member's for your patience with the ferry schedule changes to accommodate this project. The new boards on the ramp make it so much quieter when you drive on and off the ferry now.

Dolphin Replacement Project: The dolphin replacement project is still in process. November 24<sup>th</sup> is the next scheduled date for piling testing. This will help determine what type can be used. Please note November 24<sup>th</sup> ferry schedule cancellations and changes which are posted elsewhere within the Beachcomber, Heron Island website and communicated via email.

Water Billing: The November water invoices are beginning to start reflecting moving to a base plus usage fee. The next water billing in February will reflect all three months on the base plus usage fee while this current billing reflects only one month of usage fee since it crosses fiscal years. If you have any questions, be sure to reach out to the office.

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

Claudia Ellsworth (253) 884-9350

**HMC Board of Directors**

Sherri Anderson, President (503) 860-4888

Gary Wanzong, VP and Treasurer (253) 884-9350

Mike Graham, Secretary and Co-Treasurer (253) 884-9796

Sam Argo, Co-Secretary (253) 884-9350

Eric Bergson, Member-at-Large (253) 830-4413

**Additional Contacts**

Charles Smith, Water Repair (206) 707-4645

Charles Smith, Water Committee (206) 707-4645

Gary Wanzong, Finance Committee (253) 884-9350

Jack Wells, Roads Committee (253) 884-0850

Max Hochanadel, Rules Committee (253) 884-9350

Tracy Anspach, Parks Committee (253) 588-1921

Mike Shettlesworth, Emergency Prep. (253) 884-6919

Land Use Chair, Vacant

Fred Fath, Technology Committee (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](mailto:Office@herronisland.org)HMC Water email: [HMCWater@herronisland.org](mailto:HMCWater@herronisland.org)Manager email: [HMCManager@herronisland.org](mailto:HMCManager@herronisland.org)Beachcomber email: [beachcomber@herronisland.org](mailto:beachcomber@herronisland.org)Parks email: [HMC Parks@herronisland.org](mailto:HMC Parks@herronisland.org)Member Input to Board: [MemberInput@herronisland.org](mailto: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](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](mailto: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](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.

Island Manager Report  
November 14, 2015

**Administration:**

**Volunteers:** Thanks to the many who turned out for the dock removal on October 10, to Karl Schafer for office help and to Merry Kogut for updating the web site calendar.

**White Boards:** the white boards at the ferry docks have been missing for a couple weeks while our good volunteers who update them have been out of town. Hopefully they'll be back in service soon.

**Tree Removal:** Sixty-eight dead, diseased, or dangerous trees were removed during October. The trees had been identified by a volunteer crew and reviewed by the Island Manager before removal. All trees removed were on HMC roadway easement or HMC property. Many trees died this summer, stressed by the hot dry weather. Members would be well advised to review their own properties and remove dead or diseased trees. Slightly more than half the "tree" budget has been spent, reserving some for fall and winter windfalls.

**Employee Health Care Plan and Arbitration:** Last year the ferry crew filed a grievance regarding the choice of health care plans. The grievance, now at step 3, is set for arbitration November 30. HMC's costs for the arbitration are estimated at \$4,500. The cost of settlement, if any, is unknown. HMC pays 100% of the premium for ferry crew employees and the office manager. If all covered employees participate in a health assessment, the cost of this year's premium increase could be reduced 7.5%.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed between HMC and the IBU provided that all disciplinary reprimands prior to its September 12 approval by the Board would be removed from the ferry employee files. All crew members were to sign the Code of Conduct, as proposed to HMC and agreed by their union. Only one has signed.

**Payment Approval:** It has become difficult for the Board to communicate between meetings. Our attorney has suggested that, to facilitate the payment of budgeted expenses, **the Board authorize the Island Manager to approve payment** so that we can avoid late payment penalties and reimburse small contractors. This is, according to him, a standard practice among HOA's. All bills would still be reviewed and approved by the Board at the monthly meeting and the Board would retain ultimate financial control.

**Water Operations:**

Charles Smith has been organizing and conducting training session in the use of the water maintenance trailer. There will be a training session immediately following the November 14 meeting.

HMC is now billing for water usage, with one month's usage reflected in the most recent billing. So far, all seems to be going well. Thanks again to the Water Committee for their hard work.

**Water Committee Report:** Charles Smith will report for the committee.

**Fire Department Liaison:** Two members filed applications for volunteer fire fighter. We have not heard from FD #16 whether they will be able to proceed with testing and successfully assign volunteers to serve Herron Island.

**Land Use:** No report.

(Continued on Page 4)

Island Manager Report  
(Continued from Page 3)

**Emergency Preparedness:** Pat Zazzo has resigned as co-chairman of the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Anyone interested in participating on this committee should notify Mike Shettlesworth.

**Parks: Committee Report.**

**Roads: Committee Report.** The repair of the large culvert at Maple and E. Herron was completed last month at a cost of under \$5,000, which included excavating and sleeving the existing culvert, and a great deal of hand labor to expose the original culvert and surrounding area. One tree was removed to improve access to the culvert. The most recent storm proved that the repair was successful and should last for many years. The Roads Committee met November 10, and will report out at the meeting.

One issue the Roads Committee has been concerned with is the removal of overhanging branches along HMC roads. The suggestion has been made that as volunteers removed the branches, we could hire a contractor to come over with a chipper. Premier Tree Service is willing to provide one day with its big chipper and truck, with two helpers, for \$600. This expense would come out of the Administration tree budget.

**Rules:** Two new Rules complaints have been filed and forwarded to the Rules Committee and to the respondents.

**Herron Island Ferry:**

**Dolphin Replacement Project:** PND Engineers are now attempting to schedule Quigg Bros to come out and drive the test piles. **They have asked HMC to cancel the 9 a.m. run from the mainland, and the 12 noon from the island in order to accommodate the testing.** This requires a decision of the Board, and notice to members and contractors, but given that is Thanksgiving week, it looks doable. The current contract called for a design report and cost estimate in December 2015. Sixteen probes will be made, two at each existing dolphin location. The pile probe will consist of a 24-inch diameter, 80-foot-long (minimum) steel pipe pile. A vibratory hammer will be used to advance and extract the probe. Hopefully the work can be done in one day.

**Other:**

Dale Miller has been hired to train as a standby deck hand, and Jon Robinson, of Olympia, has trained and qualified as a standby captain. Donnie Surratt has requested reducing his hours to part-time and will no longer work Mondays; Kevin Kircher remains on the sick list, the date of his return to work is unknown at this time.

Our standby captains Tom Gall and Jon Robinson, and standby deck hand Bruce Mowell have received many compliments from members.

**Technology:** No report.

**Legal Liaison:** This month a longtime delinquency was paid in full, at approximately \$12,000. We currently have 12 delinquencies, 7 of which are with the attorney for collections. Delinquency rate of 3%. Last year at this time we had 14 delinquencies, with 7 at collections. Currently, HMC has 383 Assessable Units and 397 Water customers.

# B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S.

*Band of Obviously Super, Terrifically Enthusiast Recreation Supporters*

## ANNUAL THANKSGIVING DINNER POTLUCK AND ACTIVITIES

We would like to say thank you to everyone who attended and enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving potluck event this past Saturday, November 14, 2015. It was a great time to share with all our Herron Island friends. We enjoyed an awesome banquet spread of food along with community-spirited fun. Mark and Jena assembled pictures to create Calendars we will love to hang on our walls. The calendars were sold during the evening, and there was a small quantity left if anyone missed purchasing one or two and would like to still do so. The evening was wrapped up with Carla at the mike raffling off a wide variety of donated gift baskets, Bingo Games chaired once again by Carolyn and culminated with a mini auction. All items were donated by Herron Island Members. Thank you to all who cooked, cleaned, decorated, provided food and donated items to be raffled or auctioned.

Lisa McCormick



### Holiday Office Closures

The HMC office will be closed for the holidays:

Thursday November 26 and Friday November 27

Thursday December 24 and Friday December 25

Friday January 1

## Dolphin Replacement Project

PND Engineers, the company doing the preliminary replacement dolphin design work, will be conducting soils testing at the ferry terminals on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24**. Quigg Bros will bring a barge to take 16 soil samples, eight at each terminal (two by each dolphin).

To make the area around the dolphins accessible to Quigg, the following ferry schedule changes will occur:

**8:30 AM NO SHUTTLES (8:30 run only)**

**9:00 AM (from mainland) CANCELLED**

**12 NOON (from island) CANCELLED**

**12:30 PM (from mainland) NO SHUTTLES**

**3:30 PM (from island) SERVICE RESUMES**

These changes will be posted on the whiteboards and the Herron island webpage. If you have a neighbor who doesn't use email, try to reach out to them with this information so that they can make plans.



## New Board Member

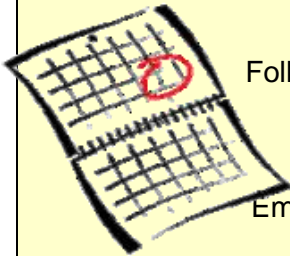
Eric Bergson has been appointed to fill the unexpired term left by the resignation of Janet Podell. Eric previously served on the board and will fill out the remaining months of Janet's term. The position will be one of two to be filled by election next June. Eric's email address is [HMCEricBergson@herronisland.org](mailto:HMCEricBergson@herronisland.org) and his cell phone number is 253-830-4413.

### Calendar of Community Events

The Calendar is available by going to the Island web site at [herronisland.org](http://herronisland.org) and then clicking the Calendar button in the left column of the Home Page.

Committee meetings, office closings and other events are updated regularly by a Member Volunteer.

Keep informed and volunteer on a committee.



Parks Committee Meeting  
January 9, 2016  
Following the regular Board Meeting

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Emergency Preparedness Meeting  
January 9, 2016—12:30  
In the Community Building



#### Board Member Email Addresses

HMCSherriAnderson@herronisland.org

HMCGaryWanzong@herronisland.org

HMCMikeGraham@herronisland.org

HMCSamArgo@herronisland.org

HMCEricBergson@herronisland.org

Please use these email addresses for all future communications to Board Members. They can be accessed on our website ([herronisland.org](http://herronisland.org)) under the HMC Board tab.

## Volunteers Needed For Transportation Committee

At the November Board Meeting, the Board decided to form a Transportation Committee for the purpose of evaluating contract proposals to supply personnel to operate our ferry, and to work on other matters that may come out of this review as the Board directs. HMC periodically receives proposals from outside vendors for various things and, after a quick evaluation, we normally find that the costs associated with the proposal exceed the costs of doing the work in-house. This has been the case with prior contract proposals for supplying ferry crew personnel. Last year, HMC received a proposal to supply ferry crew personnel; the proposed contract costs exceeded HMC cost by about \$28,000. This year, we received a new proposal to supply ferry crew personnel. However, unlike last year's proposal, this new contract proposal was actually slightly lower than our current in-house costs.

Our annual ferry labor operating costs are roughly \$370,000, which constitutes more than \$900 out of each Member's annual assessment. Accordingly, it seems prudent to now evaluate the option of contracting our ferry personnel versus employing HMC personnel directly.

The Transportation Committee is being formed for the purpose of evaluating the relative costs and the pros and cons of contracting versus maintaining HMC personnel to operate the ferry. Please note that the proposed contact does not call for selling the ferry or giving it away; the ferry would remain our property – the property of HMC Management. Once completed, the results of the evaluation will be presented to the Membership along with any recommendations developed by the Committee. Regardless of the results of the evaluation, and as a side benefit, we may also find ways to reduce the operating costs of the ferry from this project.

So the Transportation Committee can provide the best input to the Membership, we are looking for Members with financial, accounting, contracting, legal, and/or operational backgrounds. We also have other Members who have already stepped forward with legal, contracting, and financial backgrounds. But we can use a few more volunteers for this Committee so we get a good cross-representation of skills sets and perspectives. The purpose for which we are forming the Transportation Committee should be short lived; we want to have results by the end of February 2016. (For those old school management types, this would be a "white paper" project and, for the new school types, it is a Kaizen project.) The Committee would need to meet in person with a minimum of two meetings, with the bulk of the project most likely being done via email. If you are interested please contact me at [HMCGaryWanzong@herronisland.org](mailto:HMCGaryWanzong@herronisland.org).

Gary Wanzong





## **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIP OF THE MONTH**

### **FIREPLACE AND WOODSTOVE SAFETY**

Did you know that creosote burns at 1500 degrees Fahrenheit? Wow, that's hot and a fire that hot can burn down your house in a flash. Fireplace weather has us firmly in its grip and few things cheer us as much as a warm fire on a cold day. Be sure to enjoy that fire safely.

Following the points below can protect your home and family:

- Have your chimney or wood stove inspected and cleaned annually by a certified chimney specialist.
- Clear the area around the hearth of debris, decorations, and flammable materials.
- Leave the glass doors open while burning a fire. Leaving the doors open ensures that the fire receives enough air to for complete combustion and keeps creosote from building up in the chimney.
- When you reload your woodstove or start a fire, let it burn with dampers wide open for five minutes. This will help burn out creosote deposits in the chimney. Warning – Do not start a hot fire if there is a 1/8 inch thick or greater layer of creosote in the chimney pipe.
- Close glass doors when the fire is out to keep air from the chimney opening from getting in the room. Most glass fireplace doors have a metal mesh screen which should be closed when the glass doors are open. This mesh screen helps keep embers from getting out of the fireplace area.
- Always use a metal mesh screen with fireplaces that do not have a glass fireplace door.
- Install stovepipe thermometers to help monitor flue temperatures.
- Keep air inlets on wood stoves open and never restrict air supply to fireplaces. Restricting air supply causes creosote buildup that may lead to a chimney fire.
- Use fire-resistant materials on walls around wood stoves.

For information about the **Herron Island Emergency Preparedness Committee** contact **Mike Shettlesworth** at **253-884-6719**.

Please join us for our next meeting after the holidays on **January 9, 2016 at 12:30 in the Community Building**.



# HERRON ISLAND B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S.

(Your Band of Obviously Super Terrifically Enthusiastic Recreation Supporters)

is proud to present

## THE OFFICIAL 2016 HERRON ISLAND CALENDAR

THEY MAKE  
GREAT GIFTS!

NOW AVAILABLE FOR  
\$12.00 (OR LESS)!

The B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S. is now offering the 2016 Herron Island Calendar just in time for holiday gift-giving. This Calendar features photography from our very own Herron Island Members, and showcases what Herron Island is all about. The Calendar has been produced in limited quantities - we have already sold about 60 of them and there just aren't that many left. And the price is really good: \$12.00 for the first Calendar and \$10.00 for each additional Calendar that you purchase at the same time.



The time to act is now ... to purchase your Calendars in time to stuff stockings (big ones!) or just so all of your friends and family will know what day it is once 2016 rolls around, get a hold of our resident seller: Herron Island B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S. contact **Leslie Sanderson** at **(253) 884-5153** or email at **lidsanderson@jps.net**.

Checks should be made payable to "Herron Island B.O.O.S.T.E.R.S."  
Postage will be added to the price if you want your Calendars mailed to you.

## BUY CALENDARS!

### Water Statements

Water statements have been mailed or emailed, depending on what you are signed up for.

If you have not received yours, please contact the office, and a copy of your statement will be emailed to you.

Thanks, HIWD



### Volunteers

And as always, "Thank You" to the many volunteers who are always available to help on getting projects completed around the Island. Each Month the Island Manager has a list of those who have helped during the month in the Manager's report. This saves Members lots of money that isn't going out to paid help.



### No Beachcomber in December

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



## FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

We have windows for sale in wooden sashes, small - medium sizes. Great for art projects. \$20 each. If you buy more than 1 we'll wheel & deal. 206.633.2822 & 206.551.1270 when we're out on the island.

*Non-commercial ads of 100 words or less will be accepted for inclusion in this section free of charge. Please email your ad to beachcomber@herronisland.org, Subject: Beachcomber Ad. The ad must be resubmitted for each issue in which it is to be printed.*

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:MemberInput@herronisland.org)



### Fallen Behind on your Assessment?

If you owe \$200 or less, you may get access to the island by paying the delinquency in cash to the deckhand. At the March 14 meeting, the Board increased the limit from \$100 to \$200.



### Are You on the List?

HMC now has 345 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](mailto:office@herronisland.org) and request that your email address be added. To be used for HMC purposes only.

**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.
6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00	6:15	7:00				
7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00				
8:30	9:00	8:30	9:00	8:30	9:00	8:30	9:00	8:30	9:00	8:30	9:00	8:30	9:00
9:30	10:00			9:30	10:00					9:30	10:00	9:30	10:00
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12:00	12:30	12:00	12:30	12:00	12:30	12:00	12:30	12:00	12:30	11:30	12:00	11:30	12:00
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3:30	4:00	3:30	4:00	3:30	4:00	3:30	4:00	3:30	4:00	3:30	4:00	3:30	4:00
4:30	5:00	4:30	5:00	4:30	5:00	4:30	5:00	4:30	5:00	4:30	5:00	4:30	5:00
5:30	6:00	5:30	6:00	5:30	6:00	5:30	6:00						
6:30	7:00	6:30	7:00	6:30	7:00	6:30	7:00	6:30	7:00	6:30	7:00	6:30	7:00
								7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00	7:30	8:00
								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