

Orcas Highlands Association

P.O. Box 474, Eastsound, WA 98245

April 1, 2015

June 6 – Firewise/Clean-up Day: The annual OHA Firewise/Clean-up day is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th, between 12:00 and 3:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to groom the lower common and entrance areas, and to clean the OHA sign. Please bring your own gardening tools. Members may also bring yard waste to the burn area at the bottom of the hill where volunteers will attend a fire. Contact a Board member if you'd like to volunteer your truck for hauling waste.

June 6 – Annual Community Potluck: The potluck will occur at 5:00 p.m. and be located in the grassy area adjacent to the mailboxes. Please bring something to share with neighbors, a chair to sit on, your own plate and utensils, and a beverage.

June 20 – Annual Association Meeting: The OHA annual member meeting will be held on Saturday, June 20th, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. OPALCO has provided a conference room for the meeting. Should you have an agenda item to be considered at this meeting, please contact a Board member by June 17th. Each new item submitted may be limited to a 5-minute discussion. The Board will also be accepting nominations for new Directors as three positions are due to expire in June. Nominations should be submitted by June 17th, by contacting a current Director or by way of the OHA website. Your participation as a director is welcomed and strongly encouraged. The agenda will be available at the annual meeting and will be sent to members by email on June 19th.

Orcas Highlands Members Establish Two Committees: At the annual Association meeting held on June 21, 2014, two committees were formed of volunteer members. One committee was created to confirm and clarify the recreational vehicle restriction in our CCRs and to create a compliance policy and fine schedule. The committee's proposal was presented to the Board in October and a legal review of their proposal began in late February of this year. The resulting attorney-drafted policy to confirm and enforce RV parking restrictions is currently under review by the Board. When finalized, the policy will be provided to Association members for review prior to any vote by the Board to adopt the policy. The second committee was created to determine necessary and consistent road signs for the Highlands. The committee has selected standard white 15 mph speed limit signs, and reduced speed ahead, yellow caution, and yellow blind curve warning signs, and has identified the locations for the placement of these signs. The impetus for the speed signs is a result of drivers too often speeding in the neighborhood.

OHA Website Password-protected Access For Members: You can now access Orcas Highlands Association sensitive documents by using a password-protected link on the OHA website, orcashighlandshoa.com. The password-protected link can be found on the MEMBER INFORMATION tab at the top of that page. The specific line on the page reads "Password-protected documents are here." When this link is selected, a window will appear and will prompt for a User Name and Password. The authentication information required is *oha_member* for the user name and *access4hoa* for the password. Please note that after a successful login your browser stores this information for subsequent access until these credentials have been deleted. **PLEASE DELETE** the

Orcas Highlands Association

P.O. Box 474, Eastsound, WA 98245

browser history, passwords, and cookies if you use a public computer; i.e. library, workplace office, etc., to access the OHA website. Otherwise, the next user of the browser on that computer can also access the sensitive documents in those directories.

Washington Water Service Company Rate Increase: Last July Washington Water Service Company filed for approval from the WA Utilities and Transportation Commission to increase water service rates. The OHA filed a complaint to the Executive Director and Secretary of the UTC (password-protected file) challenging the inequitable rate charged to the Highlands and asked for an exception to the 2" meter rate and an adjustment to the rate equal to that charged to our residential neighbors in Vusario and Rosario. This request was rejected and the UTC approved a 17.5% overall rate increase on January 15th, effective February 1st. The OHA Board will review the tiered-rate fee structure that we currently use to charge Association and Otter's Lair consumers and to recover costs for operating and managing the OHA water system. Members will be kept apprised of any changes to the current OHA tiered –rate fee structure.

OPALCO Island Network Broadband Proposal For Orcas Highlands: Last August, Association Directors met with Gerry Lawlor of Island Network and Jeff Smith of OPALCO to discuss the possibility of fiber optic infrastructure installed throughout the Highlands community. Subsequently, Gerry has provided a comprehensive design and cost estimate proposal for the Highlands. The design and cost estimate may be found on the OHA website in the password-protected directory under *OPALCO Island Network*. **Financial participation by individual Association members in any Highlands community broadband installation is NOT REQUIRED. The OHA will have NO FINANCIAL OBLIGATION for the project if it occurs. Any Association member financial participation in this broadband project is strictly voluntary.**

Orcas Highlands Speed Limit: Please note the 15 mph speed limit in the Highlands and that the Association is responsible for road safety. Be aware of children, persons walking dogs, deer, and unsafe road conditions when traveling on our roads. Thank you.

Tree Trimming To Be Completed: Extensive tree trimming was done in late November and December over the Association roads to remove overhanging limbs and to remove potentially dangerous Alders in the right-of-way. SJC Public Works was also engaged at that time to remove a diseased Alder and to clean the ditches on the county portion of the road. Tree trimming will soon resume to complete this work on upper Lindsay Way, Switchback Rd., Highlands Dr., and Colorado Blvd. For any questions about this proposed work please contact David Turnoy at 376-4165.

Little Free Library #15211 will soon celebrate its first birthday. Those of you who have used it may contact Bea vonTobel for an informal chat about books from or contributed to the library. If interested, contact her at bvt99@rockisland.com or at 376-4462.

The community burn permit is in effect until June 30th. Please make use of the fire hose at the pump-house and use the necessary tools when tending the burning of your yard waste. ***NEVER LEAVE YOUR FIRE UNATTENDED!***