

Orcas Highlands Association

P.O. Box 474, Eastsound, WA 98245

July 1, 2015

Burn Ban in Effect: Please be advised that Orcas Island Fire & Rescue initiated an early closure of the permitted burning season that became effective on Monday, June 22nd. NO BURNING IS PERMITTED IN THE HIGHLANDS UNTIL THE BAN IS LIFTED.

The Firewise Communities/USA program in collaboration with Judy Cook and the Orcas Island Volunteer Fire Department conducted a wildfire environment assessment of the Highlands and made recommendations for wildfire protection in our community. The report, authored in October 2003 is posted on the OHA website. All members are encouraged to read this report as it provides important and essential information during this extremely critical period of dry conditions. PLEASE REPORT ANY INDICATION OF SMOKE OR FIRE TO OIF&R. This includes campfires.

Firewise/Clean-up Day Thank You: The annual OHA Firewise/Clean-up occurred on Saturday, June 6th, and was a great success. Member volunteers groomed the lower common and entrance areas, and cleaned the OHA sign. Numerous truckloads of yard debris were delivered to the burn area and were burned from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Special thanks go to Phil Turner, Jim and Sara Hennessey, Marcia West, Ed and Tracy Wilson, Lee Goodwin, Sally Eastland, Don Carlson, Mike Hurley, Rollie Sauer, Bob and Robbie Walker, Larry Hughes, Janie Kazas, Geri and David Turnoy, Connie Luerkens, Michael Harnett, Brian Ehrmantraut, Junk Crinkley, Jennifer Fralich, Susan Kunk, Jens Kruse, Arthur Winer, John Ginnes, and Dennie Carter. A community potluck dinner also occurred that evening at the mailboxes and was attended by many OHA members.

Annual Association Meeting: The OHA annual member meeting was held on Saturday, June 20th, between 1:00 and 4:40 p.m. Nearly four-dozen members attended and many important topics were discussed. Director Lee Goodwin was reelected, and Kristen Wilson and Gayle Benton were newly elected as Directors. The term of Duffy King expired. The Directors and members appreciate his many years of volunteer service.

Two OHA volunteer committees created in June 2014, to consider placement of new road signs and to establish a policy regarding the parking of a recreational vehicle (RV) within the Highlands, reported their progress to the members. The placement of new signs will occur this summer. The proposed RV policy has been mailed to members for review. To be considered, please mail any comments to the attention of the OHA Directors, P.O. Box 474, Eastsound, 98245-0474. All comments are to be received by July 15, 2015.

Members approved the Board recommendation to replace in the Highlands and Otter's Lair all water meters and to upgrade to electronic meter reading capability. Considerable discussion occurred regarding the management of the OHA water system by Washington Water Service Company. The Directors continue to explore this option and will keep members informed of any possible changes to the management of the OHA water system.

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The appearance of the Highlands entrance mailbox structure was a member topic of discussion. A committee will be created to investigate options and costs for refurbishing the structure, and the cost of a possible replacement of the mailbox structure.

Director Roxy Marck volunteered to chair a committee to investigate emergency evacuation options for the Highlands and to create a community evacuation plan.

Members approved the 2015-2016 budget as proposed.

Orcas Highlands Speed Limit: Please note that the SPEED LIMIT on the Highlands roads is 15 MPH. Be aware of children, persons walking dogs, deer, and unsafe road conditions when using your roads. Consider your neighbors and please drive slowly.

Orcas Highlands Parking Policy: Please be reminded that the Highlands Board adopted a parking policy two years ago. Each resident has the responsibility to keep the roadways and rights of way accessible for use by fire trucks, ambulances and law enforcement vehicles during an emergency. The OHA reserves the right to have vehicles including autos, trucks, and trailers towed at owner's expense if left on OHA rights of way overnight or if deemed by the OHA Board to interfere with access for emergency vehicles.

Weeds: The San Juan County Noxious Weed List, 2015, may be obtained on the OHA website at <http://www.orcashighlandshoa.com/member-information.html>. County statute requires that noxious weeds be removed. Please comply if you see any of the identified species on your property or in the common area, especially Scotch Broom, as they spread quickly. The San Juan County Noxious Weed Control Board keeps weed wrenches that are available to the public for check out at no charge. The Weed Board office (376-3499) is located in the Senior Center at 62 Henry Road, Room 26.

Highlands Boot Sale: The Highlands is organizing its third all-resident, multi-family garage sale...a "Boot" sale (like they say in England) because sellers will open the trunks (boots) of their cars to sell their goods. It will take place on Sunday, August 16, from Noon to 3 pm by the mailboxes.

Only residents of the Highlands can be sellers on a "first-come-first-parked" basis, but the general public is invited to purchase goods. Arrive early and set up before Noon. Please price your items beforehand and save car space by "Boot-Pooling" with a neighbor. Please contact coordinators Judy Cook, Connie Luerkens, or Jim Hennessey.

Drinking Water Report: The 2014 Consumer Confidence Report prepared by Washington Water Service Company is now available on the OHA website. The report provides an update on the quality and safety of your drinking water.

Please do NOT use the community burn area until the burn season officially resumes. OHA members and their assigns will be held responsible for illegal or unattended fires.

THANK YOU!