

## ORCAS HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 575  
EASTSOUND, WA 98245

### ASSOCIATION NEWS AND UPDATE SPRING 2017

As you get ready for summer remember to pencil in the Annual Firewise / Clean-up Day on Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, followed by the Annual Community Potluck. Clean-up activities are 9a.m. – 3p.m. Volunteers are needed to groom the lower common and entrance areas, and to clean the OHA sign. Please bring your own gardening tools. Residents may 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 yard waste. The potluck will occur at 5p.m. and be located in the grassy area adjacent to the mailboxes. Please bring something to share with neighbors, and provide your own seating, plates, utensils, and beverages.

#### **New Location for Annual Meeting**

This year's Annual meeting will be held on June 24 1-5 p.m. at the Firehall in Eastsound. Even though June 24 is "National Bring Your Dog to Work" day we ask that you leave fur-face at home when you attend this meeting. Please watch your mail for the proxy and ballot.

#### **A Message from the Nominating Committee**

We will need to fill two, possibly more, positions on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the Board or know of someone who you think might be interested please contact Jens Kruse at x2025 or [jkruse@wellesley.edu](mailto:jkruse@wellesley.edu).

#### **Roads Committee Report**

Due to our severe weather this winter, we have kept our snowplow man quite busy with plowing and with putting out ice melt to keep the roads drivable. Unfortunately, this has cost us over \$12,000 from the roads fund, and the board has decided that we cannot afford to continue to make all our roads as drivable as one might find in a city, particularly the upper sections of Discovery. Be advised that next year, we will plow only when more than 4 inches of snow accumulates. We also will no longer be spreading out thousands of dollars worth of ice melt with limited improvement to problem areas. Conditions as we had do not happen every year, but winter residents need to be prepared for severe cold and icy roads. You are advised to have a four-wheel drive vehicle, studded tires, and any other device needed to safely navigate our icy roads if you must drive in dangerous conditions. As a better alternative, we advise you to stay home when the roads are dangerous, and if you have to change an appointment, please do so. Because we had several years running of little snow, some of our newer residents had the misperception that our Association could always keep all roads open right after a severe storm. That's never been a safe assumption; as over the years this extreme weather and days of isolation has happened before, and assuredly will again at some point.

The roads committee is also looking at major road repairs for this year. We have gotten bids from a local excavating company and from an asphalt contractor. Any chip sealing will

most likely be done next year, but we may do some asphalt repairs this year, as well as cleaning out ditches, shaving off overgrown shoulders, and road sweeping. Some of you expressed interest in paving your driveways with asphalt, and you should have received your bid by now. The more we choose to resurface our roads in asphalt, the better the price you should get on your driveway work. This is still under consideration, and we will hopefully have a decision for our repairs this year soon.

### **Firewise Committee Report**

Have you noticed the size of the load on our burn pile?

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BURN WHAT YOU BRING.....THANK YOU

Small fires need only a small charged hose. Big fires require the fire hose stored in the pump house. Plan accordingly and contact a Board member if you need access to the big hose. Since the pile is nearing big hose height we'd like to organize a "burn day". Would those of you who have contributed to the pile be willing to help? If there is interest a big hose use demonstration can be arranged. Please contact Roxy Marck at 619.224.9015 so that we may coordinate a "burn day".

### **Water Care - Turning Off Your Water When Away**

A couple of our residents have had very large water leaks in their line below their street meter. This resulted in huge bills for them and considerable extra stress on our entire system. The take-away lesson is that all members should turn off their valves at the meter when they expect to be away more than a couple days. It used to be that those valves (the old ones) were hard to turn off, required the special long-handle wrench. But that's no longer the case. We replaced all member meters last year, and all are now easy to turn Off and On. Just open YOUR street black box lid and turn the brass valve off so the arrow points left, not straight ahead into the meter. This can be done by hand or with a small crescent wrench or pliers. Doing so ensures your water is OFF to your home, and can't run up a huge bill for you. OHA is responsible for leaks only up to those street meter/valves. Leaks below (or into the house) from those street valves are your responsibility and come from your pocket.

If you need to leave the water on we strongly urge you to engage a neighbor to check on your property. Remember the association is responsible for water to your main valve and you are responsible for water use from that point on.

#### **How to Check for Water Leaks**

Ensure all water devices are off. Open the lid at the black box for your water meter. Watch your meter for about a minute. If the dial moves water is running somewhere.

**EMAIL any questions or other issues or concerns to: [info@orcashighlandshoa.com](mailto:info@orcashighlandshoa.com)  
Phone numbers for board members are also listed on the website for your convenience.**