

Orcas Highlands Association Newsletter  
Fall, 2020

You may be aware that two of our board members recently retired. Dennie Carter was the treasurer of OHA for the last 30 years, an incredible span of service to the Association keeping our finances in order. Marcia West was a board member for six years and president for the last three years, leading us through a number of big projects. It is volunteers like these that provide the leadership needed for our neighborhood to remain a wonderful place to live. We have given each of them parting gifts, we thank them for their devoted service, and we wish them well.

It has been brought to our attention that not all of you are on our email list. We send out important notices by email every so often; for instance, all the info about our upcoming burn day has been sent out by email. If you are not receiving our emails, which are not very frequent, please email David Turnoy with your email address at [davidgeri@rockisland.com](mailto:davidgeri@rockisland.com).

With all the fires that have been burning in the western United States, we are reminded that it is important for us here in the Highlands to be aware of our fire danger. We have undeveloped lots that are overgrown with fuel. How do we deal with this? It is the owner's responsibility to ensure that his or her lot (undeveloped or developed) doesn't create an unacceptable risk of danger to the OHA, OHA members, or to other property in the Orcas Highlands. Some members may not be aware of this owner duty. While the board makes an effort to keep the fuel down in our common areas, it is not OHA's duty to keep fuels on individual lots under proper control (pruned back so not a hazard); this is solely the owner's responsibility. Oceanspray/Hard Hack is a very flammable weed, a hazard to the whole hill. Dead trees are equally a hazard. So please, make sure you keep your fuel load under control.

To that end, we are scheduling a fall cleanup day for Saturday, October 17. We didn't have our standard cleanup day this past spring due to the pandemic, but we will give it a go in a few weeks. If you can volunteer to drive or ride in a pickup truck to help load yard debris and then unload it down at the burn pile, that would be very helpful. I would encourage you to show up at the burn pile that morning at about 8:30. In order to do this safely, we will all need to wear masks when we are riding with another individual or working near someone else. I am also hoping to have the flatbed dump truck we usually rent. So, if you have piles to make, now is the time to make them close to the road. But please don't bring the forest floor debris, like needles and cones. Picking up, hauling, and dumping this material on the fire is challenging and it creates the most smoke. Members are encouraged to manage this material at home. By the time your read this, if you haven't already contacted David Turnoy to tell him you have a pile that needs to be picked up, please let him know at 360-376-4165 or at [davidgeri@rockisland.com](mailto:davidgeri@rockisland.com). Also, if you can help and/or if you can bring a pickup truck, he would appreciate knowing that.

We need to remind you that parking on the shoulder of the roadway (platted Right of Way) is not permissible. As you are aware, our roads are rather narrow in many places, and the Fire Department is concerned that they would not be able to get through in case of an emergency if

there is a car parked on the roadway and an oncoming car approaching. If you have tenants, please alert them as well.

Fall weather is returning, often bringing strong winds, which can lead to fallen trees. For your information, in case of a tree emergency, here are three professionals who can take care of fallen trees or trees that need removing before they fall:

John Olson	Island Tree Doctor	<a href="mailto:wapiti105@gmail.com">wapiti105@gmail.com</a>	360-622-6315
Scott Brooks		<a href="mailto:greenspartree@gmail.com">greenspartree@gmail.com</a>	360-298-1542
Rich Harvey	Harvey Logging	<a href="mailto:harveyloggingllc@yahoo.com">harveyloggingllc@yahoo.com</a>	(360) 298-0532

Enjoy the fall!  
The OHA Board