



## Official Publication of the Hat Island Community

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3616 Colby Ave, PMB 335, Everett WA 98201

[View Point Archives](#)



### Report from the manager

The staff at Hat Island would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season.

#### **Junk Vehicles**

Over the past 2 years the office has removed 50 junk vehicles from the island. We now have 3 more titles and are working on 4 junk vehicle affidavits in the office. If you have a vehicle you wish to dispose of please send the title to the office. If you have no title inform the office and we will get the paper work completed so the vehicle can be removed.

#### **Golf Course**

After the first of the year the community will be limbing trees, top dressing greens, filling in holes on #8 fairway and leveling the ladies tee boxes. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact the office or Linda Ebner. There will be no tree removal this year.

#### **Community Elsie-M Trip**

Last month the community cancelled the Saturday Elsie-M run. If there is not enough cargo scheduled the trip will be cancelled the Wednesday prior to the trip.

#### **Office Hours**

The Hat Island Office will be closed December 24, 25, 26, 31, 2003 and January 1, 2, 2004.

## **HICI Board Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** The regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, December 10th, 2003 at the Everett Elks. Board President Larry Petersen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. All Board members were present.

**Minutes:** A motion was made and carried to accept the minutes from the November meeting as printed in the View Point.

**Treasurer's report:** Linda Ebner presented the Treasurers report. The report

was accepted as presented. Linda also reported that she, Skip and Margit met with the Accountant to revamp the accounting groups to better track income and expense by divisions (marina, golf, operations, etc.) and that the \$1,400+ received from community member donations for employee bonuses was distributed to employees.

**Golf:** Linda Ebner noted that a truckload of topsoil will be used to flatten some of the more severe potholes on the eighth fairway and elsewhere and that time will be spent trimming limbs on some of the trees over the next few weeks/months.

**Vessels:** Ken Baxter reported that a bunch of wire caught on the rudder of the Elsie was removed. He also purchased two spotlights for the Elsie for help in seeing better when caught after sunset. This was helpful for all of the recent time spent by PUD working on the power problems on the southeast beach areas.

**Maintenance/Equipment:** George Alecci reported all equipment operational.

**Marina:** Stanley Krohn related that the ladders were still being installed. He also noted that we are still looking for a steel barge. In the mean time he asks that everyone help remove logs that enter the marina to keep them from doing damage to the docks.

**Water:** Melody Smith noted that Skip was still working on water meters and standpipes in Division I. She also informed that the iron problem that was occurring in beach well #2 is now also occurring in beach well #1. The Board authorized Skip to pursue the feasibility of installation and costs associated with the oxidation filter needed to remove the iron prior to the RO system to make sure it will fit in the building and that the costs are reasonable.

**Old Business:** The board approved the destruction of the ballots from the November Special Assessment vote.

Larry Petersen announced that the web site has officially been taken over by Eleanor Bruegeman and is almost completely up to date. The board thanked Eleanor for her donated hard work on the View Point and now the web site. Merrill Balanag read a letter received from Jodi Harrison, the Deputy Prosecuting Attorney regarding the grading violations on the South Beach. That letter is published in this View Point. It was also reported that although we tried to get more than one bid, that was all we were able to get. Mike Worthy again stated his views on the possibility of doing the work for significantly less than the \$338,889.40 quoted in our one bid. This would require the use of all block and mostly donated labor and equipment which we do not have. It was pointed out that no negotiations as to what work must be done can even be started because the costs of the permitting alone was more than our spending limit so a vote would be required before anything could begin. Therefore, the board will be sending out a vote to the community to ask if the community is willing to pay for the costs of repairing this access road bulkhead as a possible solution to the code violations.

A motion was made and approved to raise Annual Golf fees. The adult fee will change from \$100 per year to \$125 per year and junior fee will change from \$50 per year to \$60 per year.

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Announcements:** There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Merrill Balanag, Secretary

The following letter was received by the community from Jodi Harrison, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney of Snohomish County.

December 2, 2003

Dear Mr. Stienstra:

I am writing to request an update on Hat Island Community's plans regarding the code violations at issue in the above-referenced cases. In your letter of September 15, 2003, you indicated that you had contacted two contractors to bid the project, and that you would put the matter to a vote of the property owners once those bids were received. Assuming the bids have been received; have the property owners voted on the issue?

It is the county's expectation that the responsible parties will take the necessary steps to rectify these code violations. I hope to hear from you that they have come up with a workable plan and timeline to accomplish that. In the event that such a plan is not agreed upon in a timely manner, the County will file suit to compel abatement of the violations at issue in these cases. Please let me know the status of your attempt to get these matters resolved.

Very truly yours,  
Jodi Harrison  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

## Your Point of view

### Average Water Use (Re-defined)

Karl Bruegeman's letter made me curious about "normal and reasonable" use of water here on the island, so I looked up the water meter records to see what was normal for the other full-time residents during the June-August billing period during which Karl used his astonishing 57,495 gallons. There are 15 meters (besides Karl's) used by full-time residents. The number of gallons used ranged from a low of 2,563 to a high of 13,548. The total number of gallons that passed through those 15 meters was 119,458 for the 3 month period, making the average 7,964 gallons per household during those summer months. The variables (number of family members, number of lots, amount of

garden/landscaping, days off the island, guests, etc.) average out enough to not make that much difference for this summary. Lisa Delaney (J37)

### **To the President and Trustees of Hat Island Community Board**

There is an obvious need to resolve new and fair Water Rates for all Hat Island residents

We all paid our portion for building and installing the R O System, which was to provide adequate water to meet the needs of the island. Our lives were pretty disrupted this summer with a medical emergency, and then compounded, when we received the water bill from Hat Island for June, July and August. We arrived back to Hat Island from Arizona on May 12th. On June 24th we left the Island for a Doctor's appointment for a scheduled angiogram. Haig had to have a triple by-pass on July 1st and spent 18 days in the hospital because of major complications including kidney failure for 3 ½ weeks. We did not return to the Island until August 4th. During that time, no one stayed at our home and our plants/flowers were watered by Ginger Harmon and Ann and Dick Salvadalena with water collected in Salvadalena's cistern. We were gone for several weeks and did not use our water foolishly when we returned. We were told (through the island grapevine) that our water bill was going to be high. Then we received the outrageous water bill for almost \$1200.00. First, this should have been a private matter and not revealed to anyone other than us. We were extremely embarrassed and disappointed that so many people knew the invoice amount before we did. We were billed for nearly 15000 gallons for the July 1 to September 1 period. We were only on the island for 28 of those days. No one can tell us how much water we were supposed to have used in July when Haig was in the hospital and recuperating at Dwight and Claire Fry's condo in Everett. The meter reading was not recorded/

We were also informed (not by any formal communication) that the actual usage rate from the feasibility study was forecasted to be less than 1 cent per gallon. We were also informed monthly readings would give homeowners the opportunity to monitor their usage for each month. This is not being done on a monthly basis, nor is there any notification of the meter readings until you see the price tag on your quarterly invoice.

It is the RESPONSIBILITY of the board to care for the homeowners needs and provide fair rates with accountable follow-through on all matters. With the R. O. System in place and working well, the obsolete penalty water rate we are expected to pay is robbery. The board and water management people should be responsible to take care of island residents – not “take” them.

We also get angry and disappointed at the board's “one way” attitudes and communications about resident's priorities. Even when we attend allowable

board meetings, the needed actions we about (including the need for proper answers to questions important to those asking them) are often briskly set aside without proper response or courteous follow-through.

We are also extremely upset by the way these outrageous water rate charges are being handled and the mind set of the Board to not even consider giving serious review for retroactive credit from the outrageous penalties they continue to enforce. We are in dispute about our current water usage invoice and want to resolve this matter as soon as possible.

Resolve: We fully agree and support Mr. Karl Bruegeman's proposal for changes to the island's water rate schedule and in fairness to all, be retroactive to the time of the RO system Start-up. (Dec 03 issue of View Point Vol.5 Issue 4)

The purpose of any punitive rate from the past no longer exists.  
The "Ball of fairness" is in your court.

Sincerely,  
Haig & Jan Cartozian  
A-16

### **MR. ODGERS, PLEASE STOP**

Let's put his story in the actual context of Historical Facts.

#### THE ROAD

The Div. H Road, South Beach Drive, has existed for over 35 years. The road was used for access to the beach area long before any homes were built. No one has ever "BOOTLEGGED" in a road and to accuse Del Hirzel (One of the people who helped get our great community started) is really despicable. You also spelled his name wrong.

The community purchased the golf course and the gravel pit area in 1973 with a pre-existing road on it.

The community after they purchased it, adopted the road into the community by vote as published in the minutes of Aug. 1973. They sent a letter to Snohomish County (Sept 4, 1973: "This is to advise that Hat Island Development Company is deeding back to Hat Island Community, Inc. the access through the gravel pit and the 15 foot access thru Division H. These accesses will become part of the road network of Hat Island Community Inc.")

The community then entered into a contract with the PUD and agreed to maintain the road in 1974 so that power could be installed. A site map of the entire road was published at that time. The community also installed water lines

on the road so that building permits could be issued.

The community published a letter dated December of 1993 reaffirming the communities obligation to maintain the Div. H Road.

#### THE BULK HEADED PART OF THE ROAD

The bulk headed part of the road starts at my cabin H7. It is 1300 feet long with approx. 465 feet of road which has already been repaired at a cost to the community of \$36,040. The Div. H lot owners contributed over \$15,000 to the engineering and volunteer labor which has turned out to be a very efficient fix.

The Corp of Engineers approved the original bulkheading of the road and properties in 1978.

In my 19 years on the island the 1300 ft. of road has had a full reset of the block twice and a reinforcement of 200 ft. from my cabin once. By all means, ask Jim Conwell about the number of times he planned to repair minor washouts and was stopped from doing so. Had these small problems been dealt with, we would not have the problem we are facing today.

#### DIV. N COMPARISON

The Div. N area, The Swarm Property, Everett View Tracts and a few other parts of the island were not part of the original development by the Hat Island Development Co. and did not join Hat Island Country Club Inc. in 1967. (Later changed the name to Hat Island Community Inc.) These areas did not pay any dues or special assessments until they joined the community. Division N was replotted to meet many government demands and joined the community in 1991.

#### THE DIV. H LOT OWNERS HAVE BEEN PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE SINCE 1967

The Div. N group accepted some special restrictions before they started building and joined the community. It sure has not been easy for them. The community agreed to maintain our road before we started building in H.

#### THE SLIDE ISSUE

When I started building in 1985 there were 5 developed lots above Div. H. Today there are 23. There are also many cleared lots. All of this development is contributing to a loss of watershed. Geology and Hydrology reports all indicate that the major slides of the 90's were all a result of excess water buildup. Because of continued development of the island and now that we have the RO (Pumping less water from the aquifer) we can expect slides to happen again.

This is a community issue, not a private property issue.

I have no idea where you are getting all these fictitious numbers from but an analysis of the road budget was done in 1999 for the 1990's and the average spent on all the roads was \$15,400/yr. with some of those years having major slide expenses.

One final note, Mr. Odgers, about all those bad things that were done without a "Vote of the People" weren't you on the board when all these things happened?

You have been attempting to discredit your neighbors in Div. H for along time. Please stop the nonsense!

Bob Brunjes  
H7

### **To the Editor of the View Point**

If you have space in an upcoming edition of the View Point, I think it would be appropriate to reprint the article 'ATV ACCIDENTS', which was in the Seattle P.I. last week. I am no fan of ATV's used on the beach for recreation!! They are noisy, they frighten the sea life, and pollute the sand and air. With obesity a national health problem, people would be healthier walking than riding and more apt to enjoy the beauty around them. This article focus' on the safety (or lack of) of people using ATV's, especially children under 16 years old. I hope we can prevent accidents on Hat Island beaches by adhering to the rules already in place and using "common sense" to care for our environment.

Gail Winberg  
N-4

"ATV ACCIDENTS

FATALITIES AND INJURIES ON THE RISE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON - The number of people killed or injured using all-terrain vehicles is rising, the government says.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported recently that 113,900 people were injured severely enough in 2002 to be taken to a hospital emergency room, up from 110,100 in 2001.

In addition, 467 people died in ATV-related accidents in 2001, up from 446 in 2000, the latest available figures, the report said.

Children under 16 years old had 37,100 serious injuries in 2002, up from 34,300

in 2001, and more than any other group.

ATVs have three or four wheels with a wide stance and cushy tires. They can be driven on dirt, rocks and trails. No new three-wheel ATVs have been built since 1988, under an agreement between the industry and the federal government. The CPSC is considering a request from advocacy and consumer groups to ban the use of ATVs by anyone under age 16. A hearing on the issue is scheduled for Nov 6 in Albuquerque, NM.

"This continuous growth in serious ATV injuries and fatalities demonstrates how pervasive this public health crisis is and why it is time for a new approach to ATV safety," said Rachel Weintraub, assistant general counsel at the Consumer Federation of America."

### Passage

Our deepest sympathy to Bob and Jean Whiting for the loss of their son Kevin on November 30, 2003 after a long and brave battle with cancer.

### View Point Editor

**Eleanor Bruegeman**

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