

Orcas Highlands Association (OHA) News
July 2009

ROADS: Several homeowners have commented on potholes within the Highlands. If a pothole is located near your home and you are physically able, please apply OHA-supplied cold patch to the spot. Bea VonTobel at -2011 can provide you with it. If you are unable to apply the cold patch yourself, contact a Board member.

Remember that the established speed limit for the Highlands remains 15 mile/hour. Be sure to tell your renters and guests, as well.

BE SURE TO PAY YOUR OHA/WATER BILL: OHA has mounting accounts receivables, currently running in excess of \$11,000. The Association is willing to work with homeowners in order to pay outstanding bills. If your account is overdue, please notify the Board so a payment schedule can be created. It was decided at June's annual meeting to create a policy addressing the consequence of nonpayment and advise those who are in arrears.

WILDFIRE: Flammable brush removal was conducted in the common area on Discovery Way adjacent to the water tower. Due to unattended fires in the community burn area together with the exceptionally dry conditions, the burn area was closed early this season. We will reassess the feasibility of re-opening it when burning is permitted again in the autumn. Until that time, the burn area will remain closed.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The Board is seeking three more members. Please consider contributing some time to your community and contact anyone on the Board if you are interested in serving. All current Board members names and telephone numbers are posted in the 'Contact Us' area of the website (see below).

MAP: The new Highlands map is included with this newsletter. Please remember that the information on the map is proprietary to Highlands residents and not to be distributed outside our community. A PDF version of the map that does not contain personal information is available to be sent to realtors and others. You can find it on the OHA website (see below) or by contacting Jim Hennessey at designprof@centurytel.net.

WEEDS: Watch for invasive weeds this summer. Highly noxious, prohibited yellow tansy ragwort, Scotch broom and common fennel are moving into the Highlands. Please eradicate any of these that appear on your property. County statute decrees that tansy ragwort must be removed. To download a copy of the San Juan County Noxious Weed List – 2009, go to the OHA web site at <http://www.orcashighlandshoa.com/index.html>. Select 'Our Community', and then 'CC&R's and other Homeowner Information'.

WATER: Eastsound Sewer & Water District (ESWD) has set aside funds to develop new water resources in the Highlands. Drilling for potential feasible wells will begin by the end of the summer. Board member Rollie Sauer currently serves as an ESWD commissioner.

PETS: Pet owners are reminded that both the Highlands and the County mandate the use of leashes if your dog leaves your property. When you walk your dogs, please pick up after them.

PARKING: Please do not park on the rights of way and/or the road shoulders overnight. Emergency response vehicles may need to get through.

FIREARMS IN THE HIGHLANDS: Hunting and/or shooting---including target practice---are not allowed in the Highlands.

MAILBOX SPACES AVAILABLE: Several mailbox spaces for OHA residents remain available at the foot of Lindsay if you would like to place a mailbox there.

WATER CONSERVATION: Conserve during the hot summer months! Check for leaks in your system by turning off your master valve (at the house) for 1-2 hours and comparing the meter readings before/after. With the valve temporarily off, any difference in reading means you have a leak in your line that you can trace and eliminate. The association has no way of knowing if you have water leaks, but there have been several piping leaks between street meter and house inlet valves this year due to aging connection lines for the older homes. These were very costly to the owners. It is up to you to locate them early.

CHIPS AVAILABLE: For those of you who landscape with chips, you will find them in the burn area. They are all that is left of the pile of green waste collected prior to the Firewise Work Day on June 20. The chips are free---first come, first served.

OHA WEBSITE: Visit the Highlands web site (<http://www.orcashighlandshoa.com>) for current information on issues including water, Board meeting minutes, OHA CCRs and more.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

The Orcas Highlands Association Board