

# The Island Insider

June 2006

P.O. Box 332 Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Raft Island Community Newsletter



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am coming up on the end of my first term as President. Normally, this would be the time to reflect on the past year and wax poetic about what we've accomplished and the challenges that remain. Frankly, I haven't had much time to reflect on the experience. So, rather than prattle on about something that I haven't given much thought to, I will just make a few announcements and reminders and let all of you get on with your lives.

**The Board:** Raft Island is fortunate to have a very active Board. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the people who serve on the Board, without compensation, with the interests of the island rather than their own personal interest in mind. They are truly a remarkable group of people. I would not have agreed to serve as President if I had not known the quality of the people that I would be working with. Please let them know how much you appreciate their efforts the next time you see a Board member.

**Parking:** As summer draws near, please keep in mind that current Raft Island stickers (which need to

be renewed this year) need to be displayed on vehicles parked at any of the Raft Island common areas. Parking at South Beach especially is at premium at times and vehicles without stickers are in danger of being towed. I say this because I recently surveyed five cars parked at South Beach and found that only one car had a current sticker.

**Bridge:** Let me emphasize what Ted Smith has said in his Bridge Update. Because the cost of replacing the Bridge is growing much faster than we expected, we may very well be looking at just repairing this Bridge rather than replacing it. To keep this option open to us, we need to be better stewards of our Bridge. Please keep your speed down and drive down the middle of the Bridge when possible. The sheriff that we hire to police the Island in the summer has been given authority to enforce the speed limits as well. Probably more importantly, if you are having work done on your home, please make sure that the contractors comply with the weight limits on the Bridge. Call the Island manager, Cathy Driscoll, 265-8489, for more information in this regard. There are severe penalties to homeowners whose contractors violate the weight limits and the Board will be stepping up enforcement of these rules.

**Vicious Dog:** A pit bull mix dog currently resides at 142 Fir. She has escaped on several occasions and attacked people walking on the Island. The tenant who lives there has agreed to get rid of the

dog and will be moving off the Island in June. In the mean time, carry a cell phone when you walk and call 911 if this dog attacks you. The Humane Society no longer enforces the leash laws so this is the only remedy that we have. The owner of 142 Fir is looking for a good tenant. If you know of someone looking for a good home to rent, please call me – 265-0700.

**Be safe:** Summer is a great time on Raft Island. It is a great place to raise a family and we have a lot of kids on the Island. Watch out for kids on their bikes when you are coming around the many blind corners on the Island. Have fun on the water but, in doing so, please be safe. We are especially concerned about speeding boats and jet skis around the Bridge and the boat ramp.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!

John Rosendahl  
President, RIIA

### Raft Island Officer & Trustees

President:	
John Rosendahl	265-0700
Vice President:	
Betty Perry	265-6012
Secretary:	
Kandi Horton	265-8363
Treasurer:	
Bruce Difloe	265-8363
Trustees:	
Pete Sylvain	265-2134
Rich Swensen	265-8090
Doug Driscoll	265-8489
Joe Sanchez	265-3587
Jill Uddenberg	265-1545
Ted Smith	265-8697
Manager:	
Cathy Driscoll	265-8489



**The South Beach.** The ramp is falling apart, in desperate need of repair and/or replacement, and in need of cleaning. The gravel behind the bulkhead has all been washed away and needs replacing. Black berries need to be cut back next to the bridge. Visitors are constantly leaving behind their empties and other garbage. I have seen numerous non-residents using the boat ramp and non-residents with RI parking stickers in their vehicles. And, someone keeps stealing the showerhead. What is up with that? I have a bid to repair the boat ramp for \$135,000. Several people have asked when I was going to form work parties. My response is, "when are you going to form a work party?" For all the talk I have heard over the years about community, and commitment, and great neighbors helping out...I sure don't see it very often. It is the same 12 or 14 people who do everything around here (me not included). Folks...you don't need me to form work parties. Take some initiative. Get involved. For those of you who don't know...EVERYONE on the board is a *volunteer*. We all have jobs, and families, and commitments to sports, and music, and dance, and church, and whatever. We are not on-call day laborers. Just like your own home or property, there are always things that need doing around here. If you see something that needs fixing, and have the time, talent, and tools...fix it. Take your weed whacker and whack away at the black berries at either beach. Feel free to clear the brush and weeds along the road in front of your house. Buy a can of paint and paint a speed bump. Spend \$10 and replace a couple boards on the dock walkway. Do something simple like slowing

down while driving across the bridge or even around the island. How about asking your high school drivers to slow down (the morning commute to school should not look like a road rally). Quit giving out your parking stickers and ramp keys to non-residents. Take a broom and sweep the tennis court or the road in front of your home. It is nearly impossible to get any kind of contractor out here to do anything. And, as you can see by the estimates above...very expensive. Personally, I don't feel right about spending your hard earned money on tasks that can be accomplished with a little commitment of time and effort from all of us. Get involved and quit complaining! Do something. Anything!

Have a great summer and remember, **SPEEDS OF 5 MPH OR LESS ARE REQUIRED WHEN OPERATING WITHIN 200 FEET OF SHORE, DOCKS, BRIDGES, OR PUBLIC SWIMMING OR BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES.**

**Raft Island's Web Page**  
[www.raftisland.org](http://www.raftisland.org)  
**On the web page you can look up By Laws and C.C.&R's There is an island map for your use. You can post information and questions on the Community Bulletin Board and much more. It will also help with costs in delivering the newsletter to you.**  
**My email address is:**  
[drisco@centurytel.net](mailto:drisco@centurytel.net)  
**Cathy Driscoll - Island Manager**

## **RIIA Dues/Assessments Guidelines**

As was mentioned in the last Annual Meeting, the current board has been very successful over the last couple years in collecting several accounts of overdue RIIA assessments. In response to questions concerning how RIIA pursues overdue accounts – the Board is using the following guidelines.

1. The Island Manager sends out annual billings in June, which are due July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lot owners receive monthly billings of unpaid amounts.
2. In mid-October the Manager sends letters to lot owners who have not paid in full or have not made arrangements to pay, giving them 30 days to become current. At this time the lot owner becomes liable for any costs of filing a lien and revoking bridge rights, as well as any future costs for removing the lien and reinstating bridge rights.
3. If payment or arrangements are not made by mid-November, the Manager forwards the information to the RIIA attorneys.
4. Our attorney files the lien and revocation of bridge rights, and sends a notification to the lot owner.
5. The Island Manager continues to send monthly statements to lot owners in arrears, including lien and bridge revocation legal costs, and 12% annual interest accruing monthly.

- 6. Accounts that continue to be unpaid are monitored, and after approximately 3 years without attempt to become current or make arrangements to become current, the Manager brings the case to the Board.
- 7. Generally after this much time without response by the lot owner, the Board will decide to have the attorney proceed on foreclosure actions. The attorney will notify the lot owner that they have 60 days to pay unpaid balances. The Board will notify the entire RIIA membership that a legal foreclosure action is to begin.
- 8. Any RIIA members have 7 days to respond to notice of legal action. If no actions are taken by RIIA members, the RIIA attorney initiates foreclosure proceedings.

**ISLAND SECURITY**

We are again scheduling with the local sheriff's office for security. Please remember to report any suspicious activities or disturbances to the sheriff's department.

I would like to remind you about Article XII and the island curfew. There has been some vandalism at the South Beach- the light has been knock out for the second time in a year.

Where do shellfish go to borrow money? (the prawn broker!)

**Community Happenings**

**INVESTMENT CLUB**

If you are interested in starting an investment club sanctioned by The NAIC (National Association of Investors Corporation), please contact me. There are over 600 clubs in the Pacific Northwest alone. While club members create their own by-laws and investment objectives, the structure of a previous area club is available and it would be an opportune time to start one on the island and surrounding community with minimal effort. The chief purpose of NAIC clubs is education so you need only be interested in the subject and not experienced. If you are interested take a look at the national web site at: [www.betterinvesting.org](http://www.betterinvesting.org) and email me at [mjhirko@aol.com](mailto:mjhirko@aol.com).

~~ \_/ ) ~ ~ Mike

What do you call a witch that lives at the beach? (a sandwich!)

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!**



***MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER***

**Hello –**

It has come to my attention that companies are try to use our neighbors' shorelines for Geoduck farming. If you are interested in reading more about this shoreline destroyer I urge you to take a look at this site and get involved. You can read more about this at: [www.saveourshoreline.net](http://www.saveourshoreline.net). What is to stop them from coming to our shores?

**ASSESSMENTS**

Your annual assessments are enclosed with the newsletter. If you did not get an assessment notice please contact me.

**BRUSH CUTTING**

The island brush cutting is scheduled for the later part of June this year. Please watch out for the equipment as you drive the island



**RAFT ISLAND MEMBER DIRECTORY**

The island member directory is available for pick up at the manager's home or it can be emailed to you. If you would like it emailed contact me at [drisco@centruytel.net](mailto:drisco@centruytel.net). Please reread Article XI of the by laws – this is for everyone. Remember just because your dog is friendly most of the time that doesn't mean all of the time. So, for the safety of all please keep your animals on your property or on a leash.

Thank you,  
Cathy Driscoll  
RIIA Manager