



*June 2010*

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Ok, in the last Newsletter, I said spring is here...and it has been a rainy one for the record book. I hope by the time you are reading this you are basking in bright sunshine and enjoying our June Newsletter. We heard good things about our Newsletter from the membership at the Annual meeting. I'm happy to report that BJ Winter has graciously volunteered to keep up her excellent work as our Editor in Chief. Thank you BJ!

Wow, we had a GREAT Annual meeting in May! Thanks much for coming. For those of you who missed it, I recommend coming next year. There was a very supportive, community spirit. Some members had concerns they needed to bring to the Boards attention and they were heard. We have a wealth of expertise and great ideas contained in our small population. If you have ideas for improvement or changing a process, volunteering or whatever it may be, please do come to a Board meeting. We want to hear your ideas and possible solutions. If you see John Lantz on the Island, please say thank you to him for replacing the four big outdoor lights that belong to Raft Island. John is a member of Darker Skies and he brought up the fact that the current outdoor lights are very bright and spew light upward and are not as energy efficient as newer lights. The new lights had a change fee per light and John negotiated this fee with Peninsula light and was able to get us a really good deal. John paid for the change fee himself and we are very grateful for his efforts and generosity. Thanks again John! Another volunteer, Bruce Difloe has offered to create an Island history on the CC&R's, By-Laws and a plethora of other information. It will be very interesting indeed.

As most of you know, the Bridge Committee and Board are in the process of applying for a USDA loan for our bridge replacement. Our Bridge Committee has worked diligently putting in many, many hours of effort to pull together all of the permitting and necessary paperwork as well as wading through layers of what seems like never ending bureaucracy. Please read an update in this Newsletter.

**Thank you Island residents** for voting in a moderate dues increase to keep a balanced budget which is needed for any USDA bridge funding and moreover, to stop spending our reserves. More about this later in the Newsletter.

We've had several volunteers come forward to be on a variety of Committees. We are excited to see more participation and anyone is welcome to be a volunteer.

I have been a little lax in updating the website, but I'll get on it. If there are any of you reading this have web expertise or know someone on the Island who has web experience or computer experience and want to volunteer to help out, give me a call.

Finally, our new Board was voted in and yours truly will be President for one more year, John Rosenthal will be the VP. We will list the new board members at the end of this Newsletter.

There was a beautiful full rainbow over the Island one late afternoon this June. It makes for the kind of pictures that get put on calendars! Take care and I'll see you around the Island.

*Charlotte Crain - President*

## BRIDGE HISTORY CORRECTION

We enjoyed your well written newsletter. However, I want to correct an error in the Bridge History.

Mr. McDonald did not construct the bridge. My father, Archie Matthew, Sr., purchased the island from Jess Kuhns in 1957 for \$80,000. In 1958 he hired Sitts and Hill Engineers to design the pre-stressed concrete bridge and the contract was awarded to Hart Construction for \$52,000. The bridge was completed August 1, 1958. On May 19, 1959, he sold the island with the exception of Lot 153 (our residence) to McDonald and Parish for \$348,000, and they then became active in the development of roads, etc.

This same information is in the book "An Excellent Little Bay" second edition which is a history of the Peninsula area and is available at Mostly Books and the Harbor History Museum.

I have all my father's Raft Island files which I intend to give to the Island archives when I have them in order.

*Jean Matthew Springer (153)*

## SURVEY RESULTS CORRECTION

The tally for those that would use PayPal was incorrect. Please note that *"29 respondents would use PayPal service and 81 would not."*



*Misty Morning*

## ISLAND COMMUNICATIONS

Based on input received from February's survey, **EMAIL** was listed as the *"number one preferred method of communication."* For that reason, RIIA association will attempt to circulate information via the internet IN ADDITION to the Newsletter and Island Meetings.

If you DO NOT HAVE EMAIL, please contact the Island Manager at 265-8489 to ensure that you are added to the list of members that will require US MAIL delivery. The Association will save a good amount in postage and paper per mailing by adjusting to online communications.



## RAFT ISLANDTREASURER

Thanks to all of you who voted in the modest dues increase. This will get us back on track for a balanced budget as our costs to repair and insure our bridge have increased. As the fiscal year winds down, we have stayed within our budget on all items except for the additional costs necessary to keep our bridge safe.

You also voted to forego an audit of the books by a CPA firm. In lieu of that, two members have volunteered to perform a review of the books and records after the fiscal year ends June 30th. If you would like to help out with the review, give me a call. As an additional check on your funds, I've directed Raymond James to send a duplicate copy of the monthly brokerage statement to the investment committee for their independent verification. This, along with the Vanguard statements they already receive, gives the investment committee an independent report of virtually all our assets. Have a great summer.

*Anne Scea – Treasurer*

## BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FUND

At the end of last quarter (March 31, 2010), the market value of the investments in this RIIA fund was \$903,956 or 78.7% of the planned June 30, 2010 target amount of \$1,148,732. The allocation percentage goals approved by the Board of Trustees remain 25% Bonds, 28% Large Capitalization Stocks, 22% Medium and Small Capitalization Stocks, 20% International Stocks, and 5% to Money Market. All funds are held by the Vanguard Group. The Investment Committee meets quarterly and provides recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The next special assessment for the fund will be \$384 and due July 1, 2010.

*Mike Hirko-Chair*

## SECURITY REPORT

Dear friends, I am looking forward to serving on the board for the next two years. Over the last year I have been the security person along with Jesse Stamper. Thanks Jesse for all your hard work. There are a few issues that need to come to the attention of Island residents. Remember, this is all about respecting our neighborhood and our neighbors.

~ The parking stickers at south beach continue to be a problem and again this summer we will see a lot of off islanders using our beach and park. You cannot give your friends permission to park there; if they don't have stickers they will be towed. If you have a special request you can make arrangements with the Island Manager.

- The park closes at 10PM. I know that isn't a problem for most of us. Mostly it is kids coming to use the fire pit who think it's a great place to drink beer and toss the bottles and cans in the fire. If you know anyone using the park after dark, make sure they know they will be trespassing after 10PM. ***It is posted.*** There will be grace on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

- The speed on the bridge continues to be a problem. We have two potholes on the road surface that were

obviously created by excessive speed. Everyone is in a hurry to get home, but there are too many walkers on our island to exceed 15 MPH.

- While walking your dog carry a plastic bag and pick up your *doggie doogie*. Your neighbors will love you!

Have a safe summer,

*Mike Neil*



## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Nearly 100 members returned their ballots either in person or by mail for our Annual Meeting held in May. Following were the results:

### Elected Officers:

President, Charlotte Crain

Vice President, John Rosendahl

Secretary, Trish Burnett

Treasurer, Anne Scea

### Elected Trustees:

3- yr Term - Rich Swenson & Dawn Stanton

2- yr Term - Dave Paly & Mike Neil

1- yr Term - Russ Ranger.

A dues increase of \$165 per year & corresponding Bylaw change to indicate total dues of \$565 per year was **approved** by more than two-thirds with 82 in support.

The request to waive the audit was also **approved** with 77 in support.

These new changes will become effective July 1, 2010. Thank you for your support, suggestions, and participation!

*Trish Burnett*

## RAFT ISLAND BRIDGE UPDATE

### FEMA Status Update

Last year, a FEMA Committee was formed to work with Pierce County Emergency Management to develop a plan making us eligible for FEMA funds. Without prior approval of a detailed management plan by the Feds, we would not be eligible for any FEMA dollars. Other than volunteer time (thank you Tom Straub, Bob McCoy, John & Tina Shoemaker, Cathy Driscoll, Doug Fillbach, Trish Burnett and Dawn Stanton. This did not cost the Island anything.

It's expected that the plan will be submitted to the Washington State Emergency Management Department for review in July before it is forwarded to FEMA. If approved, RIIA will be eligible for funds during a natural disaster (earthquake). While it does not replace our general bridge insurance, it does offer another layer of funding protection. We will also be eligible to compete for "seismic mitigation grant funds" that could be used to upgrade the existing bridge or, if we vote to replace the bridge, supplement construction costs. For more information call 222-2786.



*Great Sailing*



*Raft Island Sunset*

### Bridge Inspection and Maintenance

The most recent bridge inspection was completed by our engineer on April 29, 2010. This inspection revealed that the following repairs to the bridge will be required this summer:

- ~ Five piles require concrete encasement due to marine borer damage and rot.
- ~ Timber bracing at 10 locations require replacement due to rot, or other structural damage.
- ~ The north abutment support called a timber cap (where you come onto the bridge from the island side) will require repair due to rot. The rot was identified in past inspections and now has advanced to the point of requiring a repair.
- ~ One concrete girder has a spall (de-lamination over the reinforcing steel) and requires cleaning and patching.

The engineer is currently working on the necessary permit applications to complete this work and will also prepare cost estimates. If the membership elects to pursue a replacement bridge in the short term (see USDA Loan below), we will do only the work necessary to maintain safe operations, thereby conserving our resources to the greatest extent possible.

*Ted Smith*



## USDA Loan

At the April 5, 2010 special meeting, a possible funding option for a replacement bridge was presented to the membership. The meeting was well attended and many members contributed well thought ideas for this funding option as well as other issues related to the bridge. This funding option is in the form of a loan through the USDA and is part of the Federal stimulus package. The loan terms appear attractive for this project; because the term is longer (40 years) and the interest rate is lower (approximately 4%) than is available through conventional lenders. Based on the positive response from the members at the special meeting, the Board and Bridge Committee moved to pursue the application.

To date, we have received the engineer's estimated bridge construction Cost Analysis, the preliminary Bridge Design and the Biological Evaluation (BE) as requested by USDA in order to apply for the federal loan. The engineer's replacement estimate is \$5.6 million. Based on who you ask, this cost could drop by as much as \$1 million by the time we go out for bids (if the membership votes to do so). Through USDA, the BE has been forwarded to US Fish & Wildlife and the Dept. of Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service.

Unfortunately, there is some confusion because the fast-tracking that's required for stimulus money is unfamiliar to most agencies. The Committee continues to do it's best to birddog the path. Thanks to all who have worked and continue to work on this critical issue. If anyone would like to help, please call Dawn Stanton at 222-2786 or Ted Smith at 686-4017. Your input is welcome.

*Ted Smith*



*Olympic Sunset*

## USDA - Bridge Update

In response to a unanimous vote from Island members in attendance (approx 40+ ) during the Special Meeting held April 5th, the Bridge Committee submitted a formal application to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) for stimulus money (4% for 40 years) to build a new island bridge. The application does not obligate the membership. If we are awarded funds, **a bridge replacement decision would require a formal vote by the membership.**

As part of the application process, RIIA was required to provide a bridge design, biological evaluation (BE for environmental impacts) and an estimated construction cost. An engineering firm and a biologist were hired for a cost of \$8000 for the BE and \$10,784 for CAD drawings, description and cost analysis. These fees will be paid from the Bridge Replacement Fund.

We have requested funds for bridge construction. We should have an answer this fall. If we are awarded the loan, a **Special Meeting Notice and Ballot Vote will be required to move to the next step.** If you have questions or input, please call our USDA Bridge Committee Rep at 222-2786.

*Dawn Stanton*

## **Island Officers and Trustees**

President	Charlotte Crain (# 8)	253-265-0980
	Charlotte's Cell	503-680-1882
Vice President	John Rosendahl (#133)	253-265-0700
Treasurer	Ann Scea (# 192)	253-265-3791
Secretary	Trish Burnett (# 67)	253-265-3391
Trustee	Rich Swenson /Roads (# 219)	253-265-8090
Trustee	Sarah Brown (# 6)	253-649-0175
Trustee	Dawn Stanton (# 111)	253-222-2786
Trustee	Dave Paly (69A)	253-265-6356
Trustee	Mike Neil (#2)	253-381-2112
Trustee	Russ Ranger (# 182 )	253-265-0997

## **Bridge Replacement Fund Investment Committee**

Mike Hirko / Chair (# 113)	253-686-5288
Monica Butler (# 101)	
Don Perry (# 65)	
Rich Swenson (# 219)	
Dave Paly (# 69A)	
Christine Stephen (# 25)	
Gabrielle Gibbert (# 74)	

## **Bridge Committee**

Ted Smith Chair (# 160)	253-265-8697
Dawn Stanton Chair (# 111)	253-222-2786
Bob McCoy (# 239)	253-265-1626
Tom Straub (# 98)	253-265-6952

## **Parks and Recreation Committee**

Greg Scea (# 74)	253-265-8368
Russ Ranger (# 182 )	253-265-0997

## **Security Committee**

Russ Ranger (# 182 )	253-265-0997
Mike Neil (# 2)	253-381-2112

Cathy Driscoll ~ RIIA General Manager ~ E-mail [drisco@centurytel.net](mailto:drisco@centurytel.net)

*All photos by Editor. Please feel free to email your Island photos (no people please)  
to me for possible inclusion in future Newsletters.*

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