

# The Island Insider

May 2005

P.O. Box 332 Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Raft Island Community Newsletter

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Hello!*

*Here we are in the month of May when the days are getting longer and the weather warmer. With all the spring rains, the grass is growing faster than we can keep up with mowing it! The warm weather not only brings out the beautiful flowers and Rhododendrons around the island, it also brings out all the kids who have been cooped up all winter. This means they will be playing, walking, riding, skating and skipping along the narrow streets of our island, along with us older "kids". Remember, we all need to SLOW DOWN while driving onto and around the island. The bridge and the island have a 15 mph speed limit that we need to adhere to, so we can help to protect our children young and old. And speaking of protecting - two items come to mind. The warmer weather brings additional "unwanted visitors" to our island. Our informal "Neighborhood Watch Program" needs to be awakened. Be alert to unusual activity at your neighbors and contact the local authorities with vehicle descriptions and license plate numbers if at all possible. We not only need to protect our children and ourselves from aggressive pets, but also, the person or child who does not like or is afraid of animals. Please, keep your pets under control at all times.*

*The increased use of the boat launch at the south beach has prompted the board to place the area below the gate as a loading and unloading area only. After launching, please move your vehicle and trailer to the parking area outside the boat launch area. This will allow the maximum use of this area to all island residents.*

*Have a great summer, and see you around the island.*

*Doug Driscoll*

## Do fish get thirsty?

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### 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.

### After eating do amphibians have to wait one hour to get out of the water?

### BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FUND

At the end of the last quarter (March 31, 2005), the market value of the investments in this RIIA fund was \$444,453 or 88.8% of the planned June 30, 2005 target amount of \$500,964. The allocation percentage goals approved by the Board of Trustees remain 35% Bonds, 28% Large Capitalization Stocks, 17% Medium and Small Capitalizations Stocks, 15% 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 this fund will be \$261 and due July 1, 2005.

*Mike Herko, Bridge Replacement Investment Committee*

### BRIDGE



## 2005 Raft Island Bridge Committee (RIBC) Update

During the past year, the RIBC committee has been very busy reviewing a detailed engineering report, the regular annual inspection report, managing ongoing maintenance and renewing the bridge insurance policies. The coming year will also be busy as the committee researches bridge replacement options, reworks the financial plan, and contracts for additional maintenance work.

### Detailed Engineering Study

In the fall of 2004 Sargent Engineers completed an engineering assessment of similar scope to the 1996 study. Recall that the 1996 study provided the basis for the current bridge assessment and replacement/maintenance funds. The focus of the detailed study was to re-assess the life expectancy, formulate detailed bridge maintenance strategies and refine the budget and schedule for the various bridge replacement options. The study concluded that the 20 year life expectancy, predicted in the 1996 study, is realistic. The study also suggested that the life span could be extended with strict adherence to the weight and speed limitations and implementation of an aggressive maintenance program. Unfortunately the study also

estimated that the cost to construct a new bridge significantly exceeds the anticipated replacement fund value. The funding short fall is primarily due to the fact that construction costs have increased at a rate above inflation and due to the increased cost of environmental compliance; both factors that could not have been reasonably predicted in 1996.

**The Annual Report**

The annual bridge inspection report was completed in June of 2004 by Exeltech Engineers. The purpose of the regular inspection is to track possible bridge structural deterioration and to focus maintenance efforts on the most critical areas. The report concluded that the bridge is serviceable, but called for additional patching of spalled

concrete on the bridge deck. Patching work was completed in the fall of 2004. Additional work is recommended for 2005 or 2006.

**Upcoming Work**

Over the summer months, the RIBC and the RIIA board will continue to review the bridge replacement and maintenance strategies presented in the detailed engineering study. The financial plan will be reviewed and revised and the possibility of securing outside private or public funding will be explored. We have also started sharing information with residents of Treasure Island in Mason County. Treasure Island is a small private island community served by their own small bridge; similar to the Raft Island Bridge. Results of this work will be present in detail at the annual meeting in September. Please

contact me if you are interested in sharing your expertise and assisting in these efforts.

**Weight Limits and the Variance Process**

Consistently, all of the engineers working on the bridge have agreed that overweight vehicles are among the most destructive forces at work on the bridge. Please observe the posted limits and follow the variance process for over weight vehicles. If you plan construction work and require additional information, please contact me or the Island Manager.

**- KEEP YOUR WEIGHT LOW AND YOUR SPEED SLOW.**

*Fed Smith  
Bridge Committee Chairman*

**PARKS & RECREATION**

What a great time of year! No, not Spring. It's newsletter time. It's a time when all trustees are scrambling to turn 3 or 4 or 6 months of inactivity into a concise, informative, and interesting couple of paragraphs. I could go on and on and on and on about all the things I, as the parks trustee, have accomplished over the long winter. But I won't bore you. All my hard work is readily apparent. Suffice it to say, the Raft Island recreational areas are in fine shape, overall. Some minor repairs to the dock have us ready for the upcoming boating season. A reminder to all who have dinghy's...keep them locked. As someone who has been lackadaisical towards property security, and lost several non-powered watercrafts because of it,



I speak authoritatively when I say they will disappear.

**Boating in the vicinity of Raft Island.**

Watercraft Regulations of Pierce County state "Five (5) mph or less when within 200 feet of shore, docks, bridges or public swimming areas, within 100 feet of swimmers or boats, or within 300 feet of a public boat launch. Operators are responsible for any damage or injuries caused by the wake of their vessel." In other words, be considerate of your neighbors. No wake. Limit speed to 5 mph or less.

New keys will be issued to the boat launch this year. All are reminded that off islanders (guests) are not allowed to use island facilities unless they are directly accompanied by a resident. **ALL** who park on Raft Island communal property must

have a parking sticker or they will be towed.

Speaking of parking...there is change a coming. Parking will no longer be allowed anywhere around the boat launch area inside the gate. The RI board has adopted a no parking policy due to concerns of several residents (liability, safety, inconvenience, aesthetics - laziness was also mentioned - and the general rudeness of people who block full use of the ramp). Of course you will still be able to drive down to offload people, equipment, supplies, suggestion forms, dumpsters, port-a-potty, etc. During a brief transition phase volunteers will staff the ramp area to answer questions and ensure no parking occurs. Define parking you say... "To put or leave a vehicle for a time - the amount of which is yet to be determined - in

a certain location". Just kidding about answering questions. Seriously, no more parking inside the gate. As soon as the drainage problem alongside the entrance area is solved, signs will be posted. The tennis net is up. Gravel alongside the entrance should make it easier to get in and out without getting wet feet. We could use a new backboard; however, I am not inclined to spend the money unless someone actually shoots hoops. Let me know if anyone out there is a serious b-baller and will use new equipment. Also, while the nice smooth surface provides a great area for skaters, bikers, boarders, partiers, and others, please give way to people carrying tennis rackets and tennis balls, wearing tennis shoes and or tennis clothing, and who actually want to use the **tennis court** to play tennis. There will be no parking on the tennis court either.

Have a great summer. Be safe. Be good neighbors. Be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

*Pete Sylvain  
Parks Committee Chairman*

**Raft Island Officer & Trustees**

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Ted Smith      265-8697

Manager:  
Cathy Driscoll      265-8489

**Do jelly fish get gas from eating jelly beans?**

**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

**What did the beach say when the tide came in?**

**LONG TIME NO SEA!!!**

**A MESSAGE FROM THE MANAGER**



**Hello - RAFT ISLAND MEMBER DIRECTORY**  
The new 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@centurytel.net](mailto:drisco@centurytel.net). We have re-keyed the lock on the gate at the South Beach. New keys are available at a cost of \$5.00; contact me to get your new key. 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. I would also like to remind people that we do need to slow down and watch out for our neighbors and children on the roads.

*Thank you,  
Cathy Driscoll  
R.I.I.A. Manager*

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!!!**

