



## FRONT AND CENTER

Welcome to our June newsletter! One of the things I enjoy most about our community is people's willingness to jump in and help whenever needed. On June 7, some of our neighborhood kids decided to do just that. They knew more funds were needed for this year's fireworks show, so they set up a lemonade stand and volunteered to donate their profits to the fireworks fund. These young kiddos raised over \$100 for the fireworks! Never underestimate the power of a small gesture. The Boston Harbor Association greatly appreciates the generosity of our community.



Fireworks fundraisers Tatiana Reck, Mohan, Audrey Libby, Hallie Libby

## WHAT'S INSIDE

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*Farewell to Kim "The Mail Lady"*

*We saved our Sign and Sewer Screen*

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

*Deanna's Garden 6/29*

*BH Garden Tour 6/30*

*Bike Parade and Fireworks 7/3*

*Music at the Marina Saturdays, too, 7/6-8/31*

*National Night Out 8/6*

*Garage Sale 8/10-11*

*Stories at the Merc 8/31*

*Boston Harbor Potluck 9/21*

Connect with the Association and your neighbors on Social Media. We're on [Facebook](#) and [Next Door](#). If you're not a member yet, [join us!](#) Just \$25 per household supports events and minor administrative costs.



## JULY 3<sup>RD</sup> FIREWORKS ARE ON!



Hallie Libby, Birdie Miller, Audrey Libby, Kate Gervais, Tatiana Reck

### **Boston Harbor, 10:15 pm**

We raised enough for the show, thanks to these munchkins ☺, but not as much as in previous years. If you enjoy the show but haven't donated yet, please do! Donations can be made on-line at [www.bharbor.org/donations/](http://www.bharbor.org/donations/), or at the Marina, or by mail to Boston Harbor Association/312 73rd Ave NE/Olympia WA 98506. Please indicate that it is for the fireworks and make checks payable to Boston Harbor Association.

Please be safe and sane celebrating our country's independence on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Be careful on the streets and mind the extra traffic. Remember, the fireworks show was started to reduce the dangers and noise of street fireworks. Be kind to our vets, pets, wild creatures and others who are sensitive to loud noises and things that sound like guns.

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **Deanna's Garden Tour** June 29, 10 am – 5 pm

Check out Deanna's Garden on Big Fish Trap Inlet, 8649 Evergreen Drive. Sponsored by the Northwest Perennial Alliance. Weather depending, there will be fresh grilled oysters. Larissa, Joe, Jackie, and Nancy say her property is well worth a visit.

### **Summer Garden Tour** June 30, 2024, 10 am – 2 pm

Indulge your senses in nature's awesome beauty and celebrate (envy?) your neighbors' amazing gardening skills as you ramble along this lovely tour, courtesy of the Sewer Sisters. Meet new neighbors, catch up with others, and support local artists. \$10 admission and maps at Shipwreck Corner or any of the gardens along the way.

**Music at the Marina now on Saturdays, too!** Starting July 6<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day. Same tame hours (6-8 pm), same good times!

### **Building Bridges: Stories in the Garden at Gull Harbor Mercantile** August 31, 4 pm

Have you ever wondered what life was like out here way back when? Gull Harbor Mercantile presents Building Bridges: Stories in The Garden, featuring Teri Kistler and other neighbors. "The Merc" has been in Teri's family since 1957. Come hear stories from Teri and enjoy a hot dog from Ay-Chihuahua Dawgs serving deliciousness in a bun for a sweet end of summer event!

## ANTIQUÉ FIRE TRUCK TO LEAD BIKE PARADE!

**Corner of 73<sup>rd</sup> and Commercial**

**9:30 am registration and bike decorating**

**10:00 am parade starts**

Raffle winner gets to ride in the fire truck for the parade! Bring cash for tickets - \$1 each, \$5 for 6.

We need volunteers to help decorate bikes and to stop traffic while the parade is underway. To volunteer, contact [jackie@jackieashley.com](mailto:jackie@jackieashley.com). It's lots of fun, so help out!



## TRASH PICK UP A BIG SUCCESS

Big thanks to the Trash Crew: Scott Provost, organizer (well done, Scott!), and his wife Kristy and daughters Cora, and Lucca Woodford; Pete, Jen, Annamarie, and Tabitha Helseth; Dana and Hannah Eklund; Jackie Ashley, and Kim Kelley. They plucked enough trash to fill 11 large black plastic bags from Shipwreck Corner to Woodard Bay Road, plus Inlet Drive. That is A LOT of trash! [Fines for littering range from \\$103 to \\$5000 in WA.](#)

Scott disposed of the bags over on Libby Road. Kidding! He took them to the dump. We'll do it again in six months if it's needed. Otherwise, join us next spring.



Pete, Jen, Tabitha, and Annamarie Helseth "trashing" along BH Road

## CELEBRATING 17 YEARS WITH KIM "THE MAIL LADY"

For 17 years, Kim McDevitt delivered our mail and packages with a smile, a funny story, a kind word, and, um, maybe some gossip? She went the extra mile for us and became a good friend to many. We had a great time celebrating Kim on June 6<sup>th</sup> at the Marina. She is a heck of a lot of fun and has a smile to brighten even the darkest PNW day. Thanks for it all, Kim!



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# OUR SIGN AND SEWER SCREEN SAVED!

In the May newsletter, we told you the County was planning to auction the .07 acre lot that hosts the Boston Harbor sign and screens the sewer plant. Many of you wrote letters or signed on to a group letter to the county commissioners. Our Commissioner, Carolina Mejia, worked very hard for a solution, and David Hartley and Jeff Nejedly worked the Utility Advisory Committee angle. These efforts and your advocacy worked!

On June 5, Jennifer, Walker, the director of the Department of Public Works, recommended the county purchase the tax-title parcel next to our wastewater treatment plant for “future growth needs of the facility, anticipated regulatory changes, and facility buffering.” She further recommended utility funds be used for the purchase. It’s not a done deal until the commissioners approve, but we think they will.

Thanks so much for taking action and making your voice heard. Never doubt that community action can work!

# EXPAND BURFOOT PARK – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Two years ago at the BHA annual meeting, County Commissioner Carolina Mejia spoke about a surplus land program in the works. Under the program, parcels not needed for county business or public benefit would be sold or otherwise disposed of per Thurston County Code 2.104, and approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The county owns 29 parcels (about 16 acres) of undeveloped land out here.

Earlier this year, some neighbors met with Commissioner Mejia. We asked for a delay in the county’s review until we could gather community input, and they agreed. We have talked with neighbors informally and concluded it made most sense for the county to retain the property it owns adjacent to and immediately north of Burfoot Park to eventually expand the park. The land is primarily wetlands and a ravine so not much can be done with it. This would increase the park by about 8 acres, and protect wetlands, wildlife habitat, and the creek that flows into Puget Sound. The remaining county-owned property would be subject to the county’s surplus land review.


It will likely take years to expand Burfoot Park as proposed. For now, we are asking the county to keep these properties for future park expansion, and plan for it through the Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Plan.

We’d like your thoughts on this proposal. Prior to July 10, 2024, please review it [here](#), and email comments to the Environment Committee [BHAEnvironmentComm@gmail.com](mailto:BHAEnvironmentComm@gmail.com). We’ll compile and share your comments and the final proposal with the community, the county commissioners, and Public Works staff.


**Proposal: Expand Burfoot Park by 8 Acres**

**Why?**

- Thurston County already owns over 7 of the 8 acres north of the park boundary.
- The Irving Lassen land donation was specifically designated for Thurston County Parks.
- Protect wildlife habitat, corridors, and wetlands.
- Protect the source of the creek that runs through Burfoot Park.
- Maintain forest to increase carbon capture and mitigate climate change.
- Protect aquifer recharge areas.
- Make use of property that is unbuildable due to wetlands and ravines.
- Contribute to meeting County and citizen goals for open space, parks, and natural resources protection.



Burfoot Park, southside trail. Kim Kelley



Green shaded and "TC" labeled parcels are county-owned. Proposed expansion area is outlined in red. Source: County Geodata map; red markings proposed by Burfoot Park expansion ad hoc committee.