

As the Wind Blows



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The sun has arrived early and our little corner is warming up fast. School will be out and summer will be in full swing before we know it!

As was announced at the Annual Meeting, there will be **NO FIREWORKS show on July 3rd**. However, BHA will still host our annual [Kids' Bike Parade](#) on July 3rd, and we're planning a new, fun, and hopefully annual event – the July 3rd BHA Party in the Park! The County is allowing us to host this neighborhood party at Burfoot Park. It'll be after the Bike Parade, from 1 pm – 5 pm. There will be a live band, games, and food! To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP using the [July 3rd Party in the Park form](#). Watch for an email from BHA with additional details later this month.

We need volunteers to help with both the Kids' Bike Parade and the Party in the Park. If you can help, please email me at bha.wa.board@gmail.com. See you on the 3rd! Larissa

EARTH DAY FUN AT BURFOOT



Jeff Nejedly tackling evil ivy

Thirty-eight neighbors, Scouts, and two County Commissioners, Carolina Mejia and Tye Menser, pulled ivy in the “Fern Forest” and weeded and pruned the Memorial and Butterfly Gardens. There is now a new area cleared of ivy under the forest canopy among hundreds of sword ferns where one can quiet a busy mind and listen to the birds. And the gardens look beautiful! Thank you to Meredith Rafferty for leading this work, and to the Sewer Sisters for lending their green thumbs.

A big thank you to Helen Weagraff, Michelle and Bob Nanney, and Julie Hayes and John Joseph for delicious chili, Jackie for great chocolate chip

cookies, and Fred Meyer for donating \$100 for food and tools. Last but not least, congratulations to Sam Harshman, whose volunteerism and leadership was recognized by Commissioner Mejia.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3 Bike Parade, 10:30-12

July 3 Party at the Park, 1-5

July 12 Trash Pick Up, 10-12

August 5 National Night Out

August 9-10 Garage Sale

September Annual Potluck TBD

Backyard Invasives Day, Fall, TBD

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.



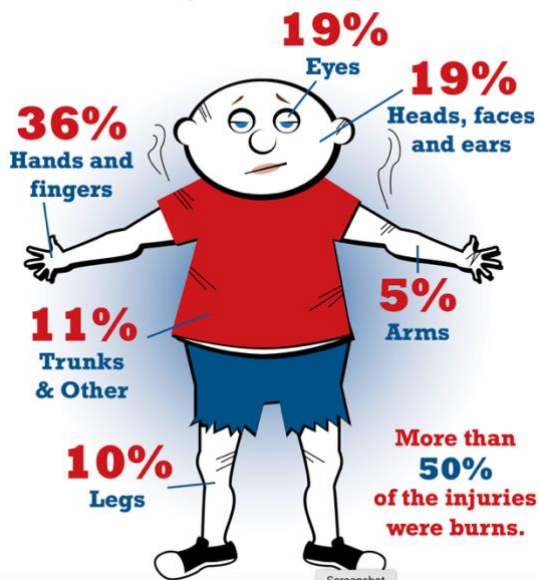
PLEASE, BE SAFE CELEBRATING INDEPENDENCE DAY!

FACTS

- ❗ More than 31,000 reported fires are started by fireworks annually.
- ❗ Burns account for 38% of the 7,400 injuries treated in emergency rooms in the month around July 4.
- ❗ Half of the fireworks injuries at emergency rooms were extremities: hand, finger, or leg. One-third were to the eye or other parts of the head.
- ❗ Children younger than 15 years old accounted for 28% of the estimated fireworks injuries.
- ❗ Sparklers account for 29% of fireworks injuries for children under the age of 5 treated in emergency rooms in the month around July 4.

US Consumer Product Safety Commission

Most Injured Body Parts



Without the Fireworks Show to celebrate Independence Day this year, some of us are no doubt thinking about setting off fireworks in backyards and on the streets. Why not instead celebrate America's birthday at the BHA Party in the Park on July 3rd (see President's Corner, p.1). For home parties, have that annual barbecue but use fireworks alternatives like glow sticks, giant bubbles, laser lights (with caution), pinatas, confetti poppers, streamers, string lights. Add in some fun patriotic music and dancing, or set up an outdoor movie theater and watch patriotic films capped off with videos of fireworks. True, some of the alternatives have environmental downsides but nothing compared to the air and noise pollution of fireworks, and nowhere near the danger of fire, injury, and emotional distress for people, pets, and wildlife.

If you are going to set off fireworks – please, be safe! See tips below. With such an early start to summer, fire danger will likely be very high. Just because we live in the PNW doesn't mean an entire neighborhood can't burn up in a flash in the right conditions.

Tips to Celebrate Safely

- Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks, including sparklers (they burn at about 2,000 degrees F).
- Never use fireworks near dry grass or other flammable materials.
- Douse spent fireworks with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding.
- Make sure fireworks are legal, and only purchase and set off fireworks that are labeled for consumer (not professional) use.
- Never shoot fireworks off in glass or metal containers.
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy, in case of fire or other mishap.
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly.
- Never try to relight or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them with water and throw them away.
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Move to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks.
- Never point or throw fireworks (including sparklers) at anyone, and don't carry them in your pockets.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

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WILDFIRE IN BH? DEFINITELY POSSIBLE

Wildfires just happen in the mountains or wilderness, right? And not in the PNW – it rains too much! Think again. The Palisades fire in LA last year was a wildfire. It started in the mountains above the residential area. A [wildfire](#) “is a fire originating from an unplanned ignition source (e.g., lightning, humans) in a wildland, which is generally underdeveloped and uninhabited land. Wildlands include forests, grasslands, brushlands, even croplands.” Boston Harbor is surrounded by forests, fields, pastures, and farmland—all places a wildfire could start, especially with our increasingly dry summers.

BUT! There’s plenty we can do individually and as a neighborhood to reduce the risk of wildfires and be prepared in case one roars in. A state program called [Wildfire Ready Neighbors](#) has practical, doable strategies to defend our homes against wildfire. Locally, it’s run by the [Thurston Conservation District](#). Start with the web tool to create your own “Wildfire Ready Plan.” Here are a few of the simple things that came up on our plan to increase the chances our home will survive a wildfire:

- Create a non-flammable perimeter around your home by removing flammables like mulch, dead vegetation, lawn furniture, firewood stacks, etc.
- Reduce ember entry and penetration by screening exterior vents with an 1/8-inch metal mesh and keeping gutters clear of leaves and debris.
- Within 30 feet of your home, keep your lawn lean and green and remove flammables like firewood and other debris.

Humans are responsible for 90% of wildfires. Common natural causes of wildfires during the dry season are:

- burning campfires or debris outdoors
- equipment malfunctions
- fireworks that go up and rain down embers
- discarded cigarettes

But don’t stop here. [Do your own plan](#), then work with your neighbors to expand the defense zone. We’re planning an informational meeting about how to create a wildfire ready home and neighborhood. Watch for an email with more info.

TIME TO SWIM! BUT SAFETY FIRST

1. Never swim alone – BUDDY UP
2. Supervise kids closely – stay within arm’s reach (“touch supervision”). Avoid distractions like your phone or a book. Take turns supervising with other adults.
3. Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets. Available at the Marina.
4. Avoid breath-holding games.
5. Enter the water feet first. Diving into shallow or murky water can cause serious injuries.

6. Reach, throw, don’t go – if someone is in trouble in the water, call for help, reach with a pole or other object, or throw a flotation device but never jump in.
7. Swim in designated areas only.
8. Don’t drink or do drugs while swimming or supervising.
9. Stay away from pool drains to avoid getting hair, clothing, or limbs caught.
10. Learn to swim, know your limits, and learn CPR



WATER AND SEWER PROJECT IN HOME STRETCH

The Boston Harbor water and sewer improvements project is quickly moving into its final stages. Water system improvements include replacing older, undersized water mains along Boston Harbor Road and selected side streets. These improvements will improve the lifespan and serviceability of the infrastructure and improve water pressure for both fire-suppression and residential supply. In addition, new hydrants will be added along Boston Harbor Road to improve fire-fighting capabilities.

Sewer improvements include replacing over 130 Septic Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) tank risers or lids on properties where groundwater, stormwater, or seawater can enter the sewer collection system. Some STEP tanks are being fully replaced to address critical deficiencies or vulnerability to seawater intrusion. These improvements will translate into improved reliability of the wastewater collection system and more efficient maintenance.

The benefits of the project include improved treatment efficiency and pollutant reduction at the Boston Harbor wastewater treatment plant, improved water pressure and firefighting capacity, and the replacement of aging infrastructure that is approaching the end of its useful life. Since this project is federally funded through the American Recovery Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), it will not impact utility rates in the Boston Harbor community. As of May 25, 2025, the project is approximately 75% complete, with full completion of the project expected in July of 2025.

Joe Plahuta, Senior Water resource Engineer, Thurston County Public Works

Thank you, Public Works, for these improvements and successfully applying for ARPA funds to pay for it!

GOOD CRAIC AT HARBOR HISTORIES 4/5



Patty Burfoot, Jackie Hudlow, Bill Justis, Nick Libby, Kathy Knight

We heard from members of some really old families at our third Harbor Stories program. Nick Libby of Libby Road fame wins the prize for the earliest settlers: 1870! Next was Jacquie Hudlow, whose family (Eickhoff) bought property on Woodard Bay Road in 1909. At that time, it was acres of strawberry fields with a small cabin near the road. Then we had Patty Burfoot from another old family with a very colorful history. Her grandparents had a summer cottage here around 1925, and then in 1932 they bought the land that became Burfoot Park in 1975. Bill Justis's parents moved to Zangle Road in the spring of 1951. They had 30 acres and a rundown house with years of accumulated garbage and a failed septic system on the property. Kathy Knight arrived shortly after the Justis's, in 1956, when she married Bob Knight and moved into the little house on Zangle Cove he

bought in 1954. She still lives on the property today. You might catch sight of her kayaking in Zangle Cove with some of her 18 grandchildren. BTW, Bob Knight was one of the driving forces behind the planning and installation for our sewer and water system in the 90's. BTW, Craic is an Irish term meaning "enjoyable time spent with other people, especially when the conversation is entertaining and funny."

We're still working on posting the videos on the Boston Harbor YouTube channel.



BURFOOT PARK EXPANSION UPDATE

In order to [expand Burfoot Park per our proposal](#) to the County, and make other park improvements, we need to advocate for an update of the Parks, Open Space, and Trails Plan with the County. If you're interested in supporting this effort, email Kim Kelley at BHAenvironmentcomm@gmail.com. **Pencil in (oh, how outdated is that?) June 17, 2 p.m. on your calendar to attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting.**

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE – WHAT’S IT ABOUT?

Neighbors interested in our local environment met April 2nd to define the Environment Committee’s purpose and activities. They decided the matters in the Association’s Articles of Incorporation they’d engage in are conservation; pollution control; establishment of green belt areas and recreational areas and facilities; and protection of natural resources and wildlife habitat.

The committee’s primary activities are the Annual Earth Day event, IvyBeGone Team, Trash Pick Up, Burfoot Park expansion, and the new Backyard Invasives Removal Day, which will be held in the fall. We’ll also provide a “Green Tips” article (see page 4) in the newsletter on topics like safe and effective alternatives for home and yard; benefits of native plants and trees; and fire prevention. The next meeting will be in the fall, or sooner as needed. To get involved, email BHAEnvironmentComm@gmail.com.

IVYBEGONE – IT’S HAPPENING!

The IvyBeGone Team had an awesome ivy pulling season! Neighbors, Scouts (boys *and* girls), and seventh graders from NOVA School provided 367 volunteer hours pulling ivy from two large areas. Check out the area around the Forest Shelter (midway around the loop drive, across from the newest bathrooms) and in the “Fern Forest,” on the south side of the park (last trailhead before you exit the park). We are going to do this, people!

We’ll start pulling again October 19th and pull every 3rd Sunday from 10 a.m. -12 p.m. through May 2026. For questions or to get notifications, email BHAEnvironmentComm@gmail.com.



You’re right, this is not exactly a before and after, but it’s close. The point is, the Team took an area that looked like the picture on the left and transformed it into the picture on the right. Amazing!



GREEN TIP #1

We are so fortunate to live close to the water. In addition to the beautiful views and access to Puget Sound, it gives us a unique opportunity to protect and preserve water quality and marine life.

Some of the products used to maintain our homes can be environmentally detrimental, even toxic to animals and aquatic life. One example is moss killer. We all want to keep moss from growing on our roofs, and some of us try to keep it out of our lawns. The usual moss killer products sold in stores contain ingredients like zinc or copper that are toxic to aquatic life. Most of our roof and lawn runoff ends up either directly or indirectly in local waterways and Puget Sound. All of our stormwater drains and ditches flow directly to the Sound, so any chemicals that run off our properties will end up reaching the Sound.



Costco and likely other bulk grocery stores have large bags of baking soda.

For moss control, the primary nontoxic alternative is baking soda. It increases the pH to a level that impedes moss growth. Applied to our roofs, it will kill and prevent moss growth. For lawns, a mixture of baking soda and water, applied after a light steel raking, will help kill and prevent moss growth.

Additional info and application processes can be found at these links: [Puget Sound Starts Here](#); [Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides](#); [Kitsap Sun Article on environment friendly moss control](#)

Thanks Jeff Nejedly, for sharing your expertise.

TREE CUTTING – DID YOU KNOW?

Thurston County tree removal regulations were [updated](#) in May last year. We need a permit before doing these three things on a property in unincorporated Thurston County (see [here](#) for more information):

- Removing trees from a property in a designated critical area, like wetlands, shoreline, fish and wildlife habitat, aquifer recharge areas.
- Removing any number of trees from a site to prepare it for future development.
- Cutting any number of trees to sell.

Why all the fuss about saving trees? They're one of the easiest, most natural ways to protect the earth, humans, and wildlife. Trees and forests:

- Filter our water and clean our air
- Cool the earth and us by providing shade, nature's own air-conditioning
- Provide habitat for a diversity of plants and animals
- Fight climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide
- Boost our mood and health.

Boston Harbor Association Board: Larissa James, President; Kate Gervais, Vice President; Nancy Brown, Treasurer, Web Liaison; Jackie Ashley, Secretary; Kim Kelley, Environment Committee Chair, Newsletter; Scott Provost; John Payne; Ed Steinweg; Mindy Atkinson.