



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What a whirlwind 2025 has been! As we welcome the new year, it's time once again for the Boston Harbor Association Annual Membership Meeting. This year's meeting will take place on February 11, 2026, from 6–8 PM at the North Olympia Firehouse (5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE).

We'll share the official agenda as the date gets closer, but we're excited to announce several invited guests, including Thurston County Commissioner Mejia, the South Bay Fire Chief, representatives from the Thurston County Sheriff's Office, and a representative from the Boston Harbor Utilities Advisory Committee. We'll also be discussing plans for the 2026 Fireworks Show, upcoming BHA events, and holding elections for the 2026 BHA Board.

If you're interested in serving on the board, please be sure to complete the [nomination form](#).

We hope all our Boston Harbor friends and neighbors enjoyed a wonderful holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting!

FIREWORKS UPDATE

Want to Help Bring Back the Boston Harbor Fireworks?

For years, we safely celebrated Independence Day with the July 3rd Boston Harbor Fireworks Show. What began as a small neighborhood event to reduce street fireworks grew into a favorite tradition for many people in Boston Harbor and beyond. Over time, thousands came to see the show by car and boat.

As the crowds expanded and safety issues increased, many neighbors became concerned about the show. It became clear professional support was needed if it was to continue. Without it, the 2025 show had to be cancelled — but some members of the Association promised to work toward a comeback. A professional event planner has been identified to handle car and boat traffic, parking, and overall coordination to address many of the safety issues. This puts us one step closer to bringing back a fireworks show for America's 250th birthday.

We need your help if you want a Fireworks Show in 2026

To move forward, we must raise \$50,000: **\$20,000 by the February Annual Meeting** to secure the event planner, and an additional \$30,000 to cover the costs of the fireworks, security, port-a-potties, etc.

How to Support

- **Business Sponsorships:** Sponsors contributing **\$1,000+** will be featured on event banners and bharbor.org. Contact: bha.wa.fundraising@gmail.com
- **Individual Donations:** Donate online at [BHA Fireworks Donations](#). Tax-deduction receipts available upon request.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*BHA Board Meeting 1/13
6-7 pm Gull Harbor
Lutheran Church*

*Winter Trash Pick Up
1/17, 10-12 pm*

*Ivy Pull at Burfoot
1/18, 10-12 pm*

*Annual BHA Members'
Meeting, 2/11, 6-8 pm
Boston Harbor Fire Station*

*Ivy Pull at Burfoot
2/15, 10-12 pm*

*Boston Harbor Marina
Wine Tasting 1/18
Trivia Night 1/24*



WARM AND WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SPIRIT IN SONG

The Marina’s annual caroling party couldn’t have been better! Young and old voices and hearts soared for a full hour of traditional Christmas carols led by Austin Griffith. Cookies and hot chocolate were provided by the Marina, but we were so busy singing, we barely ate any! We cozied up under the tent once the rain started. It was a quintessential PNW holiday event at our beloved Marina. Thank you Foster-Keddies!



Maybe sisters? Anne, Emily, and Kate of the Foster-Keddie clan



Kate, Cam, Marsha and Mitchell, and Jess



Emily and her son Woods



Annalina, AnnaMarie, Jennifer, Tabitha, and Pete



January 2026

PLUNGING IN THE NEW YEAR – BRRRRR!

There was a huge turnout for the unofficial annual Polar Plunge at the Marina on New Year’s Day. Young and old-“er” braved the wickedly cold waters of Puget Sound to start the new year fresh and freezing. A person who will remain anonymous called them “lunatics!” If they had any crazy in them, that 47 degree water froze it out, for sure! Thanks to the Marina for hot chocolate.



Young – Audrey Libby



Old-“er” – still rockin’ it Jeff Peltier!



The brave and happy lunatics

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

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.



MAKING AWESOME PROGRESS ON IVY AT BURFOOT

You have got to check out what your neighbors and kids from Scout troops and a home school group are pulling off in the Fern Forest. The IvyBeGone Team has cleared so much ivy here, you can walk through a whole “new” section of the park. To get there, enter at the last trailhead along the loop drive. At the IvyBeGone sign, take the unofficial trail into the cleared area and behold a forest almost free of ivy (don’t go too far, though – we have a long way to go!). Or do go, and get inspired to join us every 3rd Sunday, 10-noon. There is always coffee and hot chocolate and homemade muffins and other snacks for sustenance. As you can see in the pics, we do take breaks! Note the log the boys are sitting on used to be completely covered in ivy.



Leah and Carrie Hennen. Leah is getting service hours for school. So can your kids!



Tristan Reck joined us for the first time. It’s so fun, I’m sure he’ll be back!



Harrison Lintz is an ivy hauler and his brother Russell is our youngest puller.

TRASH PICK-UP 1/17

Get your neat freak on cuz it’s time for our semi-annual trash pick-up along Boston Harbor Road; and boy does it need it! Meet at Burfoot at the main parking lot on 1/17 at 10 am and pick until noon. We’ll have bags and grabbers and safety vests, and cover BH Road from the T-intersection to Woodard Bay.

Where does all that litter come from? Some might be blown out of a truck bed, or get tossed by a child who doesn’t know better, but really, who intentionally throws trash out the window or while they’re walking along the road? In Japan, there is virtually no litter, and there are no public trash cans. People take it home to dispose of. Amazing!

WATER AND SEWER NEWS

Neighbor and hydrologist David Hartley ran unopposed for another term representing Boston Harbor on the county utility advisory committee. He will continue in that capacity along with our other representative, Jeff Nejedly. A big thank you to both of them for their service to our community. Come to the annual meeting on Feb. 11, 6-8, to hear an update on our water and wastewater treatment system.



GREEN TIP #3 RECYCLING

Check out the Thurston County Recycling Guide that just arrived in our mailboxes. There is a lot of really helpful information in this 2 page guide. Did you know we can no longer put milk and other cartons in our recycling? Placing non-recyclable items, called “wish-cycling”, in recycling bins can contaminate entire loads of recyclables (www.recyclingtoday.org). Also non-recyclable are frozen or refrigerated food boxes (e.g., boxes for butter and microwave meals), shredded paper, and wrapping paper that is shiny or foil or decorated with foil. “Compostable” cups, plates, utensils, straws and takeout containers are not compostable by our service and should go in the garbage, not the blue bin. And NO IVY or other problematic or invasive plants go in yard waste bins; put them in the trash.

If you’re not sure, go to Thurston County Public Works, or www.WhereDoITakeMy.org. If you want to take your recycling up a notch check out Ridwell. Several people in BH are using this service.

Got a green tip you’d like to share with neighbors? Email BHAEnvironmentCommittee@gmail.com

More suggestions from www.recyclingtoday.org:

Residential waste management is an essential part of maintaining a clean, healthy, and eco-friendly home. With growing concerns about environmental pollution and resource depletion, adopting sustainable waste management practices is more important than ever.

Reduce

- Minimize waste generation by purchasing only what you need and opting for products with minimal packaging.
- Choose reusable items like cloth bags, glass containers, and stainless steel water bottles.

Reuse

- Give items a second life by repurposing them or donating to others.
- Repair broken items instead of discarding them.

Recycle

- Familiarize yourself with your local recycling guidelines to ensure proper sorting and disposal.
- Participate in municipal recycling programs to divert waste from landfills.

Compost

Set up a compost bin for food scraps and yard waste to create nutrient-rich soil for gardening.

Dispose Responsibly

- Use designated drop-off points or services for hazardous waste, e-waste, and bulky items.
- Ensure general trash is properly bagged to prevent littering.

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.