



Photo by Chris Hamilton

July 3rd – Independence Day Celebration

It was a banner year for our neighborhood July 3rd – Independence Day Celebration. The weather was outstanding – not too hot, a welcome relief for sure! Generally speaking, the weather this summer has been cooler than the last few years where we experienced one record breaking temperature after another. The kid’s bike parade – hailed as the Children’s Bike Stroll & Roll Parade – was again a resounding success. Over 40 participated, with appropriate fanfare, in our annual stroll up the Boston Harbor Road and back again.

The fireworks display later that evening was also a resounding success, and we couldn’t have made it without everyone’s generous support. We received donations ranging from substantial amounts to coins dropped into the donation can at the marina. It all added up and thanks to everybody, we not only had a spectacular show, but we received the most donations ever!

This year, we were fortunate to have even more corporate sponsors than ever before. We put up an additional banner to accommodate the additional business logos. Two banners were placed at the 3-way stop at the Shipwreck Corner (see photo) and another at the Marina. Our sponsors are local businesses, many owned by Boston Harbor Community members. Be sure to thank them personally for their generosity, and do support their business endeavors whenever possible.

A particularly special, heartfelt thank-you goes to the Squaxin Island Tribe and the Little Creek Casino and Resort for their generous contribution as well. We are grateful for their support this year and their continued commitment focused on community.

Stop by and visit the Little Creek Casino and Resort and while you are there, enjoy a meal at one of their fine restaurants. And, don’t forget the Squaxin Island Tribe Museum where you can learn more about our friends, the “People of the Water”.



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Break-in Alert

A house was broken into on the night of the fireworks display. Shockingly, the owners were home at the time, but did not realize what was happening until the next morning when they discovered a broken window and missing cell phone. Thanks to locator technology on the cell phone, it was located the next day in the brush off the upper portion of 73rd Avenue NE (Main Street). We have occasional break-ins and other disturbances from time to time in the area, but this one is particularly disturbing in that the owners were home. Be alert, and if your dog barks, don't assume it is after a raccoon! It could be a bandit of another kind.

Purple Martin Stewardship Program

New purple martin boxes have been installed at the Marina, thanks to efforts of the Black Hills Audubon Society in partnership with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Thurston Stream Team, and Skillings and Connolly. The old boxes were removed and replaced with over 40 new ones, in 3 or 4 different styles. Each style has a different kind of entrance opening. The boxes were attached to various pilings around the marina, mostly concentrated on the inside of the harbor. Local citizen monitors are collecting data on the purple martins by recording bird activity throughout the summer breeding season. The hope is to increase purple martin population numbers with cooperation from local citizens who live with the birds, admire them and want to see their numbers stabilize and increase. In addition, an informational kiosk was installed on the upper deck of the marina detailing the Purple Martin Stewardship Program and purple martin ecology. These beautiful birds have been gracing the harbor with their presence for years. This new stewardship program helps ensure they will do so for years to come.



New Purple Martin Houses



Kiosk at Marina



Martin Monitors. Photo by Stephen Curry

Radar Speed Display Signs

At the annual meeting of the Boston Harbor Association last February, Scott Lindblom (Traffic Engineer for Thurston County Public Works) spoke with us about our concerns for traffic safety in the neighborhood, particularly traffic speed. He detailed several strategies communities can employ to reduce speed. As a result of this friendly discussion, Mr. Lindblom responded to our concerns! You hopefully have noticed the portable electronic radar speed display signs along the Boston Harbor Road in the past few weeks. So far, they have been placed in 3 locations north and south of 73rd Avenue NE. The signs display vehicle speeds with large bright LED numbers as vehicles approach to serve as a gentle reminder of how fast you are driving. It is pretty easy, when driving on the Boston Harbor Road, to approach speeds exceeding the posted limit. Thus, these display signs use speed awareness to calm and slow traffic and ultimately make our roadways safer.



Upcoming Events—details in the next newsletter

Neighborhood garage sale, late August or early September

Annual Neighborhood Picnic, September

Plans start soon for next summer's Sewer Sisters Garden Tour & what do you know? It will be July 3rd again.