

Harstine Islander



2007 Newsletter

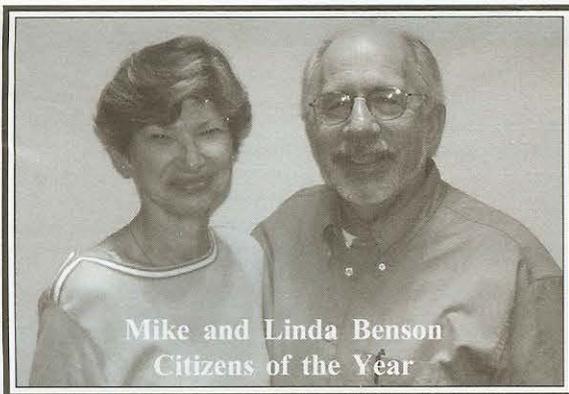
During this past year the Community Club has lived up to its previous name, the Harstine Island Social Club. It started with a chile cook-off which was a fun idea from the Benson family. A great night of competitive chili cooking with the taste treat competition won by Matt Lettich. Then in March, we were visited by the Backwoods Irish. Mike Benson tickled our funny bones with his jokes and there were plenty of good old Irish tunes presented with his band of Jim Irish, Elizabeth Berndt and John Strasburger. In May, we enjoyed the annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored

by Mary and Don Nichols. In June we listened to the Harstine Choir, directed by Elizabeth Berndt. In August, the annual Children's Carnival, led by Pat LeClair, a child at heart, caused family fun to happen in the parking lot. On Labor Day, Richard Gerber played his wonderful rock-n'-roll music and we danced our socks off. In October we squeezed apples, thanks to the Garden Club, and we celebrated our annual October Fest that Fred Ebey helped organize. In November the Bensons and the Irishes sponsored the Thanksgiving Dinner. In December, while fighting the storm of storms, Barbara LaJune was able to put on the Christmas Dinner and The Harstine Choir was able to bring us their joyous holiday music. What a great year of fun!

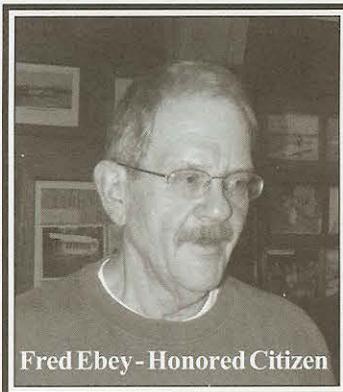
There was also a lot of work done. As past president, I would like to give a special note of thanks to several people. Leo Echaniz always took my phone calls and willingly climbed around under the hall on his hands and knees solving electrical, heating and plumbing problems. Then there is Jim Irish who single handedly took care of all our water problems. His help to the club was immeasurable when considering time, energy and knowledge. Jim

Anderson spearheaded the construction of the outbuilding over the garbage cans, the extra storage shed, the oil furnace shed and the gazebo like structure in the middle of the parking lot. They are beautiful.

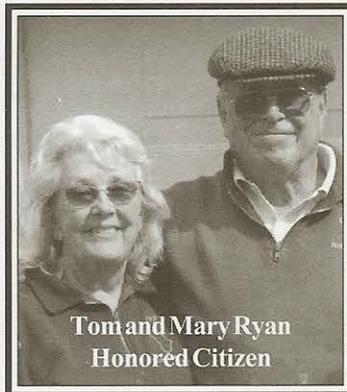
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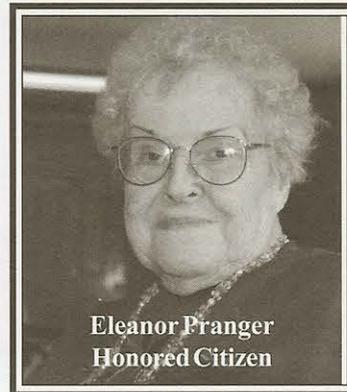
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Neighborhood Watch also meets at the hall. Members of this group patrol about 62 miles of island roads, reporting suspicious activity to the sheriff, and keeping islanders informed of unusual events.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) also meets each week. If you need a support group to help you keep in shape, this is the group for you.

If card playing is your hobby, we hope **pinochle** is your game. There are several groups that meet at different times to challenge their neighbors.

Seamstresses also have their place on Harstine. This group has monthly meetings in various homes, usually every third Tuesday of the month from 10:00 to 2:00, to enjoy a variety of handiwork, relaxation and lunch.

Bridge Community Church...

...also uses the hall for the time being. It celebrated its 10th Anniversary in November, 2006. Here is how it started.

In the mid 40's, two couples on Harstine Island desired for the children of the island to have the opportunity to be involved in Sunday School and church. Mr. and Mrs. Pearson and Mr. and Mrs. Pinard sought help from the American Sunday School Union which established Sunday Schools across our nation and in out-of-the-way places. They contacted Pastor and Mrs. Knautz of Tacoma who began coming to Harstine, conducting Sunday School at the school house near Jarrell Cove. During the summer they conducted a Bible camp at Island Lake near Gig Harbor. Two girls from Harstine Island, Lena Wingert and Willa Streckenbach, attended the camp and had a wonderful, never-to-be-forgotten time. When the Sunday School closed because the Knautz's were assigned to another area, the children went to Shelton churches.

One of the 'campers' later longed to have a Bible camp and Sunday School here on the island and formed a committee which included David Allison, Don and Vi Burrows, Jim and Sally Doherty, David Roller, and Willa Smith to pray and organize this. Later, Mel and Lyla Hadley, with American Missionary Fellowship (formerly American Sunday School Union), moved to the area and joined in the effort. When Pastor and Mrs. Howard Spear moved to Shelton and joined the group, the committee sought a place for the Sunday school and church to meet. The Harstine Community Club graciously agreed to rent the Hall on Sundays for that purpose. The church first met in November, 1996, and has been growing to the point of being filled during summer months. The church is now developing plans for a church building just north of the bridge. Many have already contributed toward this project. Our church has a down home feeling and intimacy that comes from a truly caring group of people. (Oh, the two little girls who went to the Bible camp in the '40's are there, too). The church seeks to serve genuine needs in the community and help people come to a living relationship with Jesus Christ. You are welcome to come and join in the fellowship.



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Each of the clubs does a lot more than what has been highlighted in this commentary. Most of the clubs offer scholarships to up-and-coming youths in our area. If you want to get involved in island life, attend one of the meetings of the clubs of your choice, or contact the president for more information. You will find meeting dates and contact information in the column on the next to last page of this newsletter.

FIRE DISTRICT 5

We are fortunate to have 2 fire stations on Harstine Island. Station 9 is next to the community hall. Station 11 is on the south end of the island near Island Shores Road. Station 9 houses a fire engine and a basic life support ambulance. Four volunteers man the station. They are Tom Ryan and Rob Stephens, Firefighter/EMT; Steve Meacham and Tony Enslow, Firefighter. Station 11 has a fire engine. Four volunteers staff this station. They are Nick Neuerburg, Lt. and Station Officer; Nick Arthur, Lt. Firefighter/EMT; Colleen Benson, Firefighter/EMT; Craig Holly, Firefighter.

Fire District 5 covers 150 sq. miles of central Mason County. It has 10 stations, 2 of which are staffed around the clock by Firefighter/Paramedic and Firefighter/EMT crews. Another station serves as headquarters and administration office. They provide full-time mainland support for island volunteers.

Island volunteers responded to 98 calls in 2006, compared to 89 in 2005 and 101 in 2004. Of those 98 calls, 90 were for medical emergencies and 69 were level 3 calls (serious). Fire calls included 1 structure fire, a couple brush fires and a couple smoke investigations and burn complaints.

Along with regular duties of responding to medical, fire, motor vehicle accidents and service calls, our Fire District provides address markers, free home inspections, CPR and First Aid training, as well as other safety education such as emergency preparedness and fire prevention.

Harstine Island was the first in Mason County to host a **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training program. CERT currently has 9 members trained in basic first aid, including CPR and defibrillator use, triage, search and rescue, fire extinguisher use and disaster preparedness. The district plans to conduct more classes in the future for any interested in getting involved. Members receive a backpack with emergency supplies and county liability insurance. More members are needed! Please

contact Lt. Neuerburg or other fire department members for more information.

Island volunteers have established the **Harstine Fire and Rescue Fund** for specific equipment and supply needs for the island stations. If you would like to help, send your contribution to *Nick Neuerburg, 802 E Col. Wright Rd., Shelton, WA 98512* or give it

to any island fire fighter.



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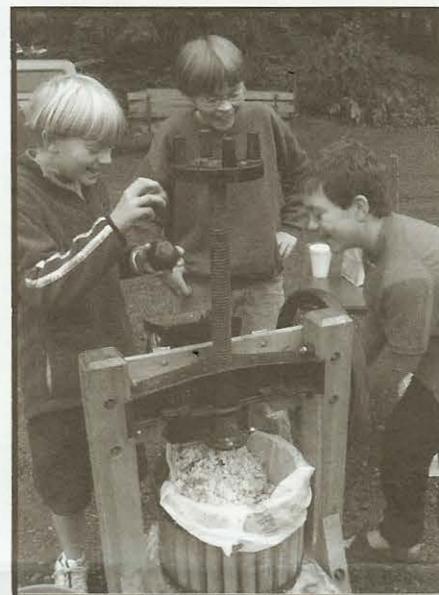
275-2958 • 426-4986

Another fun island activity is the **Children's Carnival**. Women's Club sponsors this very popular event. Local youth and adults work together as clowns or managers of a variety of game booths. Gleeful kids move from booth to booth, trying their skills at the various tasks, and receiving rewards for their efforts. Little hobo bags are carried over the shoulders of the happy children as they play through the morning.

Women's Club also hosts the **Holiday House** craft sale. The weekend after Thanksgiving the hall fills with all sorts of items that Santa could deliver to fine girls and boys. There are wreaths for the walls, houses for the birds, dishes for the table, food for friends and items of every type to help you prepare for the holiday season.

The island women are quite busy with meetings and projects. The March meeting is a soup lunch, May is the Spring Luncheon, June offers a picnic at the Point, September has a theme luncheon and December includes a Christmas Luncheon. Besides eating, they have a variety of interesting programs during most meetings. One of the club's services projects to the community is to provide lunches at the Community Hall following funerals, with the women providing the side dishes. Other community services include monthly donations of \$50 each to two local food banks (\$1200), and they provide 3 island students with scholarships of \$500.

Women's Club staffs a "store" at the Saturday Market featuring items with the Harstine logo. This year they are adding a new item to their wares; the island cookbook! Della Rogers and Gerri Lewis who are in charge of this fund raising project, have "tasters" for every recipe. The club will also sell the second printing of *The Island Remembers*.



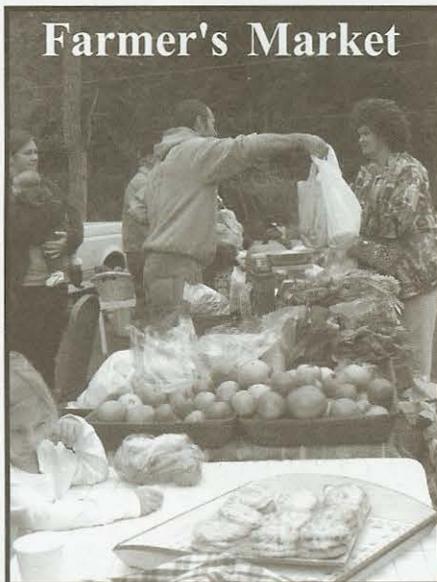
**RESERVE THE
 COMMUNITY HALL**

XXXXXXXXXXXX
**Call Pam Niemi-Wood
 (427-6655)**

The following people volunteered 20+ hours each to bring you this newsletter. Let them know if you like what you see.

- Linda Benson - advertising*
- Mike Benson - addresses/ mailing*
- Arne Berndt - editor's assistant*
- Elizabeth Berndt - editor*

Farmer's Market



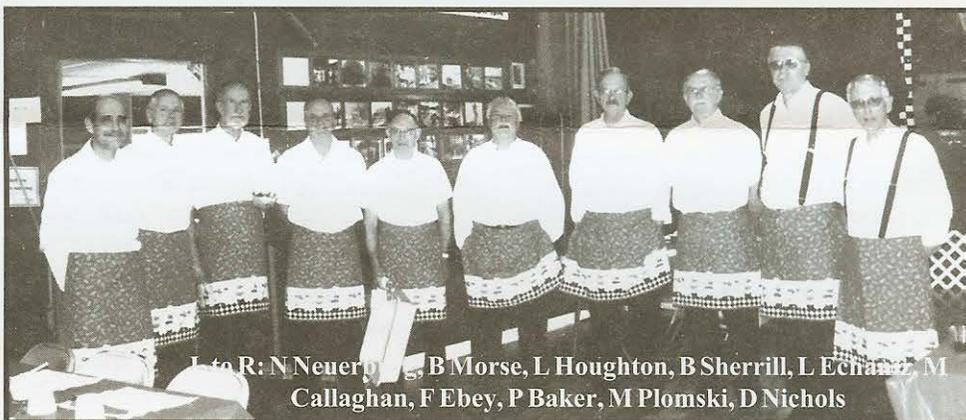
Beetles from outer space

The Harstine Island year would not be the same without **Oktoberfest**. **Harstine Island Community Club** sponsors this fun evening not only for community camaraderie, but also to honor our hard-working volunteers. You can read about that on the front page.

Last year's oyster and ham dinner at the hall was delicious! The Harstine Island Grange #568 served supper with a flourish as you might guess from the photo of some of the helpers. They use the income for scholarships and other community services such as helping provide books to schools, toys and clothes to the hospital, food to the needy and scholarships for continued education.

Food seems to be a uniting factor for many of our community events. Aside from the Grange's oyster and ham dinner, Community Club sponsors the annual **spaghetti feed, Thanksgiving feast and Christmas dinner**. **Senior Lunch** hosts about 100 folks from neighboring areas biweekly for a hardy meal.

The community hall is also used for organizations that don't belong under the title of "club." Harstine Island Choir, for example, meets there weekly for rehearsals, and two weekends a year for performances. Last year's June concert featured Madrigals. This June the choir will introduce the community to the interesting rhythms and harmonies of Hungarian choral music. The Christmas concert will be traditional favorites along with some spicy new tunes. We are currently 40 strong and growing toward our 60 singer goal. New members are always welcome.



L to R: N Neuerp, B Morse, L Houghton, B Sherrill, L Echnang, M Callaghan, F Ebey, P Baker, M Plomski, D Nichols

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The Backwoods Irish



Colleen Benson continues bringing some "Sunshine" to Harstine Islanders. If you know someone needing a word of cheer, contact her at 427-1424.

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The Community Hall Building...

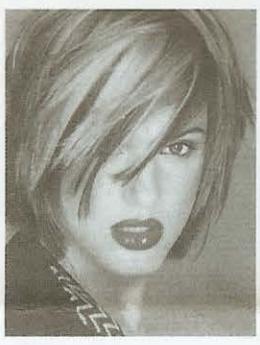
...is approaching it's 100th birthday. As with many old things, careful attention is required to keep them looking their best. In previous years we have roofed the hall, cleaned and polished the beautiful maple wood floors, renewed the kitchen counters and floor, and freshened the grounds with new plantings and buildings. In 2006, attention was given the well and oil upgrades. This year donations will be used to improve and upgrade the hall's electrical system. Be sure to mark "electrical restoration" on the membership form if you would like your money to go to this good cause.

One of the responsibilities of community club is to keep the hall ship shape. Everyone keeps the building sparkling with the annual **hall cleanup**. Mark your calendar for the morning of May 12th to help clean windows, scrub floors and organize refrigerators. Many hands make quick work, so join yours with ours to get the job done.

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Theatre Club, which began with the creative imagination of retired professional actress Shirl Conway Larson, has been gifting a Christmas show to the community for more than 30 years now! Last year, Theatre Club produced several plays, starting with an original 1936 radio play, "Bubbling Brook," scripted in that year by islander John Cooper and directed by Bob Helm. It was fun watching the scenes unfold just as they would have years ago, even with period music from John Strassburger! The next play was a very British farce, "They Came from Outer Space," directed by Barbara Hubbard. In October, Dracula flew to the stage to entertain costumed guests during the musical, "Dracula Baby." This was long time member Fred Burgdorf's first time as director. The

Christmas show, "Santa Takes A Wife," was scripted and directed courtesy of Bob Helm.

This year we will look forward to seeing you at our two performances, the bi-annual vaudeville and our annual Christmas show.



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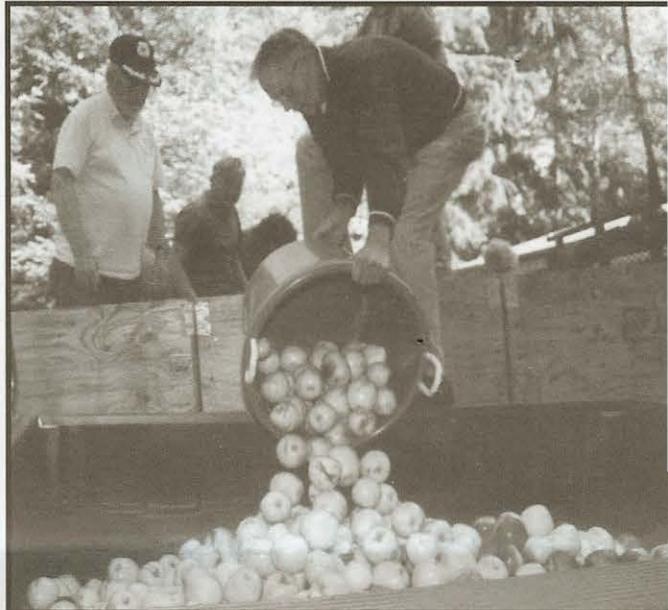
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Club Information

Community Club

Dudley Panchot 432-1750
2nd Friday of each month
6 PM - 7 PM Happy Hour/Potluck
7:30 Meeting

Bridge Community Church

Pastor Howard Spear 426-5221
Sunday School 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Worship Service 10:30 AM

Crime Watch

Tim Rogers 426-5712
3rd Wednesday of each month
7 PM Meeting

Garden Club

Jim Anderson 427-8701
2nd Thursday of each month
7 PM Meeting

Grange

Bill Bogle 426-8548
3rd Friday of each month
6:30 Potluck
7:30 Meeting

Pinochle (Mixed)

Barbara LaJune 426-0494
1st + 3rd Saturdays of the month
7:00 PM Meeting

Pinochle (Women)

Pat Ritchie 427-0413
Every other Tuesday 12:00

Theatre Club

Whickey ConwayLarson 426-3241
Last Monday of each month
6:30 PM Potluck
7:00 PM Meeting

Women's Club

Marlene Echaniz 427-3873
1st Thursday of each month
12:00 Noon, Brown Bag Lunch
(dessert and coffee provided)

TOPS#WA 1042 Shelton

Nancy Nelson 432-0866
Monday mornings 9:00AM

CERT

Nick Neuerburg 427-5521
2nd Tuesday of the month 7:30 PM
(Meets at Station 9 next to hall)

Harstine Community Choir

Elizabeth Berndt 432-9940
Every Sunday following the school
calendar from 4:00 to 6:00 PM

Have you ever seen two men fighting over tupperware? Rumor has it that such things happen at the Harstine **rummage sale**. It is true that many exciting items are available, from sailboats and anchors to caps and clothes. You name it, it is probably to be found at the rummage sale. Of course, helpers have some advantage, so if you want to lend a hand in preparations, call Arlen Morris 432-9712. Otherwise, just be sure to get in line before the doors open at 10:00!

*The old island records show a lot of **dances** were held in our hall to entertain the locals. Women packed food and drink, musicians readied their instruments, and everyone came together for an evening of dance. Jim Irish and Mike Callaghan have worked hard to reinstate these good times, and their efforts have met with splendid success. Five dances have taken place since 2004, each with good music to a full house. If you have not attended an island dance, try one this year. Richard Gerber is playing for the Labor Day Dance Saturday, September 1st, or bring in the New Year at the dance December 31st. Dances begin at 8:00 or 9:00 and continue to 12:00 with finger foods or a buffet dinner provided. Ticket costs and purchase dates will be provided in the Journal or at community club meetings.*

THANK YOU
We thank our local businesses for their advertising contributions given to produce this newsletter. We are grateful for your continued support.

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Sometimes an unpleasant task can be made enjoyable by working together with friends. That is just what happens during our annual **island cleanup**. Sections of roads are assigned to



people, each group picking up the trash in the road for designated distances. As it invariably rains, the hot food and drink shared af-

terward is not only well appreciated, but the camaraderie with neighbors during that time makes the day even more worthwhile. Island cleanup is scheduled for the morning of April 14th this year. Please plan to attend to help keep Harstine green and to meet with your neighbors.

Harstine Island Gallery

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Community Club 2007

Membership Application/Renewal

Harstine Island Community Club's Dues are \$10.00 per person age 18 or over.

Name _____

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Phone _____ Email _____

HICC is compiling a membership roster with member names and contact information for the benefit of our members. Check the following box ONLY if you wish your information to be excluded.

In addition to your HICC dues, please indicate if you would like to donate to any of the following:

Electrical Restoration \$ _____ Cemetery Fund \$ _____ Women's Club \$ _____

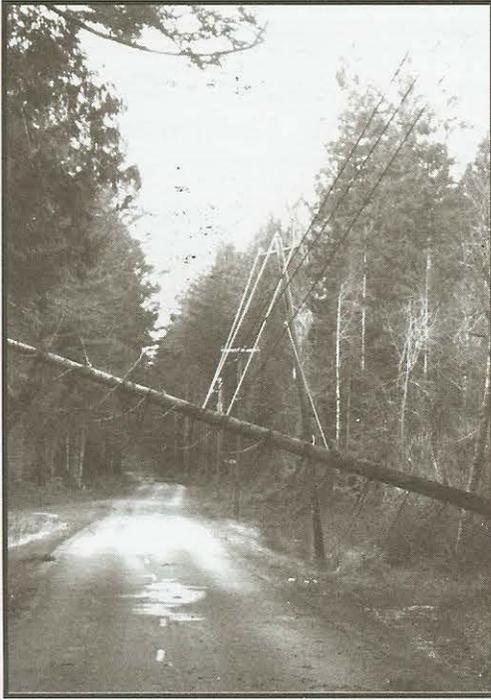
Grange \$ _____ Garden Club \$ _____ Theatre Club \$ _____

Harstine Choir \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

(Note: Please do not send other club dues with this community club dues form. Instead, contact the other club directly concerning its dues. Thanks!)

Please remove this application/renewal form and mail it with your check to:

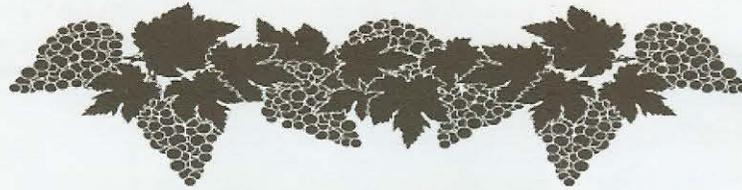
Harstine Island Community Club (HICC)
PO Box 1635; Shelton, WA 98584



There were numerous other people who helped this year and to all I express my great thanks. Of course, our Citizens of the Year, Mike and Linda Benson, deserve great applause and they continue to volunteer their efforts for the club. Tom and Mary Ryan, Eleanor Pranger and Fred Ebey all deserve a pat on the back. I would also like to thank the board, Mike Benson, vice president; Linda Benson, secretary; Jim Anderson, treasurer; and Arne Berndt and Jim Irish, members at large. Next year's board has already hit the ground running, led by Dudley Panchot, president; Gary Benz, vice president; Carolyn Ebey, secretary; Jim Irving, treasurer; Linda Benson and Arne Berndt, members at large.

Finally, I will say that the storm of storms taught us there are some faults with our emergency plans and our electrical system. Join me in helping next year's board tackle these problems. I know they have set up a special fund, and if you would like to contribute to the upgrades on this 93 year old building, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks for a wonderful year, Mike Callaghan



Ed & Sandy Murphy
101 E. Tanager
Shelton, WA 98584



Shelton, WA 98584
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Harstine Island Community Club

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