

November Newsletter Rocky Pointe Marina

The Road and Ramps are Done

Thank you to everyone for enduring the dust, mess and delays during our paving project. The ramps were a much quicker project and special thanks to Columbia River PUD staff for their quick work to minimize the power shut down. The combined costs for the ramps and road exceeded a quarter million dollars and should provide great service, safety and curb appeal for many future decades. Our staff will continue working this winter on dock upgrades and remodeling some of the restrooms.

Covid 19 Precautions

Our procedures within the marina to keep our distancing has been working very well. With new residents and tenants, we wish to remind everyone.

-Entry into the office is not allowed. Call, email or use drop box for payments. Parking passes and packages are on the clubhouse porch. - while walking on the docks, step off the main dock and allow others to pass. -There are buckets with sanitizer and paper towels at the ramps to wipe the cart handles. Good idea to do this before and after use. Of course, wash your own hands after using.	-Ramps are 1-way traffic only. If someone is on the ramp, then clear back to the parking lot area (not inside the kiosk) or back many feet from the bottom of the ramp and stay off to one side facing towards the water. - avoid social gatherings - NEW -if you have guests arriving, please meet them in the parking lot and escort them down. They do not know our rules and procedures' and can jeopardize your neighbor's health.
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Office/Fuel Dock Winter Hours

Weekdays remain 9am to 5pm all year long. Weekends are now 11am to 3pm until May 1st (Reminder that entry into the office is not allowed. Call/email. Use the drop box.)

Farm Country-What's all the truck noise going on across the river?

Both sides of the river are zoned MUA-20 (mixed use agriculture with minimum 20-acre parcels). The marinas are given a conditional use permit from Multnomah County to operate within an agricultural zone. Farmers have a very high priority in our country to provide food and their farming practices take priority in land zoned for farming.

Across the channel there is a farm that collects all the corn stalks from the farms on the island. In late Autumn, after harvest season, there is a lot of truck activity bringing in the stalks. As you can see, they have now finished and covered the giant pile to ferment into a product called silage. It can be fed to cattle, sheep and other such ruminants (cud-chewing animals). A cow can eat about 55-60 lbs. of corn silage per day (33% moisture. To grow cattle from 300 to **1000 pounds** on only corn silage would require about 7 tons of silage. You could expect between 20 and 24 tons of corn silage per acre. **It is an essential practice for dairy farmers in the area.**

Some Restrooms Closed for Winter

We will be closing the lower restroom and upper restrooms around Thanksgiving. This keeps the pipes from freezing and unauthorized users out. The middle marina restroom and shower will remain open. The office restroom will remain open during business hours. Those in need of night access to the restroom can request a key.

Christmas Ships- Please be Careful with Parties

Currently, the Christmas Ships are not 100% certain of this year's Holiday Boat Parade. Several cities along the river are concerned it may be a Covid spreader. The famous Peacock Lane in Portland has cancelled their event this year. Even if the Christmas ships do come by our marina, Santa will not stop at our fuel dock. We will not be collecting toys at the office this year but will instead request cash donations to the Scappoose Fire Dept.

We have concerns about the hundreds of unfamiliar guests all arriving within an hour and funneling down the 3 ramps wandering around looking for their destination. This would amount to 30 to 50 small gatherings which the CDC is discouraging. With that said, we are also discouraging gatherings for the Christmas ships this year for the safety of all residents of the marina. We'd rather limit our guests to just your loved ones during the holidays for everyone's safety.

Derelict Boats/Security.

There has been an increase of HoBoaters (derelict boats with people living on them) 2-3 miles upstream of Rocky Pointe. Last week the count was 16 boats and they are mostly congregated around the Sauvie Island Boat Launch where there is a collection of broken down and beat up vehicles now parked on the road. These people need access to shore and during the day there are many old kayaks, dinghies and other small tired watercraft tied up to the boat launch dock. Technically the law only allows these boats to stay in one place for 30 days and then move at least 5 miles away after 30 days. The local political climate mixed with concerns of Covid infections, law enforcement tends to ignore the law. These people need water and gas. We do not welcome them at our fuel dock. This is why our water was removed from our fuel dock and the pump out relocated inside our marina. This is also why we lock most of our restrooms during the winter. If you see any small boat at night running close or into our marina please call 911.

We also had an unauthorized person enter the upper marina at 8pm following guests through the gate. Several tenants confronted this person while he was smoking a cigarette on the porch of a floating home, considered him harmless and escorted him off the property. The Multnomah County Sheriff has advised us to always call 911 and report a **Trespasser**. These people can be anything from merely lost, mentally ill or worst con-artist crooks shopping around for future scores or easy targets. We had a friend with Alzheimer's who was lost, found the car keys and went for a ride and killed himself in an accident. Seemingly harmless people may have someone who loves them looking for them.

When calling 911- Never use the word "Homeless" or similar description. That is not a crime and they will not respond. Call them, what they are- **TRESSPASSERS**- on private property.

We also had a Prius car in the outside lot, that was targeted for its catalytic converter. The officer stated there has been an increase targeting Prius cars. Please take precautions with your valuables. COVID has made times harder for people.

Doggie parks- Pet Leash Policy- Cat Litter

With many new people in the marina this year we wish to remind all pet owners that dogs (all pets) must be on a leash at all times on marina property which includes the parking lot, upland, ramps and docks. They can be off leash on your boat or in your house. It is not OK to let them out the door of your car, your house or your boat without a leash on. This is for the safety of everyone here at the marina.

There is an awesome, very close, off leash Dog Park in Scappoose called Scappoose Veterans Park-Dog Park. Just a couple blocks past the Middle School, take a left on JP West Rd. About 5 blocks west and just over the tiny overpass you will see the park, take a right into the park and at the very end there is a fenced dog park.

Lastly, if you have a cat, please do not flush cat litter down the toilet. It swells up in our sewer lines. A past experience a year ago caused 3 pumps to go out (over \$1000) and many, many hours of time to clean out our sewer lines. Plus, angry neighbors!

Never flush anything down your toilet except human waste and toilet paper.

Seasonal Water levels

We get asked frequently about levels of the water, the current and why sometimes the river flows upstream. The water in our river comes from rain and snow melt. During August, September and early October there is little of either and the water stays low and the daily tides can be felt, i.e., a flood tide (when the water is rising) makes things float upstream. The relative level of the water is about 2ft to 4ft above sea level during this season sometimes dipping below 0, called a minus tide. It is currently rising with the rain and is about 6ft now. It will continue to rise and fall until sometime in June when the water will continue downward for the summer. The winter and spring river levels run on average 10ft to 14ft. Our upper parking lot is at 20ft and our lower parking lot is at 18ft. In 1996 the level was at 24.6ft, the 6th highest level in history. There is a blue marker sign at the top of the piling in front of the marina office recording this event. Not to worry too much. High water levels come gradual. The homes, docks and boats are designed to float up and there are days before flooding to move your cars. On our website we have a link to the river levels that show the past week and coming week predictions. A 16ft river level in Portland is considered minor flood stage and this happens every couple of years, but does not affect us other than a stronger current. You can Google "tides Multnomah Channel Rocky Pointe" for details. It also has historical data of past flooding and high-water events.