

Browns Point Bulletin



photo by Michael Jardeen

Browns Point Improvement Club

August 2011

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Upcoming Events

Sept 18: [Kids' Fishing Derby](#)

Oct 30: [Trunk or Treat](#)

BPIC Quick Links

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Clubhouse Rentals

UPDATE: The previous version of the Browns Point Bulletin had the wrong start time for the Points Northeast Historial Society's community celebration on 9/11. The event is from noon to 4 p.m.

Dear neighbors,
Hope you've had a great summer!

Even though summer is winding down, fall brings more festivities to Browns Point. Don't miss the kids fishing derby on Sept. 18 and the Halloween Trunk or Treat on Oct. 30th. All our events can be found [here](#).

We hope you're enjoying the emailed Browns Point Bulletin. Feel free to forward it to friends and have them sign up to receive the Bulletin. If there's anything you'd like to see in future bulletins, or if you have questions about BPIC events or membership, [let us know](#).

Thanks,
Matt Williams
President, Browns Point Improvement Club



Join us! Kids Fishing Derby

Email [Alice Owen](mailto:Alice.Owen@brownspoint.org) or call (253-927-1042) for available rental dates and further information. Dates are filling up for fall and Christmas!

The Kids Fishing Derby is another great family tradition in Browns Point. Go for the big one or just a cute sea-slug. No matter what you catch, everyone leaves with a prize! All fishers get a t-shirt for participating.



Community Links

[Soundview Little League](#)

[District 10 Little League](#)

[Points Northeast Historical Society](#)

When: Sunday, Sept. 18 (weigh-in at noon)

Where: Weigh-in at the BPIC clubhouse

A Star-Spangled BP Fourth of July Parade

Red, white & blue fun in Browns Point

The fifth annual Browns Point Fourth of July parade brought out more than 100 people decked out in red, white and blue. Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Browns Point scholarship winners, Points Northeast Historical Society members and many Browns Point families joined this annual Independence Day tradition that started at the Curly Slide Park and wound through lower Browns Point.



Friendly tug-of-war competitions were held at the end of the parade

Thanks to funding from the BPIC, each participant was greeted with a patriotic balloon and an American flag. Children decorated their bicycles, scooters and wagons with ribbons and tinsel. Adults decked themselves out in red, white and blue outfits, and many brought along dogs sporting patriotic accoutrements.

At the end of the parade, everyone enjoyed lemonade, watermelon and a friendly tug-of-war competitions, pitting boys against girls; moms against kids; dads vs. the Fire Department; and Browns Point Elementary students vs. other schools.

Like many Browns Point events, the parade was started with a simple suggestion and the work of many volunteers. Silvia and Jeff McClung, parents of the red-headed Daniel McClung, celebrated their son's first and second birthdays with a neighborhood parade. Their friend and neighbor Dana Perigrine was inspired and wanted to organize a 4th of July parade for the entire Browns Point neighborhood. Thus, the Browns Point 4th of July parade was born July 4th, 2007.

Dana and Silvia co-chair the parade and recruit neighbors to help out. Members of a former Browns Point childrens' play group have helped

continue the success of the parade, including the Papes, Pitchfords, Perigrines, Porters, Kuravackals, Sabotkas, McClungs and Amanda's family.

The Browns Point Fire Department is also a big help every year. They block the intersections so participants are safe and drive the red fire truck in the parade, blaring *Stars and Stripes Forever* over their speakers.

Volunteers distributed fliers in the neighborhood along the parade route. As a result, more and more neighbors stepped outside their doors and watched the parade go by. Some spectators even handed out candy!

The Gutierrez family wowed everyone with their *U.S.S. Constitution* float, complete with flag sails and confetti gun. These new neighbors of ours worked for more than a week to make a non-motorized float. It was spectacular!



The Gutierrez family navigated the parade in their amazing USS Constitution float



*Scholarship winners and Cub Scouts
led the parade through lower Browns Point*

Everybody loves a parade. But in Browns Point on the Fourth of July, you can be in one. Just show up!

Celebrating the Past, Making History Visible

Points NE Historical Society event Sept. 11

Learn the amazing history of our community at Points Northeast Historical Society's celebration from noon to 4 p.m. on Sept. 11 at Browns Point Lighthouse Park.



Activities will include free tours of the light keeper's cottage, historic boathouse, maritime museum with replica Coast Guard surf boat, and heritage gardens, and a driving scavenger hunt tour of local historic sites. Throughout the day, meet figures from the past, play old-fashioned games, enjoy free entertainment, a book sale or visit the garden club sale. Hot dogs, chips and soda will be available for \$1, as well as ice cream.

Local elected officials and members of the community are expected at a special memorial moment and flag raising ceremony in front of the cottage at 2 p.m. to commemorate 9/11/2001.

For additional information, call 253-927-6019 or visit www.pointsnortheast.org to discover facts about the historical society.

Neighborhood Safety: Keeping Your Property "Yours"

By Kevin McCann, Pierce County Prosecutor's Office & BPIC Board Member

As of July 31, 2011 the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office has filed 3,038 felony cases, of which nearly 28 percent were filed by the Felony Property Crimes unit. The only other category of crimes prosecuted in the felony division that matches this number are cases filed by the Felony Drug unit. These two divisions of the prosecutor's office comprise more than half the felony cases in Pierce County filed so far this year.

Living in a "good" neighborhood does not make you immune to being a victim of these offenses; in fact, it may actually make you more vulnerable since thieves generally covet those things that you have worked hard to purchase: cars, home electronics, jewelry, gaming systems and firearms. These are the things that can easily be converted to cash, which can be used to purchase drugs. Property crimes and drug offenses are often committed by the same perpetrator.

In the Pierce County Prosecutor's Office, we aggressively prosecute property and drug crimes. We hold criminals accountable but we also

want to help you avoid being a victim. Not all crimes can be prevented but there are a few things that you can do to help prevent yourself from becoming a victim or to increase the odds of recovering your property:

1. **Neighborhood watch** - Whether a formal program or just vigilant neighbors, criminals don't like it when you watch what they are doing.
2. **Security system** - Large dogs or loud alarms will usually turn the wanna-be burglar away since they like to work in silence.
3. **Lock your doors and windows** - As tempting as it may be to leave your windows open to keep the house cool during the summer months, you should resist this temptation. Burglars are motivated to get into your home and will break windows and doors to do so. You don't need to make the job easier for them by allowing easy access.
4. **Keep shrubs trimmed** - Shrubs and vegetation that shield your front door or window from view of the street make great protection for the burglar who is picking your lock or kicking your door.
5. **Don't advertise your absence** - Facebook posts are tempting but you never know who might be reading. Advertising that you will be basking on the beach in Mexico for two weeks will alert the creative burglar that your house will be unoccupied during that time.
6. **Don't leave valuables in your vehicles** - Wallets, purses, briefcases and Nordstrom bags can be very tempting for the car prowler who is looking into your car. Don't give them a reason to break your window.

If victimized:

1. **Report criminal activity to non-emergency numbers** - Reach the Tacoma Police Department at (253) 591-5950 and the Pierce County Sheriff's Department at (253) 798-4721. If the burglar is in your house, call 911 immediately.
2. **Don't disturb scene** - prints can be destroyed easily.
3. **Have serial numbers and documentation available** - your items will end up being sold somewhere. Having documentation to prove ownership will help you identify and recover your property much easier than if you just report that your child's X-Box was stolen.
4. **Craigslist** - Pawn shops are required to keep records of who they purchase pawned goods from and the police will look for your belongings there. Another common way for thieves to sell your belongings is on Craigslist. If you see your stolen goods on Craigslist, you should contact the police and let them know.

Burglary and auto-theft rates in Tacoma are [nearly double that of the national average](#)

so a little preventative effort on the part of our community may help change that trend.

2011 Adult Fishing Derby Winner: Denny Burnham

July 24th was a beautiful day for the annual BPIC Cliff House Willies adult fishing derby. Fifty-two participants gave it their all in hopes of winning the \$250 grand prize. The fishing was tough this year, with

only four fish entered in the contest.

The grand prize fish -- a 20.5-ounce Chinook -- was caught by Denny "Big Tuna" Burnham who was fishing at Point Beales at 5:15am. The second place fish was an 18.12-ounce Chinook and was caught by former kid's derby winner Jessica Overmars at the slag pile. Third place was an 11.6-ounce Chinook landed by King Cooper right next to Jessica within five minutes of each other. The fourth place fish was a 3.7-ounce Coho wrestled in by Riley Walter.

The annual horseshoe tournament was held following the derby with \$100 in prize money at stake. After a long tough battle in the hot sun, Kelly Kerrone and Jason Walter were the victors.

Thank you to all who volunteered to make this another awesome event. A special thank you to Lynn Hopson and the Weenie Queens for the great food; Tom Owen for the beverages; Mike Brown, fish tender; Jason Walter, MC; Kelly Kerrone, ice; and Bob Overmars for the horseshoe tournament.

A final thank you to Jason and Kelly for donating part of their horseshoe winnings to the kids derby, and Steve Saville for donating his door prize to the kids derby.

All proceeds from Cliff House Willies adult fishing derby are used to support the annual Browns Point/Dash Point kids fishing derby, being held September 18, 2011.

About the Browns Point Improvement Club

The Browns Point Improvement Club is a non-profit organization established in 1919 for the purpose of engaging in activities to advance the interests of the community. Thanks to all our community members who make Browns Point a great place to live!

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