



## Friends of Fort Flagler Newsletter

September 2020

### Join the Fort Flagler Trail Crew!

Friends of Fort Flagler celebrates Kay Goodhue, our role model for commitment to the park and its natural beauty.



Seven years ago Kay showed up for the annual campground cleanup sponsored by FoFF. She enjoyed the work and the spirit of camaraderie she found. So she adopted several of park's trails and began her regular practice of walking them with clippers in hand, keeping them groomed and hiking-ready. She's been doing it ever since.

Every week she logs about six hours maintaining trails. Why does she do it? "It's simple. She says, "Good health for the person; good health for the park." She adds that as a Scorpio she is destined to love the woods and the outdoors.

Maybe this is a key to her longevity? After all she is 94 years old!

FoFF is actively recruiting volunteers to join Kay and members of the Trail Team. If you have interest, go to the website, [www.friendsoffortflagler.org](http://www.friendsoffortflagler.org), and use the let us know on the "Contact Us" tab. We will find a place for you to contribute and make a difference.

## Learn All About Pacific Harbor Seals, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Friends of Fort Flagler is excited to offer an opportunity to hear from one of the area's premier experts on marine mammals, Casey McLean, Executive Director of SR3.



**Learn about our Pacific Harbor Seals on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

Due to COVID, the program will be offered online and is free to the public. To register, please send your name, email and the city of residence to [FortFlaglerFriends@gmail.com](mailto:FortFlaglerFriends@gmail.com). Upon emailing us, we will send you the links and instructions.

We have seen an increase in harbor seal strandings at Fort Flagler in 2020. We think of them as cute, furry and on our beaches. Learn why and when they're on the beaches. What they eat, what eats them and how long they live. What should you do if you see one? How can you help them?

Casey Mclean has over 12 year's experience working with marine animals, and is the Executive Director of SR3, Washington's first dedicated marine animal hospital. SR3 is a nonprofit organization that focuses on response, rehabilitation and research of local marine wildlife. This fall they will be opening a marine animal hospital in the Des Moines marina, just south of Seattle. To learn more about SR3, visit <https://www.sealifer3.org/>.

## FoFF and Lakeside Team up to Complete Basketball Court and Hoop Project

Check out Friends of Fort Flagler's latest addition to the park! What was an ugly slab of concrete built in WWII as a place to wash vehicles has been transformed into a first-class basketball court and hoop. FoFF volunteers contributed more than 60 hours of time, prepping the cracked and weed-infested concrete, pouring a massive concrete base for the new hoop and erecting it on the site. Vigo Anderson, FoFF Board member, was the driving force



behind this project. A big thank you to him and the cadre of volunteers that made this happen.

Lakeside Industries, led by project manager Mike Pinell, did a fabulous job paving the court with asphalt, tending to this small project with all the care that they would show paving a major highway. And the icing on the cake is that Lakeside is donating \$2,500 toward the cost of the project. Thank you!

Already the court is attracting good use. We know that it will be one of those things that enhances the park experience for youth groups and families.



## Fort Flagler Being Considered for Major Capital Investment

Fort Flagler is literally #1 on the list of State funded capital projects! At its July meeting the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission included five projects for our park on the statewide list of projects for potential funding in the upcoming biennial budget (July 2021 to June 2023). The list now goes to Governor Inslee who will submit his proposal for consideration in the next legislative session that begins in January.

In order of priority set by the Commission, the projects are:

- \$850,000 to re-route the road in the upper campground that is becoming perilously close to the eroding adjacent bluff.
- \$1,963,000 to complete the renovations to the pre-WWI Historic Facilities (currently underway).
- \$915,000 for a new Welcome Center to be located near the entrance of the park.
- \$750,000 for replacement of aging restrooms in the lower campground.
- \$200,000 to kick off renovations to the WWII theater, a long-standing priority for FoFF.

We will continue to push for funding of these projects, especially the Welcome Center and the WWII theater renovation. As those that have followed FoFF activities for some time, you know that the theater has long been a project on our list. It's great to see it as part of the official WSP request, even though it is not for the full cost and it is quite low on the priority list.





FoFF is delighted that the Welcome Center is on the list with a good chance of being funded. It would replace the little station in the road on the way to the campgrounds, and would greet park visitors near the true entrance of the park and offer them a proper orientation. We'll push hard for it!

Friends of Fort Flagler has already been very active in advocating for the investments to the park, including offering testimony to the Parks Commission and meeting early this year with our elected officials from the 24<sup>th</sup> legislative district.

On October 5<sup>th</sup> we had a fabulous meeting with Representative Steve Tharinger, a great supporter of the park and in a key role in the legislature as chair of the House committee that oversees the capital budget.



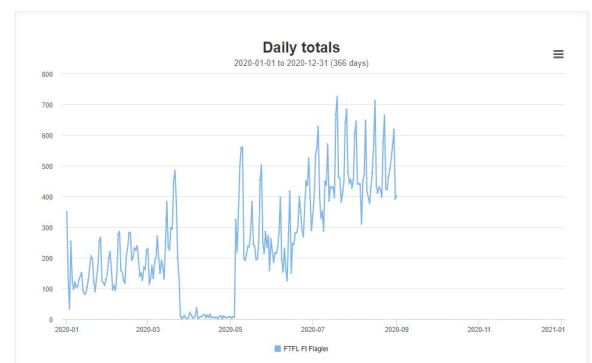
Brian Hageman with Representative Tharinger (right) Anderson with Rep Tharinger



FoFF Board members Beckie Mermod, Mark Secord and Vigo

## Fort Flagler Busier than Ever!

The graph to the right tells the story. After being closed for about six weeks from mid-March, daily park use at Fort Flagler State Park is up about 30% over past years. This despite the fact that the retreat center, and group camp have been closed.



## Become a Member!

Friends of Fort Flagler needs YOU! Please take a minute to join or renew your membership. If you sign up now, your membership will be effective for the entire year 2021.

Why is membership important? First, it strengthens our ability to advocate for the park. Second, it helps us financially meet FoFF's goals of improving and protecting the park, especially in a time when concerts and other fundraising activities are not possible.

You can choose from the following membership categories:

- \$15.00 Basic family membership
- \$100.00 Supporting membership
- \$500.00 Lifetime membership

Join at the Supporting or Lifetime membership levels and we'll send you a hand-crafted cup from Millbrook Pottery that features the FoFF logo and Todd's original artwork.

Go to our website and hit the "Donate" button to join. [www.friendsoffortflagler.org](http://www.friendsoffortflagler.org)

**Thank you for your continued support**

