



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Buoy Owners Get Permit Grace Period

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, June 30, 2010 – City staff and volunteers took to the water this weekend to let the owners of recreational buoys that were installed without proper permits know about an opportunity to bring their buoys into compliance free of charge.

Under the City's new Programmatic Buoy system, owners of recreational mooring buoys that meet the programmatic criteria may apply for an after-the-fact permit free of charge through October 31, 2010.

The Programmatic Buoy system was created in order to expedite the application process for recreational mooring buoys. Under the new program, owners complete a standard application that includes a worksheet for depicting the buoy's elevation and anchor type and a site plan. The application may be used by those applying for new buoys as well as those who wish to receive an after-the-fact permit to bring an existing buoy into compliance.

In order to encourage owners to bring unpermitted buoys into compliance, and encourage those who want to install new buoys to place them legally, the City Council established a grace period and graduated fee structure for buoy permits. No fee is required for applications submitted through October 31, 2010, and a reduced fee of \$200 will go into effect from November 1, 2010 through April 30, 2012. The full fee of \$450 will go in to effect May 1, 2012.

Harbormaster Tami Allen, assisted by other city staff and volunteers, began posting notices on unpermitted buoys this past week. The neon-colored notice informs owners that their buoy is in violation of City code, and refers them to the Programmatic Buoy page on the city's website, at www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us, or the Buoy Hotline, 780-3731, for information on the permitting process.

“We want to make sure that people are aware of this opportunity to bring existing, unpermitted buoys into compliance at no charge, and encourage them to take the opportunity to do so,” Allen said.

Allen noted that the City will take more rigorous steps for buoys that remain unpermitted after the November 1 date. At that time, owners will be given six months to bring their buoy in to compliance or risk a fine and/or the removal of their buoy.

The City has also implemented a process to document buoys installed prior to 1996, which are considered to be non-conforming. Owners of such buoys can complete a nonconforming buoy form and submit documentation to indicate their buoy’s placement prior to 1996.

MORE INFORMATION

The programmatic application, nonconforming form, and an FAQ are available at http://www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us/buoy_permits.aspx. Call the Buoy Hotline at 780-3731 with specific questions on buoy permitting.

For more information for boaters, sign up for the City’s ListServes for Harbor Notices, Programmatic Buoy Program, and 2011 SMP (shoreline master program) Update. Go to www.ci.bainbridge-isl.wa.us, scroll down to “Sign up for ListServ updates” on the left side of the home page, and follow the directions.

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