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Key Peninsula News**

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Melissa Hubbell B. of Larkspur as Santa's Top, Fire Commissioner Fred Raindell and his wife diary helped, as they have for many years to make Santa and Mrs. Claus' visit a success. Photo by Hugh McMillan.

## Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar A Success

The new date for the arts and crafts bazaar did not appear to deter a ~~audience~~ the Civic Center was full of shoppers for the majority of the day. The designer tree was admired and hoped for by many shoppers who purchased raffle tickets. The tree was donated by Russ Duhl, cut and transported to Sunnycrest by Shirley and Don Olson. It was then trucked and moved to the Civic Center, where it was decorated by designer Rose Grant and helpers Joy Rakes and Doris Boudreau. Other elves helping to decorate the Civic Center were Britta Brones, Jean Kesterson, Nel Blanchard, Kristen Buehler, Loyd Miller (man power) and our friends from the Key Peninsula Baptist Church. The kitchen provided a new menu which was very appetizing with demand exceeding supply. The crew was headed by Betty Kelley and assisted by Harvey Maxson, Virginia Liebergesell and Sylvia Hesse Fred and Mary Ramsdell surprised us with their Claus couple and Mike Salasino took photographs. Entertainment was supplied by a group of girls from Peninsula High who sang a cappella and the Key Singers. Raffle ticket sales were managed by Shirley Olson and Lori Warkocki. This group of people worked very hard to make this successful event and we want to thank them publicly. Last but not least, the tree was won by Donna McCardie, a peninsula resident and a member of the Key Singers. Co-chairs Claudia Ley and Sharon Miller applaud you all.

## KP And GH FDs Host Training For Fifteen Fire Districts

by Hugh McMillan

Sponsored by the Pierce County Association of Fire Chiefs, program director for which is Chief Gary Franz of Key Peninsula Fire Department, Ron Coleman, a retired California Fire Marshal, presented to a class of Washington fire officials at the Gig Harbor Fire Department's Training Center, Thursday and Friday, a program from the Commission on Fire Accreditation International to provide training on a ten step process to establish national standards of accreditation within the fire service to enhance fire and emergency medical services delivery to each community.

The 37 personnel attending represented the Statewide Dept. of Public Safety, Pierce County Fire Departments from Graham, University Place, Lakewood, Puyallup, Redmond, Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula, and Fire Departments from the City of Renton, Issaquah, Little Rock, Anacortes, Snohomish, Federal Way, and Shoreline for the two day session.

### An Editorial

#### By Marty Marcus, Co-Editor Hunger in Washington? Better Believe It!

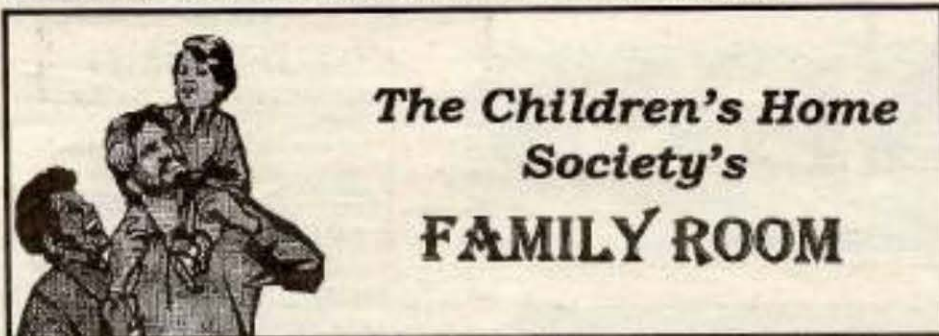
If you're about through with the turkey dinner leftovers, maybe it's time to look at the problems a lot of working families are having feeding their children. A new report recently issued by the Children's Alliance is based on information gathered from nine focus groups across the state. These focus groups, with a total of 88 participants, were commissioned by the State Departments of Health, Community, Trade and Economic Development, Social and Health Services, WIC, the Nutrition Education Network, the Children's Alliance, the Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. They met in the communities of Seattle, Spokane, Colville, Yakima, Vancouver, Tacoma, Aberdeen, Bellingham and Auburn. Members were working parents with children under the age of 18, and who were responsible for feeding their families. They were 78% white, 12% were men, and their average age was 34.

The purpose of hearing from these groups was to find out what programs and programs such as food banks, food stamps, WIC, free and reduced price school meals and nutrition education. Overall, they praised child nutrition programs and community efforts to alleviate hunger, but tended to be frustrated with the Food Stamp program. They appreciated school meals, and were pleased with the easy application process. WIC was highly praised for customer service and the value of the food package, health screening and nutrition counseling.

In the midst of a booming economy, both USDA and Census Bureau findings are consistent: in '95, '96, '97 and '98 Washington ranks in the top 10 for hunger among the states. More than 240,000 children in Washington are at risk of being hunger each year and one out of every three school children qualify for a free or reduced priced meal at school. For many children, the school meals are their best meals.

According to the Children's Alliance, this is different from what is seen in Africa, where the problem is a lack of food. In the U.S., we waste \$8 million tons of food each year we have working families with incomes so low that even though they are surrounded by food, they can't afford to buy it. One of the families included in the report said, "It's hard to think about nutrition when you don't know if there's going to be money coming in and you have to go to the food bank. It's basically whatever's being offered. Other people have the money and can select whatever they like for a healthy meal. But my family just lives on whatever we got, so we revert to peanut butter sandwiches."

It will take some doing to erase hunger in Washington by next Thanksgiving. Are we up to the task?



## The Children's Home Society's FAMILY ROOM

The 2000 Holiday Helper Program is underway and we are still signing up families and sponsors. This program coordinates requests for holiday assistance and donations from the community. Call or drop by the center to complete a simple and confidential sign-up form. **Please let us know soon if you are interested in getting signed up.**

If you know of families who live outside the Key Peninsula/Gig Harbor area and who are in need of holiday assistance, pass them our phone number for programs which support the holidays in other areas of the South Puget Sound.

Bring your little ones December 5th for a **FREE Developmental SCREENING** for children age birth to three. The main developmental areas screened at this phase of growth are: hearing, vision, learning, language, behavior, and motor skills. ChildReach staff is making appointments for slots between 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Vaughn Civic Center. Please contact ChildReach at 253-798-3698 for an appointment.

After you're finished at the screening, stop by Indoor Park in the Civic Center's gym. Our staff coordinates the large motor play group which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Kids under 5 years of age enjoy balls, slides, and lots of riding toys. Call Debbie Finel for more information.

As the temperature keeps dropping many families will be in need of help heating their homes. If you have firewood to donate, give us a call and we'll assist in arranging the donation.

In addition to the program above, the center also has information and referral services, and home visiting program for families of school-age children or those birth to 3 years of age.

Thanks to our volunteers and many local donors, the clothing bank is once again stocked to the brim. All items are free. Please hold any new donations until January as every spare inch of the center is being used to store items for the Holiday Helper Program.

The Children's Home Society Key Peninsula Family Resource Center is located in the lower level of the Civic Center. We can be reached at 884-5433 between the hours of 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

## "Living and Learning on the Key Peninsula"

*Key Peninsula Historical Society*

### "K.P.M.S. Museum Going Into Winter Hours"

by Dale Skrivanich

As we come to the end of another year we at the museum look back at our accomplishments. This past year we opened with our new kitchen exhibit, installed new lighting in our display cases, hosted the all class reunion of Vaughn Union High School, enhanced our display area, remodeled our storage area (thanks again, AI), received a \$2,500.00 grant to purchase a computer from the Morris Foundation, took part in the Pierce County water awareness program with 3rd and 4th graders from the area, hosted the 45th Annual Old Timers Picnic, purchased acid-free materials for preservation thanks to the Angel Guild, and our book "Early Days of the Key Peninsula" was chosen to be judged for the "Governors Washington State Author Awards." It will be included as part of the NW collection in the new downtown public Library. Without all of the time and donations by the committed volunteers, we would not have such a great collection of historical materials to share with the community going into our seventh year.

December and January are the two months of the year when the Key Peninsula Museum located at the Vaughn Civic Center is closed. This time of the year is used to change exhibits and do general cleaning. This is also a time for our group of dedicated volunteers to share in the Holiday season with their families and relax from all of their hard work from the past year.

## Benefit Fund Raiser On January 20th

Mark your calendar for January 20, 2001, because the Key Peninsula Fire Fighters Association is planning to have another benefit fund raiser. It will be for the benefit of a Key Peninsula resident who is a breast cancer patient and is without health care insurance. The funds will be used to help defray the cost of medical care and living expenses.

The fund raiser will be held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. It will start with a social hour at 5 PM, a spaghetti dinner from 6 to 7:30 PM, a silent auction and live auction starting at 7:30, and a dance following the auction. If you have items you would like to donate for the auction, please call 884-9596 or 857-5184.

Watch for additional information in the January issue of the *Key Peninsula News*.

## KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER

# FROM THE OFFICE

By Leslie England

Happy Holidays from the office!

Our most recent event, the Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar was a huge success. Committee Co-Chairs, Claudia Loy and Sharon Miller are to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

Lloyd Miller has recently completed installation of hand rails on the Annex steps to the lower level. The Annex has a new roof thanks to the kind gift from the Gottfried & Mary Fuchs Foundation. This gift to the KPCC will enable us to have a new paint job on the Annex next spring, as well.

December looks like a busy month ahead for the Center with many skating parties, holiday celebrations and the annual Mike Salatino Christmas Dinner.

Please note that there are now regular offices hours in place: Wednesday through Friday, 1:00pm to 6:00pm and Saturday, 11:00am to 4:00pm.

## CAC Sponsors Meth Lab Warning

by Hugh McMillan

A crowd of some 65 attended the recent Citizens Against Crime-sponsored cautionary program, held at the KP Civic Center, on methamphetamine and the danger it poses to longevity. Not merely for its doomed users but for anyone who unwittingly is contaminated by contact with the substances used in its manufacture. These are all too frequently found dumped alongside roads, in wooded areas, or even in your own yard. They are the leftovers, the garbage, of a "cook" of methamphetamine and are just dumped anywhere convenient to the substance producers.

US Army Reserve Sgt. Mike Patten, an expert on the subject, carried the audience with his forceful, sometimes humorous, but always edifying presentation. He passed around photos of "busted" meth labs and the many commonly available items used in the manufacture of the "guaranteed to kill" substance.

Among the easy to acquire items used in the "cooks" are lithium batteries, strike pads on match books, propane tanks, scuba tanks, lye, over the counter cold medicines, etc. "Anyone can buy the stuff," said Patten, "it's all legal. At least until it's processed into the most addictive narcotic known."

Pierce County Sheriff's Sgt. Ross Herberholz handled a plethora of sometimes biting questions concerning the legal restrictions placed on deputies in rolling up the meth labs.

Patten said that 40 to 50 percent of all busted meth labs have more than one minor child on the premises. Their mere exposure to the vapors generated by the cooking process can be, and generally is, deadly.

"Seventy five percent of all meth addicts who have been through the detoxification process," said Patten, "will regress and be re-addicted."

If you suspect that you know the location of a meth lab or are suspicious of activities which might be drug related, call the toll free number, 1-888-609-6384. You need not identify yourself to pass on your information to proper authorities via this number.

## Quartet at Peninsula Library

The Friends of the Peninsula Library present a free Winter Concert performed by the Peninsula Youth Orchestra Ambassador Quartet. Enjoy parlor music from the Baroque and Classical periods played by some of the area's most accomplished young musicians. The Quartet features Ellen Pew on Cello, Lexi Bryant and Spencer Hutchins on Violin, and Kacie Mulhern on Viola.

Date: Saturday, December 2nd

Time: 1 to 2:30 PM

Place: Peninsula Library

4424 Pt. Fosdick Drive N W

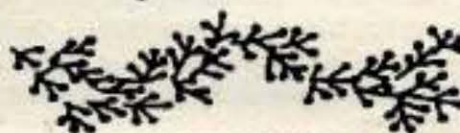
Gig Harbor

## New To This Area? Tacoma Newcomers' Club Is For You!

We cover all of Pierce County area plus some areas outside of the county. We feature monthly luncheons at local sites, Socials, Lunch Bunch, Book Discussions, Bridge, and other Games, as well as outings and sightseeing out of town. COME!! Meet new friends, learn about the area, and enjoy good company. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Next Luncheon: Thursday, December 14, 2000. We will be entertained by a musical program. Social at 11:30 AM, lunch at 12:00 Noon.

If interested please call Jackie Wilson at 588-0820.



## Peninsula People

### It's A Wonderful Life For The Caretaker

Contributed by "The Caretaker",  
KP Civic Center

Most people call me "The Caretaker". Some have called me "The Bouncer". My official title is Security & Grounds Maintenance, and I work and live at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Having worked here for almost a year, I have come to appreciate

living in such a unique environment and all the many sights, sounds and people I meet from week to week, season to season.

The greatest blessing of living here is getting to know the regulars—the people who work and serve here day to day, week to week. To start, the folks at the Children's Home Society, service oriented people who help families every day, are an inspiration to me. The joy and care for what they do, and the people they care for is obvious and touching. I am warmed by their enthusiasm when involved in projects at the Center, such as the Summer Fun and Little Buddies programs, and most recently, the Coffee House. All these help children feel good about themselves, find and use their talents, and gain new friendships and support. I strongly support and affirm CHS and staff—Edie, Dennis, Margi, Debbie, Mary and a few whose faces I know but whose names I don't remember. Keep up the good work.

In addition are the WIC (women, infants and children) ladies. Every Tuesday morning I can expect to awaken to the thunderous sounds of Beulah and Wendy rolling out furniture across the VFW hardwood floor directly above my apartment (they make a great alarm clock). I get dressed, open up the gates and facility and spend a pleasurable 15 minutes of conversation with them. These wonderful ladies really care

about children and I look forward to "Thunder Tuesday", and the constant sound of running little feet all day, because I know that what they're doing enriches the lives of those children and their parents. As they have become my friends, my life has been enriched as well.

Sundays are special because I don't have to cook and I can dine in the Whitmore Room with the special people who come to the free meal, put on by IMPact. I am blessed by the look of pleasure on the servers' faces when they are complimented on their tasty meals. I find myself rooting for the cheering TOPS ladies who meet upstairs above me (it's hard to be annoyed at "happy noise"). I love the smell of antiquity at the museum, and the kind lady volunteers who act genuinely pleased when my son brings them rusty unidentifiable "antiques" found on the beach: And right outside a delightful mini-Eden (the fuchsia garden) bearing brilliant colors and fragrances that grace my senses throughout spring and summer. This one may sound strange, but I'm in heaven on my riding mower, the smell of the grass, the warmth of the sun on my back and the couple of hours I spend imagining I am a farmer harvesting his crops (we all have at least one dull fantasy).

Some of the greatest givers and nicest people are the board members and the KP News editors, who are so affirming, fun, hard-working, helpful, and accommodating. They have added immense pleasure to living and working here. Loyd Miller, (1st vice president and building & grounds person) and I have worked together on many projects. His humor, patience and friendship have meant a lot and I've learned a lot from him. Marty and Ann, editors of the KP News, have been wonderful encouragers to me and never cease to amaze me with their endurance and hard work; I respect and adore Dave Stratford (president), whose leadership is admirable, and kind spirit unforgettable; Kristen, Betty and Vicky, keep me in stitches regularly. And Virginia and Sylvia always, always have an affirming word for me. Leslie our new office manager is a real pleasure to get to know. What more could I ask for?

There are many others who consistently bless me that space won't allow me to elaborate. But I must mention the Karate Cinces; the clicker dog trainer; Pastor and Mrs. Rouse; Thursday's pot lucking, bridge playing seniors; Swanee Swainston and Suzie and Katie, the Frisbee queens; the neighbor lady who walks her sweet blonde dog every day; the tennis players who play until the sun goes down all summer; the indoor park kids, the Lions, and the Vets. All wonderful people, kind people, giving people.

The Key Peninsula Civic Center—this is the place I call home, and it's a wonderful life because daily I see the tangible results of this community of givers and am given the privilege of meeting and knowing so many plain good folks.

### Letter To Editor:

I just got back from Mexico and the garbage outside the hotel area was awesome to me since I have become super garbage conscious. We have so much garbage being thrown about here on the Key Peninsula. It is very expensive to take to the proper place. I wish garbage disposal was subsidized. How bad does it have to be before drastic measures are taken? Are the people responsible making any effort to stop this illegal dumping?

Nancy Lind  
Home, WA

### Poetry Contest #4

While we didn't get quite as many entries as in contests #1 and #2, we did receive enough to make it a contest, and the winner is Colleen Slater, and here is her winning Quatrain-type poem:

Winter Moming

In creeps early morning light  
As sleep tiptoes away  
Neighbors' rooftops sparkle white  
Jack Frost has had his say.

Since the Haiku type poem and the Limericks were more popular, let's try them again. For Contest #4, then, submit a Haiku poem (or more than one). The rules, again: First line has 5 syllables, Second line has 7 syllables, Third line has 5 syllables. Third line is related to the first two, but is somewhat of a surprise. Send entries to Poetry Contest, KP News, P O Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. Entries must be sent by U S Mail and must be received no later than December 20, 2000. And remember, the Zip Code for Vaughn is 98394, NOT 98349 or 98329! The writer of the winning poem gets a \$20 gift certificate for use at a merchant who advertises in the KP News.

### PEP-C Water Barrels Available

PEP-C, the Peninsulas' Emergency Preparedness Committee, will have barrels for emergency water supplies available every third Saturday from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Haven of Rest cemetery off SR 16.

They also invite you to explore their web site at [www.pep-c.org](http://www.pep-c.org) for advice on preparations for emergencies from earthquakes, ice storms, power outages, storm disrupted highways, and a variety of other concerns.

### Key Singers to Perform at K C Tree Lighting

The Key Singers will be featured at the annual tree lighting ceremony in Key Center on December 3rd. For additional information about this talented local group of performers please contact Jo Sturm at 884-1350.



Merry  
Christmas!

Lakebay Community  
Church  
An Evangelical Covenant Church



Pastor Chuck Wahlstrom

"Bringing the truth of God's Word,  
and the demonstration of Jesus' love  
to the Key Peninsula."

Sunday Worship Services  
8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School —  
9:40-10:20 a.m.

11 Cornwall Rd. Lakebay  
(1 mile south of Home bridge)  
Phone: 884-3899

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## A View From Home

by Marty Marcus

Well, the election is finally over, sort of. As I write this to meet my deadline of the 20th, we still don't know who the President-Elect is or who the Senator-Elect from our state is, but maybe by the time you read this these uncertainties will have been resolved.

One issue that never seems to get resolved, however, is how to tax fairly. Every time property taxes go up, people get really upset, and yet politicians are reluctant to even mention the idea of a state income tax. Having come here from a state that has a state income tax, I'd like to point out some differences between taxation here and in California.

To begin with, property taxes here in Washington are about 3 times as high as in California. Secondly, school districts in California do not have to hold levy elections every few years because the state funds them at 100% instead of only 80% as is the case here in Washington. Sales taxes are about the same in both states. California's state income tax is a much smaller percentage than the federal income tax.

Personally, I believe that a property tax is a much less desirable type of tax from a fairness standpoint because it's based on the selling price of a home. What if you don't want to sell your home, just hang your hat there? An income tax, on the other hand, is more closely related to the ability to pay. Unfortunately, our federal income taxing system is administered in such a way that often those most affluent pay little or no income tax, and it's easy to understand why people might fear the same type of problem with a state income tax.

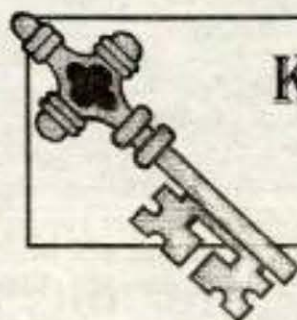
Maybe it's time to take a good look at what's happening with our federal income tax system and get it straightened out. Senator Dorgan of North Dakota has introduced legislation several times to try to do this, but it hasn't gotten anywhere. He wrote an article about it in last July's issue of the *Washington Monthly*, and I'm going to use some of his data. The magazine is available at the Key Center Library, by the way.

We have been told how great globalization of trade is for everybody, but we haven't

been told that it's costing the U.S. Treasury (read: taxpayers) about \$40 billion a year in lost taxes. Most foreign-based and U.S.-based multinational corporations pay no federal income tax, and the rest of them pay very little. The result, of course, is that the rest of us get stuck for filling the gap.

How do they do it? Corporations have two methods available: moving out and transfer pricing. We'll look at the details next month. For now, just consider that the result is that U.S. corporations pay about 10% of the total federal tax, whereas in the 1960s they paid about 20%.

Next month we'll also look at how some wealthy individuals get away without paying any federal income tax. As an example, we'll consider the case of one family that spent \$60,000 a year on grooming and veterinary care for their dog, but paid no income tax.



## KEY DATES

### 2000

#### BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

<b>KP Business Assoc.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Friday - 7:30 AM	Home Port Rest.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday - Noon	Horseshoe Lake Rest.
<b>Fire Fighters Assoc.</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday - 7:00 PM	Key Center Fire Sta.

#### CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

<b>Amnesty International</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 PM	Key Center Library
<b>Ashes</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday at 10:30 AM	Key Center Fire Station
<b>Boy Scout Troop #220</b>	Tuesday-6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	KPCC Whitmore Rm.
<b>Cooliettes</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 PM	KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
<b>KPCCA Exec. Comm.</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday - 7:00 PM	Civic Center
<b>KPCCA Board</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday - 7:00 PM	KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
<b>KPCS Board</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday - 10:00 AM	Comm. House - Home
<b>KPHC Board</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday - 7:30 PM	Health Center
<b>KP Lions Club</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed. - 6:30 PM	KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
<b>VFW &amp; Auxiliary</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Mon. - 7:00 PM	CC/VFW Room/WM Rm.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICES

<b>Adult Literacy Classes</b>	Call for Appointment 851-6552	Gig Harbor
<b>Angel Guild</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday - 10:00 AM	Brones Rm./KC Library
<b>Children's Home Society Family Resource Center</b>	Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Key Peninsula Civic Center, Lower Level - Call 884-5433	
<b>Food Bank</b>	Tues. through Fri., 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Comm. House - Home
<b>Hot Lunch for Seniors</b>	on Wednesdays at Noon - Community House - Home	
<b>Also food &amp; clothing assistance.</b>	For More Information, call 884-4440, 884-4514, or 857-4780.	
<b>Immunizations (FREE)</b>	Thursday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Urgent Care, Gig Harbor.	
<b>The Key Peninsula Well Child Clinic</b>	at the office of Dr. Roes every Tuesday at 9:00 AM.	
<b>Key Center Library 884-2242</b>	Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 1 - 8 PM, Thursday & Friday, 1 - 6 PM, Saturday, Noon - 4 PM.	
<b>KP Baptist Bible Study</b>	Wednesday - 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	KP Civic Center
<b>Overeaters Anonymous</b>	Wednesday - 7:30 PM	St. Nicholas Church
<b>Seniors Exercise Program</b>	Tues. & Thurs. - 8:30 to 9 PM	Comm. House, Home
<b>There is Hope 12-Step Christian Support Group</b>	Thursdays at 7:00 PM at Lakebay Christian Assembly Church - 253-884-3659.	
<b>WIC (Women, Infants &amp; Children)</b>	Every Tuesday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM	Civic Center, in the VFW Room. Call: 884-3835 on Tuesdays for an appointment.

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS

<b>KP Fire Commissioners</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday - 7:00 PM	Key Center Fire Sta.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday after 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 4:00 PM	Key Center Fire Sta.
<b>KP Parks &amp; Rec.</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday - 7:00 PM	Volunteer Park Annex

#### SELF-HELP GROUPS

<b>Alcoholics Anonymous</b>	Mon. through Fri. 8:00 PM - Sat. & Sun. - 6:00 AM	At the Key Peninsula Community Services in Home.
<b>Peninsula ALANON</b>	King of Grace Lutheran Church, Purdy - Tuesday 1:30 PM	
<b>Caregivers Support</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - 7:00 PM	Brones Rm./KC Library
<b>Grandparents Group</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday - 1:00 to 3:00 PM	Brones Rm./KC Library
	Contact Norma at 884-2205 for more information.	
<b>T.O.P.S.</b>	Tuesday Evening Weigh-in 6:15 PM - Meeting at 7:00 PM - Civic Center	
<b>T.O.P.S.</b>	Tuesdays at 9:00 AM at Fire Station, Home, WA	

#### SOCIAL & HOBBY GROUPS

<b>Bayshore Garden Club</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month, for more information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487.	Longbranch Improvement
<b>KP Historical Society</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday - 7:30 PM	KP Historical Museum
<b>Museum Open Thursday and Saturday</b>	from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.	
<b>LB Improvement Club</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday - 7:00 PM	Longbranch Improvement
<b>Peninsula Neighbors</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday - 10:00 AM	Longbranch Fire Station #4
<b>Lakebay Fuchsia Society</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday - 7:00 PM	Brones Rm./KC Library
<b>Ruth Circle Meeting</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday - 10:00 AM	Bible Study, lunch and Meeting at 12:00 Noon at the Longbranch Church.
<b>Senior Society Luncheon</b>	Thursdays - Noon	KPCC/Whitmore Room
<b>Vaughn Bay Garden Club</b>	Call 884-5403 for more information.	
<b>Key Singers</b>	Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:00 PM	Longbranch Comm. Church
	Contact Jo Sturm - 884-1350	

**NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION LISTED HERE, PLEASE MAIL THE INFORMATION BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH TO: KEY DATES, KEY PENINSULA NEWS, P.O. BOX 3, VAUGHN, WA 98394, OR FAX IT TO US AT: 884-4053.**

## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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#### MISSION STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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2. The primary purpose of the NEWS is to serve as communication between the KPCCA Board (and its activities) and the residents of the Key Peninsula, generally corresponding with the defined geographical area of Pierce County Fire District 16.
3. The secondary purpose of the NEWS is to serve as a communication means between the KPCCA member organizations and the residents of the same area.
4. The NEWS shall be entirely free of political bias, and shall advocate no particular religious point of view. Further, its service will be open to all local organizations and residents, subject to the availability of space and generally accepted good taste and legal considerations.

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Hugh McMillan  
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# Key Peninsula Real Estate

Real estate boom! Not quite, but we at the Windermere/Key Realty office in Key Center have definitely noticed increased activity during the last two years. During 1999 on the Key Peninsula there were 254 residential sales with an average salesprice of \$144,466. There were an additional 91 land sales.

This year, so far our volume is down some with only 203 residential units closed (another 77 land sales) but our average price is up to \$152,086. There are several reasons for this, one being our strong Puget Sound economy. Because of that our second home market has been very good. We are seeing many buyers for recreational or future retirement properties—many with cash. The South Sound is becoming an alternative to the San Juan Islands and areas to the north of Seattle where properties are more expensive.

Second—our first time home buyer market has become stronger with many new job opportunities opening up—especially in the South Kitsap area (Fred Meyer, Albertsons) and soon in the Gig Harbor north area (Target etc.). When people are able to work on the Peninsula, they choose to live here.

Third—With our advanced technology more people can work from home and only go to the office occasionally so they are able to live further away from major cities.

At our Windermere office here in Key Center our agents have kept very busy and are looking forward to another good year in 2001.

## Winter Concert of the Peninsula Community Chorus

Triumphant organ fanfares and luscious harmonics mark John Rutter's "Gloria", which highlights the Winter Concert of the Peninsula Community Chorus on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd at Agnus Dei Lutheran Church on Peacock Hill Avenue in Gig Harbor.

The choir, under the new direction of Bob Hogins, will present an evening of contemporary holiday music, focusing primarily on English composers. The popular Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten, the

Alfred Burt Carols and the beautiful compositions of John Rutter and William MacDavis follow this tradition and present us with a new brand of holiday music to celebrate the season.

The Peninsula Community Chorus has been in existence for many years, bringing a wide variety of popular or lesser known, but always beautiful, choral works to the community to share the joy of the magnificent musical creations of our civilization.

The Saturday concert will begin at 7:30PM and the Sunday performance starts at 3PM. For more information call Rosina Vertz at 360-876-8434.

## TAX TIPS



By Marv & Myrtle Keizur, CTP

The IRS is trying to be more friendly. As an example they have revamped the IRS Appeals Division with new options. [In order] to speed case resolution it now has been reorganized into three operating units focusing on small businesses and self-employed, wage earners and larger businesses. It is introducing new dispute resolution methods, including mediation and arbitration. And it is now accepting "early referrals" that let taxpayers appeal disputed audit issues before an audit is finished. For details, see [www.irs.gov/prob/ind-info/appeals/](http://www.irs.gov/prob/ind-info/appeals/).

Now is the time to make sure you have gotten your tax deduction papers together or are following up on the ones you want to make sure you get sent to you.

Don't forget that a home based business part-time can make your regular paycheck larger each payday.

## Veterans at Minter Creek

Minter Creek Elementary wishes to express their thanks to Gary Helmick and Larry Bellona for the presentations they did in classrooms about Veterans Day and for their participation in the school assembly. Additional thanks go to the other veterans and active service men and women who joined in the recognition and celebration of Veterans Day at the assembly which included songs, dances and speeches.

## TOPS News

By Frankie Johnson

One of the first things you notice when you walk into a TOPS meeting is that there are a lot of SMILES to greet you. The weight recorders always have a hug and a SMILE for you. Misty and Dee make sure you feel good about whatever you weigh for that week. Then you notice all the officers have great big SMILES. If you are in a down mood you can't stay that way. You'll feel uplifted by the end of the meeting. Carol Bischoff and Colleen Spezia have started new incentives and each week they have a new challenge for us. Now there are a couple of really big SMILES. Colleen has dropped over 200 pounds and Carol has taken off over 50 pounds. Colleen has reached her goal weight and maintains her ideal weight. Colleen always had a great SMILE even before her weight came off. Carol, too. They are like cheerleaders sharing their ideas with all the members.

In the month of September, Cindy Middleton lost the most for the month. Cindy has lost over 35 pounds since she joined TOPS. Cindy shared with me that attendance is her key to success. Dee Paul was the best of TOPS for October. Dee has perfect attendance.

If you want to get to a healthier weight or need to share some SMILES, come to our TOPS chapter at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn every Tuesday evening. All of our members will be happy to share their SMILES with you. Membership is open to men, women and young adults and kids over 7 years old. There isn't an older age limit. TOPS is very affordable. The cost is \$20 to join and \$5 a month local dues. There is no cost to weigh-in. We weigh you every week in privacy. We will be watching for you to join us with big SMILES on our faces.

## Merry Christmas To All!



### Free Community Meal Resumes at Civic Center

The free Sunday Community Meal sponsored by I.M.Pact ministries has resumed at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Every Sunday at 1:00P.M. dinner will be served. The meals this year have expanded with more variety in the menus and with more complete meals, including dessert. In addition this year, food, clothing and household items will be available to anyone who has need. Come down and enjoy good food and good company.

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360-876-5581

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## To Your Health

by  
William F. Roes, M.D.

A patient told me the other day that his cousin had informed him that I was treating him with rat poison. While technically that may be true, it's certainly not accurate, but it gives me something to write about. The medicine he's talking about is a commonly used blood thinner known as Warfarin (brand name of Coumadin). In high doses it has been used to kill vermin, but we use it for medicinal purposes in much lower doses, and it seems its utilization is increasing in recent years.

As people age, many different problems are caused by the formation of blood clots inside the blood vessels of the body where they were not meant to form. This can be a major cause of strokes, some heart disease, and pulmonary embolism (blood clots that flow into the lungs). These are serious and often life-threatening problems that can sometimes be prevented by the use of an anti-clotting medication. Aspirin also has an effect on the clotting of blood by preventing the aggregation of platelets (tiny cells that can form blood clots) inside blood vessels, but sometimes that's not enough to solve the problem. Warfarin works by preventing the synthesis of the Vitamin K-dependent proteins that initiate the clotting of blood, and is a more potent anticoagulant than aspirin. Warfarin is typically prescribed when older patients have conditions that would lead to the development of small clots on the valves of the heart. In the condition known as atrial fibrillation (an otherwise benign irregularity of the heartbeat), these clots can break loose and cause a stroke. It's also used when blood clots develop in the deep veins of the legs, thereby becoming a risk by breaking loose and flowing into the heart or lungs, and in other situations where patients have had strokes that cannot otherwise be prevented.

As I mentioned at the beginning, warfarin has been used to kill rodents, so to use it safely in humans it must be closely monitored by laboratory tests. The measurement of blood clotting we use is called a Prothrombin Time (PT) and is usually reported in terms of an International Normalized Ratio (INR), aiming for a value between 2 and 3.5. This must be monitored frequently, often monthly, to make sure it's in this effective range. An INR too low is not protecting the patient, but an INR too long puts the patient at danger of bleeding excessively from minor cuts or injuries. Many medications and even vitamins can affect the INR, and patients on warfarin should always carry identification with them that would inform emergency personnel that they are on this blood thinner. Warfarin is a safe and useful drug, but it must be used carefully. This is another situation where more is not necessarily better.

As we come to the end of another millenium, we would like to wish you all the best of holiday seasons and a happy new year.

## Healthy People, Healthy Communities

by Jill Smith, RN, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department

With the holidays approaching, more people will be out on the roads, doing their holiday shopping and attending celebrations. Did you know that about three in every five Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives?

Alcohol affects the central nervous system, impairing vision, coordination, judgment and reaction time. Since judgment is affected, the drinker usually thinks he or she is capable of driving. Motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of death related to substance abuse. Forty-five percent of all crashes are associated with alcohol use. In Washington State in 1998, there were 660 total traffic fatalities; 307 or 46.5% were alcohol-related. There were 25 alcohol-related fatalities in the Pierce County in 1998 and 1999.

When you prepare for your celebration, here are some things to keep in mind in order to have a very happy holiday season.

- \* Appoint a designated driver.
- \* When planning a party, be honest with guests that are known to drink too much. Get their agreement to find alternate means of transportation.
- \* Offer a variety of non-alcoholic beverages.
- \* If you serve alcohol, always serve plenty of food. High protein and carbohydrate foods like cheese and meats are especially good.
- \* Make sure teenage parties are well supervised and there is a no-drinking policy.

If you or someone you know has had too much to drink, T.O.W.E.D., Towing Operators Working to Eliminate Drunk Driving, offers a free tow home for the driver and vehicle. They will kick off their annual program on December 15th. The program runs through January 1st. The central dispatch number for Pierce County is 253-588-1757.

For more information on alcohol-related deaths, injuries, and costs as well as local efforts in reducing drunk driving and underage drinking, visit the websites for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MAAD) at [www.madd.org](http://www.madd.org). They can also be contacted by phone at 360-754-2137.

Have a very safe and happy holiday season from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

### KEY-PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION 2000 COMING EVENTS

SALATINO'S CHRISTMAS DINNER December 25th

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## YESTERDAY'S TEENAGERS!

Key Peninsula Senior Society  
by Jim Nolan @ 851-4847

TWENTY-ONE to SEVEN, with ONE abstaining!!! That was the official, undisputed, fairly tabulated vote of the K.P. Seniors, assembled at the November meeting of 11/16/00 on the question: SHALL THE UNITED STATES RETAIN THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM OF ELECTING A PRESIDENT? 27 of us voted "NO", we don't like the current system of voting for ELECTORS, who then elect the President in December. 7 of us voted "YES" to continue the present system. 1 person ABSTAINED. So, obviously, this group would prefer elections by TOTAL VOTES - Popular Votes to elect the nation's leader every 4 years. (We think it doubtful that Congress will ask our opinion however, altho that ain't [sic] a bad idea.)

Well, November was a momentous month - ELECTION, POLITICS, THANKSGIVING, THE K.P. CENTER'S ARTS AND CRAFT SHOW and other important events. The Nov. 18th Bazaar provided lots of us the opportunity to choose some wonderful items for Christmas giving. The gym at the Center in Vaughn was filled with many booths and tables with many wonderful wares from Pottery to Birdhouses, paintings, sewing of all types, from baby blankets to honey, toys, and well "you name it." It was a successful and social day. The KPSS (Seniors) tables were well-patronized, thanks to all. We will draw the lucky names for our two raffles (afghan and doll-house) this week and notify the winners. (We'll announce the winners in this column in January.)

Our November meeting and THANKSGIVING PARTY DAY was a BIG success, even if it was a bit unusual to feature PIZZA as the main course at a THANKSGIVING meeting. We DID have PUMPKIN PIE, however. We had good attendance, plus a full afternoon of cards and games. We'll have another "PARTY" lunch in December and hereby invite all

Seniors, of whatever age, to join us - at the Key Peninsula Center in Vaughn - Thursdays, 12 noon. NO CHARGE - it's a Potluck!!

We'd like to welcome the following folks who have joined, or returned to, our group on Thursdays. They're helping make our Senior group more fun and more effective:

- Alonzo Cole of Wauna Shores
- Lois Sanders of Lake-of-the-Woods
- Helen Geschke, Dick Dettrey and Dorothy Parrott of Lakebay
- Vic and Arminda Doggett, who are back from California

Your name could easily be added to this space...SOON!

HENRY STOCK is moving from his long-time Rocky Bay home into Gig Harbor, he advises. MARIE SCHWENKA is back with us after surgery and recuperation - she's her same old self. NORM & MARIE STORSET of Carney Lake Drive are carefully making plans for a move into Tacoma sometime next year, perhaps.

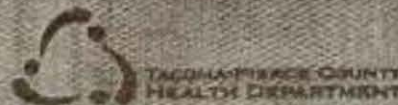
The Highway Department shunted lots of 302 traffic onto a detour down the old Wauna Hill Road (Goldman) last month at various times so they could cut down and prune off many of the trees along the Wauna curves section of Hwy 302. Seems like a lot of unnecessary cutting of trees for the announced purpose of keeping black ice from forming in the winter along that stretch of highway. What do you think?

MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL — See ya in 2001 !!!

# Happy Holidays!

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The *Key Peninsula NEWS* wishes our readers, contributors and advertisers a Happy Holiday Season!

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Happy Holidays!





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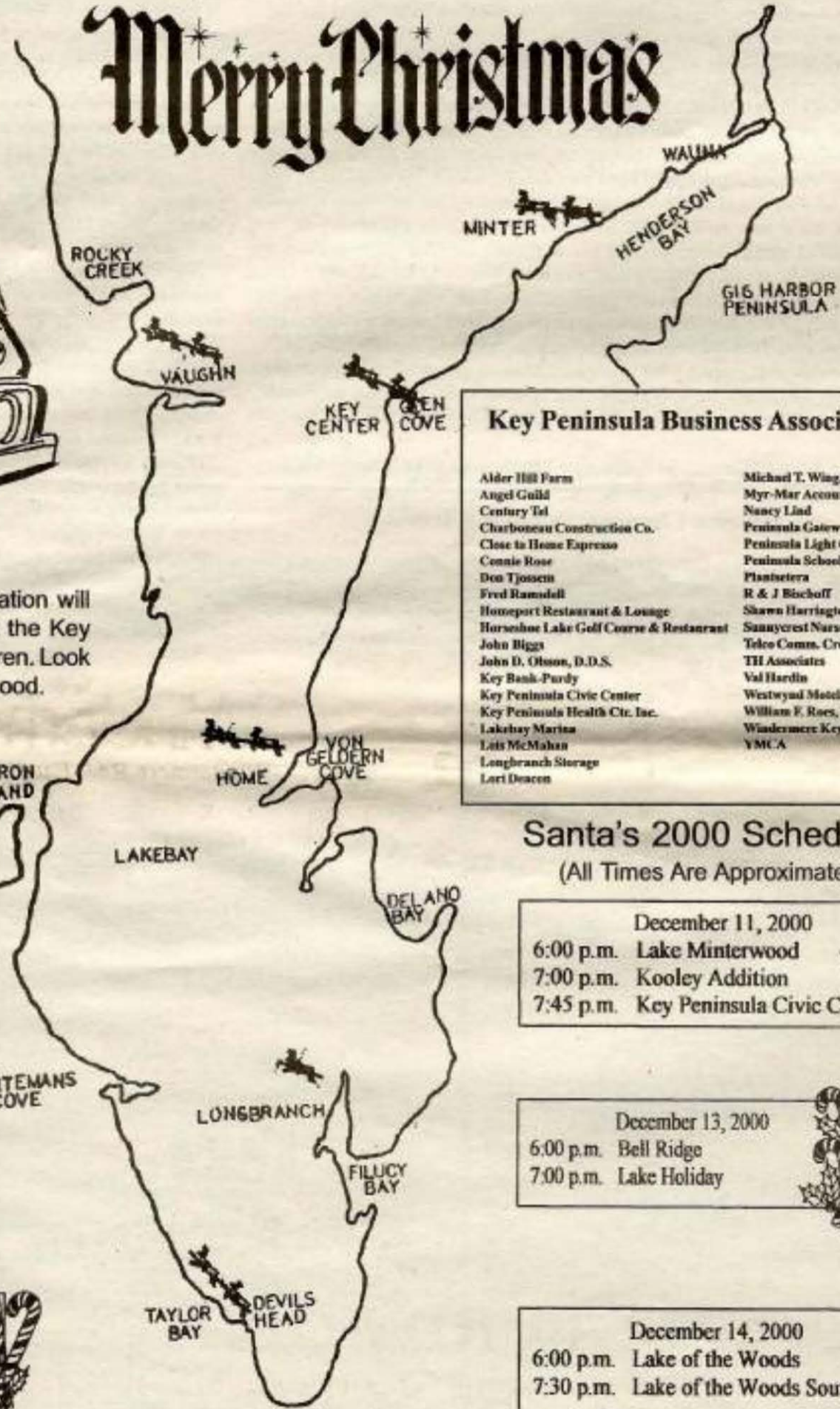


# Santa Comes To Town!

## Merry Christmas



The Key Peninsula Firefighters Association will be sponsoring Santa's visit throughout the Key Peninsula area...with candy for the children. Look at Santa's Schedule for your neighborhood.



### Key Peninsula Business Association

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| Alder Hill Farm                         | Michael T. Wing, CPA       |
| Angel Guild                             | Myr-Mar Accounting Service |
| Century Tel                             | Nancy Lind                 |
| Charboneau Construction Co.             | Peninsula Gateway          |
| Close to Home Espresso                  | Peninsula Light Co.        |
| Connie Rose                             | Peninsula School District  |
| Don Tjossem                             | Plasterera                 |
| Fred Ramsdell                           | R & J Bischoff             |
| Homeport Restaurant & Lounge            | Shawn Harrington, EA       |
| Horseshoe Lake Golf Course & Restaurant | Sunnycrest Nursery         |
| John Biggs                              | Telecom. Credit Union      |
| John D. Olson, D.D.S.                   | TH Associates              |
| Key Bank-Purdy                          | Val Hardin                 |
| Key Peninsula Civic Center              | Westwind Motel             |
| Key Peninsula Health Ctr. Inc.          | William F. Roes, M.D.      |
| Lakeway Marina                          | Windermere Key Realty      |
| Lita McMahan                            | YMCA                       |
| Longbranch Storage                      |                            |
| Lori Deacon                             |                            |

Windermere/Key Realty welcomes Santa Claus to the KC Corral on Sunday, Dec. 3 at 4:00 PM and we wish all of you a very happy holiday season.

### Santa's 2000 Schedule

(All Times Are Approximate)

December 3, 2000  
 Tree Lighting  
 K C Corral  
 4:00 P.  
 Santa Arrives at 4:30 P.M.

December 9, 2000  
 6:00 p.m. Taylor Bay Estates  
 6:30 p.m. Longbranch Shores  
 7:30 p.m. Palmer Lake

December 10, 2000  
 Santa at Longbranch Improvement Club  
 3:00 p.m.  
 6:00 p.m. Jackson Lake  
 6:00 p.m. Jackson Lake South  
 7:00 p.m. Home

December 16, 2000  
 6:00 p.m. Minterbrook Homes  
 6:45 p.m. Fir Acres  
 7:30 p.m. Green Tree  
 8:45 p.m. Horseshoe Lake Estates

### Santa's 2000 Schedule

(All Times Are Approximate)

December 11, 2000  
 6:00 p.m. Lake Minterwood  
 7:00 p.m. Kooley Addition  
 7:45 p.m. Key Peninsula Civic Center

December 13, 2000  
 6:00 p.m. Bell Ridge  
 7:00 p.m. Lake Holiday

December 14, 2000  
 6:00 p.m. Lake of the Woods  
 7:30 p.m. Lake of the Woods South

December 15, 2000  
 6:00 p.m. Wind & Tides  
 7:00 p.m. Wauna Shores  
 7:30 p.m. Danforth Heights  
 8:00 p.m. Emerald Shores

# Angel Notes

By Frankie Johnson

Our very talented Mary Krumbein has put her poet's hat on again and has penned Angel Guild's version of Jingle Bells. We will be singing the song at our annual Christmas party which is tentatively set for December 18th at Nel Blanchard's home. All Angel Guild members are invited.

We have tried an experiment with our Saturday hours. For the past month we opened at 9AM. At our recent Board meeting we decided that this wasn't working so well and we will open at 10AM and close at 2PM on Saturdays. So the shop will open at the same time every day we are open which is Wednesday through Saturday. We are closed Monday and Tuesday so our sorters and stockers can work in the store. As we get into the winter months, we thought you should know that if we have snow, we might not be open. You can call the store to make sure. We want all our members and customers to be safe.

As we have in the past, we will again be closed over the Christmas holiday for deep cleaning and refurbishing. December 22nd will be the last open day of this year. On that day we will hold our annual \$3.00 bag sale. You buy a bag for \$3.00 and stuff it full of anything in the store. This has been very popular. You will not want to miss it. Toys will be featured starting November 29th. Nel Blanchard has her elves gathering a huge amount of toys of every kind. We have been selling holiday decorations since November 1st.

We thank you for your support. There have been requests for winter coats for children. If you have any not needed, we would appreciate your donations. All sizes are needed.

After New Years Day, we will open on January 3, 2001. Can you believe how fast 2000 went?

Have a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Angel Guild.

## Vaughn Elementary Giving Tree

One way to help families in need this holiday season is to choose a star from the Giving Tree at Vaughn School. All gifts (unwrapped) can be brought to Mrs. Young's office no later than December 15th. Please return the star with the gift.

And don't forget that school will be closed for Winter Break from December 21st to January 3rd.

## Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation District News

by Nancy Lind

The Park Board meets the second Monday of each month at the Volunteer Park Annex at 7 PM. For information and/or scheduling, call Fred Ramsdell at 884-4834 or Pat Medveckus at 884-5097. A message can be left at the park office, 884-9240.

### Volunteer Park

A special meeting of the KPPRD Board was scheduled for November 30th, to do some long range planning and to finalize the budget. The Board will be looking for volunteers for different projects to be announced in the future. Watch this space in the *K P News* next month for updated information.

The **Adult Baseball League** for players 19 years old and up is being planned now for next year. Those interested in participating should call Pat Medveckus at 884-5097 or the park office at 884-9240 and leave a message.

**Tongue and Groove** took first place in the **Co-ed Softball League** play. The season tournament ended with the **K P Tigers** taking 1st, **Minter Vet** taking 2nd, **Tongue and Groove**, 3rd, and **Gig Harbor Vet**, 4th. Thanks to all of you for your participation and we'll see you next year.

**NOTE: The water system at Volunteer Park will be turned off and drained for December and January. The park will be open for play, but no restrooms will be available!**

### Rocky Creek Conservation Area

Make A Difference Day was successful with a wonderful group of girls from the Frog and Sole Club, an equestrian 4-H group. They spread a huge pile of chips in the trailhead clearing. Thank you, girls, for all your help. And thanks to everyone else who helped out. It was a beautiful day to be in the woods.

The new logging roads that the county finished a few weeks ago are looking like great places for horseback riding. The Friends of Rocky Creek are mapping these roads to determine which ones will be the best for recreational purposes. This map will go to the county for their approval.

RCCA was cleaned up on November 20th by the WCCW. This was the best cleanup so far. There was very little garbage. Now we can begin to think about having the women make trail and that will be a nice change for them.

We will continue our walk-about on the last Sunday of each month at 2 PM. We meet at the big cedar sign on 150th and Crews Road off of Elgin-Clifton.

## Support Your Local Businesses

### Temporary Skate Manager Wanted

The Board of the KPCCA is seeking someone to fill the position of Skate Manager on a temporary basis.

Applications are available at the Civic Center Office, or by calling 884-3456 (Voice Mail), by faxing a request to 884-4053, or by calling Betty Kelley at 884-4126.

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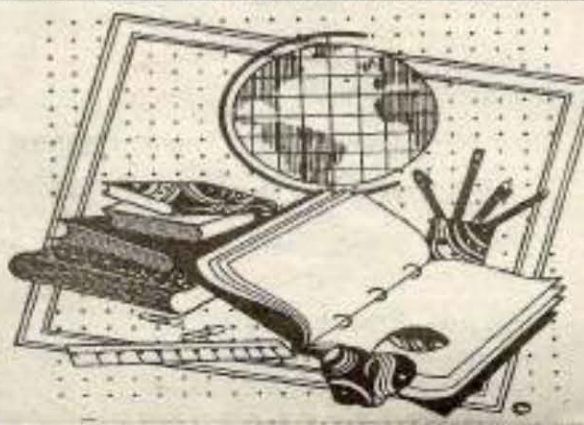
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## VETERAN'S VOICES

By Eileen Young

The robins are busy eating their fill of berries from the yard; the squirrels and chipmunks are making many trips from the feeders to hiding places while folks hurry to do their holiday shopping. Every once in a while the sun makes an appearance to ensure us that life is beautiful and being busy is a blessing.

Such is the case with our local VFW post and Auxiliary. Thanksgiving dinner for folks on the Peninsula was a success thanks to the generosity of Ray and Mitch Kiser (turkeys), Riley Barth (hams) and Steve and Shelley Gomes (fresh produce). A big thank you to ALL who made this project a success and to Jerry Davis and Larry Bellona for organizing the whole affair.

Help from Boy Scouts and leaders of Pack 229 plus young members of Den #3, Pack 222 and Pack 217, with their leader, Debbie Simon, and their parents made Veterans Day and the flying of 175 flags a joy instead of a chore. Young legs are much appreciated in climbing the hills, and willing hands made short work of folding and storing our precious flags. A million thanks to all and especially Buzz and Debbie Simon for the storage space.

A flag presentation ceremony at the Harbor View Manor in Tacoma, also on November 11, saw our own Louie Aguilar and his friends, along with VFW comrades and sisters salute the flag and veterans while enjoying a beautiful program. Soloist Jeanne Howells rendition of America and the National Anthem was spectacular as was the presentation of the colors by our own color guard. Refreshments were provided by Louie and the Ladies Auxiliary following an impressive service. Thanks to all who participated.

Commander Gary and his crew have completed the Veterans in the Classroom project for another year. These men work very hard to instill patriotism in our youth.

Congratulations are due to the winners and those who entered the Essay contest sponsored by the Auxiliary. Each year sees more entries and a big thanks goes to teachers, parents and auxiliary members for their continued encouragement. Awards for the Essay and Voice of Democracy winners will take place at 2 pm on January 6th in Silverdale,

Post 4992

Welcome to new Post member Richard Stout of Lakebay; happy to have you with us. A REQUEST FOR INFORMATION about a lady named Diane Mitchell who served in the WAVES in San Diego Naval Hospital with Ruth Gilcrest Brown. If you know of her whereabouts, please call the Brown family at 884-3842. Thank you.

The TREES OF SHARING are up once more in all Walt's stores plus the Home Mini Mart and the Harvestime store. It is hoped you will participate in this worthwhile project. Deadline is December 19th, so that gifts may be delivered to Retsil and American Lake Veterans Hospitals.

**HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?**

While cleaning for the holidays, keep in mind that books are needed at Harbor View Manor. If you can help please call 884-4551.

Our CARE CIRCLE this month includes Bob Beal, Joe Barrow, Don Garber, Gary Helmick, Louie Aguilar, Roxyanne and Irene Wooldridge, with special love and condolences to Bob Cole on the loss of his beloved wife.

See you all at our Christmas get-together at the Civic Center on December 11th, 6 pm. Don't forget that you exchange gifts along with your ticket stubs and money. The drawing for the afghans will be that night. BYOB and finger food if possible.

'Til next year, have a wonderful holiday season, keep well and remember — The difficulties in life are intended to make us BETTER, not Bitter.

## Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge, Northwest Chapter

A monthly no-host luncheon is held for those veterans, their families and those interested in the Ardennes Campaign and the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. The luncheon is held at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in the Olympic Village, Gig Harbor, in a private dining room set aside for the group. It begins at 11:00 AM and lasts until 1:00 PM on the first Wednesday of each month. This is an opportunity for veterans and their families to gather to visit, talk about their experiences and share their stories and/or "souvenirs" of their time spent fighting for their country. Need further information? Call Bob Borden at (253) 857-6754 or Lois Wick at (253) 566-7665.

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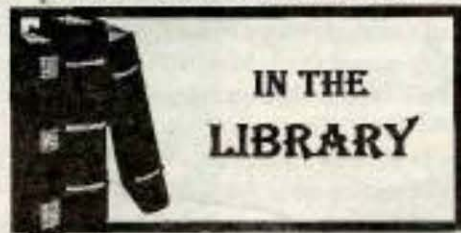
### DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Starting next month in the  
Key Peninsula NEWS there will be  
a new Dining & Entertainment  
Section.

To place your ad or for more  
information call  
Stephanie at 884-4699

### NOTICE

New Office Hours  
at Key Peninsula Civic Center  
Wednesday through Friday  
1:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Saturday  
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM



**IN THE LIBRARY**

**A JAZZ TRIO PERFORMANCE**, led by bassist Buddy Catlett with Robin Kutz on guitar and Tracy Knopp, alto saxophone will be held **Wednesday, December 13th, 7:00 PM at the Key Center Library.**

Buddy Catlett, Seattle native, is the premier bass player in our region. He has worked with Red Garland, Junior Mance, Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis, Johnny Griffin, Count Basie, Coleman Hawkins, Louis Armstrong. After years on the road, temporarily living in Denver and Brooklyn, Buddy Catlett returned home. From his base in Seattle, he has been sideman of choice for visiting artists, played regularly at clubs and hotels and toured, practices the bass and clarinet everyday, and gives lessons. There are recordings with Quincy Jones, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Edmonia Jarrett. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library.

"When a bassist is doing his job, his contribution to a group's improvisation can virtually disappear. The bass anchors the beat, along with the drums, and helps set the shifting harmonic framework...Think of the bassist as an improvising quiltmaker, who listens carefully to his cohorts' pieces of the musical puzzle, plots more or less instantaneously how they dovetail, then sutures them with a bass line." From *Doubletake*, Fall 1995.

Pierce County Library and all of its branch libraries will be closed: Monday and Tuesday, December 25 and 26 and Monday and Tuesday, December 31 and January 1.

**Grace Presbyterian Church Events**

Pastor Eric Pelz preaches at Grace Presbyterian Church for Communion Sunday on Dec. 3rd. The first Advent candle will be lit by one of the church families. A Bake Sale will be held after the worship, with proceeds going to Home of the Harvest Orphanage in Lebanon.

On Sunday, Dec. 10th, Elder Larry Carlson will preach. A Brunch will follow the service.

A Festival Worship, with Christmas hymns and anthem, will be held on Dec. 24th, with children participating in the music. At 5 pm that evening, a special Family Fireside Christmas Eve service will be held in the Fireside Room.

On Dec. 31st, a Watch Morning Service is planned.

Worship and Sunday School begin at 10:30 am on Sundays, meeting at Miracle Ranch on Horseshoe Lake. All are welcome. For more information, call 857-7284.

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**DEADLINE for the KP News classifieds ads is the 20th of each month, call 884-4699 to place your ad.**

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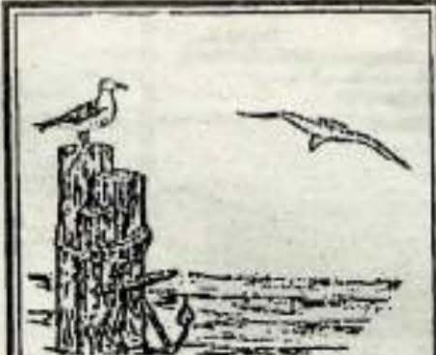
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# The Garden In December

by Sylvia Retherford  
(253) 884-2487



## Gardening in December Offers a Wide Variety of Vegetables and Flowers

In our Puget Sound area the garden is a year around activity if you wish it to be. Winter vegetable seeds including broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kale, parsnips, parsley, radicchio, salsify, turnips, leeks and endive were planted in mid-June to mid-July. Watering and weeding seed rows in summer can be demanding, but plants must thrive through August and until the fall rains come. Thin the plants to 6 or more inches apart and pass the extra plants to your neighbors as transplants for their winter garden.

Radicchio, a fairly recent import from Italy, makes a head of red leaves with white mid-ribs which provides salad all winter. Fancy stores carried it at a high price for several years before the seed became available here. It does very well in our climate and there are a number of varieties. One called Palla Rossa is a favorite.

The winter squashes harvested in October stored on the cool floor of a basement room are used regularly for dinner. They improve in sugar content and remain good until next summer. They are especially high in Vitamin A. It is easy to produce too many for one family so they can be shared with the neighbors.

In the flower garden, primroses bloom in spite of a few frosty mornings. Heaths and heathers are budded and some pinks are in bloom. The first rhododendron to show will be Christmas Cheer. Sasanqua camellias, both pink and whites are lovely now. Hellebores (Lenten rose) are budded, ready to burst into bloom. Their colors range from white through delicate pink, deep pink and dark rose shades. In a neighbor's garden, *Abelia grandiflora* bloomed in November and a stray hummingbird found its honeysuckle-like flowers provided nourishment.

### Vaughn Bay Garden Club

The annual Christmas meeting of the Vaughn Bay Garden Club will be held at the home of Jean Kesterson, with Rose Malmgren as co-hostess.

A noon potluck will begin the festivities, and a gift exchange will be held.

For more information about the club, call 884-5403.

### LOCAL INFORMATION HOTLINES

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To find information about the latest information about red tide warnings.

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To get the latest notice about indoor and outdoor burning in the local area.

**WINTER PASS REPORTS**  
Call 206-DOT-HIWAY or 1-800-695-ROAD

To get the latest information on road conditions and high-mountain-pass situations.

### Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden will hold their annual Christmas Pot Luck Party and Luncheon at Doris Boudreau's home at 12805, KPN Hwy, on December 15 at 12 noon. Hostesses are Peg Robertson, Doris Hoover and Doris Boudreau. We will exchange gifts of holiday crafts or designs.

Bring fruit, books or magazines for Rocky Bay Nursing Home.

For more information, call (253) 857-3316



### Minter Creek Art Auction

Minter Creek's staff, students and parents are very excited about the upcoming Art Auction. Laureen Lund invites interested parents to a meeting on Monday, December 4th at 3:45 PM in the Learning Lab at school to help plan for the auction. Please contact Laureen at 857-6617 if you have any questions.

Remember Winter Break from December 21 to January 3. School resumes on Thursday, January 4th.



# Key Peninsula Civic Center

## DECEMBER 2000

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>WALK IN THE GYM EACH WEEK DAY MORNING 8:00-9:00</b></p>					1 SKATE NIGHT 6:30-9:00	2
3 KP BAPTIST CHURCH 9:00 IMPACT DINNER 1:00	4 MOMS 1:30-5:30 KARATE 7:00 KPCC EXEC. COMM MEETING 7:00	5 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 CHS CHLDRREACH 9:00 LTL BUDDIES 3-5:00 SCOUTS 6:00 DOG OBEY, TOPS 7:00 TOPS weigh-in at 6:15	6 TRIBAL DANCE 9:30 MOMS 1:30-5:30 DANCE 3:00-5:15 LIONS & AWANA 6:30 BIBLE STUDY 7:00	7 INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 SENIORS 10:00 KARATE 7:00	8  SKATE NIGHT 6:30-9:00	9
10 KP BAPTIST CHURCH 9:00 IMPACT 1:00 LAKEBAY FUSCHIA SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY 4:00	11 MOMS 1:30-5:30 KARATE 7:00 VFW & AUXILIARY 7:00 	12 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 LTL BUDDIES 3-5:00 SCOUTS 6:00 TOPS 7:00 TOPS weigh-in at 6:15	13 TRIBAL DANCE 9:30 MOMS 1:30-5:30 DANCE 3:00-5:15 AWANA 6:30 BIBLE STUDY 7:00	14 INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 SENIORS 10:00 KP CIVIC CENTER BD MEETING 7:00 KARATE 7:00	15 SKATE NIGHT 6:30-9:00	16 TEEN 'COFFEE HOUSE' 7:00 PM
17 KP BAPTIST 9:00 IMPACT DINNER 1:00	18 KP COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP MTG 12:00 MOMS 1:30-5:30 KARATE 7:00 VFW & AUX 7:00	19 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 LTL BUDDIES 3-5:00 SCOUTS 6:00 TOPS 7:00 TOPS weigh-in at 6:15	20 TRIBAL DANCE 9:30 MOMS 1:30-5:30 DANCE 3:00-5:15 LIONS & AWANA 6:30 BIBLE STUDY 7:00	21 INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 SENIORS 10:00 CHS RELATIVES 1:00 KARATE 7:00	22 SKATE NIGHT 6:30-9:00	23
24 KP BAPTIST 9:00 IMPACT 1:00	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!!  SALATINO CHRISTMAS DINNER	26 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 LTL BUDDIES 3-5:00 SCOUTS & TOPS 6:00 TOPS weigh-in at 6:15	27 TRIBAL DANCE 9:30 CHS HEALTHY 10:00 MOMS 1:30-5:30 DANCE 3:00-5:15 AWANA 6:30 BIBLE STUDY 7:00	28 INDOOR PK 9:30-11:30 SENIORS 10:00 KARATE 7:00	29 SKATE NIGHT 6:30-9:00	30
31 KP BAPTIST IMPACT  HAPPY NEW YEAR!!						



## Questions & Answers Financial Focus

Submitted by Connie R. Rose

### Less Taxing Ways To Save For College

Saving for a child's college education can be difficult when college is still years away. But putting off saving for college can be a mistake that you may regret in the long run. Fortunately, a variety of tax-advantaged strategies are available to make paying for college easier.

#### Invest In Your Child's Name

Set up an investment in the name of a child under 14, and the first \$700 in earnings each year are not taxed. The next \$700 are taxed at the child's rate. Any amount in excess of \$1,400 is taxed at the parent's rate. When a child passes the age of 14, all income is taxed at his or her tax rate.

Two potential drawbacks with this strategy are that the child will assume control of the money at age 18, and eligibility for financial aid could be reduced.

#### Invest In An Education IRA

Taxpayers can invest \$500 per year in an education IRA for each child. Earnings in the account accumulate tax-free, and distributions used to pay for qualified higher education expenses are also tax-free.

#### Contribute To The 529 College Savings Plan

The 529 refers to the special tax status this plan has received under IRS Code 529. You also may hear of these referred to as qualified or prepaid state tuition programs or education savings trusts. However, don't let the word "state" mislead you. It may not matter where the student plans to attend college—many state plans allow the student to use the money for any eligible two- or four-year college, university or post-secondary vocational training program in the country.

The 529 plan also may be an ideal tool for reducing the impact of taxes while saving for college. Parents, grandparents and others can contribute as much as \$10,000 per year per beneficiary without exceeding the annual federal gift tax exclusion. Contributions are not federally tax deductible, but your earnings grow federal and, in some cases, state income tax deferred until withdrawn.

You can withdraw the money to pay for tuition or other qualified higher education expenses, such as fees, books, supplies and equipment and, subject to some limitations, room and board. In addition, these withdrawals are generally taxed at the beneficiary's income-tax rate.

#### Use Capital Gains Tax Advantages

If you plan to sell appreciated securities to fund a child's education, you'll be subject to taxes on any gains. However, if those securities are transferred by gift to a college-bound student and then sold, gains are normally taxed at just 10 percent.

Again, however, a potential drawback to this strategy is the impact on the potential for financial aid.

#### Reposition Assets

Repositioning assets may increase your chances for obtaining financial aid. You might consider the following strategies in light of your overall tax situation:

- \* Contribute the maximum to retirement accounts. These are not included as part of your total assets on financial aid applications.
- \* Make big-ticket purchases that you plan to incur anyway (such as a car, home or vacation house) during your child's high school years. In addition, consider paying for them with a home equity line of credit. This is doubly advantageous because it reduced your home equity, which most financial aid formulas include, and the interest on the home equity loan is deductible.
- \* If you have a family-owned business, consider hiring your older children as employees. This allows you to transfer your assets to them through reasonable compensation payments and thus reduce your taxes. Earned income is taxable to the child at his or her own rate. In addition, a child with compensation can invest in an IRA, which can be tapped for college expenses.

These strategies should only be considered in connection with your overall financial plan. If you have a college bill in your future, talk to your tax adviser and investment representative to determine if any of these methods are right for you.

### Evergreen School and Key Singers to Perform in Longbranch

The Third Annual Christmas celebration at the Longbranch Improvement Club will take place on Sunday, December 10th at 2PM, sponsored by Citizens Against Crime. Entertainment will be provided by students from Evergreen Elementary School and by the Key Singers, and the audience will be invited to participate. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive near the end of the program.

Coffee and juice will be available for the audience, and the sponsors urge attendees to bring a donation for the food bank. There is no admission charge. For additional information you may call Debbie Hanna at 884-9621 or Dorothy Rome at 884-9355.



Key Peninsula's Middle Schools' combined choir. Photo by Hugh McMillan

## Peninsula Schools' First Annual Choral Festival

by Hugh McMillan

On a recent Monday evening, Peninsula High School's gymnasium was packed with an overflow, standing room only, awestruck audience absorbing an inspired musical presentation by the combined choirs of the entire Peninsula School District.

Soloists Nick Sylvain and Lauren Weyhrauch, accompanied by the massed all-District choirs under the direction of Wayne Lackman, Gig Harbor High's musical director, opened the program with a rousing rendition of "A New Beginning."

In his opening remarks, Superintendent Jim Coolican made clear that this was the first annual of what will be a continuing series of concerts. He was greeted with enthusiastic roars of approval as he assured those attending that, "This is a world class school district."

Guest conductor, Dr. Geoffrey Boers, Director of Choral Studies at the University of Washington, led the combined elementary school choirs, accompanied by the Artondale marimba band under direction of Artondale Elementary's musical director, Mary Lou Hunt, in "O' Be Joyful" from Gaudeamus Hodie, then swung into a rousing audience participation rendition of Woodie Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land."

Boers then led the combined Middle Schools' Choir in "Don't Let the Music Stop" and, from South Africa, "Siyahamba."

The high school choirs erupted with "Praise the Lord" from Judas Macabeus, and South Africa's "Mungu Ni Pendo" and "Triptych."

With the closing performance of the combined choirs of the entire District on "The American Dream," the wall to wall audience rose in a standing, enthusiastic ovation.

It was an awe-inspiring, teary-eyed, choked-throat evening. Don't miss next year's performance.

### Workshops on Wetlands Mitigation Banking Scheduled

Four public workshops to explain "wetland mitigation banking" will be held this December in Lacey and Everett. There will be two in Lacey on December 5th, one from 1 to 4 PM and other from 6 to 8:30 PM, both at Ecology HQ, 300 Desmond Drive. The other two will be in Everett on December 8th from 1 to 4 PM and 6 to 8:30 PM, both at the Lions Hall in Forest Park, 802 Mukilteo Blvd.

Mitigation banking provides a way for proponents of a particular project to generate "credits" by restoring, creating, enhancing or preserving wetlands. These credits can then be used or sold to another party to compensate for land-use activities that damage existing wetlands. Instead of compensating for unavoidable damage to wetlands in a piecemeal manner, the proposed system provides an incentive for creating larger and more ecologically valuable sites.

Later this winter, Ecology will propose a statewide rule to guide wetland mitigation banking and certification. These workshops are intended to give people an opportunity to learn how it will work. Formal hearings and a public-comment period for the proposed rule are anticipated to occur in February, 2001. More information about wetland mitigation, the workshops or the rule-development process can be obtained from Lauren Driscoll at 360-407-6861, or by visiting the Ecology Department's Web site at [www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetmitig/index.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wetmitig/index.html).

### Dessert Theater at Vaughn Church

There will be a performance of *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* at Vaughn Community Church on Friday, December 15th, at 7PM. Tickets are \$10 per person or \$30 per family, and include a wonderful dessert as well as the play. Proceeds will go to the church families who are adopting Russian orphans. Call Teri Wright for tickets at 884-9332. The community is invited to a free performance of the play on Sunday, December 17, at 6PM.

## Washington and the USFS Agree to Improve Water Quality

The U.S. Forest Service and Washington's Department of Ecology signed a landmark agreement to improve water quality in our state by repairing, maintaining or closing roads in national forests. According to Governor Locke, "The agreement brings the federal government along with private and state forests, and it represents another big step forward in our efforts to improve water quality and important salmon-spawning habitat."

Most of Washington's waters flow from the tops of mountains and hillsides and through national forests. When roads fail or wash out, water quality problems cascade throughout the watershed, sending dirt, rocks and mud into streams, where they cover up salmon-spawning areas, cause floods and increase water temperature, which makes rivers unhealthy for fish. Under the terms of this agreement, the USFS will develop road management plans for all federal forest roads within five years, and fully implement those plans within fifteen years, so that forest service roads, at least, are not contributing to water quality problems.

The USFS will work on high-risk, high-priority watersheds throughout the state first. During the next year, projects will occur in the following areas:

Remove and stabilize fill on the #2860 road in the **Olympic National Forest**;

Close nearly 50 miles of road in the **Gifford Pinchot National Forest**;

Reconstruct and upgrade drainages in 35.5 miles of the **Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest**;

Control soil erosion and close roads along the Upper Canyon Road in the **Wenatchee National Forest**;

Close roads on Cub Creek in the **Okanogan National Forest**;

Close 29 miles of roads in the Lone Deer Creek watershed of the **Colville National Forest**; and

Close 18 miles of road near Kelly Camp in the **Umatilla National Forest**.

On a less pleasant note, we need to keep in mind that on a national basis, the USFS currently faces a backlog of \$8.4 billion in road maintenance and reconstruction. In the Olympic National Forest alone, road maintenance and reconstruction needs total \$50 million. Yet this agreement calls for crews to fix and stabilize all national forest roads in the state of Washington within the next 15 years to keep pollution out of our water. Will Congress appropriate the necessary funds? Stay tuned.

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### Notice To Contributors

Please submit material to the Key Peninsula News before the 20th of each month. Hard copy and PC disk are useful and pictures are welcome.

We reserve the right to edit all material.

If you give us pictures or disks, we will have them back in the KPCC office as soon as the paper comes out. Please stop by to pick them up during office hours - 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, Saturday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM or call 884-2213 for information.

**Ann and Marty**

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# Children's Museum of Tacoma

Museum hours are 10 to 5, Tuesday - Saturday.

First Fridays Free happens this month on December 1st from 10AM to 9PM.

W.O.W. Wee Ones Weekly: Join us each Tuesday and Wednesday from 10-11AM for some toddler fun.

### TUNES

Tuesday, December 5th and Wednesday, December 6th; Tuesday, December 19th and Wednesday, December 20th.

### W.O.W. Programming Themes

December 12th and 13th, "Frosty Fir Trees"

We're taking a WOW break the week of Christmas. Join us again on January 2nd and 3rd, 2001.

Super Saturday Surprise: Saturday, December 9th from 11 to 2.

"Surprise Gifts": Sneaky elves will help you make a surprise gift for your parents while they harvest veggies in "Grubby Gardens" or make sculpture in "Becka's Studio". However, an additional project is available to purchase for a nominal fee.

Super Saturday Surprise is FREE with admission. Call 253-627-6031 for more details.

Curiosity Corner Themes: Each week the museum's Curiosity Corner features a new theme.

December 5th - 23rd: "Gifts Galore". Come to the CMT and make gifts for those special people on your holiday list. We'll have a selection of projects your child can create for a small fee and another gift that is provided by the museum.

December 26th - 30th: "Time Capsules". Decorate a box to hold your 2001 memories and mementos. Open the capsule on New Year's Day, 2002, and reflect on the past year.

Gingerbread Workshop: Saturday, December 2nd from 10AM to 1PM

Make your holidays even more festive by attending our Gingerbread Workshop at the beautiful Sheraton Tacoma Hotel. Your family can create special memories as you decorate a gingerbread house to take home and display. Make this event a fun tradition your whole family can enjoy together. We provide you with everything you'll need to make a beautiful gingerbread house in a fun holiday setting while your kitchen remains frosting free. Refreshments are included.

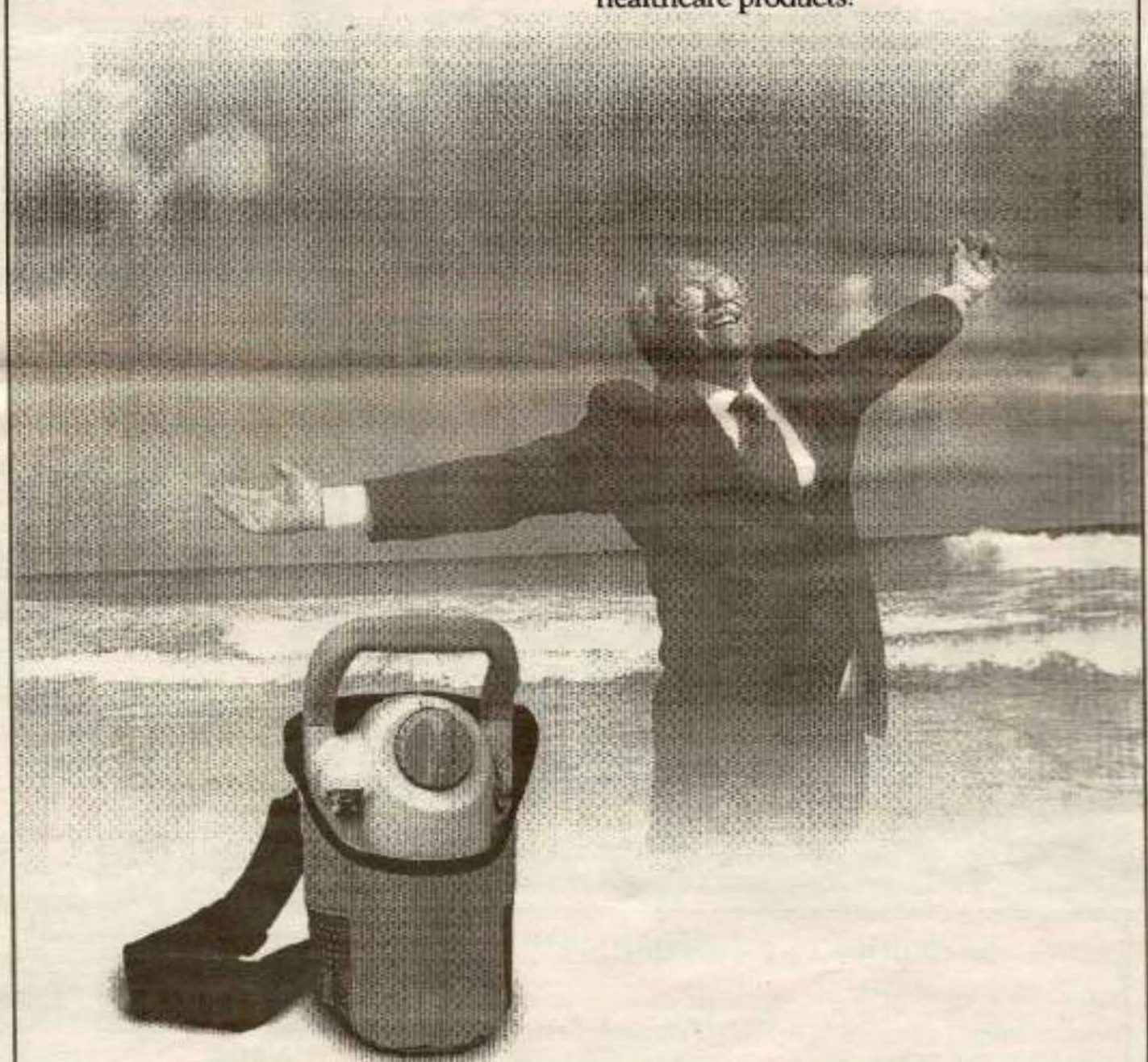
The cost per house is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. Reservations are required. Please call 253-627-6031 to make your reservations.

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