

Lakebay's David Bird get a kick out of running his GH business. Page 20



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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## Empty homes reminder of missing families

*Editor's Note: This is the first in a four-part series on foreclosure and its effects on KP residents.*

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

It was a record year for mortgage foreclosures in 2009. It was worse in 2010, and projected worse yet for 2011.

Nationwide there are five million homes being foreclosed. One out of every 45 households was in foreclosure in 2010. Nevada had the highest foreclosure rate with one out of every 11 households in foreclosure. Home values are expected to drop another five percent nationally during 2011.

In Pierce County the sale price for homes has dropped to 2004 and 2005 prices, according to Vestus Financial Group, which specializes in foreclosures.

Windermere Realty lists and sells more homes than any other realty on the KP. According to Windermere brokers Dottie Mazza and Andee Bemrose, "There were 183 KP homes sold in 2010, with 74 of those being 'bank owned' and 16 'short sales.'" (This only refers to those properties listed in the MLS. An unknown number of the remaining homes may have been foreclosure homes that were being "flipped").

A "short sale" is where the property is in foreclosure but is worth less than the amount owed to the bank (also referred to as being "underwater"), and the bank has agreed to take a loss allowing a sale for less than the amount owed. The bank retains final say whether a "short sale" offer is accepted.

"Bank owned" homes are those which have either gone through the foreclosure process with a forced transfer of title to the bank,

(See Homes, Page 9)

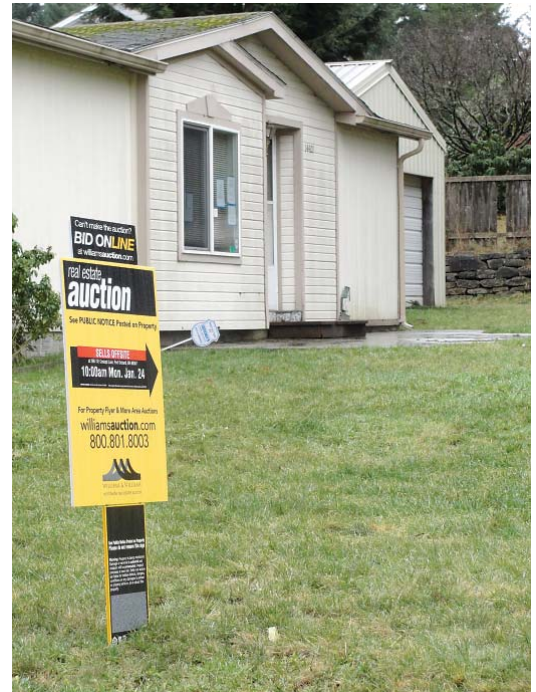


Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News

A growing number of homes are vacant on the Key Peninsula, like this home that was on auction in January in the neighborhood of Horsehoe Lake Estates.

## FD 16 eliminates two chief positions, ready to hire paramedic

By Danna Webster, KP News

With the ratification of the new three-year union contract for Pierce County Fire District 16, there is an elimination of two chief officer positions. Seven chief positions have turned into five. The loss of the two positions puts the department back to the 2009 staffing levels, according to Fire Chief Tom Lique.

Because of the new contract, the district has realigned responsibility.

The department now has Fire Chief, Tom Lique, a Day Division Chief Officer, Guy Allen, and three battalion chiefs: Paul Bosch, Chuck West and Hal Wolverton.

"In the first year, the reduction is saving \$77,000 and it allows us to rehire a fire fighter paramedic position," says

Lique. "We had been short at shift level. This puts us back to seven strong on the shift."

Lique says all emergency services are covered with the reduction of chiefs, however daytime office business matters such as issuing burn permits and public address requests are not fully covered. Fire department information is available online at www.keypeninsulafire.org.

# Pen Light brightens KP with conservation program

By Danna Webster, KP News

It was during the 2010 Livable Community Fair last May, that John Wilson from the Interview Services Analysis department at Peninsula Light got together with representatives from the Key Peninsula Civic Center and Fire District 16. They talked about the opportunity for huge savings available for commercial buildings by replacing old lighting systems with new efficient energy usage systems.

Bruce Macdonald, president of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association, Mark Roberts, vice president, and Chuck West, a battalion chief with FD 16 took the information to their respective agencies both of which agreed to engage in an energy audit of their buildings.

After reviewing a cost analysis, the fire department and the civic center agreed to upgrade and replace lights and fixtures in their buildings.

Wilson explains that because Peninsula Light Company is a member owned cooperative, they are in the business of keeping the “power on and keeping the power rate low. The price of power is never going down,” he says and adds, “Building power plants is expensive. It makes sense—buying less electricity saves us money—because there’s no power plant to build.”

When Pen Light conserves power, they receive a conservation rate credit from Bonneville Power Administration. Pen Light offers that rate credit in the form of a rebate to commercial accounts of about 50 percent towards the cost of energy savings projects. In addition, Pen Light performs audits of facilities and estimates savings

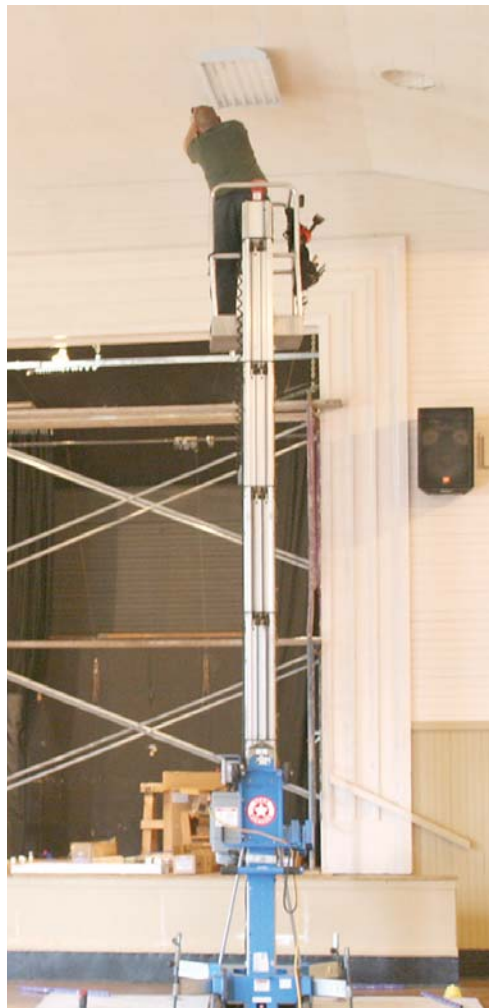
in kilowatt hour per year. In the case of the civic center, that savings and the rebate produced a return on the investment estimated at 21 percent per year with a simple payback for the project in 4.7 years.

“This is a unique business model,” Wilson says. “It provides capital improvement while spending people’s money smart and well.” The concept was especially important for the fire department, according to Wilson, because “their budgets took a hit with taxes on property going down.”

The lighting project is complete at the fire station headquarters in Key Center and work will move next to the station at Home. The rebate is paid as each station is completed. “We’re looking for a lot of ways to save money with efficiency and programs like this one,” says Battalion Chief, Chuck West. “It’s a great time to be doing these projects—very cost effective.”

A particular benefit for the fire stations is the replacement of the fluorescent lighting in the garages. The T12 one and a half inch diameter tubes will be disallowed by federal mandate as of July 2012. “Dozens of 4-foot fluorescents would be going away in a year and half,” Wilson says. “The sooner we do it (replace the lights) the more energy savings we get. We reduce 60 to 70 percent of the power and give off 50 percent more light,” he says.

Though there are five fire station buildings and only two at the civic center, the fire stations were less of a challenge. Pen Light worked with civic center caretaker, James Allyn, to make an



Crews from Peninsula Light Company installed new lighting for the civic center in January.

Photo courtesy of Holly Hendrick

(See **Lights**, Page 9)

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(From **Homes**, Page 1)

or the bank has accepted from the homeowner a “Deed In Lieu of Foreclosure” to avoid the expensive foreclosure process.

According to Mazza and Bemrose, “There are currently 175 KP homes on the market with an average time on market of 118 days. Sale prices are depressed due to the bank repos (foreclosures and short sales). Sales have also dropped off a bit since the stimulus expired at the end of June which allowed an \$8,000 tax credit.”

Multiple Listing Service-listed sales do not include private sales, statutory non-judicial foreclosure sales, judicial foreclosure sales, Sheriff’s auctions, or those done under the direction of the Bankruptcy Courts.

Vestus Financial Group and Real Estate Investment Firm provide reports of non-judicial foreclosure sales, which are conducted on the Courthouse steps every Friday morning. Cindy Hornbuckle represents Vestus, and Justin Bartlett represents REIF.

The number of foreclosures reported at the start of each week for Pierce

County has numbered between 200 and 300 for the past several years. The week ending Jan. 14 started with 255 homes listed, with 86 sold on Friday.

Of the homes sold at auction Hornbuckle and Bartlett agree that no bids are usually made for 95 percent of the homes because they are “underwater”, so the bank becomes the owner for their bid amount (usually the amount owed to the bank). Each week only three or four usually receive bids and are sold to somebody other than the bank.

In the past banks have bid the amount owed as the opening bid. This is changing. At the Jan. 14 auction, a Puyallup home had a \$530,463 debt owned to the bank, but the bank lowered its opening bid to only \$240,000. A Tacoma home with a \$974,445 debt had an opening bid from the bank at \$357,000. Another Tacoma home had a \$249,658 debt, with only \$43,662 bid by the bank. A Lakebay home had a \$201,687 debt, with a Zero (\$0) bid by the bank.

Records are not compiled for the judicial foreclosures, Sheriff’s sales, or those ordered by the bankruptcy courts, so those numbers are not available. If a property has a mobile home and the title

to the mobile home had not yet merged with the real property deed, then it is still considered personal property, not real property, and is repossessed by other than foreclosure proceedings, usually ending up at a Sheriff’s sale.

The banks end up with so many properties that they are forced to hold them, not listing them for sale, in fear of depressing the market values (and the sales price that they can receive) even further.

Bank owned homes are vacant homes. Homes purchased at auction with the intent to “flip” them (refurbish and resell at a profit) remain empty homes until re-sold. Homes abandoned by their owners, with the foreclosure process not yet completed, are vacant.

According to area brokers and other news reports, a number of banks are now delaying the initiation of the foreclosure process due to industry-wide paperwork problems, and are allowing the homeowner to stay on the hook for an increasing debt (which does not yet appear on the bank’s loss sheet), while the held over owner deters vandalism and weather damage.

Foreclosure of vacant land is another problem.

In order to get a feel for the percentage of vacant houses on the KP, attempts were made to contact the larger KP homeowners associations, which maintain records of dues payments. Dani Anderson, the president of the Jackson Lake Homeowners Association, responded that, “When Jackson Lake was originally developed, we had a total of 127 lots. During this last year eight lots were foreclosed where we had to write off unpaid dues where our lien held a lower priority than the bank’s mortgage. As near as I can tell seven of those lots had homes and one was vacant land. We do not know how many other homes are vacant.”

Only a foreclosure sale results in a lower priority lien holder losing his or her lien. A short sale ensures that all liens are paid.

The bottom line is that an untallied large number of KP homes are now vacant. A short drive anywhere on the KP verifies this. Each vacant home is a reminder that there is a displaced family in the community.

*Next in this series: Housing options for the displaced homeowners.*

#### PAID POLITICAL AD

For the last 5 years I have served as your voice on the Board of Commissioners, Fire District 16. It has not been a pleasant experience but I have tried to do the job as I said I would when I campaigned. The fight has grown vicious with punishment every time I told you the truth. I have been refused compensation and expenses for the duties of my job the same as has been taken by commissioners, past and present. I promised I would try to bring a program of better physical fitness and I was partially successful there. I would have liked to see a much better plan but change is something that does not come easily to FD16. I promised I would try to institute a comprehensive program for substance abuse testing. The Fire Fighters Union and my fellow board members have blocked all attempts in that direction.

It is now time for me to think of family first. I will not be attending any further meetings as a commissioner.

Watch carefully. The next time News 4 features FD16 will the lead story be...

**“Impaired Fire Fighters cause death of \_\_\_\_\_”**

You fill in the blank.

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# Transit and schools on Special Election ballot

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

A Special Election to be held on February 8 will have Key Peninsula voters consider two issues, each of which would raise taxes. There are no State issues on the February ballot. Both Pierce Transit and the Peninsula School District are separate municipal governments which are NOT part of, nor do they receive funding from Pierce County.

**PIERCE TRANSIT** -- Proposition 1. Increases the existing sales tax collected for bus and vanpool service from 0.6 percent to 0.9 percent.

**PRO:** Required to maintain existing services, which will be cut 35 percent across the entire County if this proposition fails. The neediest segment of society (the poor and disabled) rely most heavily on the bus service as their only means of transportation.

**CON:** This is a 50 percent increase in revenues collected for public transportation. Only 3 percent of Pierce County residents use the bus service.

**EFFECT ON KP:** A YES vote would maintain existing service between Key Center and the Purdy Park and Ride, and also allow additional Bus Plus service on Saturday and Sunday. A NO vote would see the first and last bus trip for each day eliminated from Route 113 starting in October, connecting to an entire bus system reduced by 35 percent.

**NOTE:** Additional information can be viewed in an article published in August, available on-line at keypennews.com.

**PENINSULA SCHOOL DISTRICT** -- Proposition 1. A capital improvement funding bond (\$78- million) which would be repaid over the next 30 years through a property tax assessment of 27-cents per \$1,000 assessed value.

**PRO:** School improvements are needed. Even with this increase, PSD will still have the lowest taxes collected for any of the school districts within Pierce County.

**CON:** Hard times for taxpayers.

**NOTES:** The State has not only failed to fulfill its Constitutional mandate to ful-

ly fund education, it also just announced drastic cuts to its current school funding. Shortages must be made up by local school districts through voter approved bonds (for construction) and levies (for operations and maintenance) against property taxes.

According to Superintendent Terry Bouck, "A portion of this bond money (if approved) will be eligible for match-

ing grant money, which will stretch dollars to an even greater benefit for the students and taxpayers."

Additional information can be viewed in news articles published last month, available on-line at keypennews.com.

Information was obtained from the voter's pamphlet, information releases from affected entities, and comments at public meetings.

## No polling stations for Special Election

Voters must either drop off their ballots for the Special Election at a ballot drop-off location, or mail them.

Staff Report

Pierce County will host the largest election in the state this February, calling on 374,341 voters. Three Pierce County districts have issues on the Feb. 8 special elec-

tion ballot: \* Pierce Transit - Sales and use tax increase \* Peninsula School District - Bond measure

Pierce Transit covers a large portion of Pierce County, so most voters can participate in the upcoming special election. The three districts have requested Pierce County to mail ballots to voters. Polling places will not be open. Voters can expect to receive a voters' pamphlet after Jan. 13.

(See Election, Page 7)



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### PUBLIC NOTICE

Key Pen Parks is seeking comments regarding future improvements to Taylor Bay Park located at 17916 76TH ST KPS, Longbranch 98351. A public meeting will be held on March 3, 2010 from 6:30-7:30 PM at Longbranch Improvement club 4312 Key Peninsula Highway South, Longbranch 98351. For more information contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or www.keypenparks.com



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Photo courtesy of Chris Case

*In preparation for college several institutions participate in informational events hosted by the high schools where students can interact with their representatives.*

### School District Offers Preliminary SAT (PSAT) Testing to all Sophomores

This year Peninsula School District offered all 10th graders the opportunity to take the PSAT test at no charge. The test is designed to help high school students prepare for the SAT college-placement exam, and is administered by the same organization, the College Board.

the school day to give the opportunity for everybody to participate.

Students who took the test reported on their top career choices. The biggest group—more than 19 percent—said they are interested in the field of health care and sciences, with the next biggest group interested

**“We are proud as a district to be putting opportunities in place that promote all students to be prepared for their options and success beyond high school,” says Academic Officer, Learning and Teaching Claudia Thompson.**

“We decided to offer the test to all the sophomores because we wanted to open the door to college for students who may not be considering it as an option or students who might not know how to navigate through the college entrance system,” says Director of Assessment Amy Nelson. “We also wanted to help students increase their SAT scores since a large majority of our graduates go on to college.”

Students took the PSAT in October, and results were released to students recently. The test was offered during

in engineering.

“The data gives us direction as a district to make sure we have courses available to help students prepare,” Nelson says. “It’s great to have our sophomores thinking ahead and planning for their years beyond high school.”

Students who took the test are able to access a free online resource that could further help them explore their career choices and help plan the rest of their high school career as well as for college.

#### February Events

- 1 Parent Council Meeting at District Office in Rooms 4 & 5 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- 10 School Board Meeting at District Office 6:00 p.m.
- 21-25 No School—Mid-Winter Break

#### The Long Range Plan

The first phase of the plan would be funded with a \$78 million capital bond that would include the following projects: Upgrade interior/exterior finishes; Upgrade mechanical/electrical systems; Provide accessibility improvements; Replace/upgrade furniture and equipment; Future elementary site; Provide health/safety/security improvements; Upgrade technology infrastructure/equipment; Plan for Bujacich site; Elementary gyms and commons; Middle school athletic fields and site improvements; Renovate Artondale Elementary; Transportation/Maintenance Phase 1; Gig Harbor High School Phase 1; Peninsula High School Phase 2.

#### Recap of Tax Rates

The cost to taxpayers for the 30-year plan would be 96 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value per year in 2012 or an increase of 27 cents over 2010 rates. This is an increase of about \$55 per year for a home valued at \$200,000, less than \$5 per month. These are historically low bond tax rates and are projected to remain consistent over the 30-year plan.

Value of House	Per Year	Per Month
\$200,000	\$54.00	\$4.50
\$300,000	\$81.00	\$6.75
\$400,000	\$108.00	\$9.00
\$500,000	\$135.00	\$11.25

#### Good Citizenship

Please remember to vote-by-mail in the February 8, 2011, Special Election. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by February 8 or you can drop off your ballot at one of 22 locations in Pierce County, including: Gig Harbor Fire Station, 6711 Kimball Drive; Tacoma Dome Park & Ride; or County-City Building, second floor lobby, 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays. For complete election information visit the Pierce County Auditor’s page: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/aud/elections/main.htm>

# Peninsula Views

## EDITORIAL

### Pierce Transit crucial to KP residents

As residents of the Key Peninsula we have chosen a rural lifestyle, complete with wooded areas, trails, and plenty of outdoor recreation. It suits us well. Those who have chosen to live on the KP thrive in a natural environment, but most of us need to venture off the KP at some point.

Whether it's a trip to the doctor, a shopping excursion, or getting to work, there are a number of people who use Pierce Transit to make that trip off the Key Peninsula. Pierce Transit currently provides service from Key Center and Purdy Park and Ride, a way for some to get to a carpool and go to work. It can mean the difference between keeping a job and losing one. It's a way for students to remain students, and for those who don't drive or cannot afford a vehicle to get to appointments and perform necessary errands.

Others use the bus service to visit family and keep those connections that are vital to a healthy and productive life.

Pierce Transit is looking at a 35 percent cut across Pierce County if Prop 1 does not pass in the Feb. 8 election. Prop 1 is asking for an increase in the existing sales tax collected for bus and vanpool service, taking it to 0.9 percent, which is the equivalent of three cents for a \$100 purchase, or \$3 for a \$1,000 purchase.

If it fails, Pierce Transit will experience drastic reductions in service. When the issue was last visited, the Key Peninsula stood to lose two trips from Route 113, including the first and last trips of the day.

Pierce Transit is a major form of transportation on the Key Peninsula. Any loss could have detrimental impacts on many residents.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### 2010 'Trees of Sharing' success

Key Peninsula Veterans Institute members Wally Cornman and Ginger Zampini had the privilege of presenting nearly 400 Christmas gifts to the American Lake Veterans hospital staff, to be distributed to Veteran residents over the Christmas holidays. Every gift was donated from Key Peninsula residents between Thanksgiving and Dec. 21st, 2010. KPVI extends their grateful appreciation for the generous support of this outreach to our many military Veterans.

KPVI members also had the opportunity to pack and send 50 boxes of specially needed items for our overseas military men and women in the war zones of Iraq, Afghanistan, and Greece, also on the USS Lincoln. The boxes reached Marines, Navy, Army and Coast Guard troops. This outreach under the direction of Stephania Roeder was a great first time outreach for KPVI and hopefully will be expanded next year with local community support. KPVI member Roxy Wooldridge sewed special "neck cooling" collars that were included in each box. The KPVI members carefully packed each box and made individual labels with all items on them for each box. Mailing costs were paid by KPVI.

Again, KPVI was overjoyed with our local community for sharing so much with our military men and women through the "Trees of Sharing" program. For more information on Key Peninsula Veterans Institute contact Mike Coffin at 884-9852 or our website: [kpvetrans@kpvetrans.com](mailto:kpvetrans@kpvetrans.com).

*Patsy Tiegs*

### Support school bond

I am writing in support of Peninsula School District's (PSD) capital bond to be voted on by Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula residents on Feb. 8, 2011. Communities

In Schools of Peninsula (CISP) partners with PSD in serving students who need additional support to become successful in school. All CISP programs and services are delivered at the school sites.

Without adequate facilities, our students will face additional challenges that may compromise their academic achievement. PSD has only had one successful bond measure in the past 20 years and needs to address capital maintenance issues. Would a family let their house go unattended with no necessary repairs for 20 years? I think not, especially if there are children in the home.

It's time for our community to support the workers and leaders of the next generation and vote favorably for the capital bond levy. Sincerely,

*Colleen Speer*

*Executive Director*

*Communities In Schools of Peninsula*

### Support Peninsula Schools

"Our kids are our future," a catchy phrase I thought, until my kids grew up and showed me it's true. As a citizen of the Gig Harbor peninsula for 37 years and a County Council representative for the last eight years, I'm asking you to join me in supporting the Peninsula School District's bond proposal on Feb. 8.

I've watched the school district deliver all that was promised, and more, on previous bond proposals and know this will be no exception. The timing couldn't be better, selling bonds in this economy nets you historically low interest rates, the capital improvements will put many of our citizens in Pierce County to work and generally speaking bids have been coming in below, much below, engineered estimates.

Good schools like good parks create a more livable community: they keep our property values up and attract employers and employees to our area. That's a good investment.

Say "yes" to the Peninsula School District bond proposal on Feb. 8; I will.

*Terry Lee*

*Executive Director PenMet Parks*

### Letters Policy

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(From **Election**, Page 4)

Ballots will hit mailboxes after Friday, Jan. 21. The Auditor's Office will open 22 ballot drop-off locations across the County.

A combination of ballot drop boxes and staffed express booths will be open for this election. The county has installed eight new ballot drop boxes.

"We're offering secure, convenient locations that are accessible to our voters 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. And, these new boxes have a larger capacity than before," said Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor.

In addition to the ballot drop-off boxes, eight staffed express booths will open Friday, Feb. 4. The booths are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. through Election Day. However, some of the traditional express booth locations will no longer be available.

"Six of the booths have been taken out of circulation. The booths - most built in the mid-90's - are showing serious wear and tear and need quite a bit of maintenance,"

said Anderson.

The county has provided in-person options for voters at three Accessible Voting Centers - The Tacoma Area Coalition for Individuals with Disabilities (TACID), the Center For Independence (CFI), and the Pierce County Election Center. These sites will be open on Election Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

"Voters have lots of options. Ballots can be mailed through the postal service, dropped off at a box, a booth, the Election Center, or one of our accessible voting sites," said Anderson.

A list of locations can be found in the voters' pamphlet and online at piercecountywa.org/elections. Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day or dropped-off before 8 p.m. on election night. The Pierce County Auditor's Office is responsible for elections, licensing services, a variety of public records and animal control services.

*Source: Pierce County Auditor's Office.*

## PC Council members take oath, establish committees

Pierce County Councilmembers re-elected Roger Bush as their chairman for a third consecutive year, welcomed three new members and organized their committees for 2011 at the Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Councilmembers Dan Roach (District 1), Rick Talbert (District 5) and Stan Flemming (District 7) each took the oath of office and formally joined the seven-member body that sets policy for the second-largest county in Washington state.

Together, the councilmembers selected Bush (District 3) to again serve as chair, which ties Harold Moss for the longest tenure as chair since the county shifted to the Home Rule Charter in 1981. In addition, councilmembers chose Joyce McDonald (District 2) as vice chair and Dick Muri (District 6) will return as executive pro tem. The chair presides at all regular council meetings, the vice chair presides in the absence of the chair, and the executive pro tem is a councilmember selected to perform some of the County Executive's duties in the event of the executive's absence or temporary disability.

"I am honored to continue serving my fellow councilmembers and the citizens of Pierce County," Bush said. "We have made a lot of tough but strategic decisions as we re-size county government, and my intent is

to stay on a path of sustainable operations that emphasizes core services - mainly public safety."

Councilmembers also reorganized four committees: Rules and Operations Committee (meets Mondays at 10 a.m.) - Bush (chair), McDonald (vice chair), Muri, Tim Farrell (District 4, alternate).


Community Development Committee (meets first and third Mondays at 1:30 p.m.) - Talbert (chair), Roach (vice chair), Bush, Farrell, Flemming. Economic and Infrastructure Development Committee (meets second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.) - McDonald (chair), Bush (vice chair), Muri, Roach, Talbert.

Public Safety and Human Services Committee (meets second Mondays at 1:30 p.m.) - Muri (chair), Farrell (vice chair), Flemming, McDonald, Roach.

More information is available online at www.piercecountywa.org/council or by calling 253-798-7777. The full council meets Tuesdays at 3 p.m. in the Council Chambers on the 10th floor of the County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Ave. S., Rm. 1045, Tacoma.

Council meetings are televised live and replayed each week on Pierce County TV (channel 22 in most areas) and streamed live and archived at www.piercecountytv.org.

*Source: Pierce County Council*



# KEY PEN PARKS

[www.keypenparks.com](http://www.keypenparks.com) ~ 253-884-9240  
[answers@keypenparks.com](mailto:answers@keypenparks.com)

---

### Pee-Wee T-Ball Skills Clinic

This program is designed for the little guys and gals ages 3 to 5 the opportunity to learn and improve their skills and fundamentals of baseball. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all kids. Adult involvement is required during the weekly classes. Mitts are ok, but no bat or balls are needed. Fee includes t-shirt, certificate, and group pictures.

Ages:	3-5
Location:	Volunteer Park (lower T-Ball Field)
Day/Date:	Wednesday evenings, 5/11-6/15
Fee:	\$43
Time:	Sess #1: 5:00-6:00 pm Sess #2: 6:05-7:05 pm
Min/Max:	10/20 per group

*Note: Registration deadline: May 4th by 4pm*

---

### Spring Tennis Clinic

This clinic is designed to peak your youths interest by learning how to play tennis fast by having fun with specialized equipment, short courts, modified scoring, and games. Make sure to bring your rackets!

When:	Saturdays, 4/2-4/30
Where:	Key Peninsula Civic Center Tennis Courts Session #1 10:10-10:50 am (Ages: 5-6) Session # 2 11-11:50 am (Ages: 7-12)
Fee:	\$43
Min/Max:	6/12 per group

*Note: Registration deadline: March 29th by 4pm.*

---

### Dance Class Sampler

This class is designed for youth who love to dance! Focus will be given on all elements of dance for future dancers to enjoy their first dance experience without making tough choices. Just bring yourself and we will teach you the moves. Discover how fun dance can be! Class Taught by Amanda Blevins, Dance Instructor. This is an awesome class for anyone wanting to improve their moves or build their self esteem.


Ages:	8-14
Location:	KPCC, VFW Room
Day/Date:	Tuesdays, 3/15-4/19
Fee:	\$43
Time:	5:30-6:30pm
Min/Max:	5/20

*Note: Registration Deadline: March 10th*

---

### SAVE THE DATES!

3rd Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt, **April 2nd**, Volunteer Park, 10:00-12:00pm  
3rd Annual Touch-A-Truck, **May 7th**, Key Peninsula Civic Center, 10:00-3:00pm  
For more information contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)



## Key Pen Parks

*"The key to your next adventure"*

## Candidates interview for fire commissioner board

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Candidates for the vacant seat on the Board of Commissioners for Pierce County Fire District 16 will be interviewed on Feb. 5 at 6 p.m. The interview process is open to the public and will be held in the meeting room of the Key Center Fire Station headquarters.

According to FD 16 receptionist, Vanessa Wells, there are eight candidates: Chance Gower, John Partyka, Keith Davies, Michael Razmek, Paul Clark, Raymond Lamoureux, Brandon T Fries and Craig Hanson. The two

basic requirements for the candidates are they must be a registered voter and live in the district. The commissioners will prepare questions for the candidates which will be read to them by the interview facilitator, Executive Director of Peninsula Metro Parks District, Terry Lee.

The regular meetings of the fire commissioner board are held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the fire station headquarters in Key Center. Current fire district information is offered online at [www.keypeninsulafire.org](http://www.keypeninsulafire.org).

## KP Community Council forges relationship with county

By Marsha Hart, KP News

As various councils begin work with newly elected officers, the Key Peninsula Community Council is taking a closer look at the role it plays in the community, and how it relates to the powers that be in Pierce County.

Mike Baum, president of the KP Community Council said he has requested a meeting with newly elected Pierce County Council member Stan Flemming, Flemming was elected to represent District 7, a seat previously held by Terry Lee.

"Our challenge is to develop a process where we can get our message out and be heard and be recognized," Baum said. "They (county staff) don't know who we are and why they should be talking to us."

Flemming said the council is vital in helping him address the needs of the community.

"The (KP Community) council plays a pivotal role in helping to articulate what the needs of the community are to the Pierce County Council," Flemming said. "I look to

the KP Community Council to help shape that message."

One of the contentious issues has been the traffic signal project at the intersection of KP Highway and Cramer Road. Some felt left out of the process of the decision, and Baum said that is just a symptom of the bigger picture.

"Last year the frustrations we had with Public Works were part of a problem with the way the council interacts with the county and I hope to get that resolved this year," Baum said. "The KP is primed to take off and we're waiting to explode as far as growth and development and it's very important that we have some kind of community involvement."

The KP Community Council has 14 committees currently working on issues that relate to the residents of the Key Peninsula, he said. Most of the work is happening within those committees.

The KP Community Council meets each month. The next meeting is Feb. 9 at the Key Peninsula Library at 7 p.m.

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<p>Mark Christel Belfair 360.275.3666 <a href="http://lpl.com/mark.christel">lpl.com/mark.christel</a> 24090 NE State Rt. 3, Suite G Belfair, WA LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC</p>	<p>Have you ever wondered who your financial advisor really works for, you or the firm? Our goal is your success as an investor. We work strictly for you. And we are backed by the strength and reliability of LPL Financial, the largest independent broker/dealer in the nation.* We focus on one bottom line: yours.</p> <p>Please call to learn more and schedule a free consultation.</p> <p><b>LPL Financial</b> STOCKS • BONDS • MUTUAL FUNDS • IRAs</p>	<p>Todd Rosenbach Key Peninsula 253.884.4787 <a href="http://lpl.com/todd.rosenbach">lpl.com/todd.rosenbach</a> 9013 KPN Hwy, Suite B Key Center, WA LPL Financial Member FINRA/SIPC</p>

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(From **Lights**, Page 2)

extensive inventory of every light fixture. Recommendations were made by Peninsula Light, taking into account form, function, and age.

"The project covered all the lighting throughout the facility from lights in the parking lot to the lights in the museum: gym, Whitmore room, kitchen, Children's Home Society offices, bathrooms, VFW, upstairs Spanish/Library, down to the last little custodial closet. Some fixtures were completely replaced with new energy efficient fixtures and lights while others like the fixtures in the Whitmore Room, considered to have historical value were fitted with... new energy efficient lights," reports Mark Roberts, first vice president of the Civic Center Board.

In an email to KP News, Allyn explained, "Some of the light fixtures themselves are such an intrinsic part of the ambience of the room that we chose to retrofit the fixture rather than outright replacement. We also were careful to select color temperature lighting which would most complement the needs/uses of each room while giving a consistent overall look. The result is an upgrade which renders the facility much more user friendly (it's always nice to be able to see what you're doing), yet because of its passivity, it remains largely invisible to those who are not here all the time."

Wilson visited the civic center more times than usual for a project. "I made more trips to the civic center because the construction was in an old building. It was like a history of lighting," says Wilson describing old fixtures resting side by side with their upgraded replacements. "There were different generations of lighting," he says. Wilson enjoyed seeing different groups from skate night to senior potluck luncheons using the facilities. "That has been such a fun job. It is so cool the way it (civic center) gets used. I look forward to the before and after (affects)," he says.

In addition to the lighting, the civic center is appreciative of the work of volunteers, which furthered the facelift project by painting the walls of the gym and the lower balcony. The lights and paint show off the newly installed curtains on the stage.

"(I'm) excited for the community to see all the upgrades... Perhaps at the upcoming Crab Feed," Roberts writes in his email. The Crab Feed is a favorite public event and is scheduled for Feb. 12. More information is available on line at [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) or call the office at 884-6455.

## 2011 Key Peninsula Civic Center Crab Feed! Saturday, February 12th 4:00 to 7:00<sup>PM</sup>

Featuring Pacific Coast  
Dungeness Crabs from  
Winks Seafood



Bring your own seafood  
crackers & picks

Dinner includes:

Fresh Crab • Spaghetti

Salad • Garlic Bread

~ Soda, Beer & Wine for sale ~

Adults \$25

Children (6-12) \$10

Children under 6 free



Tickets may be purchased at:  
Key Peninsula Civic Center • Sunnycrest Nursery  
Tickets sold at the door, depending on availability

253.884.3456 • [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org)

# Mountain ways brought to life at KC library

By Connie Renz, KP News

Maureen Reilly, a Friend of the Library board member, and her husband, Jim Reynolds, residents of Vaughn, belong to a group who re-enact the life of fur trappers, fur traders and mountain men and women. Ann and Mark Rumbaugh are also involved with the group, and the four gave a presentation as part of a Second Saturday program in January at the library in Key Center.

They talked about how the fur trappers were instrumental in the exploration and settling of the western U.S. because of the high demand for furs, especially black beaver furs, but also bear and other mammals, in Europe. They discussed the life of these men who would hunt and trap in the Rockies and Cascades for up to a year before they'd meet at a Rendezvous to sell their wares. Around 1840 the black beaver became nearly extinct, so fur trappers turned to other trades.

Maureen, aka Knee Walker, Jim, aka

Dammit Jim, Ann, aka Shortcake, and Mark, aka Turkeyneck, spoke and shared pictures about the Rendezvous that they recently attended in Idaho. Everything they wear and use at a Rendezvous has to be pre-1840. The clothing they made out of heavy woolen blankets (Hudson Bay Company), cotton, and elk hides with beading, ribbon and fur adornments.

They meet in Oregon, Idaho or Washington for eight to 10 days and live a primitive lifestyle, which includes living in canvas tents and cooking over a fire. The only concession to modern times is the use of ice chests (which must be disguised) and Sani-cans. They have friendly competitions: target shooting with rifles, pistols, tomahawks and knives. They spend time doing crafts like beading, spinning and sewing or working on their weapons, and they spend a lot of time sitting around a bonfire, making music and telling stories.

Turkeyneck showed off his flintlock rifle, for which he carved the stock out

of black walnut and took him nearly eight months to construct. He also demonstrated how to light a fire using cedar bark, steel and a flint. He held the bark in his hands until there were flames and then dropped it to make a fire. He also shared his hand-carved bows with a bowstring from elk sinew, his beautiful arrows with a nock made of deer antler and fletching from turkey feathers, and many other items they had made.

The group invites families to attend the Bremerton Brigade's "Youth Shoot" at the Poulsbo Sportsman Club at 10 a.m. on June 4. Kids, accompanied by adults, can experience some of the living history of their ancestors by trying some of the equipment, including an opportunity to shoot a muzzle loading firearm. Demonstrations of primitive fire making, tomahawk throwing, and bows and arrows will also be given. A free hot dog lunch with chips and soda will be provided. For more information, contact Wally, 360-876-0684 or Doug, 360-340-2268.



Photo by Vic Renz, KP News

Mark Rumbaugh lights fire with cedar shavings, a circle of steel and a flint.

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February 8, 2011




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# Roast Rub, herbs de Peninsula

By Dorne Webster,  
Mosquito Fleet Cuisine Chef  
Special to KPNews

This herb rub is excellent for rib roast, lamb, pork loin, steaks, chops and poultry.

Local lavender is available from the shops at Blue Willow Lavender Farm, Lavender Park and Fairview Acres. KP farmers have herbs in season and all herbs are available in local grocery stores.

**Ingredients:**

- Dry Lavender 1/4 cup
- Fresh Rosemary 1/2 cup minced
- Fresh Thyme 1/3 cup minced
- Fresh Sage 1/4 cup minced
- Dry Savory 2 TBL spoons (available in spice aisle)
- Fresh Parsley\* 2 bunches washed, dried, minced

**Preparation Notes:**

Herbs need to be cleaned, washed and stemmed before mincing or going into the food

processor.

Each herb minces differently therefore mince herbs individually.

\*Parsley should be the last ingredient minced and added to the mixing bowl.

**Add all ingredients into a mixing bowl.**

**Mix ingredients thoroughly.**

This Herb Rub can be made a day or two before use. Keep refrigerated in Ziploc type bag until ready to apply.

**Directions:**

Rub meat with coarse salt and fresh ground pepper, seasoning to taste.

Then apply herb mixture liberally on outside surfaces.

Bake, roast, or grill to desired temperature.

**KEY Secret:**

Start with a 450-degree oven or hot grill. This will infuse the herb rub and caramelizes fats. When golden brown, turn down cooking temperature and slowly roast at about 275 degrees to desired temperature.



Dorne Webster

Photo courtesy of Dorne Webster

**Purdy, Washington**

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline is the 15th of the month

## Now Mentors wanted

Communities in Schools of Peninsula (CISP) needs reading mentors for Minter Creek Elementary on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45 p.m. CISP also needs math mentors for Key Peninsula Middle School on Tuesdays from 2:45-4:30 p.m. Both programs follow the school calendar. Help mentor local students to succeed; it is rewarding to both students and mentors. To learn more or to volunteer, call 884-5733 or visit [www.peninsula.ciswa.org](http://www.peninsula.ciswa.org).

## Now Basic skills

Enroll now! Key Peninsula residents are able to complete a basic skills education for college entrance or a GED. Class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. Evening classes on Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. are now available at the TCC Gig Harbor Campus. For information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 460-2356.

## Feb. 1, 8, 15 Story times

Pre-walker/toddler story time with simple books, action rhymes, knee bounces and songs is for pre-walkers and toddlers accompanied by an adult, from 10:30-11 a.m.

Story play time for ages 3-6 is from 11a.m.-noon. Art activities, stories, rhymes and singing are followed by play time for caregivers and children. Story times are at the Key Center Library, 884-2242.

## Feb. 2, 9, 16 Family story time

Family story time for families with preschoolers is held at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Enjoy simple books, action rhymes, sing songs and movement games. 884-2242.

## Feb. 3 Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ginnie, 884-9744.

## Feb. 3 4H fundraiser

The 4H group is holding a Pampered Chef fundraiser at the Key Center Fire Station beginning at 2 p.m. All are welcome, but RSVPs are required so the correct amount of supplies will be purchased. If you'd like to order but can't attend or want to RSVP, call Emme at 253-569-3429.

## Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 Friday skate nights

Skate night is held from 6-9 p.m. for elementary and middle school-aged students at the KP Civic Center. Feb. 11 is a Valentine-themed evening; Feb. 25 is half-price admission-\$2.50. Normal admission is \$5, which includes skates and all the games in the Whitmore Room. Refreshments are available for purchase. [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

## Feb. 5 Teen dance held

A dance, "Teen Nuvo," will be held from 7-10 p.m. at the

## To submit an event

To submit an event for the Community Works calendar, please e-mail [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com), or mail to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. Briefs must be submitted by the 15th of the month.

KP Civic Center. Kip & Jennifer Miller host the dance, which costs \$7 at the door. Call 253-255-9124 for information.

## Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. It will be at the Safeway in Gig Harbor on Feb. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Feb. 8 & 24 Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet chemo hats, baby items and blankets for non-profits in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. at the Way-Point Church, 12719 - 134th Ave KPN. They also meet on Thursday, Feb. 24 from 7-9 p.m. Yarn donations are always welcome. [lovingheartsonkp@aol.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@aol.com) or Virginia, 884-9619

## Feb. 11 Tax clinic

A free tax clinic is scheduled. Check with Jud, 884-5433 or [JudM@chs-wa.org](mailto:JudM@chs-wa.org) for more information.

## Feb. 12 Origami hearts

Second Saturday at the Library features making origami valentines at 2 p.m. This free fam-

ily event is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library; food bank donations are encouraged. 884-2242.

## Feb. 12 Crab feed

The annual Crab Feed, featuring crab caught by local fisherman Steve "Winks" Lodholm, is from 4-7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Tickets are available at Sunnycrest Nursery, and the KP Civic Center. Tickets are \$25/adults, \$10/kids 6-12, free/under 6. 884-3456 or [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org).

## Feb. 17 Camp deadline

Key Pen Parks offers a Mid-Winter Break Day Camp for K-5 on Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Camp will be held at the Volunteer Park Concession Building; dress for indoor and outdoor activities required. Activities include games, crafts and movies; snacks are provided, but each participant needs a sack lunch. Space is limited; cost is \$53 for each of the 10-20 participants. Pre-registration is required by Feb. 17, 884-9420.

## Feb. 19 Lyme group meets

Lyme Support Group meets from 1-3 p.m. in the Bromes Room at the Key Center Library.

## Feb. 22 Teen time

Teen time is from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Join

(See **Community**, Page 13)

(From **Community**, Page 12)

us for crafts, games and snacks.  
884-2242.

## Feb. 26 Scrapbooking

Join scrapbooking instructor Carla Swainston from 12- 6 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. The "Preplanning your Memories, How to Get the Most From Your Vacation Photos" lesson will help you plan which photos to take, how to collect all the free or cheap stuff you can get while on vacation to embellish your scrapbook, and how to organize it; \$15 fee. Register online [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org).

## March 10 Dance sign-up deadline

Key Pen Parks offers a dance class sampler for kids 8-14. The classes will be on Tuesdays, 3/15-4/19, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center. Amanda Blevins is the dance instructor. Cost is \$43. Register with Chad at 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com) before March 10.

# FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS

## KP Community Fair Association

Feb. 1, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room.

## Fire District 16

Feb. 8 & 22, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station.

## Key Peninsula Community Council

Feb. 9, 7 p.m. Key Peninsula Library.

## Peninsula School District Board

Feb. 10, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office.

## KP Civic Center Board

Feb. 10, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KPCC.

## KP Metro Parks

Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex.

## LIC

Potluck dinner meeting, Feb. 16, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club.

## OFF THE KEY

### Feb. 4, 5, 6

#### Play presented

The Paradise Theatre presents "The Foreigner" on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m. Prices are from \$10-22. 851-7529 or [www.paradisetheatre.org](http://www.paradisetheatre.org).

### Feb. 5 ArtWalk

Downtown Gig Harbor hosts the First Saturday ArtWalk from 1-5 p.m.

### Feb. 5 Indoor Market

Fox Island's Indoor Market is held at the Nicholas Community Center from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Feb. 7

#### Chorus rehearsals

The Peninsula Community Chorus begins rehearsals at 7 p.m. at the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way. No auditions required; all are invited to join. [www.peninsulachorus.org](http://www.peninsulachorus.org) or 858-9446.

### Feb. 17 ArtWalk

Downtown Gig Harbor hosts the Third Thursday ArtWalk for 5-8 p.m.

### Feb. 21 Free movie

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club hosts "Silence of the Lambs" (adults) at 10 a.m. at the Galaxy Uptown Theatre. Coffee and conversation follow the movie.

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Tuesdays TOPS #1325

Take-Off Pounds Sensibly meets at 9 a.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church. Free child care, fun and support are provided. 884-2554.

### Thursdays Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

### Thursdays Senior Society

The Key Peninsula Senior Society, aka Yesterday's Teenagers, meet at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck, fellowship and games at the Civic Center. All are welcome. 884-4981.

### Thursdays Lakebay writers

The Lakebay Writers meet from 1:30-4 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-3931.

### Saturdays Writers' guild

The Writers' Guild meets from 9-11 a.m. at Key Center Library; 884-6455.

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the Art of Magic!***

**Saturday, March 12  
3 PM**

**Key Peninsula Civic Center**

*Suggested donation*

\$5 per person or  
\$10 per family

There is one intermission;

Refreshments will be available

## Key Singers plan for spring rehearsals

Do you like to sing? Do you like to have fun? Do you like to do both at the same time?

If you haven't tried singing with our own KP community chorus, the Key Singers, now is a good time to consider it.

Key Singers are taking a break from their usual winter schedule, but meet again in March to plan their year ahead, including possible day/time changes for rehearsal, new performance venues, and general brainstorming from members, guests, and prospective new singers.

Prior experience is not required for membership. Everyone is welcome.

The group, organized in 1998, began with about 22 members. They planned to give free performances year round for community events and local nursing homes. Their first concert was held that spring at Longbranch Improvement Club, with director Jo Sturm and accompanist Ann Craven.

Annual dues and spring concert tickets at a nominal price

were added after a few years, in order to purchase music, sound equipment, and for the last several years, to give PHS scholarships. The Christmas concert, added recently, asks only a food bank donation.

The Singers sing a full spectrum of music, from simple ditties to classics, including patriotic, spiritual, and show tunes.

Director Marianne McColley, one of half a dozen charter members still in the group, says, "jus' love it, I get to direct..." She believes singing should be fun, and her attitude is contagious.

The director and accompanist serve gratis. There are no auditions for membership.

If you or someone you know loves to sing and can carry a tune, call McColley at 884-5615, or just watch for date and time in March issue of KP News and show up in March at the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church sanctuary.

## West reappointed to KPAC, two vacancies remain

### Staff Report

The Pierce County Council voted to reappoint Chuck West to the Key Pen-

insula Advisory Commission. West was reappointed on Jan. 11 for a second two-year term. The nine-member commission currently has two vacancies.

Anyone who lives or owns property within the boundaries of the KP Advisory Commission (the Key Peninsula, including Herron Island) may submit an application for consideration.

The commission meets once a month to review land use development applications and issues affecting the Key Peninsula. All positions on the commission are non-paid volunteer positions.

To apply, contact the Planning and Land Services Department at 798-2630 or 798-7037, or call Cindy Anderson, Clerk to the Board at 798-2630.

## Bellabodies

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camps available~

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# Are the bank owned properties really a deal?

It's a wonderful time to buy a house. Mortgage rates are low, inventory is high and there are some terrific deals to be found. My clients frequently ask me to show them bank owned property because they think they can get a "screaming deal!" Truth be told, and I have told this to clients, most bank owned homes can be purchased at significant savings but buyer beware...you may not be saving as much as you think. And here's why:

- Most bank-owned homes have been vacant for months without running water, electricity or gas, leaving the home vulnerable to freezing pipes, vandalism and maybe even mold and mildew. It is up to you to thoroughly inspect every aspect of the house which may end up costing you hundreds of dollars in additional inspections.

- Bank owned homes are sold "as-is" meaning the bank will not make repairs. Anything wrong is up to you to fix.

- Some bank owned homes are missing appliances, fixtures even door handles as previous owners have stripped the home bare before leaving. In extreme cases the heat pump, central vacuum or bathtub have been removed. Replacing wiring, flooring, appliances, light fixtures, garage door openers and even mailbox keys can add up to thousands of dollars.

- Banks are not required by law to complete a full seller disclosure statement. You may receive little, if any, information regarding the current or previous property condition.

- The bank will issue a Special Warranty Deed provides you less protection in the event a claim on your property is filed by a "long lost" previous owner.

- Some banks will only accept full price offers from buyers (who will use the home as their primary residence) the first 30 days on the market and may not accept less than 90 percent of the full listing price at any time.

- Depending on the condition of the home your lender may require the buyer to make repairs prior to closing leaving you to make the repairs out of pocket before taking possession.

- Read all bank addendums carefully – if you aren't paying attention you may wind up paying the transfer/state excise tax, the septic

## Tracy Butzko Tracy's Real Estate Tips



pumping/inspection/county registration or perhaps utility liens recorded against the property and not even realize it until you receive your closing statement.

If you are dead set on purchasing a bank owned home, great. But I encourage you to also look beyond bank owned homes and consider a non-bank owned sale. There are a number of terrific seller-owned homes, which, for one reason or another, are being offered at below market prices. Negotiating with a seller-owned home may actually work in your favor.

- A seller may have equity in the home that affords you more room to negotiate a lower price.

- A seller may have made improvements to make the home more attractive (cleaning rugs, removing moss off the roof, painting rooms, updating fixtures, etc) - repairs most banks are unwilling to undertake.

- A seller may be more willing to make the repairs to problems spotted during the inspection, to keep the buyer happy.

- A Seller's Disclosure Statement usually provides more information about the home's past and present issues so you know what you are buying.

- A seller has a vested interest in the home and usually wants to transfer ownership of the beloved home to another caring buyer and will generally do what is needed to complete the sale, saving you thousands of dollars, headaches and surprises.

The next time you think you will get a "screaming deal" purchasing a bank/corporate owned home, do your due diligence and the math first. It is up to you to know what you are getting into. What looks like a great deal on paper may not be such a good deal after all.

*Tracy Butzko is a member of National Association of REALTORS® and has earned the ABR® designation. You may reach Tracy at 253-858-7500 ext 311 or by email at [tracybutzko@johnlscott.com](mailto:tracybutzko@johnlscott.com).*

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# New meat market in Purdy

By Danna Webster

Ray's Meat Market is tucked behind the Local Boys Market in Purdy and it is rapidly becoming a destination point for meat lovers on the Peninsula. Owner Ray Paul Schumsky believes that the two markets are a perfect match and that fate determined this business opportunity.

"Everything is pre-planned. This is a great location with great people and all who are knowledgeable about meats," he says describing how the top quality fruits and vegetable produce at Local Boys compliments the top quality meats sold at his market.

Meats featured at Ray's include Oregon's Painted Hills Natural Beef, sausages from Bavarian Meats in Seattle, and Hempler smoked bacon and turkeys from Ferndale. Soon to be added to

(See **Market**, Page 17)



Photo by Danna Webster, KP News

Ray Paul Schumsky presents high quality meats to the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area. Ray's Meats is located in the Purdy Shopping Center.

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(From **Market**, Page 16)

these selections – a live lobster tank with fresh Maine Lobster and Pacific Dungeness Crab. In addition, Ray offers his own smoked sausages and custom ground bacon burger and bacon with bleu cheese burger. At Ray's all meat orders are custom cut and sliced to their customer's satisfaction.

Schumsky grew up in the meat industry. His father, Ray, was "the best meat cutter I've ever known," says a man who has been in the industry for over 40 years. His father's original butcher tools hang above the cash register. The market logo is a sun with rays to represent the son of Ray. Young Ray started working with his father when he was 15. His father's meat wrapper was the mother of his wife, Debbie.

"We've know each other since I was eight years old," he says. "Debbie is my partner for life and is a huge part in helping me get this (business) together." He describes her strong business background experience as a human resource director for Verizon for 30 years with a Master's Degree in marketing as being instrumental to his success. He also credits a class taken at Bates Technical College offered by the small business association as essential. "I could never have done a business on my own," he says.

Ray, Debbie and their behind-the-counter business associate, Tom Bouta, all attended kindergarten together in Auburn. The Schumskys now live near Lake Holiday on acreage shared with four dogs, one horse, one goat, and one parrot that whines like a dog and laughs on cue.

Plans for growing the business includes the addition of fresh fish and more smoked meats like jerky, sausage, and salmon which is a specialty of Bouta. When Schumsky opened the meat market, Winks Seafood was a neighbor and he purposely did not include fish at his market. "I didn't want to step on any toes...so I didn't bring sea food in at first. It is also a whole different permit process," he says. The market has also started producing pet food, a high protein, low fat, high quality chicken pet food. He claims the neighborhood dogs lined up "out front with credit cards in their paws when they heard" about the great new food.

Ray's has received a lot of compliments and return business from his human customers and enjoys especially busy weekends. They look forward to spring when the Local Boys market opens and customers can double their pleasure shopping two quality food providers. Schumsky invites customers to check out Ray's online and follow them on Facebook at [www.raysmeatmarket.com](http://www.raysmeatmarket.com).

## Development Rights Committee seeks applicants

Applications are being accepted to fill five positions on a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Committee for Pierce County. Members of the Committee will assist in oversight of the Transfer and Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program in conjunction with the TDR Administrator. Issues to be addressed include, but are not limited to: operational oversight of the Development Rights Bank, developing techniques to determine whether the policy goals of the TDR/PDR program are being achieved, and providing recommendations regarding TDR agreements and provisions.

The Committee will convene as needed. The five open positions will serve without compensation and will include one representative from each of the following sectors: building industry, local land trust, real estate profession, real estate appraiser and the general public.

The Transfer of Development Rights Program in Pierce County is a market-based approach that shifts de-

velopment rights from ecologically sensitive and resource-rich lands to lands that are more suitable for development. This shift helps redirect growth to urban areas. The land from which the development rights are transferred is called the "sending site." The "receiving site" is the land to which the development rights are shifted. The receiving site may be developed at a residential density higher than base density.

Applications may be obtained at: [www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/services/citzopp/B&C.Application.pdf](http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/services/citzopp/B&C.Application.pdf). Or they can be picked up in person at the Pierce County Executive's Office at 930 Tacoma Ave. S., Room 737 (253-798-7477) or from the Department of Planning and Land Services, 2401 S. 35th Street (253-798-3736).

Applications must be submitted to the Executive's Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 12. More information about the Transfer of Development Rights Program is available at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/services/home/property/pals/other/tdr-pdr.htm>.



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# It's Not the Chocolate

The season of romance is upon us. It's a time of cards and chocolate and intimate candlelit dinners. Valentine's Day marks the middle of this month, a bright spot in an otherwise cold and dreary winter.

The history of this day is a little sketchy, but there is general agreement that the man for whom it is named, the original St. Valentine, was a Roman priest living under the reign of Claudius II. Emperor Claudius didn't care for Christians; in fact, he persecuted them viciously. Valentine was a kindhearted man who took pity on those who were suffering; he went so far as to marry young Christian couples (an act outlawed by the emperor), and to aid many feeling the scourge of persecution.

He was eventually arrested for these acts. At first, so the story goes, Claudius took a liking to Valentine, but when Valentine attempted to convert the emperor and his family, that affection disappeared. The emperor had Valentine beaten with clubs, stoned, and then beheaded. The

execution took place around 269 A.D. The date was February 14.

All sorts of stories and legends surrounding Valentine have arisen since then; one says he healed his jailer's blind daughter, another says he penned her a farewell note and signed it "From your Valentine." Whether or not there is truth to these stories, ample evidence remains that there was a Valentine, and that he was martyred for assisting Christians in a time of distress.

The story of St. Valentine reminds us that love comes with a cost. Jesus said it best: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13, TNIV). From time to time we see this carried out in full, like last month in Tucson, when Dorwan Stoddard died while shielding his wife from a hail of gunfire. More often, it plays out in the many little sacrifices made over a lifetime. "Happy Ever After" is a myth,

as any married couple will tell you. True love requires work.

Much will be made of the importance of cards and letters and endearing words this Valentine's Day. But if you want to see real love, I suggest you look elsewhere. Real love is in the actions and choices that carry on year-round. The husband out in the rain chopping firewood to keep his family warm. The wife spending hours balancing the family checkbook and keeping the bills paid. The husband helping with the laundry, the wife scrubbing the mess left on the carpet by the family dog. The men and women who leave early and come home late to earn the paycheck that provides a home and food on the table. The mother watching the sick child so her husband

can get some sleep; the father up after midnight feeding the baby so mommy can rest undisturbed.

Expectations around Valentine's Day run high, whether the longing is for a card, flowers, or maybe a little fireside romance. There's nothing wrong with that. At the same time, in the over-emphasis on this one day, we often forget the love shown to us the rest of the year. We fail to appreciate all the many ways our loved ones serve us in the mundane tasks. We would do well to remember the lesson of St. Valentine: Love exists in the ordinary moments, in the trying times, in the extraordinary ways people choose to sacrifice their own comfort for our good.

This year, maybe instead of worrying about the chocolate and jewelry and romance, you could take a moment and make a list of the many ways your spouse, your boyfriend or girlfriend, shows their love in the daily grind of life. Then thank them for it. And celebrate Valentine's Day by celebrating true love — the kind that serves, the kind that lasts.



**Dan Whitmarsh**  
Writing by Faith

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# Salmon return to Minter Creek

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

With salmon returning en masse to Minter Creek, even a continuous drizzle didn't detract hardy fishermen. They hailed from throughout Western Washington in their almost always successful efforts to bring home fresh meat for the table. Several of the fishermen caught and released their prey. An unidentified chap from Isaquah said, "It's great cheap entertainment. In this economy, I can't afford anything else." And he tossed his catches back



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

About 17 fishermen weathered a continuous drizzle employing a variety of baits and lures to capture fresh salmon while stretched out along a length of Minter Creek on the Key Peninsula. It was the annual return from the ocean to their home waters of both wild and hatchery salmon. The hopeful anglers intended to smoke, poach, charcoal broil, or prepare their catch for the table in a number of ways.

allowing them to proceed up Minter Creek to Northwest's exquisite signature contribution to spawn and replenish the succulent supply of the high cuisine.

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# Martial bliss

KP man devoted to martial arts opens new studio in Gig Harbor

By Marsha Hart, KP News

Martial Arts has been part of David Bird's life since the 1960s. At the age of 60, Bird is still teaching, and has one of the only Mixed Martial Arts and kickboxing schools in the area, Bird's Martial Arts. He recently moved the school to 5775 Soundview Drive, Suite 101-A.

Bird moved to the Key Peninsula from Fox Island eight years ago and said he is happy living in Lakebay.

Though it would be convenient for him to open a school on the Key Peninsula, he said students seem more willing to commute to Gig Harbor from the KP because



Photo by Eleanor Walters, KP News

Lexi Jones, and Peter Ansara, Jr. practice while David Bird instructs and Ronnie Glover looks on during a session at Bird's Martial Arts on Soundview Drive in Gig Harbor.

they're used to it, whereas drawing students from Gig Harbor to the Key Peninsula doesn't seem to work.

"I've known some people who have tried it and it didn't work," he said.

His classes include some eight to 10

people from Palmer Lake, Lake of the Woods and other areas on the Key Peninsula, he said.

His students enjoy a choice of different styles and classes.

"This is a mixture of three differ-

ent styles of martial arts which is the MMA, a really popular mixed martial arts," Bird said. "What we do is very similar to the Ultimate Fighting Championships style."

Bird offers kickboxing, Combat Arnis, MMA training and submission wrestling classes. The style is a mix of different martial arts, and it's full-on contact.

"You're hitting mitts, you're sparring people, you're actually doing hands-on techniques. You may not get that at all systems. You'll get it here," he said.

Mixed Martial Arts is a brutal sport, he said, and he doesn't take any student under the age of 13. In fact, Bird, who has trained with the best martial arts students in the world and holds three black belts said it is not appropriate for young children to learn MMA.

"I think Karate is great, and I think that a lot of Karate instructors will agree, it's maybe a good youth program these days because I think that kids shouldn't be learning when they're 10 or 11 years old how to kick somebody in the face really hard, or take them down

(See **Kicking**, Page 21)

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## Correction

The story "Special dog needs a miracle" in the January edition of the Key Peninsula News incorrectly quoted the price of the surgery for the dog. The correct price quoted by Dr. Jeffrey Irwin of Minter Veterinary Hospital is \$2,500. The KP News regrets the error.

If you see an error in a story, send it to [keypenneditor@gmail.com](mailto:keypenneditor@gmail.com). The Key Peninsula News will make every effort to correct factual errors.

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(From **Kicking**, Page 20)

to the ground and break their arm," Bird said. "I don't think that's appropriate."

Bird has trained with Guro Cui Brocka, the Presas brothers, and Richard Bustillo, a student of Bruce Lee, and the Filipino National Arnis Team.

Backyard MMA that has become popular among kids is a problem, he said.

"The kids aren't qualified to do that," he said. "They shouldn't be doing it. If they want to learn, come and do a school that will teach you properly, well supervised and get your fights through the state that is sanctioned through the athletic commission."

His school is not a typical Karate school, and focuses on real kickboxing, and defensive fighting techniques, he said. Arnis is a Philippine Martial Art that uses a combination of stick, knife, empty hand and armed and unarmed techniques.

"It's a place to help people defend themselves, get in much better shape or possibly go into a competition in either kickboxing or MMA," he said. "It's a defenses school, not an offenses school, and it's really important to be

that way. Self-defense just means that. Every move we do is countering off of someone else's attack. It's never us attacking first, and that's really it in a nutshell."

There are no intimidating, large men at the door, and Bird relies on Mary Crabb, a small woman in her 40s to help with the kickboxing class. Dave Wolner is an EMT fireman who is a submission wrestler.

"Submission wrestling and MMA is taking the hand and foot combinations of their kickboxing, adding in knees, elbow strikes, take downs, floor work and submission training," Bird said. "Submission wrestling, you get the guy down and you put him in an arm bar or a lock of some sort until he taps out or submits. It's from the ancient Greek PanKration."

Classes are \$89 per month for unlimited classes four nights a week and Saturdays, and an open gym on Saturdays. There area also walk-in fees at \$10 for two hours, and he offers both competitive and non-competitive sessions.

For more information visit combatarnis.com, or call 884-7914.

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He had a second career as a computer analyst and worked for Egghead Software, Q.F.C., and Pemco.

In retirement, Bob lived on the Key Peninsula- and kept busy by putting in full days in his woodshop, making beautiful things for his family.

He is survived by his loving wife, Eve; children, Robert, Debbie, Troy, Tenica, Reina, 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; his siblings Nona, Delores, and Sherman, as well as the many other relatives and friends who cherished Bob.

A celebration of Bob's life was held on Jan. 5, 2011.



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# Out & About

To see more Out & About photos, visit our web site at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com) and follow the Photo Gallery link. See more of your neighbors out and about, Key Peninsula scenes and happenings. The online gallery features web site exclusive photos!



Students representing the entire state, including two from Peninsula High School, Kyle Johnson and Sean Birch were part of The Honor Band concert at Pacific Lutheran University Jan. 8.

*Photo by Ed Johnson KP News*



*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*

Peninsula High School was the site of the Second Annual Sprawl and Brawl Wrestling Tournament Jan. 15 featuring wrestling clubs from Poulsbo to Belfair and several from the local area. Pictured is Colby Marshall who wrestled four times during the tournament, pinning three of his opponents and suffering one defeat.

## KP News 'Where in the World'



*Photo courtesy of Jessica Takehara, Wauna*

Jessica Takehara recently traveled to southern Germany (Bavaria) and Prague. She brought her Key Pen News along for some reading material.



Wildlife can be seen in many places on the Key Peninsula, such as this Heron that perched on a rail at Glen Cove.

*Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News*