

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula

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Happy Thanksgiving

Olde Glencove Hotel, page 15



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Vol. 35 Issue 11 • Circulation 9,000

## INSIDE

November 2007



Salmon Chanted, page 23



Prepare for the holidays, Special Section inside

## Key Peninsula plan gets council green light

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

With minor last-minute change amendments, the Pierce County Council unanimously passed the Key Peninsula Comprehensive Plan on Oct. 23. A vote on the issue had been postponed the previous week after receipt of a letter by an environmental organization challenging the plan. Futurewise, a statewide organization focused on

slow growth, recommended to Pierce County Councilman Terry Lee and legislative analyst Mike Kruger (formerly a planner who coordinated the plan) that they remove three specific parcels from the Rural Neighborhood Center classification. According to Lee, the organization, which was not present at the Oct. 23 meeting, threatened an appeal of the entire KP plan to the Central Puget

Sound Growth Management Hearings Board if their suggestions were not followed.

A spontaneous additional amendment made at the October hearing by Councilman Tim Farrell was unanimously approved by the council, and resolved the classification challenge on one of the three, a parcel at 118th

(See PLAN, Page 22)



Flavor of Fall, born nearly two decades ago, has traditionally been a sold-out, extravagant event supporting the nonprofit KP Civic Center. This year the largest amount ever was raised.

Photo courtesy Jerry Libstaff

## Flavor of Fall returns with huge success

By Jerry Libstaff  
Special to KP News

On Oct. 6, the doors of the Key Peninsula Civic Center opened to reveal this year's Flavor of Fall. More than 200 guests were treated to an extravagant evening of friendship, food and a fantastic auction. The center was transformed into a dream world that called upon the community to "dress to the nines" and become part of the celebration.

Attendees indulged in a gourmet meal presented by Chef Ty Shaver and more than 40 volunteers who helped provide support and coordination. Twenty-two high school students were on hand to help.

This year, Flavor of Fall was presented by the Key Peninsula Civic Center and Two Waters Arts Alliance; the organizations will share the proceeds. Funds will help renovate the stage area in the Civic Center and develop Two Waters

(See FLAVOR, Page 25)

## Voters to decide Yanity fate

By Rick Sorrels  
Special to KP News

The voters will decide if Fire District 16 Commissioner Allen Yanity should be removed or stay in office. This was the decision of Pierce County Superior Court Judge Armijo on Oct. 19.

Fellow Commissioner Jim Bosch filed a recall petition with the Pierce County Auditor on Sept. 28, citing Yanity's alleged physical assault upon Bosch at an earlier commissioner's meeting as grounds to bring a recall vote to the voters. The prosecutor's office agreed that the petition met the minimum standards for a recall petition and forwarded it to the judge for hearing to determine if the recall would continue to be processed.

Yanity appeared in person at the hearing without an attorney, and without having filed any written response to the recall petition.

Armijo stated at the hearing, "I am not required to determine guilt or inno-

(See YANITY, Page 29)

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## BRIEFS

news

## FD-16 firefighter responds to California wildfires

Fire District 16's Dale Heidal was among the Washington state firefighters dispatched to fight massive wildfires in California that destroyed nearly 2,000 homes. FD-16 received a call on Oct. 22 requesting assistance. Heidal drove one of the new engines, completing his crew with two firefighters from Gig Harbor's Fire District 5, according to Division Chief Chuck West. "Our district does not have enough funds or men to send more than one," West said on Oct. 23. "Dale and his crew will make it down in about two days to provide as much help as they can to stop this horrific occurrence of nature." About 250 fire fighters from all around the state joined the effort.

## KPVI to fly service flags

Sunday, Nov. 11, the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute will fly service flags in honor of Veterans Day at the Vaughn Bay Cemetery in Vaughn. The community is invited to visit the memorial in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for the good of all mankind.

President Wilson proclaimed the first Veterans Day on Nov. 11, 1919, one year after the temporary cessation of hostilities between Allied Nations and Germany that went into effect on the Eleventh Hour of the Eleventh Day of the Eleventh Month in 1918. On Oct. 31, 2006, President George W. Bush officially declared the week of Nov. 5-11 "National Veterans Awareness Week" to help Americans understand the contributions of veterans to this country through educational activities in their communities.

## Residents driven to talk at WSDOT

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

At an evening meeting on Sept. 25 at Peninsula High School, John Donahue, new State Route 302 project manager for the multiple-year Washington State Department of Transportation study, began by acknowledging the high accident rate on 302. He said his team was not there to "reinvent the wheel," but to invite KP resident involvement in exploring traffic solutions. Donahue was aware of the Key Peninsula Community Plan and said WSDOT study personnel had met with that planning body and would be referring to recommendations already made in the final draft of the plan.

Donahue said the recently launched study will be building on previous efforts, referring to the 1993 study, which concluded with various solutions and significantly different costs. "This study," he said, "begins with those alternatives in Phase 1, screening alternatives (to arrive at) ultimate alternative solutions." The process then intends to proceed to an "Intent Phase" to study limits, purpose of need, solution re-evaluating, and determination of reasonable/unreasonable alternatives. DOT does not have a preferred alternative at this point and is looking at community and environmental impacts. Donahue said WSDOT's scientific and objective process "includes public input." He concluded his presentation by telling the audience, "No construction money is allocated at this time." The study is being done solely with the intent to provide information regarding proposed projects.

The evening open house consisted of two identical staggered presentations, after which audience members were



Sen. Derek Kilmer addresses the audience at the SR-302 open house on Sept. 25.

Photo by  
Danna  
Webster

invited to choose one of 10 identical stations. Each station had an oversized map of the proposed area and the KP, plenty of chairs for participants, and a WSDOT or affiliate facilitator holding a handful of colored pens.

Throughout both sessions, all 10 stations were full. Participants, many of whom stood or sat with arms crossed at the beginning of the presentation, freely offered alternatives, opinions, pointed to locations on the maps, and helped themselves to the facilitators' pens to draw out their solutions. Consistent concerns at every station were a desire to move the primary Purdy Spit access, protect the shorelines and streams, and retain the rural quality of life.

In an onsite interview, 26th Legislative District Sen. Derek Kilmer told the KP News, "SR-302 is a priority from a safety and congestion-relief standpoint. Construction money (could be available) with additional revenue; we've raised the gas tax two times in five years. SR-302 is one of Washington state's top 10 most dangerous corridors, (which) improves the likelihood of funding from a mix of resources."

Illustrating the difficulty looming for

any potential solution, at one station, when a participant drew a line where he figured a new highway should run, a woman in the seat behind stood up and shouted, "That's my land!" At that point, a third person came to the map, took the pen from the first person, and drew another line over existing DNR/WSDOT land, saying, "If you do it this way, it's cheaper and better than taking people's farmland."

## Analysis results shared

Two open houses in December will reveal preliminary SR-302 corridor analysis:

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Peninsula High School Auxiliary Gym (near pool and tennis courts), 14105 Purdy Drive NW

Thursday, Dec. 6, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Road, Vaughn

For a complete list of all citizen recommendations from the September public sessions, go to [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR302/NewCorridor), and click on "Open House summary."

Mike Gentile  
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Key Peninsula News is published monthly by the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn, Washington. Copyright 2007 with all rights reserved. Reproduction of editorial or graphic contents in any manner without permission is prohibited. Annual subscriptions (12 issues) are available for \$25.00 and are mailed first class. Copies are mailed presort standard to residents and post office box holders of the Key Peninsula. Single copies are available at the newspaper office in the basement of the Civic Center annex and at various distribution points located on the Key Peninsula. Approximately 18,000 people live in the distribution area.

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2. The objective of Key Peninsula News is to support and create community by reporting news and features and providing a forum for local information. News and editorial coverage focuses on the Key Peninsula and immediately adjacent areas within Fire District 16.

## OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE TO THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS!

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publishers or staff. All letters to the editor must be signed and include a daytime phone number for verification. No anonymous letters will be published. Submissions are used on a space available basis and may be edited if used. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or email to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com)

# Credit Union robbed



Photo by Mindi LaRose

A sheriff's deputy reports to a Sound Credit Union robbery on Oct. 5 by a man who took an undisclosed amount of cash. According to witness reports, the robber was polite and apologized verbally; an apology was also in the note he handed to the teller, demanding money. Sound Credit Union Executive Vice President Denise Reagan said the Key Center branch staff "seem to be doing OK." Although she said administration is not seeing on a daily basis "what they are going through," she acknowledges they "may be a bit on edge after the experience." SCU administrators are working closely with the Pierce County Sheriff's office. Reagan said the credit union's fraud department has recently been informed by a detective that a "person of interest" has been identified. Reagan said the Key Center branch has had its security monitors realigned for greater visibility, and some have been repositioned. There is no plan to install Plexiglas barriers between credit union patrons and employees. "It is business as usual," Reagan said, noting that the branch had been robbed once before, several years ago, resulting in a successful apprehension.

# New directions and a new director for KPCS

By Danna Webster, KP News

Penny Gazabat, Key Peninsula resident and former executive director of I.M.Pact's domestic violence shelter, is the new director for Key Peninsula Community Services. Her selection as the finalist was announced after the Oct. 22 KPCS Executive Board meeting. Gazabat was to assume the new job on Oct. 31.

An outstanding list of candidates applied for the position, according to Gary Stevenson, president of the KPCS Board of Directors. The new assistant director, Kyong Bertsch, took charge of management duties while waiting for the board to interview and select a director. "Kyong is fitting in wonderfully and doing a heck of a job," Stevenson said. "Her pretty, happy, smiley face perks up the whole place."

The need for a new director came as the result of the executive board deciding to head in new directions. Many changes have occurred this year, including moving the food bank downstairs and remodeling the dining area upstairs. Demands for the service at KPCS have increased.

KPCS is located south of the Home Bridge on the Key Peninsula Highway.

The food bank and office hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Senior meals are served at noon on Wednesday and Friday. Contact KPCS at 884-4440.

Management tasks kept former Director Linda Hubbard, one assistant, and the chef busy; in fact, Stevenson says there are not enough hours in the day for the work at KPCS. "Last week we were running out of places to park," he said.

The board made a decision to pick up the pace. They want to add more days to the KPCS weekly schedule, write grants for funding, and build public relations. The board and Hubbard "went in different directions," Stevenson said.

The board was surprised at the quality of candidate applications received. With new staff, "lots of good will out here, and lots of volunteers, we are here to serve you," Stevenson said.

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Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula

	Sold Sept 2006	Sold Sept 2007	For Sale as of 10/19/20/07
	98 Homes	74 Homes	854 for Sale
Highest	\$1,720,000	\$1,432,000	\$4,800,000
Lowest	\$53,000	\$110,000	\$89,000
Median	\$359,500	\$386,250	\$521,000



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# EDITORIAL

## Presenting a forum of ideas

Some KP News readers were concerned about political opinions expressed in the last edition by one of our guest columnists, who dispatched his personal advice regarding election issues. The readers felt the opinion article implied an endorsement (for or against) ballot measures by the newspaper.

We'd like to clear some possible misconceptions. The Key Peninsula News does not endorse political campaigns issues or candidates. We limit our coverage of those issues to news articles by choice — with our writing staff consisting of part-time staff and volunteers, we do not have adequate resources to research the issues in order to endorse them. However, we do offer an open forum to the community on these pages — which is why they are called "Peninsula Views."

Peninsula Views is an opportunity for our readers to express their views on issues affecting the Key Peninsula via letters to the editor or guest editorials. Those views do not represent the personal opinions of our editorial staff, publishing board, or members of our parent organization, the Key Peninsula Civic Center; nor do they represent a

position on behalf of the KP News. If you see letters or guest columns from only one side of the issue, it is because we don't solicit these submissions and we do not seek to balance them out with opposing views; we simply offer this as a forum for your ideas.

Our guest columnists, while considered members of our contributing volunteer contingent during their yearlong commitment, do not speak for the KP News. They were selected by a 10-member panel with the goal to bring more diversity to our editorial pages, and to give voice to community members. The panel recognized that some of the topics selected by our guest columnists may be controversial, and the writers may not express popular views. We feel that is part of having a democracy, and we see our role as helping maintain a democratic society.

The KP News has published a disclaimer at the bottom of the Peninsula Views pages explaining they contain personal opinions. Admittedly, this disclaimer uses that fine print people hardly ever read. In the future, we'll include such disclaimers at the end of each guest column that discusses a political or contentious issue. In the meantime, we invite you to send us your views on any topics you feel are important to the local community. These pages are your chance to speak up and speak out!

# Things to keep us thankful

**A**h, Thanksgiving. Let's take stock of some things to be thankful for here on the KP. I'm thankful we have water on three sides of us. It makes the whole place seem cozy and safe, at one with nature, and also much easier to defend in an apocalypse (I watch a lot of movies). We've got Penrose Point and Joemma state parks, packed with fun all summer, peace and quiet all winter. They're downright magical, and I've heard people from Seattle marvel at "just being able to get this close to the water."

I'm thankful for KP history, with the original settlers searching for freedom to live as they wanted, while they embraced discussion of ideas over authoritarian doctrines.

I'm thankful we don't need to waste time worrying about our image on the mainland. We're lucky to have folks in the public eye describing the KP as a world of "iconoclastic loners and anarchists" living in "well-placed trailers" and "meth labs," kept in line by "a corrupt band of thugs whose criminal rampages are being covered up at the highest levels of county government" on land that is "up for sale and slated for the incessant march of suburban development." I hope this publicity increases so we can keep out the riff-raff!

## KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



I'm thankful we encourage a sense of KP community, while we simultaneously champion individualism. And the business community here is tightly knit, which is great for networking and reaching across and off the KP for new prospects and ideas.

Less enthusiastically, I'm thankful there's a portable toilet right there on the Purdy Spit next to the Welcome sign, in case, after a long commute, I'm simply not going to make it all the way home, and I can park, pole-vault over 302, and take care of business without breaking any laws. I'm thankful that if I ever need a television, all I have to do is keep an eye open and sure enough, I'll see one on the side of a local road. I'm thankful that if I ever want to film a documentary on roaming packs of stray dogs, I need look no further than my own back yard to shoot terrific footage of various-sized packs, and could even stage a beautiful, tear-jerking scene of a pregnant, collarless, never-before-seen quadruped howling at the moon at 4:05 in the morning, directly under my window.

Nothing's perfect. And, it's home.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Skate Night success continues

Thanks to the great community support for the Civic Center's Friday Skate Night and the generosity of The Big 5 Sporting Goods Store in Gig Harbor and its manager Rob Whitney, we were able to acquire over 15 pairs of new skates for prices far below dealer cost. So far this season we have been averaging over 150 skaters per night, from toddlers through eighth graders. We have a great facility and a great staff. Thank you to the entire community for your support.

*Phil Bauer, Skate Night organizer  
Vaughn*

## Information center opens successfully

I want to thank everyone in the

community who came to our Grand Opening Open House celebration on Sept. 28 at the Key Senior Information Center. Folks were there from regional agencies and from every part of the Key Peninsula. Maribel Cobey and her daughter did a great job of catering. Good food and stimulating conversations — it was a real community gathering in one of its most enjoyable forms.

I want to thank those who have directly contributed to the successful opening of our Information Center: the Key Peninsula Health and Professional Center Board of Directors, the Angel Guild, Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care, and Franciscan Health System Volunteer Services. We are also very grateful for in-kind donations from Glen & Debbie Ehrhardt of Harvest Timber Co., Robert and Voski Sprague, Ross Bischoff, Del Leaf, and everyone else who has dropped by with gifts. And of course, it is our incredible and dedicated Key Senior Information Center Volunteers who have donated much time and energy to this idea over many

months. Huge thanks to them, and to the many members of this community who are supportive of, and involved in, our work.

Our screened, trained and highly capable volunteers are staffing the Information Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every weekday. They can also be reached by phone during those hours at 884-9814. They would very much like to share what they have learned about services and programs available to seniors in this community. We have now arranged for Jill Scheiman, from Pierce County Shared Housing Services, to staff the info desk on the last Friday of the month, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., in response to local interest in the concept of shared housing. That local service begins Friday, Nov. 30.

Thank you also to the Key Peninsula News for constantly helping us get the word out to the community. It takes a village...and we are one. What a glorious gift!

*Edie Morgan, founder  
The Mustard Seed Project*

## Fire commissioners' board should be increased

The November election gives voters the opportunity to affect a much needed change to our fire commission. Your "yes" vote will change the commission from a three-person board, where each commissioner has more power to cause problems in the process, to a five-person board, where each commissioner will have less influence on any given vote and on any given issue.

This is not the answer to the whole problem, but this goes a long way to preventing major disorder on our commission in the long term.

Whether through election or recall, when your representatives have failed us, we can vote them out. In the meantime, let's restructure the power on this commission so that when one or two commissioners fail in their duty to serve our community, there will be enough reasonable, honorable voices on the

(See **LETTERS**, Page 5)

# Giving it back/paying it forward

**W**e are now entering the season of sharing and giving (November – December). Our national day of sharing, Thanksgiving, is this month. The harvest is completed and now we prepare for winter, hoping we all have enough to see us through the cold and wet. This is also the time of various religious and ethnic holidays and their traditions of the exchange of presents.

We hear so much of how the “holidays are so, so commercial,” but what does this really mean when one is about “giving it back” or “paying it forward?” Is there really such a thing as “paying it forward?” Can we all afford to “give it back” or “pay it forward?” Yes! People who have lower incomes or live in poverty give more percentage-wise than do people who have middle incomes or who have upper incomes (including Bill and Melinda Gates). The theory on why “the poor give more” is that they truly know what it is like to be without enough to eat, staying

**JUD MORRIS**  
FROM THE WATER'S EDGE



warm, or are always worrying about the possibility of being homeless.

I have worked in human services in many places in the country (including the Key Peninsula) for over 40 years, and I can tell you of hundreds of examples of people coming into our office who have told me that our agency has helped them out in the past. Now their financial situation is better and they want to give back to the agency, so we can help another person who is in as much need as they were. Everyone can, at some point, afford to give something back. Sometimes it is in the form of a donation, sometimes it is in the form of volunteerism, and sometimes it is in the form of something of value that a family

“  
The theory on why ‘the poor give more’ is that they truly know what it is like to be without enough to eat, staying warm, or are always worrying about the possibility of being homeless.”

gives to be shared with others. If you have ever been to a “tree of sharing,” you will notice that the people who usually stop by to take a gift request off the tree know first-hand what it is like not to have enough to buy their family (especially their children) a present for the holidays.

Some would argue there really is not such a thing as “paying it forward,” and

I agree with that. “Paying it forward” is just a popular term for “giving it back.” Even Bill Gates and Paul Allen really “give it back.” So why is for Gates and Allen really “giving it back”? Because what they are doing is donating for their good fortune of being successful in business and other areas of life, when others might not be as successful or cannot contribute as much. We all want to make a difference, to make things better. And we all have that chance. Gates and Allen are giving thanks for being successful.

As one of the people I once worked for told me, “It’s not enough to help your grandchild if the child sitting next to your grandchild does not also succeed, but rather is unsuccessful and then prevents your grandchild from learning or achieving her fullest potential.” By “paying it forward” or “giving it back,” we are making an investment for the future, and helping make it better for everyone. And that’s what our national holiday, Thanksgiving, is truly all about.

(From **LETTERS**, Page 4)

commission to overcome the disruption caused by the minority.

*Rich White, Key Peninsula firefighter  
Tacoma*

## Local schools need support

On Nov. 6, Washington voters will have the opportunity for the first time in 60 years to amend the state Constitution by approving EHJR 4204 – Simple Majority for School Levies. Approving 4204 will amend the Constitution to provide a simple majority of voters to authorize a local school district levy and remove the 40 percent election validation requirement. 4204 Simple Majority is to support our local schools. It is not about a politician, it is about our children, and that is why I am asking as a member of this community that you please support this proposal.

Local levies provide our schools with a big portion of their day-to-day operations, and without them our schools and our children would suffer immeasurably. In many school districts, levies help to support education programs (PE, art, music etc) and school operations (school nurses, counselors, security, transportation, utilities, technology, etc)

that aren’t fully funded by the state. Levies help to ensure that school districts can provide a well-rounded, quality education to each student.

This is a question of fairness! It took a simple majority of 50 percent plus one to renovate the public library, build a new community center and police department. It’s time that we support our public schools using the same democratic process that applies to approving initiatives, referendums, and electing politicians.

*Kari Wilkinson  
Washington State PTA Region 10 Director  
Co-President of Key Peninsula Middle  
School PTSA*

## School levy requirement should stay

The simple majority measure on the November ballot would force a lot of people to sell their homes. I have personally doorbelled a lot of people who are on the verge of losing their homes because of taxes.

EHJR 4204 would require a majority of those voting to pass a levy. School boards would be tempted to run surreptitious campaigns to get their levies passed! I don’t mean that voters would not get their ballots, I just mean there would be

no signs advertising the fact that a levy election was coming up. These elections could be held at any time of the year.

With school districts being the largest employer in most districts, and adding to that number their families, you can see where the districts will be assured of success all the time.

Ninety-eight percent of school levy votes pass, although some of them have to be submitted to the voters twice. This is not an unfair imposition on school systems!

We are now spending \$11,400 per child per year on K-12 education. Yet our public school students continue to fall behind the world average in reading, math and sciences. They do feel good about themselves; but what good is that when they cannot perform the simplest mathematical functions!

Vote against a simple majority to pass levies so that you can stay in your home!

*Lois McMahan  
Olalla*

## Simple majority is fair

Since 1932, Washington schools’ levies have been forced by the state Constitution to pass with a 60 percent supermajority, rather than the democratic principle of simple majority vote,

which is 50 percent plus one. Voters this year have the opportunity to change that. Nothing could be more fair.

Funding for education should be treated at least as well as other parts of local governments, such as requests to build new parks, sports arenas, or bridges. Each of these can be accomplished through a simple majority of the voting public. It’s time that contributing to our children’s education was as democratic.

School levies provide much of the support needed to educate students: textbooks, library materials, teacher training, smaller class sizes. In the Peninsula School District, \$14.6 million (18 percent) of the operating budget comes from levy funds, making it possible to provide the type of important academic and extracurricular programs Peninsula residents expect for their students. The simple majority measure is not a tax increase, nor would its passage encourage the state to further abdicate its paramount duty to fund education. Legislators will still be held accountable to fully fund the mandated educational programs for our state’s students as our state Constitution requires.

*Karin Ashabraner  
President, Peninsula Education  
Association*

# November ballot may increase seats on fire commission

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Key Peninsula voters will decide on Nov. 6 whether to increase the board of commissioners of Fire District 16 from three to five members. This proposal was placed on the ballot by majority vote of the sitting commissioners who "passed a resolution determining that it would be in the best interest of the district and its citizens to increase the number of fire commissioners from three to five," according to the Official Voter's Pamphlet.

The three-member board experiences a dilemma when two commissioners, perhaps meeting independently to discuss district business in even the most off-hand, casual of circumstances, because two-member discussions in any setting represent a majority, and therefore a quorum. The result is that even the most innocent of conversations, meant to lay out options, can be construed as "district business" and an unofficial board meeting.

Robert Bosch, president of the fire-

fighters' union, said although the union supports a five-member board, "not one piece of district business hasn't gotten done (with the three-member board)." He reports no services to the community have been damaged as a result of dissension on the board, and that the current board "is working."

"The firefighters can't change things," Bosch said. "Citizens are in total control of the board." He said, where the firefighters and paramedics are concerned, the number of people on the board doesn't change their day-to-day operations. "Down at the street level," he says, "we know exactly what we're trying to do — it's a simple, clear message. Firefighters respond to the needs of the people — and politics can't screw that up."

If the resolution passes, the first additional member would be appointed by the existing commissioners, and then all four commissioners would appoint the last one. If the existing board fails to agree on the candidates within a certain timeline, then Pierce County Council will make the appointments.



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# KP Metro Parks candidate profiles

By Danna Webster, KP News

The Key Peninsula Metro Parks commissioner race offers two distinct choices for Position 4. Bob Hicks and Bruce Nicholson are both fathers of young families; parks are significant in their lives; and both are enthusiastic supporters of KP parks. Fiscal responsibility is a priority for both men but they address the details differently. Park development and how parks can best serve is seen entirely differently by the candidates. In an interview with KP News, the candidates shared their views.

## Parks vision

**Hicks:** "Parks should really be designed for the people in the area. Not to draw people in from outside communities," says Bob Hicks. He is interested in preserving the wide open spaces that provide more placid activities like hiking and walking and enjoying nature. "Keep things as natural as possible," he says. He would like to see more pocket parks with amenities because it is important to give kids something to do. He would like to see soccer fields at some point. He wants KP kids to have a group or club that is not tied to a national organization.

**Nicholson:** Sees potential for "developing the parks system into the best parks district in the state." "Right now, we're just a park, not really a district," he says. The KP Parks District should have a slogan like "opening the doors to adventure" and provide more than just sports opportunities. It should include all kinds of recreational activities: painting, music, gardening, horseback riding, computer and parlor games, biking, kayaking, arts and crafts, theatre and dance. "Volunteer Park could be an economic boon for this

area," he says. It could become a state of the art facility with large tournaments.

## Budget and Funding

**Hicks:** "I don't think we need large sport complexes. We don't have the tax base to support something like that. From delivering propane on the Peninsula, I know a lot of people and I'm sensitive to people paying property taxes. I'm sensitive to overtaxing people to build large scale parks... The levy was necessary. We were just putting band-aids on Volunteer Park. When they decided to levy, they asked for a modest amount, could have gone for a lot more and didn't."

**Nicholson:** Has "serious issues with the way the commission conducts (financial) business" because a half-million dollars has been spent over the past three years and the only capital improvement was made on the concession stand. "Other improvements were paid by individuals and the Little League... They spent all the monies on labor instead of capital improvements. Most parks budget 20 percent for labor; 80 percent of what we spend should be on capital improvements, purchasing of land and physical things we can hand on to our children."

## Goals

**Hicks:** Better communication to people, get more volunteers, address



HICKS



NICHOLSON

Volunteer Park parking safety and build a highway trail.

**Nicholson:** Greater communication and cooperation with other groups (Civic Center, LIC, Horseshoe Lake), working on a parks guide with a slogan and logo, more accountability for funding and monies, and starting the work on the 360 Park.

## Why be a commissioner?

Hicks and his wife, Rebecca, live near Jackson Lake, and all four of their children attend Evergreen Elementary. Hicks grew up spending a lot of time outside. His parents were members of the Mountain Rescue team for Tacoma Mountaineers. "Parks was a big part of my life as kid. Best part of growing up was the places where I spent time in parks — Titlow Beach and Pt. Defiance. We walked everywhere as kids," he says. "I'm not a politician— don't aspire to be a politician. I just wanted to volunteer to be on the board because parks is most important. It's on the short list of important, right up there with schools and fire protection."



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# Flames burn the house but not the spirit

By Danna Webster, KP News

Firefighters were dispatched to a late afternoon house fire the first week of October. The Vaughn home of Sylvia Haase and Virginia Liebergessell was completely destroyed. According to the Key Peninsula Fire Department report, a boater in North Bay spotted the blaze and called 911. Dispatchers used latitude and longitude data from the cell towers to determine the location just outside Vaughn Bay.

When firefighters arrived, the home was nearly 75 percent involved in flames. A fireboat from Anderson Island and a water tender from Kitsap County Fire District 7 were called to assist 17 Key Peninsula firefighters in combating the blaze. The fireboat was able to douse flames in the main body of the beach-front home while firefighters on the ground attempted to stop the fire from extending further toward the main entry. The cause was believed to be due to a wiring staple that had pierced the cable when the home was constructed. Firefighters remained on the scene to continue working on hot spots and crews returned the following day to assist the homeowners with salvage.

"Picture. Picture. Picture. That's my message. Take a picture of everything in your house," said Sylvia Haase. The first 10 days after the fire were spent dealing with the insurance companies, which required a complete inventory of the contents in the house. The fire burned everything right down to the foundation. Hasse says it was easy to remember where the Steinway stood but showing all the other furniture in drawings was difficult. Even more difficult was the attempt to itemize the contents of the cupboards and every drawer. If a drawer held linens, they had to provide a count, a cost, and place of purchase.

Photographic records of their possessions had been taken and were filed on the home office computer, but that melted in the blaze. "Put the pictures in a safety deposit box," Haase said.

Hasse and Liebergessell left their home on the Wednesday morning of Oct. 3 for a long day trip. Because they expected to return late that night, a friend was babysitting their dog, Chester. When they pulled out of the driveway that morning, they left their near-perfect dream house, their possessions, their family heirlooms and mementos, and a brand new remodeled kitchen. Their sole possessions at

## Out of the ashes

Virginia Thompson, longtime Key Peninsula resident, a good friend, and member of Haase's church, wrote her reflection of the fire tragedy. She called it "Out of the Ashes."

"The fire came unexpectedly in the night. Wild flames desecrated the house, like a dragon swaying its tail over a life's work — built from dreams, to house two retired school teachers.

Up in smoke went family heirlooms, records of the past, music, books, clothing, food, furniture, computers, phones — all the paraphernalia of modern life. Firemen came, and were too late.

Next morning, Thursday, they were picking through the ashes. Looking for the reason, if there was any reason, for the consuming fire.

Still some warm spots mind the carnage.

Found a few old photographs, a few coins from a collection, nothing more.

First came neighbors: 'Our house is empty this weekend — come stay there.' 'My house has been empty since my wife died. Stay as long as you like.'

Church members came to stand vigil and took the photos to reconstruct them in a book.

A food chain was planned for those who wanted to help over the next few days by preparing meals.

The druggist would not accept payment for the drugs they needed the next day.

An account was set up at the bank for anyone who wanted to contribute.

Prayers at church. Of course, calls from friends.

Out of the ashes came this incredible outpouring of love and concern, a fire of another kind."

their return were the clothes on their backs and Chester.

"Friends gathered at Nancy and Tom Howard's home, and waited in the road to meet us and turn us away from our driveway," said Haase. "They were crying harder than we were."

Both women are longtime active members of the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

Rebuilding and starting over is not easy but the process has begun. Haase shares that this will be the second time Liebergessell must replace a grand piano. The first piano was destroyed aboard a ship during her move to the United States



Above, The homeowners were not home when the raging fire engulfed their house.

*Photo courtesy Brian Heaven*

Insert: The charred remains on the day following the fire. *Photo courtesy Kathy Bauer*

Below, A group of Key Peninsula firefighters are exhausted after coming out of the burning house. The firefighters, wearing full protective gear, went in and out of the blaze in waves, checking for people and animals inside. For more photos, visit [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

*Photo courtesy Kathy Bauer*



from Australia. The freight box was stowed on the deck, took on water during a storm, and the piano sat soaking in the box while a strike settled at the landing. Because they are able to rebuild and replace their losses from the fire, Liebergessell is redirecting some of the funds collected for them by friends toward victims of other fire disasters.

A new piano will be the first purchase after their house is rebuilt. Plans are forming to buy the piano, hire a concert pianist and hold a concert for all their dear neighbors. "That will be a resurrection," Haase said in the spirit of her profession. In 2002, she was ordained as an Episcopal deacon. She serves the St. Hugh's Episcopal Church in Allyn.



# Interim geoduck regs head for DOE

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On Oct. 16, at a standing-room only final hearing on Proposal 2007-34s2, "Establishing Interim Regulatory Requirements for Geoduck Aquaculture Operations and Other Aquaculture Practices..." the Pierce County Council passed the ordinance unanimously, followed by audience applause. Council Chair Terry Lee, representing District 7 and the shoreline-rich Gig Harbor and Key peninsulas, said, "This has been a very organized effort by the community to address some serious threats to our shorelines. There's still a whole baseline of science that needs to be addressed, and I'm hopeful that we'll have a better understanding when we complete our update of the shoreline master program."

Ordinance 2007-34s2 now goes to the Department of Ecology for approval, denial, or request for modification. If approved unchanged, it puts temporary interim regulations in place until the county completes a three-year, state-mandated review of its shoreline master

program.

Adamantly opposed by the aquaculture industry and most private growers, this is Pierce County's first attempt at regulating aquaculture practices. It requires a bond or financial guarantee of \$1 per plastic growing tube placed to "ensure that all aquaculture equipment — tubes, netting, and net-securing devices — will be completely removed." The language provides for forfeiture of the bond or revocation of harvest approval "if it becomes necessary for Pierce County to take action to physically remove the tubes." It sets limits on hours and days of harvest operations, prohibits permanent lighting, requires owner-identification of tubes and nets, and adds guidelines regarding the equipment and practices used by growers.

## Stakes raised

Aquaculture methods and their potential for either great benefit as a reliable food source, or purveyors of permanent aquatic harm, have drawn

the attention of the World Wildlife Fund, a worldwide conservancy organization. In mid-October, the industry's Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers' Association held its annual conference in Oregon. The afternoon prior to that event, conference attendees were invited to attend a half-day "Mollusc Dialogue" with WWF representatives from Washington, D.C. According to Colin Brannen, WWF aquaculture program officer, over 40 people participated, representing industry, the scientific community, Nature Conservancy, NOAA Fisheries, both Washington and Oregon SeaGrant chapters. Invited but absent were local environmental groups and Puget Sound Partnership, the organization created by Gov. Christine Gregoire.

In a telephone interview with the KP News, Brannen said three common goals were established at this first meeting: develop and implement verifiable environmental and social performance levels that minimize the potential negative effects of mollusc aquaculture; recommend standards that achieve these performance levels while permitting the shellfish farming industry to remain economically viable; and continue to promote the beneficial environmental and social aspects of shellfish cultivation. WWF has divided the globe into four aquaculture regions: United States/Canada, New Zealand, Europe, and Asia. A second dialogue is anticipated next fall in Vancouver, B.C.

Several WWF participants attended a conference held in Seattle at the University of Washington in September. There, aquaculture and marine scientists from several coastal states and countries met with local industry and growers, members of the Shellfish

Aquaculture Regulatory Committee (mandated by passage of HB 2220), and other invited guests. Recommendations from that conference are far-reaching and coincide with calls from both 26th Legislative District Rep. Pat Lantz and environmental groups for science and caution. (To read the document, go to [www.wsg.washington.edu/research/geoduck/shellfish\\_workshop.html](http://www.wsg.washington.edu/research/geoduck/shellfish_workshop.html))

Locally, the recently formed Case Inlet Shoreline Association has ramped up efforts to block a proposed 21-acre intertidal geoduck operation in Dutcher's Cove by resident and owner Andrew Sewell. Over the signature of attorney Richard Wooster, president of CISA, 560 letters went out in mid-October to shoreline property owners from Herron Island and north to the Pierce/Mason county border. In part, the letter reads, "Allowing expansion of industrial aquaculture with no understanding of its long-term effects poses a grave danger for Case Inlet and all who enjoy (its) pristine waters and beaches... Please join your neighbors in protecting our shoreline by pledging your support... It's imperative that we act now..."

Denise McElney, who spent her childhood at the family home on Dutcher's Cove, where her mother still resides, sent an email to the KP News identifying herself as an environmental aquaculture activist. "We believe these farms pose a threat to the health of Puget Sound and there is a significant lack of scientific evidence to support industry claims that geoduck fisheries do not have long-term adverse impacts," she wrote. "We support the Pierce County Interim Regulations, and the county (hearing) examiner's original determination to expire old permits."

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# BRIEFS

news

## Community Council has new directors, officers

The Key Peninsula Community Council held elections for its Board of Directors on Sept. 29. A record number of 210 ballots were received, and 62 new voting members were registered. Incumbents Russ Humberd (Area 1), Danna Webster (Area 2), Frank Shirley (Area 3), and Chris Fitzgerald (Area 4) were reelected to two-year terms. Newly elected were Jerry Libstaff (Area 2), Tara Froode and Barbara Schoos (Area 4). Interested residents or property owners in Area 2 are encouraged to apply for an as-yet unfilled director position in that area.

At the KPCC's annual membership meeting on Oct. 10, new members were sworn in and new officers were elected as follows: Humberd, president; Webster, vice president; Darcy Figuracion, secretary; Shirley, treasurer. Member suggestions that evening for the upcoming year ranged widely, and included a request for quarterly community information forums.

The KPCC continues to hold its regular monthly meetings at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the Key Center public library. The meetings are open to the public and interested individuals are encouraged to attend.

## Storm preparations workshops

The Pierce County Office of Aging and Long Term Care, Pierce County Emergency Management, and the Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County are jointly sponsoring "Preparing for the Storms," workshops intended to help residents get ready for the approaching fall and winter storm season. The presentations are free and will be held at various locations around the county. On the Key Peninsula, the workshop will be offered at 10:30 a.m. on Nov. 17 in McColley Hall at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, located at the corner of Lackey Road and Key Peninsula Highway.

## KC tree to be lit Dec. 2

The arrival of Santa on the Key Peninsula will be preceded by the annual tree lighting ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. at the Key Center Corral. Entertainment prior to Santa's arrival will be provided by Dr. William Roes and his

Hometown Band, along with the Key Singers and Boy Scouts. Cider and cookies for the event will be set up by Ruth Bramhall, along with a group effort from the Key Peninsula Business Association. The refreshments are provided by Ravensara and a local bakery.

The tree lighting is scheduled for 4:30 p.m., with someone from the crowd to be selected to "turn them on." Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive shortly after in their sleigh to hand out candy canes to children and pose for photographs.

## KPMPD holds 2008 budget hearings

Key Peninsula Metro Park District will hold meetings to discuss the 2008 budget: Tuesday, Nov. 13 and Monday, Nov. 26. The meetings will take place at Volunteer Park Annex beginning at 7:30 p.m.

## KPVI encourages young readers

Evergreen Elementary School kicked off the 2007-2008 reading program by providing each child with a free book. Office staff dressed up as different occupational workers, all in the spirit of encouraging students to build their reading skills. A donation from the Key Peninsula Veterans Institute was presented to Principal Jacquie Crisman by KPVI President Mike Coffin. Evergreen Elementary plans to have books available two more times during the remainder of this school year. The children, with great big smiles, proudly carried their new books back to their classrooms.

## Community input sought

Electronics, food waste, construction debris and appliances are part of a Pierce County proposal for more recycling options. The goal is to make garbage a last resort. Members of the Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee are visiting nine communities to collect public comments on the 2008 supplement to the Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan. The draft plan outlines Pierce County's recycling achievements and suggests aggressively building on that success with even more waste reduction programs.

A meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 27 at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road KPN in Lakebay. The session will include a 15-minute presentation and opportunity for public comment. To review a copy of the draft supplement, call 253-798-2179 or visit [www.piercecountywa.org/swac](http://www.piercecountywa.org/swac).

# Storm destroys boat



Photo by Kristen Pierce, story by Rick Sorrels

The storm that hit the Key Peninsula on Thursday, Oct. 18, caused the anchor supports to rip out of the bow of a 40-foot wooden sailboat owned by J.D. McGowan of Tacoma, while it was moored off the Purdy Spit. The boat drifted onto the beach, and by Friday, the weight on the fixed keel of the capsized boat caused a 5-foot by 30-foot section of the floor and hull to rip out of the bottom. Debris was strewn around the beach, including a galley table, drawers, cabinets, and other kitchen articles. On Sunday, McGowan, with a tear in his eye, worked fast with his faithful crew to beat the rising tide and dismantle his beloved boat with axes in order to drag the pieces to the beach to prevent a hazard to navigation. McGowan said, "There was no insurance."

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# Apollo 12 astronaut visits KPMS

By Cameron McMillan  
Special to KP News

Although Key Peninsula Middle School's partnership with NASA has expired after the end of the three-year NASA Explorer program last school year, the school is still in the space race. On Friday, Oct. 5, astronaut Dr. Richard Gordon visited the school, both to kick off the year and to celebrate his

birthday.

Gordon is a retired Navy captain who participated in the second to the last of the Gemini space flight missions, Gemini 11, and Apollo 12, the second of NASA's missions to land on the moon. A graduate of North Mason High School, he attended the University of Washington, where he received his degree in chemistry. After joining the Navy, he became a pilot, and was later accepted into the NASA test pilot program, eventually becoming an astronaut.

Gordon was the mission commander for the Apollo 12 flight. In his talk to the KPMS students, he jokingly summed up his duties during the mission by saying, "I was just the bus driver; I took the others to the moon and brought them home again."

During the mission, Gordon also performed one of the first space walks, or EVAs (Extra Vehicular Activities), to check and see if any damage had been done to the Apollo spacecraft by a lightning strike that occurred during the atmospheric portion of the flight. He

temporarily became partially blinded during the space walk due to sweat dripping into his left eye.

While making his presentation to the students, Gordon showed a film clip about his Apollo 12 flight and encouraged the kids to "take risks, because without risk there is no reward." The students seemed quite motivated by Gordon's remarks and enthusiastically cheered him when the assembly concluded.

Kareen Borders, the teacher who headed KPMS' partnership program with NASA, was glad that the school's ties with NASA are continuing, even though the grant has officially expired. The program can continue, in big part, due to assistance from the Boeing Museum of Flight in Seattle.

Borders said, "If not for the Museum of Flight, this never would have been possible." She said the school looks forward to maintaining its relationship with NASA in the future.

*Cameron McMillan is an eighth-grade student at Key Peninsula Middle School.*



*Photo by Mindi LaRose*

Special guest, astronaut Richard Gordon Jr. speaks to students at a KPMS assembly. Gordon walked in space on Gemini 11 and orbited the moon on Apollo 12, and was inducted into the Astronaut Hall of Fame in 1993. His advice to kids and parents was, "Let your kids take risks."



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# Devil's Head again on the block

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

On Sept. 28, a large parcel of land (95 acres, according to listing agent Janna Manson) at Devil's Head — previously eyed for a park — went back on the market. Timothy Jopp, who acquired the property in November 2005, is asking \$6.3 million, a figure equal to 300 percent of his purchase price (\$2.3 million). County documents confirm numerous violations incurred since his ownership and are still outstanding on the formerly pristine property.

According to Fidelity Title Co., property violations need not be corrected prior to transfer of real estate title, provided the purchaser agrees to take them on. If Jopp does not correct outstanding violations, they will fall to a new owner to resolve, mitigate, and pay for.

The Devil's Head property was one of many identified in a "Notice of Default" served on Jopp on June 8. A "Notice of Trustee's Sale," on behalf of Real Estate Management Corp. in Mount Vernon, was executed in September, and calls due Jopp's outstanding principal debt (\$1,348,556.54), plus delinquencies of

\$71,221. The trustee's sale is scheduled to occur on Dec. 21 at 10 a.m. at the Pierce County Courthouse lobby "at public auction to the highest and best bidder." Jopp has until Dec. 10 to cure the default by "paying the entire principal and interest secured by the Deed of Trust." As of Oct. 23, second-half 2006 and first-half 2007 real property taxes, interest and penalties on the land were still outstanding.

In a conversation with the KP News in September, former Pierce County Planning and Land Services planner Mike Kruger recalled a discussion with Jopp regarding his plans to develop Devil's Head into "some sort of resort," which was consistent with the then-ongoing KP Community Plan. However, Jopp did not pursue those intentions.

Jopp did not return multiple phone calls for comment from KP News.

At press time, Kruger confirmed the Devil's Head property is back on the county council's Conservation Futures list, although ranking low (No. 17 of 20 properties) among potential acquisitions. A final council vote occurs on Nov. 20 to determine which properties will receive funding resources.

## Earth Matters

Environmental News from Pierce County

### Let's Make Garbage a Last Resort

The Pierce County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) has some ideas to help us recycle more and put less in the trash. Now your input is needed.

You are invited to public comment meetings to share your thoughts on the SWAC's draft supplement to the Tacoma-Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan. Nine meetings are scheduled throughout the county—see the schedule at right.

Pierce County residents have recycled 7 million tons of material since 1990. But we have to do more to ensure a healthy community in 20 years.

The SWAC proposal suggests food waste collection, composting, electronics recycling, education and outreach, school education programs and business partnerships as ways to get us there.

Working together on recycling options, we can make garbage our last resort.

#### Please Attend a Public Comment Meeting

Nov. 27: KEY PENINSULA (7 p.m.)  
Key Peninsula Lutheran Church  
4213 Lackey Road KPN, Lakebay

Nov. 28: GIG HARBOR (6:30 p.m.)  
Gig Harbor City Hall  
3510 Grandview Street

#### For more information:

To review a copy of the supplement to the Pierce County Solid Waste Management Plan, call 253-798-2179 or go online to [www.piercecountywa.org/swac](http://www.piercecountywa.org/swac).



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# KP Metro Parks drafts plan

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

The Key Peninsula Metropolitan Park District Board of Commissioners continues to refine its first "Six-year Comprehensive Plan" and expects to pass an adoption resolution on Dec. 10 for submittal to the Pierce County Recreation and Conservation Office shortly thereafter.

In a public meeting on Oct. 22, KPMPD Executive Director Scott

Gallacher stated that, at present, the KP is "very open-space rich, and parks-development poor." For the entire peninsula population estimated at 18,000 residents, only one public park exists in each of three recognized county categories: Home Park, a 1.75-acre "neighborhood park"; Volunteer Park, a 20-acre "community park"; and Rocky Creek Conservation Area (leased from Pierce County), an "open space park."

Through creation of the comprehensive plan, the district's objective is to acquire Conservation Futures grant funding from Pierce County, as well as other funding sources, thereby increasing public-access park facilities for everything from walking trails to, eventually, indoor-outdoor recreation. Gallacher and the board are refining the plan, line by line, in an attempt to craft a document that will find favor among those with funding resources.

Public meetings featuring PowerPoint presentations will be held at two peninsula locations during November: Key

Center Library on Nov. 7, and Evergreen Elementary on Nov. 8, both at 6:30 p.m.

On Nov. 13, KPMPD will hold a special budget meeting after its usual meeting, and a final public budget meeting on Nov. 26; both are at 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park.

In conjunction with current efforts to acquire public lands for parks, KPMPD encourages residents to attend the final Pierce County Council public hearing on Conservation Futures allocations on Nov. 20 at the County-City Building, 930 Tacoma Ave. in Tacoma, at 3 p.m.

On the council's list for possible acquisition and funding are Devil's Head (currently ranked No. 17 of 20 properties on the list), and Taylor Bay, ranked No. 6, (which recently was approved for a \$500,000 grant by the Salmon Recovery Fund toward its purchase estimated at more than \$1 million). The council could amend the recommendations made by the Conservation Futures board, and re-prioritize the list.

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**November Calendar of Bands and Events**  
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**EVERY SUNDAY & MONDAY KARAOKE IS BACK**  
Sing Along with GARY 7-11PM

**EVERY TUESDAY** Open mic with BILLY FARMER 9PM

**EVERY WEDNESDAY** JUNKYARD JANE TRIO On Stage 6-9PM

**NOV. 2 & 3** HAYWIRE All Ass Kickin Country 8PM

**NOV. 9** BILLY FARMER & THE RAMBLERS Country and Old Rock and Roll 9PM

**NOV. 10** SPACEY JONES & THE WOLFTONES 8PM

**NOV. 16 & 17** BLUES ATTITUDE Hard Rockin Blues 8PM

**NOV. 23** RENEGADE TRAIN COUNTRY ROCK 8PM

**NOV. 24** POLLY O'KEARY Back with the ROCKIN BLUES 8PM

**NOV. 30** HOOK ME UP, Jazz 7PM

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**Thursday** - Steak Night \$8.95

**Friday** - Prime Rib \$10.99

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## Key Peninsula Community Services

### 2007 Volunteers of the Month

**July** - Peggy Ensor

**August** - Earl Saxer

**September** - Susan Cousins



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## Longbranch Improvement Club

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### Co-Ed Exercise Classes

**Aerobics** 9 am, Tuesdays  
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\$10 drop-in/ Series discount available

### Trunk or Treat

Community Halloween event  
Wednesday evening, **Oct. 31**  
Set-up trunks 5:30; Kids from 6-8 pm  
Free old-fashioned family fun

### LIC Meeting

**Dessert buffet Wed, Nov. 14**  
LIC General meeting 7 pm  
Free to the public. Come and meet your neighbors at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Family memberships available from \$15 per year. Join now and get the rest of 2007 for free.

### Thanksgiving

Thursday, Nov. 22

253 884-6022 for LIC info or rentals  
253 884-9157 for event info or tickets  
LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S,  
5 miles south of the Home Bridge  
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org



## Longbranch Community Church

[www.longbranchchurch.net](http://www.longbranchchurch.net)  
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# Youth center delayed by red tape

By Rodika Tollefson, KP News

The opening of a youth center dubbed the "Red Barn" has been delayed by several months due to unexpected requirements by Pierce County during the permitting process. Last summer, volunteer organizers believed they had jumped through all the hoops after months of red tape, and the center was on track for opening this fall. After moving to the next phase, however, the committee working on the project was notified it would need to pay more than \$15,000 in traffic impact fees.

"There was a slowdown (in the project) as we protested what we felt was a bit

excessive fees," said Pete Hedin, chair of the Red Barn Committee. "It was too much money (for us) not to stop and negotiate with the county. We got over that (hurdle) with some negotiations."

With those negotiations complete, the group was expecting permits to arrive in November, with work to start almost immediately.

The Red Barn, located in Key Center and currently home to Communities In School of Peninsula, contained a manufacturing facility several years ago. Except for the portion occupied by CISP, the building has been vacant. CISP will remain in its location, while the Red Barn committee will remodel the other

two portions into a drop-in youth center with a coffee bar. The center will be geared toward middle school and high school youth and host organized activities such as concerts, in addition to being available for free after school as a place for teens and preteens to come in, hang out, do homework or socialize.

The Red Barn Committee has been operating as an independent entity under the umbrella of Vaughn Community Church, but the center will be open to the public regardless of religious affiliation. A gymnasium and a basketball court are among the amenities being planned. Costs are estimated at \$80,000 and much of the construc-

tion will be done with volunteer labor. The group has not actively fundraised while waiting for approval, but will start soliciting donations once permits are in hand.

Because a wall has to be erected between CISP and the youth center, the construction timeline will depend on the weather. The committee hopes to see the center open by summer. Asked whether the opening of the new Gig Harbor YMCA, which also offers youth activities, has diminished the need for a local facility, Hedin said, "There is so much youth on the Key Peninsula, (this center) will already be too small. We need more facilities like this one."

# Fire District 16 tightens budget belt

By Chris Fitzgerald, KP News

Early in the first of several budget meetings of Pierce County Fire District 16, Chief Tom Lique laid out the basic challenge of the recent levy failure: "2009 is going to be a nightmare." Even with an estimated 3 percent to 5 percent 2007 budget carryover anticipated, the bottom line for fiscal 2008 looms red, making future years even more challenging. Lique was adamant that, "at this point in the budget of programs being cut, the commissioners should be part of this."

In response, Commissioner Jim Bosch said, "We can postpone for a year or two the agony of levy failure. Our job is to budget on what we have; if it means cutting minor programs — that's the way it plays out."

In a second draft budget proposal for 2008, reductions across the board appear. In the legislative category (commissioners), the budget assumption is that five board members' expenses will be accommodated, resulting in an increase in compensation, travel and registrations (conferences etc.), up \$26,200. Also included in the legislative budget is an Emergency Fund decrease from \$20,000 to \$11,000 in 2008.

Fire suppression and EMS (emergency medical services) training budgets for 2008 are reduced. The motor life boat budget (\$13,900 in 2007) is eliminated entirely.

The district budget draft has looked at everything line by line, from how long a backboard can remain in use before needing replacement to increasing

revenues by raising rental rates. Lique said, "I remain hopeful the public will see the value of (fire district services)," indicating that at some point he hopes to return to the public in a request for adequate funding for the growing fire district.

No new levy can be proposed until 2009, a budget year commissioners and staff are already fretting over. Bosch suggested "generating money by reducing or doing away with the free ambulance service." Lique has done some budget forecasts for 2009-10 and said, "It's not going to be a pretty picture."

Total revenue projected for 2008: \$4,463,278; total expenditures — the same, leaving no toehold of grace for 2009. A public hearing on the district

budget proposal will take place Nov. 12; modifications to the proposal can be made until Dec. 28.

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# Popular bed and breakfast is historic jewel

By Sharon Hicks  
Special to KP News

Situated in a serene surrounding on a hillside overlooking quiet Glen Cove is the Olde Glencove Hotel, established in 1896. Current owners Luciann and Larry Nadeau restored the historic building more than three decades ago, saving it from demolition.

The land was owned by Capt. Winchester and later purchased by Nicholas Petersen with the dream of building a hotel to support his wife, Agnes, and daughter, Louise.

This grand old building was a huge undertaking at that time and was constructed by using "balloon framing" from the ground up; the trees cut had to be big enough for the lumber. It was the only Victorian structure in the area. The steamship "Messenger" (part of the Mosquito Fleet on which Capt. Winchester arrived) delivered all the lumber and building supplies. Luciann says, "Petersen himself made all the bricks used in construction and some remain to this day."

Upon Petersen's death, the hotel went



Olde Glencove Hotel proprietors Larry and Luciann Nadeau. For more photos, visit [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).

Photo by  
Karina Whitmarsh

to Louise. It continued as a hotel until its closure in 1930, when it became utilized as a private residence for Louise, her husband and two children. An additional building was built with seven bedrooms. Each had its own running water but no toilet other than a central one to accommodate all rooms.

In 1972, Luciann and Larry Nadeau purchased the property and decided to

revive it by restoring it to a hotel and keeping the original architecture. Luciann recalls, "Our first guest was the (original) owner of O'Callahan's." About 20 years ago, she and Larry changed it to a "bed and breakfast" consisting of one guest room and later a second one. Currently they have four: two upstairs and two in an attached addition.

The Olde Glencove served as a stopover for many salesmen and Tacoma weekenders who traveled by steamboat until the 1920s, when roads were being built on the peninsula.

The current owners have maintained the antique hotel by furnishing it in Victorian décor and antiques, which has been an ongoing task for 35 years. A variety of memorabilia is part of the décor, including an old-fashioned wood telephone with a March 1949 Peninsula phone book, published by Sound Telephone Co. and containing many familiar names of early residents.

Larry's hobby is stained glass, so when he restored the main door window, he inserted a beautiful rose circle, leaving the original stained glass perimeter intact. One of the popular attractions is the gazebo they built several years ago for weddings. The gazebo is located by a quiet pond with fountain. A unique fairy-tale "secret garden" is also an addition to the grounds and can be viewed mostly from one of the guest rooms.

Nadeau says, "While most clients arrive by car, a few will travel by private boat and recently a couple arrived in a kayak. Guests usually stay from overnight to as long as five days." The hotel has seen as many as 12 guests at a time, usually when a party arrives for a wedding.

On May 22, 1978, the Olde Glencove Hotel was entered into the National Register of Historic Places, making it a true part of local history due to its unique architecture. This grand old hotel had endured three family generations before the Nadeaus took it under their care.

Luciann and Larry Nadeau plan to live at the property for the rest of their lives — or, as Luciann puts it, "until they carry me out feet first or God willing, the creek

## Happy Thanksgiving!



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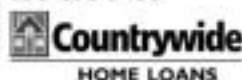
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# COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to [news@keypennews.com](mailto:news@keypennews.com) • Deadline 17th of the month

## Nov. 2, 5, 12, 13, 19, 26 – Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile upcoming schedule:  
Nov. 2 - 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Peninsula High School, 14105 Purdy Dr. NW.  
Nov. 5 - 12:30-7 p.m. Albertsons  
Nov. 12- 12:30-7 p.m. Albertsons  
Nov. 13 – 12:30-7 p.m. Peninsula Light 2nd floor meeting room, 13315 Goodnough Drive  
Nov. 19 – 12:30-7 p.m. Albertsons  
Nov. 26 – 12:30-7 p.m. Albertsons

## Nov. 2, 9, 10, 15, 30 – Mustard Seed meetings

The Mustard Seed Project invites all to join in the work of building an elder-friendly Key Peninsula by volunteering to gather information, review possibilities and create options for “aging in place” on the Key Peninsula.

The Key Senior Information Center Volunteer Meeting will be Friday, Nov. 2 at 10 a.m., Key Center Library.

Transportation and Mobility for Elders Community Task Group Friday- Nov. 9, 10 a.m., Key Center Library. Apply to be a Volunteer Driver on the Key Peninsula and come to this meeting.

Key Peninsula Opportunity Fair for In-Home Care Workers - Saturday, Nov. 10, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Key Peninsula Civic Center (please see ad in this paper).

Elder Health and Wellness Services Community Task Group - Thursday, Nov. 15, 10 a.m., Key Center Library.

Housing Options for Aging in Place Community Task Group – Friday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m., Key Center Library.

Contact: Edie, 884-9814 or [ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org](mailto:ediemorgan@themustardseedproject.org)

## Nov. 7 & 8 – ‘A Christmas Carol’

Key Peninsula Lutheran Church presents the classic Dickens tale “A Christmas Carol” at McColley Hall. This classic Scrooge and Tiny Tim story will be performed by KP Lutheran Church family and friends.

Dec.7, Dessert (6:30 p.m.) & Theater (7:30 p.m.) \$15 per person.

Dec.8, Dinner (6:30 p.m.) & Theater (7:30 p.m.) \$30 per person.

Seating is limited; make reservations

early. Tickets at the office, McColley Hall, Hwy 302 & Lackey Rd or 884-3312

## Nov. 8 – Helen Thayer presents

Helen Thayer, adventurer, author, and photographer presents “The Gobi-Labyrinth of Sand: Turning back is not an option.” She will share, in words and pictures, her 1,600-mile trek across the Gobi desert. At 63, Thayer and her husband, Bill, 74, set out to realize her childhood dream of crossing the entire desert on foot. Free.

Thayer’s book “Walking the Gobi” will be available for purchase and signing.

Thursday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m., Key Center Library; 884-2242, [www.helenthayer.com](http://www.helenthayer.com)

## Nov. 10 – Dance/auction to benefit Lindhartsen

A fundraising dinner, dance and auction will benefit the Joseph Lindhartsen family. Lindhartsen, who works at KC Computers, was diagnosed with multiple myeloma/plasmacytoma, a cancer with no known cure, in October 2006.

A silent auction will follow a casual “Down Home” spaghetti dinner that includes salad, bread and dessert served by Kyle Katers and On the Way Deli. The dance will follow the auction and features local musician Steve Smith and his band, who are donating their services. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at KC Computers in Key Center.

Items and donations for the auction may be brought to KC Computers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 12 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. Cash donations are also accepted and checks should be made payable to Joseph Lindhartsen.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 4:30 -10 p.m., KP Civic Center; Sheryl Mirenta, 884-5150

## Nov. 10 – Mushroom walk

Ranger Dan Christian will lead a mushroom walk at Penrose Point State Park. Walkers will go on trails and identify and learn about the found mushrooms. Meet at the bulletin board at the big parking lot near the main lawn area.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 1-3 p.m., Penrose State Park; Dan, 884-2514

## M&M organizes fish giveaway

More than 70 families were able to partake in a fish giveaway in October, thanks to M&M Ministries, based at Lakebay Community Church. Volunteers from the ministry get their fish from the Minter Creek Fishery by writing letters at the appropriate time of the year to receive approval for the event. Once approval is received, they check in with the hatchery to find the right run. “This year the run was early so our community got the cream of the crop salmon,” said M&M Ministries coordinator Diane Johnson.

Fish was even delivered to those who could not get to M&M due to the high winds or other reasons such as health or transportation. Howard Johnson, also a coordinator of M&M, was out until after 9 p.m. delivering fish to those who could not come. “Our team really banded together this year. Robert Lee aka the General was helping not only to give the fish away but he was also very helpful to those that came to M&M to have a hot cup of soup and some free food. We all are tired once it’s all over and done with, but it’s so rewarding seeing how thankful most people really are and to see smiles on most everyone’s face,” Diane Johnson said.

The Johnsons said they are thankful to the workers at Minter Creek Fish Hatchery, who “work hard during these runs and are more than happy to help ... when it comes time to serve our community.” “They take time out of their busy schedules to load the freezer, where the fish are kept, with smiles on their faces; once the freezer is loaded, they return to their work duties, Johnson said.

In the photo: Howard Johnson distributes the salmon he donates with permission from the hatchery. *Photo courtesy Diane Johnson*



## Nov. 10 – Christmas Bazaar

The Ruth Circle Annual Christmas Bazaar will include Christmas crafts and decorations, gift crafts items, white elephant items, books, plants and church recipe books. A raffle will be held. Rolls and coffee will be available.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Longbranch Community Church; Carol, 884-1305

## Nov. 11 – WWII casualties from peninsula honored

Of the several thousand servicemen and women of World War II from Pierce County, the Tacoma Historical Society has been able to identify and list at least 356 who died in that conflict. The names of those who made the supreme sacrifice are being placed on a WWII Memorial marker, which will be dedicated and installed on Veterans’ Day at the Tacoma

## Memorial service for Van Slyke

Harmon L. Van Slyke, lifelong Vaughn resident, died Oct. 23 in Tacoma. A memorial service will take place Saturday, Nov. 3, at Haven of Rest Funeral Home in Gig Harbor, followed by a reception.

War Memorial Park.

Among those who lost their lives during service in World War II the following were former residents of the Key and Gig Harbor Peninsulas: George Nelson, Douglas W. Mortensen, Harold E. Mitts, Kenneth W. Kirdendoll, Lyle S. Jones, John M Swensen, Raymond J. Edwards, Willard M Chessman, Carl W. Pearson, Robert H. Niemann, Herman Cecil Niemann, Sylvester M. Metzinger, Arnold J. Boers, Gordon L. Watkinson, Jess Clarence Thronson, Edwin James Wallen, Burton Arnold Gustafson, and Craig L. Shimpine. This list may not be



all-inclusive; however, honor is due to all of those whose names are listed and also to those whose records have been lost.

Monday, Nov. 11, 2 p.m., War Memorial Park, Jackson Ave & Hwy 16 (east end of new Tacoma Bridge)

## Nov. 14 – Habitat for Humanity fundraiser

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter of Habitat for Humanity hosts its annual fundraising breakfast to raise money for local Habitat for Humanity projects in Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. Any interested parties are invited to participate, either as an individual or as a host for a 10-person table, by contacting Carolyn Morris at 691-8891 or Lois Eyrse at 853-9641. Volunteers interested in future building projects should contact Cassandra Jarles at 627-5626 or email office@tpc-habitat.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, 7700 Skansie Blvd, Gig Harbor; 691-8891

## Nov. 14 – Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club is having a special program. Steve Vinisky, owner of Cherry Creek Daffodils in Sherwood, Ore., will speak about the cheerful spring flowers. He has judged daffodil shows in Ireland, England, Holland, and throughout the United States. All welcome. There will be raffles and door prizes. Admission is \$1 plus a nonperishable food item for the KP food bank.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, noon, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, 4213 Lackey Road, Lakebay; 884-3744

## Nov. 14 Little League registration

KP Little League registration for youth ages 5 through 18 will be at Key Center fire station on Nov. 14, 6-7 p.m. (also on Jan. 9). Fees: \$80 T-ball (ages 5-6), \$90 ages 7-16. Information can be found online at [www.eteamz.com/keypeninsulalittleleague](http://www.eteamz.com/keypeninsulalittleleague)

## Nov. 17 – Share a Story at library

Share a Story is an international art project. Children worldwide will read "Head, Body, Legs: A Story from Liberia," a folktale about cultural diversity and cooperation. After hearing the story, children in K-6 in each country will create their own head, body, legs art project. The art pieces from the different countries will be traded and in 2008 the elementary age children will receive pieces from the

different participating countries.

Saturday, Nov. 17, Key Center Library, 11 a.m.; 884-2242

## Nov. 17 – Key Peacemakers rally

The Key Peacemakers invite the community to join in a rally to protest the U.S. Army's School of the Americas in concert with the national demonstration at Fort Benning the same weekend.

Saturday, Nov. 17, noon, Purdy Bridge; 884-9299, [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)

## Nov. 24 & Dec. 8 – Watch wintering water birds

Ranger Dan Christian leads bird walks at Penrose Point State Park. Spotting scopes will be used to identify and learn about different species of water birds. Meet at the bulletin board at the big parking lot near the main lawn.

Saturday, Nov. 24 and Dec. 8, 10 a.m., Penrose State Park; Dan, 884-2514

## Nov. 24 & 25 – Winterfest at SAVE

Stop at the SAVE Thrift Store booth during PHS' holiday arts/crafts fair. Vintage and Christmas-related donations are held aside all year at SAVE to kick off the holiday season. On Saturday, Dec. 1, SAVE Thrift Store presents its own Holiday Open House at the store. SAVE Thrift Store's profits go toward scholarships and activity group needs at Peninsula High School. 857-2800

## Dec. 16 – Take a trip to Seattle

Jump on a motor coach and let someone else drive, pay the toll and park and head to downtown Seattle to experience the holiday season. Take a ride to Seattle Center on the monorail, venture to the Pike Place Market, ride the carousel, gaze at the lights, and shop for that last-minute gift. Depart Sunday, Dec. 16 from Volunteer Park at 10 a.m. and return around 8 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person (includes transportation and snack); lunch and any other necessities are on your own. Participants must pre-register by Dec. 7 by calling at 884-9240.

## Ongoing – Writers' Workshop

Lakebay Writers' Workshop meets each Thursday from 3 to 5 p.m. Writers and poets are welcome.

Key Center Library; Carl, 884-9671

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

## Claudia Jones

By Donna Gates-Smeall

Claudia Jones, a volunteer with the Key Peninsula Firefighters Association, can be frequently seen around the fire department as well as other functions in the community. She helps out with such activities as the annual pancake breakfast, the school supplies drive to help families with their students' needs for school, and the annual Santa run. "It is a privilege to do the Santa run and it is just a fun, fun thing to do," she says.



JONES

Jones says the Key Peninsula Firefighters Association should not to be confused with the Key Peninsula Fire Department. "Don't mistake me for a firefighter; I am not one," she says. The firefighters' association is the voice of the volunteers and the support system that was put in place to help firefighters achieve community-centered activities.

Jones, a 12-year resident of Vaughn, migrated here from Burien with her husband, Bill. They were in search of a quieter neighborhood with many of the same wonderful features of life they had in Burien. They raised four children and

have five grandchildren.

What Jones found here was involvement in many activities. "Volunteerism is my key hobby," she says. "I like to be helping... I gain such an inner satisfaction that comes from lending my support to the community, and recognizing that things could be accomplished to improve the community."

Her grandfather taught her the love of community and a devotion to volunteering. So she chose to follow in his footsteps. Jones also volunteers at Peninsula School District schools as a substitute; her hobbies include clogging at Key Peninsula Civic Center and boating.

She dabbles in many roles with the firefighter association, but fellow volunteer Ruth Bramhall said Jones is taking on the treasurer role for the association next year. Both women have volunteered many years with the association. Bramhall says, "Claudia is always willing with an 'I can do it' attitude and is great about stepping up to do the job, whatever it is," she says.

They welcome anyone who is interested in coming to the association. Jones says, "You don't need to be a firefighter to have a voice in the association and to help us with the programs." The association meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the Key Center firestation.

## OFF THE KEY

### Nov. 10 – 'Sing into Reading' at library

To celebrate National Children's Book Week, the Pierce County Library Foundation presents "Sing into Reading." This free program, for the

entire family, is a musical festival of songs, words and essential skills children need before they learn to read. Songs are a great way for children to learn pre-reading skills.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 2 p.m., Peninsula Pierce County Library, 4424 Point Fosdick Drive N.W., Gig Harbor, [www.piercecountylibrary.org](http://www.piercecountylibrary.org)

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# Celebrating the Key Pen farms

Key Peninsula's first-ever Harvest Fest and Farm Tour, celebrating the local farms and bounty, brought in a steady flow of crowds despite uncooperative weather. Several farms as well as local businesses participated in the festival, which included seven stops, live music, demonstrations, food, and more. The farmers also donated various items for a festival gift basket, which was presented to the winner, Ted Van Tuyl, by Liz Gegre and Cinda Baldwin of Windermere/Key Realty. See more photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com).



Left, Samantha Gray, Pierce County Farm Board assistant, visits with "Princess Fluffy Bunny," a pink-eyed angora rabbit, at Wong Farms.

Brianna Palmer and "Arrow" at Wong Farms.  
*Photos by Karina Whitmarsh*



Above, Coni Chaney of Fairview Acres gives a spinning demonstration to visitors. The Chaney's country store features a large supply of colorful yarns made from their own animals. *Photo by Mindi LaRose*

Left, Jeanie Murphy and Forest Newton (not pictured), members of "The Coattail Riders," entertain visitors at Wong Farms. *Photo by Karina Whitmarsh*

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# FD-16 STATS

## Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

### Sept. 8

Shortly after her wedding reception at Lake of the Woods, the bride fell, possibly fracturing her ankle. Paramedics and EMTs joined the bride and groom on their way to the first stop of the honeymoon, an ambulance ride to a Tacoma hospital.

### Sept. 10

A Lakebay resident called 911 and requested medics to assist with CPR on a dog. Although not equipped with veterinary medical experience, firefighters responded and provided support and assistance. The dog did not survive.

### Sept. 15

A Lakebay woman was assaulted by her husband and transported to a Tacoma area hospital by paramedics for further evaluation. The husband was taken into custody by sheriff's deputies.

### Sept. 17

Water rescue team members were

### September total calls: 146

Medical aid: 89  
Fires: 17  
Burn complaints: 13  
Vehicle crashes: 17  
Weather related: 0  
Other: 10  
Mutual aid: 10

dispatched to assist Thurston County with a body recovery in Case Inlet near Johnson Point after an adult male was found face down in the water.

### Sept. 21

Paramedics responded to a Lake of the Woods residence for a child choking. He was able to dislodge the corndog prior to arrival of medic crews, and did not require transport.

### Sept. 24

After several hours of trying to keep a tree from tangling with power lines, a Key Center man lost the tree to gravity, causing a power outage near Cramer



Photo by Hugh McMillan

FD-16 firefighters are battling a fire on 161st Avenue KPN off SR-302 on the morning of Oct. 8. The home suffered severe damage as the fire traveled through heating ducts from the garage to other areas of the home. Firefighters rescued two family dogs. The homeowner and her son were not injured.

Road. Firefighters responded to control traffic due to the live electrical wires down in the roadway.

### Oct. 1

A Key Center woman awoke to her German Shepherd, alerting her to the smell of smoke. When she went to investigate, she found her porch on fire. She attempted to extinguish it with a garden hose but was unable to control the flames, and called 911. Firefighters extinguished the fire, preventing further damage.

### Oct. 4

An elderly Longbranch man was found by his neighbor wedged between a post and a fence late at night. He was treated for injuries and possible hypothermia and transported to a hospital.

### Oct. 10

Five patients were transported from two separate multiple-vehicle collisions at the intersection of Key Peninsula Highway and 71st Street KPN. The crashes occurred a little over an hour apart and both resulted from rear-end collisions. A Kitsap County

medic unit assisted on the second incident and transported one patient. Two KP medic units and one aid unit transported the other four patients.

### Oct. 12

Firefighters responded to a motorhome fire on 30th Street KPS. First arriving units found the vehicle fully involved and the owners in custody of Pierce County sheriff's deputies. The fire was quickly extinguished and scene released to PCSO for investigation.

### Oct. 19

Firefighters and paramedics responded to a rear-end vehicle collision in the 11800 block of SR-302. The collision forced one vehicle down a 15-foot embankment before it stopped. The drivers were not seriously injured.

### Oct. 20

Firefighters responded to a fully involved car fire on Whiteman Road KPS. Vandals set fire to the abandoned car that had been parked along the roadway for several days. No one was injured.



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# The dive team job takes extraordinary qualifications

By Danna Webster, KP News

On Labor Day weekend, the Pierce County dive team responded to a drowning at Palmer Lake. Neighbors and family of the victim watched as the divers worked into the night and returned the next day to recover the body. Witnesses could appreciate the professionalism of the operation, which resulted in a successful recovery, but the full effort represented experience and training that was not readily apparent.

The Pierce County dive team is a 10-member group covering all the shifts of days, swings and graveyard. But diving is not a full-time assignment and every member has another job. The team averages 60 to 70 calls per year. They are responsible for 1,000 miles of shoreline and islands, 200 lakes of five acres or more, and three rivers, which require training for swift water rescue in addition to diver training.

The Palmer Lake response effort took 80 hours of the dive team time over two days of recovery operations, which required six divers, two boat operators, a 29-foot boat (transported on a trailer), and a portable sonar unit.

The group is a "good team with a lot of experience," says Deputy Bruce Johnston, a diver working on this recovery. At 55, he is the oldest member of the dive team. To prepare for his dive, he strapped on a 30-pound belt over his dry suit, slipped into the harness of his steel oxygen tank, checked out the speaker and headphones in his Intersperial dive mask, and confirmed he was wearing a high and low knife to cut away from possible traps. All together his gear weighed about 120 pounds. Once his backup diver was also ready, they boarded the water rescue boat and proceeded to search the bottom of the lake in a 20-foot diameter circle pattern. The diver searches systematically while talking through his line to the tender on board, requesting additional line to lengthen his search. The body of the Palmer Lake drowning victim was recovered about 24 hours after the accident.

The divers working that day had been through extensive technical training and are certified for dive rescue and for river rescue operations. The training has prepared them for conceivable and inconceivable situations. They practice



Photo by Danna Webster

Dive team member Deputy Bruce Johnston gears up for an underwater search of a drowning victim on Labor Day weekend at Palmer Lake.

performing rescue tasks under extremely stressful conditions, such as removing the air tank to enter narrow passages, having the face mask blacked out and working blind, and losing the face mask during maneuvers. They have responded to calls that require skills ranging from locating a suicide jumper to lifting helicopters out of Puget Sound.

The family of the Palmer Lake victim appreciated and cooperated with the diving team last Labor Day. Deputy Johnston says that helped the divers significantly to do their job.

For all the sophistication of his training and the equipment, his advice to those who play and work around the water is basic and simple.

"Wear a life vest," he says. "Know how to swim if you are going to be around water. Know the limits. The Puget Sound temperature gets about 55 to 57 degrees. In cold water, you have a 50/50 chance of surviving a 50-yard swim (before hyperthermia sets in)." And when there is an emergency and help is needed, "the sooner we get a call, the sooner we can respond," Johnston says.

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(From PLAN, Page 1)

Avenue and State Route 302. In that case, the parcel classification Futurewise objected to was "swapped" at owner Jarvis Owens' suggestion (made during public testimony), with another property he owned directly behind it lying within a different classification boundary. A second property on Futurewise's change list was a parcel in Longbranch acquired by Mike and Denise Hays, owners of the Longbranch Mercantile. Speaking before the council, Denise Hays said plans they had worked on for five years, both through the county and within the KP planning process, would be impossible to implement with the proposed change. No solution was presented; speaking to Hays, Lee said, "I think we can work with you (to find a workable resolution)."

Addressing the audience, Lee said his concern at this late hour was "how to keep this plan out of an appeal process." In an interview, Kruger told the KP News he had never heard of Futurewise until the organization's letter. Dated Oct. 9, the letter had the subject line "Please reconsider the proposed Key Peninsula Community

Plan." The letter illustrated the group's success "less than two weeks ago" of an appeal to the Graham community plan. Kruger launched into action, alerting the community of proposed changes and meeting with Futurewise to craft a workable solution.

Lee told the audience at the meeting, "My hat is off to Mike (Kruger) for trying to prevent (an appeal action)."

The new ordinance now goes to the county executive, who has 10 days to sign and return it to the council. At that point, a 60-day appeal period begins. If no appeals surface, the plan will be fully approved. In the interim, the county executive is making his recommendations for appointments to the new Key Peninsula Advisory Council. Made up of local KP residents, the KPAC will work "hand-in-hand with Pierce County to develop the rules and regulations of the KPCP — the teeth of the plan — (to determine) the specifics of what can occur where (within the plan boundaries)," Lee said.

Lee stressed the importance of continued community involvement in that process. He anticipates the rules, regulations, KPCP, and KPAC will be in place by April 2008 to use as a guide to future development.

### KEY PENINSULA METRO PARK DISTRICT PUBLIC MEETINGS ON DISTRICT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

These meetings are being held to allow public comment of the plan. The meetings will be held on November 7th at Key Center library, and November 8th at Evergreen Elementary library. All meetings will be from 6:30-7:30 pm. A copy of the comprehensive plan will be available on the Park District's website or by contacting the Park District's office.

**2008 Budget Hearings** —Key Peninsula Metro Park District will hold two meetings to discuss the 2008 Budget on Tuesday November 13 and Monday November 26. The meetings will take place at Volunteer Park Annex beginning at 7:30 pm.

Key Peninsula Metro Park District (KPMPD)

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# SalmonChanted Evening to benefit nonprofits

By Jeanette Brown  
Special to the KP News

The bi-annual SalmonChanted Evening benefit gala returns to Gig Harbor on Nov. 10, with proceeds to benefit two nonprofit organizations, Harbor WildWatch and Hands On Art, both of which serve Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula.

The volunteer organizers anticipate 200 salmon-loving supporters to donate \$60 each for the opportunity to attend this year's artistic and culinary salute to salmon and to participate in an auction of "whimsical salmon sculptures." The artists, who donated weeks of their time to create the unique art pieces, can be credited for speaking for the hushed salmon through their creative medium.

The artists, who submitted sketches with their application, received their 40-inch fiberglass salmon molds in February, and then used different mediums to sculpt with and work their artistic magic. The beautiful salmon were ready for public display at various locations in Gig Harbor by May.

"Last year the bidding was lively, and the average auction price of donated artwork was \$3,000. This year, we begin the fundraiser with a silent auction featuring the 15 salmon sculptures, followed by the salmon dinner, and then present the salmon sculptures again at live auction," said event co-coordinator, Bill Fogarty, owner of Water's Edge Gallery and Framery. "We had over 200 artists apply this year and the 15 that were selected basically started with raw fish on a stick."

Proceeds from the 2005 benefit were split between Hands On Art and Harbor WildWatch, which received funds of \$34,000 and \$33,000 respectively. Fogarty co-founded Hands on Art along with Kit Kuhn, owner of Kit A Jeweler Designed for you in Gig Harbor. Kuhn is credited with lobbying the Peninsula School District in order to bring recognition about Hands On Art educational programs, which are currently being implemented at four elementary schools in the district.

Mary O'Boyle, the volunteer parent director for the Hands On Art program at Vaughn Elementary School, learned about the program through Kuhn's sister, who works at the school. "The program started at Vaughn last year and is basically run by parents," she said. "This year we are selling cards with pictures of the salmon sculptures for a fundraiser... and we are



Photo by Karina Whitmarsh

Key Pen artist Adria Hanson's "Salmon in Obscure Places" is one of the salmon sculptures that will be auctioned off.

SalmonChanted Evening is at 5:30 p.m. at Best Western Wesley Inn in Gig Harbor on Nov. 10. Members of the Gig Harbor Fishermen Club donated the salmon for the dinner.

recruiting more volunteers."

Four times a year, volunteer docents attend training sessions taught by artists recruited for the program, and then the docents teach what they have learned to students. More than 200 volunteers helped bring Hands On Art to local classrooms last school year. The program identifies the area schools lacking sufficient funds for art programs; at some point in the future organizers hope to expand the program to include all schools in the district.

Harbor WildWatch is a another nonprofit success story and was started by Dee Dee and Bruce Holser. One of their programs, "Get Your Feet Wet," was implemented at Kopachuck and Joemma beaches, where groups of people were led on beach walks by an environmentalist from the parks division.

When local artist Pauline Winchell suggested implementing an outdoor sculpture display of salmon in Gig Harbor after she saw a similar salmon art exhibit in Anchorage, Alaska, The Gig Harbor Gallery Association decided to revive its nonprofit status through The Finholm Marketplace Association, and SalmonChanted was set in motion. The event has become a very successful, community-driven endeavor, and is expected to raise enough proceeds from November's auction and dinner to expand programs through both of the nonprofits that it funds.

# Veteran community volunteer celebrates 80th birthday

Marguerite Bussard, who has lived her whole life in Longbranch, celebrated her 80th birthday among friends and relatives at the Longbranch Community Church on Oct. 20. More than 150 people turned out for the event. She joined the Key Singers to entertain her guests with several numbers.

Bussard was born in a little house by the side of the road near the current storage facility near 40th Street. She walked across the street to elementary school, where the Longbranch Improvement Club field now is. Her mother, Ida Curl, donated land for the Longbranch fire station, and her grandmother, Elizabeth Curl, was instrumental in organizing an English speaking church in Longbranch.

Marguerite Curl and Raymond Bussard were the first couple married in the current Longbranch church, where she has been active all her life.

Besides her church involvement, she has long associations as chaplain for VFW and Key Peninsula Veterans Institute, Key Singers, KP Community Services, Key Peninsula Historical Society, Bayshore Garden Club, and other groups. She organized and is current president of Ashes, and became Lions Club Citizen of the Year in 1988.

Bussard continues to step in to give her talents, time and energy where she sees a need.

— Colleen Slater, KP News



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Marguerite Bussard with her friend, Drew Gazabat, at her 80th birthday celebrated on Oct. 20 at the Longbranch Community Church with many friends and well-wishers. She said she wasn't surprised by the number of guests: "I'm certainly pleased they joined me. The weather couldn't have been nicer."

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(From **FLAVOR**, Page 1)

programming.

The Civic Center was filled to capacity for both silent and live auctions. There were more than 225 items available. Silent auction items included original art, organized theme dinners, gift baskets and countless other treasures. Guests placed bids on paper and watched as others walked by and raised the ante. At announced times throughout the evening, tables were closed to bidding while people scrambled to have the highest offer and secure their favorite items.

During the event, TWAA President Frank Garratt opened a "Raise the Paddle Auction" so people could strictly bid donations. The auctioneer began the paddle event at \$5,000 and as the bidding for each amount subsided, lowered the amount to the next level. That process alone raised \$18,000. Later in the evening, a live auction included such prizes as a flight to the San Juans with lunch, a photography tour of Mount Rainier, professional landscape design and 10 nights/nine days in



*Photos courtesy Katy Macdonald*

Frank Garratt, TWAA president, speaks about the two gala sponsors, Two Waters Arts Alliance and KP Civic Center. He later "auctioned off" cash donations in a new event, "Raise the Paddle Auction," which brought in \$18,000 out of the \$57,000 raised. Below, Maggie Macdonald raises her paddle with a generous cash donation by the Macdonald family, active supporters of both organizations.



Key Penner Theresa Walters (front) has been one of the loyal supporters of the gala and a former longtime event volunteer. Her husband, Charlie, and her friend, Laure Nichols (Franciscan Health System VP), are seated next to Walters. See more photos at [www.keypennews.com](http://www.keypennews.com)

New Zealand. The bidding was spirited and guests made a huge effort to acquire the items they wanted. It was an evening of enchantment and in the end more than \$57,000 was raised.

"It was a fabulous affair, the best we've had, thanks to everyone in the community," said Claudia Loy, one of the organizers and the founder of the event.

Flavor of Fall goes back many years and has become an anticipated event. The program has traditionally sold out.

Untold hours were contributed by members of KPCCA, TWAA and the community at large. Members of the team include but in no way are limited to: Loy, Brynn Rydell, Betty Kelley, Kristin Bottiger, Kathy Bauer and countless others.



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## District-wide school improvement planning under way

Teachers, administrators and parents from all Peninsula School District's schools are working on a school improvement plan tailored to their buildings' needs. The goal is to enhance student achievement by developing individualized goals and action plans for each school.

The three-year process will include the creation and implementation of a School Improvement Plan (SIP) that will have measurable goals. The plans are similar to the Building Academic Achievement Plans that schools have developed in the past, but uses a consistent blueprint that is aligned with state educational requirements.

"This is consistent with what the state is doing, but each school will work on unique goals and plans," says Assistant Superintendent Shannon Wiggs.

The SIP process was launched at the end of last school year, and leadership



*Leadership teams from all PSD schools are participating in a recent session on School Improvement Plans.*

teams were created in each building consisting of teachers, administrators and parents. The leadership teams are participating in training and will develop and monitor the plans, which will be developed based on various data and will focus on reading, mathematics and other core areas.

Last year, three PSD schools participated in a school improvement process and have seen positive results. The schools, Henderson Bay High School, Key Peninsula Middle

School, and Peninsula High School, are serving as resources for the other buildings and continue to move forward.

"The School Improvement Plan is a very directed and consistent process," says Assistant Superintendent Claudia Thompson. "At the end of this year, the goal is for each building to have a quality School Improvement Plan that follows the format and is focused on the academic achievement of students."

### NOVEMBER 2007

- 3 Peninsula High School Boosters Auction 5:00 p.m. Canterwood Golf & Country Club. For more information contact: Jane Ostericher 858-6011.
- Gig Harbor High School Ski Swap 7:00 a.m.
- 8 School Board Regular Meeting 6:30 p.m. District Office
- 12 No School—Veterans' Day Observed
- 15-17 Gig Harbor High School fall play The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940. It is a very funny murder-mystery (not a musical). Tickets are \$5 student \$7 adult and may be purchased at the door. Showtime is 7:00 p.m.
- 22-23 No School—Thanksgiving Break
- 24-25 Peninsula High School Winterfest Saturday, November 24 from 9-5 & Sunday, November 25 from 11-4. Admission is \$3.00. A PHS tradition for 14 years. Call Sandi Malich for more information: 253-858-8674.
- 27 Peninsula School District Band Festival 7:30 p.m. at Chapel Hill for all PSD middle schools, PHS and GHHS.

### PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



*Peninsula High School's Marching Band performing an elaborate homecoming half-time show.*



### Learning & Teaching

The Mission of the Learning & Teaching Department is: To provide the vision and leadership necessary to improve the learning of all students. To promote and support excellence in teaching by all instructional staff. To serve as an advocate for education in the Peninsula School District.

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 Roxann Tallman, Executive Assistant  
 Sarah Drinkwater, Executive Director, Student Services  
 Cathi Sagstad, Program Administrator, Student Services  
 Amy Nelson, Director, Assessment & Research

A sampling of helpful links at PSD website: [www.PSD401.net](http://www.PSD401.net)

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 K-10 Math Curriculum  
 Parent Resources  
 Regular and Emergency Bus Routes  
 Safe Schools Lifeline  
 School Closure and Emergency Information

# Deanna Russell regular vendor at Winterfest

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Winterfest is a longtime tradition at Peninsula High School, which organizes the event as a fundraiser for various school activities. Deanna Russell, a Key Pen third-generation ceramics creator, has been a Winterfest vendor for "at least 10 years."

Russell, who has a shop and gives classes near her Minter home, says doing ceramics is her sanity check. With two active boys, she needs a getaway space, although she has family nights in the shop, where the boys do their own creative work.

Russell does four shows a year in October and November: Winterfest, plus one in Silverdale and two in Poulsbo. She fills eight large tubs with colorful products to carry to the shows.

She began drawing at an early age, but has also taken classes, and is a certified Duncan instructor. Her love of ceramics began in her Grandma Jane Van Slyke's basement, where she, her sister, and mom went to learn, have fun, and help her grandmother. One of Grandma Jane's rules was, "You have to finish the back,

too."

Russell has "Open Door" one night a week where her students and friends come in to do whatever project they'd like. She also holds set classes where the students do a particular process from start to finish. She tries to keep the atmosphere laid back and casual, so people can be at ease to learn and create.

Russell makes about two-thirds of her molded pieces, and uses some molds and a kiln used by her grandmother. Some pieces are too inexpensive to make herself.

She prefers doing brushwork, because there is more creativity involved, but also does "fun stuff," such as adding beads and "cookie cutter" pieces to her brightly colored cake plates. Rolling out the clay like cookie dough is called slab work, and either cookie cutters or freehand designs can be made that way.

Her snowman plates, containers, and ornaments are always popular products. Each year, she designs something new, and this year it is penguins with snowflakes. Each is hand-painted, so there are not exact duplicates.

Russell asked for a booth change this year so she could have her own lights.

## Winterfest 2007

This year's Winterfest is Nov. 24 and 25. Admission is \$3, with proceeds benefiting Peninsula High School's Associated Student Body.

She's been at the same corner since she began, and hopes her new situation will be just as good.

Event coordinator Sandi Malich says about 60 percent of the Winterfest vendors return each year, and those who sign up a year ahead get a discount, which makes her job easier.

High school students help vendors set up, and are gofers as needed during the event; many of them also man food booths. The cheerleaders sell baked potatoes, boys' basketball team provides hot dogs, and there are burgers, tacos, salads, chowder, as well as several espresso stands to provide refreshments. All proceeds benefit student groups at the school.

Some students come around and serenade, says Russell. "Winterfest is fun, but with over 200 vendors, it's a sensory overload," she says.



Photo by Hugh McMillan

Deanna Russell with her ceramic wares at last year's Winterfest.



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*"Tough times never last, but tough people do."* author Dr. Robert Shuller.



# Artistic exploration leads to lampworking

By Jerry Libstaff

Brynn Rydell moved to the Key Peninsula from Gig Harbor nearly three decades ago. Their home had been built from timber cut and milled on the property and was rather rustic, with a trash burner in one corner and no running water.

Over the years they have improved and added on to their cottage until it's become a work of art. The home includes an original stairway that used to be outside and led to an attic space. Now enclosed as part of the living space and climbing to rooms, the stairs themselves have become a pallet of color and design. "We talked about replacing the treads but I felt the distressed wood added to the character of the stairs. There are nail holes made by my kids when the stairs were still outside" Rydell says. "I didn't want to lose that."



**The Genuine  
ARTICLE**



Photo by Jerry Libstaff

Brynn Rydell in her Vaughn studio.

Though Rydell already knew people in the area, she made new friends quickly. Two of those were artists whose medium was weaving. "The art community was huge here and I became deeply involved. The other weavers were incredible artists and though I enjoyed weaving, I felt that I should find my own direction," she says.

She felt she might excel at some other form of art and took several classes but became frustrated that the artistic endeavors didn't seem to touch her. Another local artist, Jan Buday, asked Rydell if she's like to work with beads.

She had incorporated beads into some of her weaving and didn't think that was something she wanted to pursue, until Buday explained she meant "actually creating the beads."

When Rydell learned that the process entailed molten glass and bead design, she became interested. "My first attempt didn't turn out well. But when Jan asked if I'd like to try it again, I agreed. In fact, I had to try it again," she says.

Rydell says the process "consumed every ounce of me." Motivation found her and she has been creating glass jewels on the Key Peninsula since.

The process is known as "lampwork bead making," named years ago when artisans created their beads over lamp flames. To many, the technique is now called "flame-working" since the glass is melted and worked over a torch flame of oxygen enhanced propane.

Rydell says, "Five years ago, if someone told me I'd be making glass bead art, I would have fallen off my chair laughing. Now it's what I do." When she explains the process, she glows with passion. "Molten glass has taught me patience. If you write

and misspell a word, you can correct it. If you make an error with molten glass, it's gone," she says.

Rydell admits there are mistakes but says, "Sometimes mistakes can become a discovery... (When making glass art) at times the colors argue with each other. You can fight it or just be satisfied with the argument."

Rydell still weaves and creates canvases to display the jewelry she makes from her beads. She has been delving into work with driftwood and silver in recent months. The driftwood pieces hold her displays and recently, have been turned into attractive table lamps. Her exploration with silver enhances the jewelry she creates from her glass work. She explains, "I've found I love working with silver. I create pendants and bails to attach to the beads."

Rydell knew there was a process out there that would express her feelings. She explored several possibilities until the right one captured her. The search was definitely worth her time.

*Jerry Libstaff is a writer who lives in Vaughn.*



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(From YANITY, Page 1)

cence. The electorate will determine truth or falsity at the election. The recall will go forward."

On the day before the hearing, Yanity said in an interview, "I would actually welcome a recall vote. The truth will come out. I will prevail." After the hearing decision was announced, when asked if he would appeal the decision, Yanity said, "I haven't made that decision yet."

The next step in the recall process is the gathering of signatures from registered voters. State law allows six months to gather signatures "equal to 35 percent of



YANITY

the total number of votes cast for all candidates for the office to which the officer whose recall is demanded was elected at the preceding election." This exact number has not yet been determined.

Bosch said, "I won't be gathering signatures myself; a committee will form and accomplish that task. Potential committee members have been identified. They expect to start collecting signatures in about 30 days. Over 2,000 signatures will be needed to provide a safety margin for potential invalid signatures."

The Auditor's Office reports there are 9,302 current registered voters within FD-16. This number includes absentee voters who live outside the district.

Mike Salatino, who heads a committee working to recall both Yanity and Bosch, said, "They both have to go. We can't put up with their antics any longer. This

committee is being careful in gathering evidence to ensure that both Yanity and Bosch are recalled from office. We've documented a number of very serious discrepancies and instances of wrongdoing and conflicts of interest. We expect to file recall petitions in a couple of months."

With the time needed to gather signatures and prepare the matter for ballot after signatures are verified, the voters might expect to see the recall on the ballot as early as the August 2008 primary election.

When asked for his response to a possible recall petition to be filed by Salatino, Bosch said, "If they come up with something concrete that I willfully did wrong, then I will seriously consider resigning instead of facing a recall. If I don't belong in office, I'll be the first

one to remove myself."

Yanity is also facing a criminal charge of felony assault against Bosch, with a jury trial set for Nov. 13. If he is convicted of a felony, he would automatically be ineligible for office, and the position would be declared vacant. It remains to be seen if an appeal of a felony conviction would allow Yanity to stay in office pending the outcome of the appeal.

If Yanity is found not guilty in the criminal trial, or if he is found guilty of a misdemeanor instead of a felony, he would still face the recall that Armijo authorized. In a recall election, the voters, through the ballot box, act as the judge and jury to determine guilt (recall) or innocence (stay in office). The evidence is usually presented to the voters through the media.

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# Out & About

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*Photo courtesy Kay Thompson*

Lisa and Ryan Barringer with their children, Gracie, Caleb and Simon, are voting in the KP Community Council elections on Sept. 29 at Peninsula Market.

Steel erection at St. Anthony Hospital in Gig Harbor started in mid-October, with as many as five truckloads to arrive Monday through Friday, for the next six weeks. Erecting steel is scheduled for completion in mid-December, a construction milestone that will be commemorated with an official "Topping Out" ceremony. Franciscan has begun accepting applications online for four key positions at St. Anthony Hospital (see [www.FHShealth.org](http://www.FHShealth.org)).



*Photo courtesy FHS*



Award-winning singer Cliff Eberhardt, who performs all around the country, entertains at the home of Jerry and Pam Libstaff during a "Words and Music" program benefiting Sylvia Haase and Virginia Liebergessell, whose house was destroyed in a fire just days before. The program, which included a reading by local poet Debra McElroy, was sponsored by Watermark Writers, founded by Jerry Libstaff. *Photo by Rodika Tollefson*



Above, Bob Paradise gears up to go surfing at the Purdy Sandspit. Other surfers call Paradise the "mayor of Purdy" because of his frequent surfing at that location. *Photo by Mindi LaRose* Below, left to right, Ivy Antonsen, Nancy Cramer, Joan Stemwell, Suzanne Doyle, Marcia Horan, and Joanne Mullen, at a recent gathering at the Longbranch home of Horan. Seven girls, born in the mid 1930s, met in elementary school, and formed lifetime bonds at Franklin High School in Seattle (the seventh friend, Mary Jane Murdock, took the photo). Careers, marriages, babies, deaths, divorces, and other life events drew them closer together. They met for Christmas parties, luncheons and dinners, as well as for marriages, funerals, and other occasions for the past 50-plus years since high school graduation. Horan is a popular hostess for their girlfriend summer weekend getaways. *Photo courtesy Marcia Horan*

