

autumn on the Key



A special supplement to the Key Peninsula News

KP fall events and calendar

October

- 1** – Adult Co-ed Softball – KPMPD*
- 4** – Emergency Preparedness Forum - Vaughn Elementary - 6 p.m.
- 7** – Pee Wee Indoor Soccer – KPMPD*
- 9** – Columbus Day observed
- 11** – Community Council Members Meeting - KPMS - 7 p.m.
- 12** – Real Columbus Day
- 15** – Men’s Basketball – Volunteer Park - KPMPD*
- 19** – Emergency Preparedness Forum - KPMS - 6 p.m.
- 24** – 7 p.m. – Peninsula School District Choral Fest at Chapel Hill Church, Gig Harbor
- 27** – 6:30 p.m. Evergreen PTA Harvest Festival
- 28** – Noon-3 p.m. – Key Peninsula Historical Society meeting, KP Civic Center
- 28, 29** – Softball Tournament – in costume - KPMPD*
- 29** – Daylight Savings time ends – Set your clocks to FALL back one hour
- 31** – 6-8 p.m. Halloween party, KP Civic Center – 884-3456

November

- 1** – Emergency Preparedness Forum - Evergreen Elementary - 6 p.m.
- 11** – Veterans’ Day; Flags at Vaughn Cemetery if weather allows
 - 11** – Ruth Circle of Longbranch Community Church Holiday Bazaar - 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
 - 16** – Forum on Rural Blight - KP Lutheran Church McColley Hall - 7 p.m.
 - 18, 19** – Softball Tournament – Turkey Trot theme - KPMPD*
 - 23** – Thanksgiving Day

**For KPMPD events, call 884-9240 for information.*

Photo by Mindi LaRose



Fall is a good time to get out on our beautiful Key Peninsula to admire the changing hues of trees and shrubs, note the gardens full of colorful dahlias, asters, chrysanthemums and other late season bloomers, and take in a few special events. Soon, chilly and wet weather will creep in, and a cup of hot chocolate or cider by a cozy fire will appeal more than venturing outside.

Plan ahead for year-round garden color

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Fall is the season when bright annuals droop and die back, and many folks ignore their gardens to withdraw inside warm homes. Plants can be added to the garden for interest in gray and wet winter months, from now on through the spring parade of bulbs.

October is an ideal time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and spring bulbs, while the ground is still workable, and before frosts and heavy rains arrive. Fall planting allows the plants to send down roots and get well established before summer heat returns.

Sunnycrest Nursery's Claudia Loy is excited about the big fall crocuses, including the saffron crocus, — which does have edible stigmas that add color and flavor in cooked dishes. These need to be planted immediately, but pop up quickly for a spring-like show this fall.

All spring bulbs can go into the ground now, but their planting season can stretch into November. Crocus, daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, and a myriad of tiny bulbs can provide a brilliant display with little work. Some can be planted in decorative containers for indoor bloom through the winter months, including amaryllis, paperwhites, and certain hyacinths.

Various grasses are good for winter interest in the garden. The carex tribe — leather leaf sedges — are good choices, including Red Rooster and Bronze Sedge for autumn tones that carry through.

Winter-blooming heathers, those that are “bud-bloomers” that hang on into winter, or heathers with red or orange foliage are good additions for easy care and hardiness.

Some sedums bloom well into December, and winter pansies, prim-

The carex tribe — leather leaf sedges — are good choices, including Red Rooster and Bronze Sedge for autumn tones that carry through.

roses, and ornamental kale carry on bright colors past them.

Red-berried shrubs such as skimmia, pyracantha, cotoneaster, and nandina, or heavenly bamboo, brighten up a dreary day. Nandina is a barberry, not an invasive bamboo, and stays evergreen. Beautyberry bears brilliant purple berries, and euonymus grandiflora is hung with little yellow “lanterns” that open to reveal red berries during the winter. Some holly plants have yellow berries, and some have variegated foliage, too.

Boston ivy, with incredible fall colors, and burning bush (euonymous) are good fall into early winter plants. Rudy Haag is the most compact burning bush, but still needs space or pruning.

Golden Monterey cypress Wilma Goldcrest is a special year-round tree, with a plus for winter. It has chartreuse foliage and a lemony scent.

Daphne odoro, an evergreen, releases its fragrance in February, while winter jasmine is not fragrant, but has clear yellow flowers that bloom well before the golden forsythias.

The abundance of plants that can be planted to increase the color show from now until late spring is more than one gardener can manage, but a favorite or two, added each year, help keep those winter blahs away.



Purple asters make a bright display until frost.

Photo by
Colleen Slater

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'The best hobby in the world'

By Kristen Pierce, KP News

It all began back in 1946. As a 10-year-old boy, Orrie Moore was given two common pigeons from his father. He raised them in an old chicken coop on his family's farm in Kingston. Moore started entering the birds into pigeon shows two years later.

By 1959, he was an avid member of the NPA (National Pigeon Association) and one of only four international pigeon judges in the United States. He has been a master judge of all breeds since 2003.

In 1964, Moore and his wife, Barbara, moved to the Key Peninsula, where they refurbished an old farmhouse. The house was sitting on 10 pristine acres of land, which is now known as the Moore Farm. Until 1969, Moore worked as a sheet metal worker for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton. In 1972, he started his own floor covering business where he still works today, even though he admits that at his age he should settle down and take it easy.

Not just dedicated to birds, Moore has been happily married Barbara for 53 years. The couple met when he was 7 and Barbara was only 5 years old. They have four grown children, three daughters and one son. His son lives a few miles away in Home.

"It's great having him so close by," Moore says. "I just pick up the phone, give him a call and he'll pick me up and take me anywhere. We run around together all the time."

His hobby has taken him on extensive travels, local and worldwide. With the assistance of fellow pigeon enthusiasts, many years of breeding, showing, and judging pigeons, Moore compiled information for his "African Owl Pigeon,"



published in 1990. It was primarily about that particular special breed of pigeon.

The African Owl, from Tunis, Africa, is just one species of almost 700 different breeds of pigeons from all over the globe. There are also the Mookee, from India, the Srebrniak from Poland, the Zitterhal Standard Shaker and the Berlin Long Faced Tumbler from Germany. That's just a few. Many species, including the Homing Pigeon, that is familiar to most people, originated in Germany.

Keeping busy, Moore and his birds participate in various events on a regular basis. They were part of the Agri-Vision Center at the Key Peninsula Fair. Although there was no competing or judging at that time, Moore still loved an opportunity to simply show off his collection of pigeons and educate the public,



mostly youngsters, about the many varieties and exciting aspects of his hobby. He has been known to give his birds to kids in hopes that they, too, join his passion. Shortly after the fair, he and his birds competed in the Spanaway Lake Park Lawn Show, where one of his African Owl Hens won the Reserve Champion (which means second place). Then he was off to a show in Sunnyside, near Yakima. Later in the year he will show and judge in the Winter Show at the Puyallup Fairgrounds.

Moore and his wife have a large enough family room to accommodate



Orrie Moore with a few of his pigeons at the Key Peninsula Community Fair. Left and above, African Owl Pigeon.

Photos by Kristen Pierce

the numerous trophies and plaques from all of his first- and second-place winnings. He takes an abundance of pride in his favorite hobby.

"One of the reasons I raise pigeons and give them to kids is to help keep them at home and off the streets. It is a good, clean hobby," he says. Moore feels strongly about kids having hobbies, especially boys. He adds, "They need something to teach them responsibility and keep them busy."

He also says Pierce County is trying to enforce a new licensing fee for raising pigeons, even if it is just a few birds. This concerns him, as most young kids won't have the money to pay for it each year, and this may deter them from starting the hobby in the first place.

Until then, though, he hopes kids will continue to learn about all the different varieties of pigeons and how to take care of the birds. Because, as Moore puts it, "It's the best hobby in the world!"

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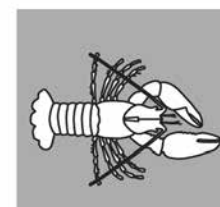
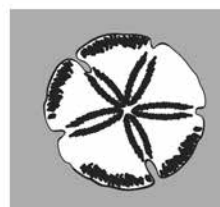
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Pumpkins, scarecrows, and ghosts . . . it's that time of year again

By Kristen Pierce, KP News

Fall is a beautiful season on the Key Peninsula, with the entourage of colors supplied by Mother Nature's palette of autumn-time hues.

As cooler winds sweep away the last warm air of summer, days grow shorter, and leaves begin to change color, various shades of crimson, magenta, rust, and gold adorn majestic maples, oaks, and other deciduous trees of the area.

Beside the visual beauty of the season, fall offers other ways to tantalize one's senses: sight, smell, and of course, taste. Local farms have luscious, sweet white and yellow corn ready for the pickin' to be cooked and smothered in butter or maybe used in Grandma's secret cornbread recipe. Local farms are bursting with ripened pumpkins, just waiting to be brought home for the traditional Thanksgiving pumpkin pie.

Carving a Jack-O'Lantern is a tradition that dates back to Ireland, once used to house candles and shelter the flame from



Left, outside decorations. Right, scarecrows are found in many people's gardens and also as a decoration during the fall season. Below, one of Larry Wingard's giant pumpkins.

Photos by of Kristen Pierce and Colleen Slater.

the wind. The modern pumpkin can be carved into countless shapes and designs, ranging from the old-fashioned eyes, nose, and mouth design to intricate ghoulish and rather spooky Halloween designs.

Decorating tips: Keep it simple and wholesome. Arts and crafts stores, dollar stores or other discount stores have a variety of decorations.

On the Key Peninsula where all kinds of creative festive items can be found in abundance, the natural way is an option.

Outdoors, bales of hay look great with pumpkins of assorted shapes and sizes, ears of corn, and autumn leaves gracefully placed on top. Homemade scarecrows are always a big hit and if you can't find the time or resources to make your own, the dollar stores usually have a great assortment of scarecrows, already clothed in this autumn's latest fashion ensemble, for under \$10.

Indoor decorations can vary from simple to elaborate. Drape autumn leaf vines over the fireplace mantel, bookshelves, countertops, and use for tabletop centerpieces. This vine is very easy to manipulate and shape and is a great way to introduce the fall colors into the home. Go to the local market or farm and pick out a variety of ornamental gourds to place around the house. An English tradition is to poke cloves into the skin of an unpeeled orange for a delicious smell, and insert pennies for good luck. Include these with an assortment of ornamental gourds for a table centerpiece. Add an aromatic pumpkin/spice candle to burn throughout the fall months... mmm... talk about smelling good!

Put a spooky spin on fall decorating with a variety of easy, fun, and inexpensive projects. Collect all those backyard stray tennis balls, rubber balls, fallen apples, or any other round objects. Get an old white sheet or cloth, cut it into 12-inch by 12-inch or slightly larger squares, wrap the ball in the square, fasten with yarn or a rubber band and you've made a little ghost. Give it a face with a black marker. These little ghosts can be hung from tree branches or shrubs in your yard or inside your home. Bags of



cotton spider webs cost \$1 a bag and will turn any respectable home into a "haunted house" in minutes. The webbing can be adorned with "glow in the dark" spiders, which most companies include in the bag.

If you enjoy the macabre, grab several pieces of large styrofoam forms, the larger the better (most stores use this for packing and will be happy to give it to you) and a can of gray spray paint. With a little practice, a small can of black paint, a small paintbrush, and some reshaping, you'll have a whole cemetery of headstones for your front lawn.

Another inexpensive and quite practical decoration is a pumpkin-faced leaf bag. Just rake leaves into piles, stuff them into the assorted sized pumpkin bags, seal with a twisty and there's your very own pumpkin farm! If your yard has a shortage of leaves, stuff the bags with newspaper or plastic grocery bags. For those windy October days, place a large rock into the pumpkin bags to keep them from visiting the neighbors' yards.

Embrace the natural beauty of the Key Peninsula during this time of year. Stop at the local farms and corner fruit/veggie stands. Pick up ideas from their decorations. Be leery of those ominous figures waving to you off in the distant fields as you drive around... though, they're probably just scarecrows...



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