

Nominees For Citizens of the Year

Shirley Tomasi

Even though Shirley doesn't live on the Key Peninsula, in her volunteer work she continues to include the Key Peninsula in all her activities as Executive Director of the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Cultural Arts Commission. She has brought artists from around the region and locally to the Key Peninsula Civic Center, along with other musical entertainment and dance from cultures from around the world annually. She has brought a bit of culture to our Peninsula for many who can't go out for it. Shirley also sits on the board of the Communities in Schools of Peninsula and the Gig Harbor / Peninsula Area Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the board of directors of the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Action Coalition among countless other activities, and has since her arrival in the area sought to bring our two peninsulas amicably together.

Mary Ramsdell

Mary has been a shining light on the Key Peninsula for many years. Starting as a volunteer with the Fire Department, she recently ended a 23-year career there. She has touched many lives, one at a time, and always with care and kindness that often goes unrewarded but always noticed. She and husband Fred have been regulars at organizing and working on all aspects of the Firefighters' Ball, Firemen's Muster, playing Santa and Mrs. Claus, running the kitchen and other aspects of fire district fund raising. But most importantly, she is someone on whom you can always rely for a friendly smile and assistance without let-up. Mary is an excellent candidate for Citizen of the Year.

Ann Waldo

Ann became involved in our community from the moment she moved here. Attending Home Town Meetings from the beginning, her informed contributions and vision have helped bond the community and she has made many friends. She was an important component in the success of the Home Centennial in 1996. Ann is currently a member of the Bayshore Garden Club, and most importantly is a driving force behind the Key Peninsula News as Co-Editor. Ann is very deserving of being Citizen of the Year.

Ross Bischoff

Ross has been a valuable member of our community for more than three decades. Among his first contributions, he was the Agricultural Education Instructor at Peninsula High School. But, he was more than just a teacher, he was a friend, a counselor and a parent to many of the kids on this Peninsula long before kids at risk became the term we are all so familiar with now. He made a huge impact on many lives. Long since retired from teaching professionally, he continues today to be involved in many of the lives he touches daily. His involvement in the Gig Harbor Farmers

Market helped create the success it continues to enjoy, and he also sits on the board of the State Farmers Market Association. Locally, he is very involved in salmon recovery and enhancement programs taking place around the Peninsula. He sits on the Advisory Committee of Natural Resources for the Career Pathways program for Peninsula School District. He is a member of the Key Peninsula Business Association and on the Board of Directors for Communities In Schools of the Peninsula. He is an incredible leader, motivator and seems to stay forever young through his zest for life. He is most deserving of being Citizen of the Year.

Gary Gunn

Gary has been a quiet contributor to this community for many years now. He is the point person for blood drives locally. He volunteers regularly to bartend at local fundraising events and always adds his dry wit and good nature to the mix. He was deeply involved in the success of the Home Centennial celebrations. When Gary walks through the community, he always carries a bag to pick-up garbage as he goes and in general is a good citizen and Veteran. He is deserving of being Citizen of the Year.

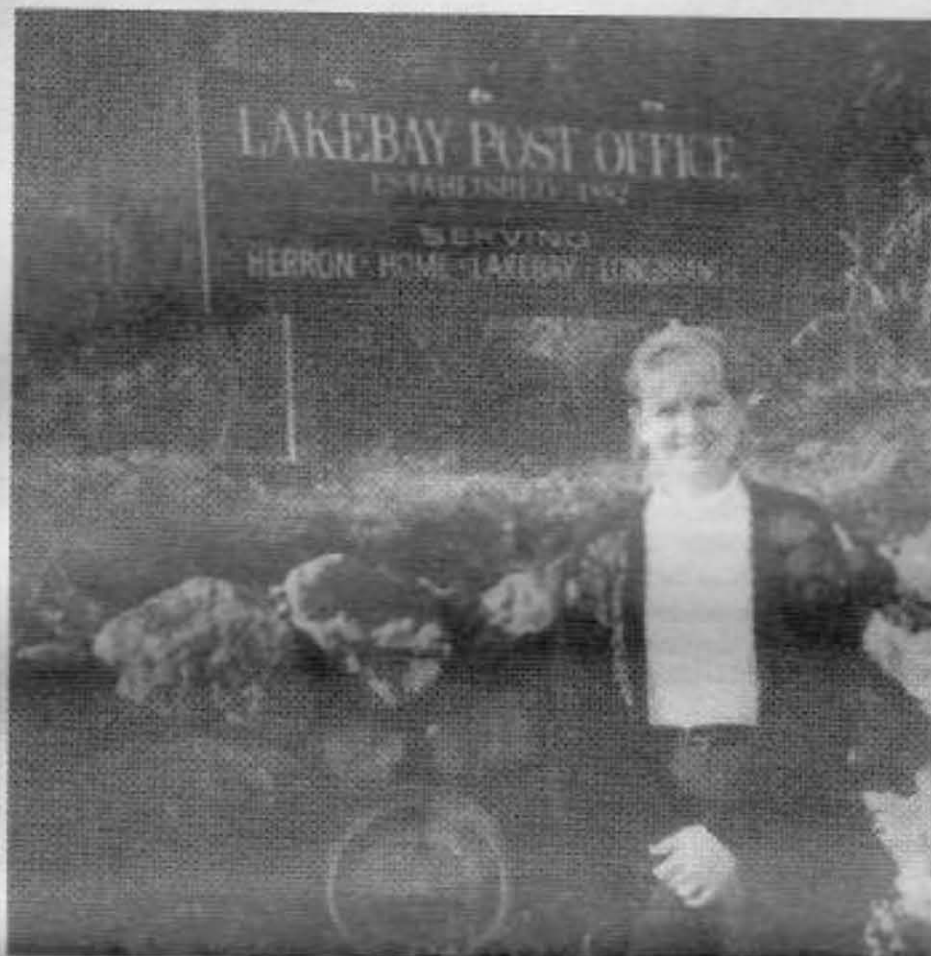
Chuck West

Chuck continues to be a selfless contributor to this community. Being a career firefighter is a perfect career choice for Chuck but a huge part of what he brings us goes beyond his firefighter responsibilities. Chuck is the President of the Key Peninsula Business Association for the second year in a row. He is actively involved in the organization's activities such as Ciderfest, the Christmas Tree Lighting each year in Key Center, the scholarship program and much more. He is also a member and past president of the Fire Fighters Association, coordinating volunteer activities. He has always been deeply involved in making a success of the annual Firemen's Muster. He is always prepared to share his time and expertise with anyone in need. He deserves to be Citizen of the Year.

John Glennon

John Glennon has actively supported the Longbranch Improvement Club's many activities for years and has been helpful throughout the KP community. But his major contribution, one no one else is capable of, is his trick of turning into Santa Claus each year. He becomes the red and white clad old elf throughout the Puget Sound area to the delight of kids young and old. This jolly veteran of the D-Day landings deserves recognition as an important Citizen of the Year.

More Nominees for
Citizen of the Year on Page 14



New Postmaster: Rachel Detwiler

WHO'S NEWS ?

Meet A New Postmaster, Rachel Detwiler

The Lakebay/Home/Longbranch/Herron Post Office has acquired a new postmaster. Rachel Detwiler recently transferred from Gig Harbor to the Lakebay office following her second attempt to be here in a quieter, smaller facility. She has been with the US Postal Service since 1985, after taking the advice of her brother (also a postmaster) to try it out.

She and her husband live on Fox Island and have an eight year old daughter, Rebecca. One of their favorite past-times is gardening. She says her husband's passion is his lawn, but she fancies flowers, especially lilies and other bulbs. This year she planted only 3,000 bulbs—one year, it was 10,000! And she had the blisters to show for it.

You may notice that there has been some remodeling of the Post Office, which has been time consuming, but Rachel is looking forward to finding time to clean up the yard also and add more flowers. I'm sure we'll notice the difference soon.

Welcome! Postmaster* Detwiler!!

*that's what he said says...

Editors' Notes

As you may notice, we are trying to "cover the waterfront". Our main concern is to inform you of the many and diverse activities available at the KP Civic Center, but we also want to make this little rag useful and interesting to all of you on the Key Peninsula. And there is a lot going on here!

We welcome your original submissions and creative ideas, especially as related to the people and events on our unique peninsula. We need to have material by the 20th of the month for the next month's issue, and even earlier is very helpful. Please try to limit articles to 350 words when possible, and we reserve the right to edit them. Pictures are also interesting.

We are trying out a new feature: "Who's News?". If you know someone you would like to see featured, please leave a message for Ann or Marty at the Civic Center or phone 884-4699 or 884-2213.

Our wonderful ad man, Bob Stackhouse, has been away on a vacation, so there have been some glitches in the system. Patience, we're working on it, and Bob will be back soon.

KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER

FROM THE OFFICE

By Vicky McClung

Writing this column is not easy for me!

Sandy McFarlane was so good at writing the column for both of us that I've found one more reason I miss having her here in the office.

Those who attended **Winter Visuals** on February 5th will agree this event was a grand success. The visual artistic presentations were so impressive and the performing artists were so entertaining that the auditorium was packed throughout the day. Aren't we fortunate to live in this community surrounded by so many talented people? We thank the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Cultural Arts Commission for bringing this event to the Civic Center.

Look elsewhere in the paper and you'll find the KPCCA Calendar of Events for the year. Hopefully you'll be excited about the return of **Reno Night**, scheduled for April 29, as well as the addition of two new fund raisers, namely a **Roadside Antique Show** and an **Art Auction**. More news on each will follow as the event dates draw nearer and the event chairman begin to call for volunteers to help make these events successful. We are also pleased to announce that the **Firefighters** have agreed to co-sponsor **Halloween** this year — watch for the return of the **Haunted House!**

SPECIAL NOTES

* TCC Classes at the Civic Center have started....beginning watercolor and drawing/tapestry. Call with your ideas for more classes next session.

* Many thanks to the Seniors for running the Winter Visuals Kitchen. The group worked a total of 52.5 volunteer hours.

* Also, many thanks to T.O.P.S. for running the Scouts Blue & Gold Event Kitchen. Their total volunteer hours most likely equals that of the Seniors.

* Call 884-3456 and let us know when you have time to volunteer. We can use your help!

Living And Learning On The Key Peninsula

Mark your calendar NOW, Thursday, March 23rd, 2000. The place to be is the Longbranch Improvement Club for the annual spring meeting and potluck of the Key Peninsula Historical Society. Yearly membership dues of five dollars per person can be paid at this meeting. The potluck will start at 6:30 PM, bring your own table service. A short business meeting will start at 7:30 PM with the election of new officers. An excellent program by Ed Nolan, Curator of Collections for the Washington State Historical Museum will start at 8:00 PM. If you need more information Contact Tim Kezele at 884-4538.

REMEMBER THE MUSEUM IS OPEN THURSDAY AND SATURDAY FROM 1:00 - 4:00 PM OR BY APPOINTMENT. CALL 884-4538.

KPCCA Executive Committee 2000

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884-2566

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(Maintenance)

Lloyd Miller

884-2536

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:

Betty Kelley

884-4126

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884-2481

AT LARGE:

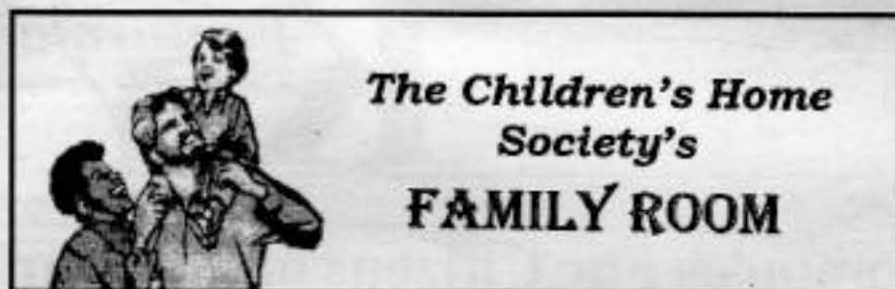
Sylvia Haase

884-3603

PAST PRESIDENT:

Dale Loy

884-4169 or 884-3937



The Children's Home Society's FAMILY ROOM

Spring is around the corner and we are beginning to see more sunshine. This is a good time to start getting outdoors. Many of us are affected by the gloomy winter "blahs" and can benefit from the opportunity to get outdoors. Here are some ideas to help shake off those winter blues.

- * Take A walk
- * Plan or plant a garden
- * Do Spring Cleaning
- * Open the Windows/Air Out the House
- * Go Bird Watching
- * Participate in Local Activities

There are several programs in the planning stages at Children's Home Society Family Resource Center in Key Peninsula. There will be a series of parenting classes being held Thursday evenings beginning on March 30th from 7:00 - 9:00 PM. Child care is available upon request. The topic on March 30th will be Uncovering the Mystery Behind Child Protective Services (CPS). The topic of the April 6th program will be a presentation on The Juvenile Justice System and Family Law. April 13th we will have a guest speaker to talk about ADHD/ADD.

March 23rd will be a special art event for school-aged kids at the Civic Center from 3:30 to 5:00 PM. This is a free program. Please call Edie Morgan at 884-5433 to register.

Special Event: **Toddlers' Art** at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, March 22nd at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

The Junior Daffodil Parade will be held in Tacoma on April 8th starting at 10:00 AM. We would like to invite families to join us in marching in the parade. Please call Rosalyn Alber at 884-5433 for details.

The Relatives Raising Children group meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month. The afternoon session meets from 1:00 - 2:30 PM, and the evening session meets from 7:00 - 8:30 PM. Childcare is available upon request. Call 884-5433 for details.

TWO CONTESTS !!!

1) INTERNATIONAL OPEN AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST: With Cash Prizes. One photograph in only one category: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor, Portraiture or Other. Color or Black & White print, unmounted, 8 x 10 in. or smaller. Include photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and title of the photo.

Send to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-9007, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Must be postmarked by March 31, 2000.

2) "IN OUR OWN WORDS"—TEEN POETRY/FICTION CONTEST. Open to teenagers, 12 to 18, living in Pierce County. Sponsored by Pierce County Library Foundation, Tacoma Public Library, Puget Sound Poetry Connection and Pierce Transit. Winning poems and stories will be published in a commemorative book as well as excerpted on Pierce Transit buses.

Cash prizes will be awarded in two age groups (12-14 and 15-18) and in two categories, poetry and short story.

Entry forms will be available beginning Feb. 15 at local middle and high schools, public libraries and some Pierce County Transit locations or downloaded at www.piercetransit.org. For more information call Teresa Guajardo at Pierce County Library, 536-6500, ext. 103.

Lakebay Youth Earns 4-H Member Of The Month Award

Steven Wolverton of the Key Peninsula Blues 4-H club has been chosen as 4-H member of the month by the Mason county leaders council. Stephen has been enrolled in 4-H for 5 years with his pygmy goats and art projects. He has worked very hard earning many blue ribbons and last year, grand champion at the Mason County Fair with his pygmy goat "Peanut". He then qualified to compete at the Puyallup state where he won a fifth place rosette ribbon. This year at only 10 years of age he has been elected vice president of his club. Stephen is also a great student at Evergreen Elementary School, an active Cub Scout and enjoys playing soccer and baseball, making him a well rounded and busy person. Congratulations, Stephen, and keep up the great work.



Steven Wolverton



THE LAW COLUMN

by Michael Misner

Our family had another wedding the past weekend. This is the third one in the last three years. As we have been scurrying around putting the final wedding arrangements together, I had a chance to talk to my son and answer his questions about estate planning and all of those kinds of things that no one thinks about when they are young and free.

There was a bit of irony in his questions in that he and his twin sister were born on the day I graduated from law school and now, here he and I were talking about legal matters. He asked me a few questions and I told him some basics that I think apply to most young couples just getting started in life.

Do we need a will? Not necessarily at this age. Since the newlyweds don't really have anything in the way of property, everything they acquire from this day on will be community property. If one of them should die, that share of the estate passes to the survivor whether you have a will or not.

If we don't need one right away, when should we get one? As soon as the first child is born or as soon as you have a net worth that includes a home, a pension fund at work and maybe your first life insurance policy.

There was one point I wanted to make clear as a result of lessons I have learned over the years -- no matter how much money the new couple has, as soon as the first baby arrives, an appointment with a lawyer should take place. Why?

If a disaster happens and both parents are

killed, someone will need to raise the little one. I have seen the grief that goes with losing a child compounded by the grief that takes place between competing grandparents as they both lay claim to raising their newly orphaned grandchild. Aunts and uncles can also find themselves in the mix.

A will can select a guardian for the child that is the mutual choice of the baby's parents. That decision is honored by the courts unless there are some truly compelling reasons for it to be disregarded. The mom and dad should also provide that life insurance proceeds could be used to help raise the child while in the care of the guardian. It is also possible for the policy to be used to finish or add a room to the home that is about to receive the new addition to the family.

I told my son that he should visit his lawyer each time a baby is added to the family or at least every three to five years or so just to have his estate reviewed. Wills can be affected by new laws passed by the legislature or Congress and this is especially so if estate planning is based around tax concerns.

Weddings are wonderful times for families. The joy of the day for all concerned is a sweet moment as the generations gather to celebrate an ancient tradition. As happy as the day is for all concerned, it is also a reminder that decisions made from this day forward affect a family - not just two individuals, taking care of the legal paperwork is but another part of providing for those you love most.

Letter To The Editor:

To the Editor:

January 29, 2000 turned out to be a great day in my life. Many friends and family went to a lot of effort to put on a retirement party that I won't soon forget. It was with a glad heart that I looked over the room full of people, all there to wish me the best in the future.

As with any event, there are a few that work very hard to make it come about. Ruth Branhall, I am sure, held the title of chief shopper and hot stove chairperson. She and other members of the Key Peninsula Sportsmans Club did the muscle work. Kathy Hale was in charge of the "sneaky roasting" portions. Tim Hale handled the parched throat relief station. Dee Dee and Andriene also carried a heavier load during these last few weeks. Since this was all done without consulting me, I don't know all the others involved, but you know who you are. I do want to thank all of you. The food was great and plentiful and the sto-

ries, well they were —!! Well, I guess everyone should have to sit in that "HOT SEAT" once in their lifetime.

There were a couple of people who had to leave before I could talk to them. I did see you across the crowded room and appreciate you sharing the evening with me.

Thank you all for the cards, great parting gifts and above all, the memories.

Mary Ramsdell
Recently retired from the Key Peninsula Fire Department

Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17th!

KPCCA Board Meeting Minutes February 10, 2000

The meeting was called to order by the President @ 7:00 PM.

The following motions were seconded and carried:

- To accept the January board meeting minutes as written.
- To try recycling at the Center for six months to cut back on garbage. Volunteers will be responsible for getting recyclables to recycle center.
- The following new members were added to the KPCC Board: Jerry Davis and Marty Marcus.
- Edie Morgan (Children's Home Society) and volunteers will host a skate and or dance night once a month at the Center for 9th to 12th graders.
- To let Lakebay Fuchsia Society have a compost area behind the annex.
- To accept Lila Garrison as custodian at the Civic Center.

Treasurer's report will be sent out to members when it is ready.

Newspaper Report

The editor asked that the chairperson of each event be responsible for getting information/pictures to the paper for publishing. The KP News budget was given by Ann Waldo.

Children's Home Society- Lots of needy people in the community. Little buddies working on getting the herb garden at the Center put back in shape.

VEW- April 29th they will be hosting a community "Loyalty Day" at the Longbranch Improvement Club. Must have reservations in by the 1st.

Historical Society- Tim Kezele reported that the Museum is now open for the new year with lots of improvements.

Building & Grounds- Loyd Miller reported that the fire department ran tests on fire alarms and they all worked. Heat pump was fixed, however, the cost went over the estimate by \$135. A group of volunteers will be laying carpet in the apartment on the 19th and 20th of February.

Announcements- Jerry Davis from Citizens Against Crime announced that there would be a free spaghetti feed on February 24th. Anyone concerned about crime in our area is invited to come. Please contact Jerry for more information at 884-3386.

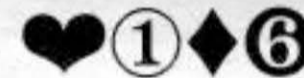
Meeting adjourned.

Kristen Bottiger, Secretary



RENO

NIGHT



Key Peninsula Civic Center

APRIL 29TH 2000

For more information and dealer training
please call Ed Taylor

884-3600





A View From Home

by Marty Marcus

Probably the best present I ever received as a child was a hand-me-down twenty volume set of the Book of Knowledge. Using it as a teacher, I became an accomplished reader before entering first grade, and my infatuation with the printed word has never diminished.

Another present that came some years later, from a dear friend who was a plumber, was a big Webster's Unabridged dictionary, and I've been a dictionary "browser" ever since. My ability as a speller seems to have decreased as my age has increased, so I turn to the dictionary more frequently to check on the spelling of various words. But I also scan the pages for other words that are totally new to me.

In the process of poking around in a dictionary recently, I came across the word "salmon". Now there's a common word if there ever was one, at least here in Washington. I thought I'd see what the dictionary had to say about it. Sad to say, not much. The first definition was that it was a marine and fresh-water food fish having pink flesh and found off the North Atlantic coasts of Europe and North America. Then it gave the generic name for several species found in the North Pacific. A final definition was that it was a term used to denote a light yellowish-pink color.

Maybe this particular dictionary was printed before "salmon" became an argument-starting word in places as disparate as the local tavern and the floor of the United States Senate. Maybe it's not just my dictionary that's behind the times. Maybe there are too many of us who see salmon only as a "food fish"; or only as something to justify our resentment of Native Americans; or as a likely cause of an increase in the cost of electricity; or as being responsible for a drastic reduction in logging activities.

Maybe it's time we looked at salmon as being a cornerstone species in the whole Pacific coastal ecosystem. We're all familiar with the picture of bears and eagles eating salmon, but tiny shrews eat bits of salmon carrion left behind by larger carnivores. Have you ever

seen a dipper, also known as a water ouzel? This is a bird that actually walks under water, feeding on insect larvae, as well as on salmon eggs. Other animals that eat salmon include gulls, goldeneyes, loons and ravens, fish such as sculpins and suckers, mink, foxes and Wolverines.

Decaying salmon carcasses provide nutrients for microorganisms that then become food for animals higher up on the food chain. The innards of salmon left lying about on land enrich the soil and thereby increase the growth of green plants which absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen.

And then there are people. Looking at the Kenai River in Alaska, for example, we find that between May and August, as many as 350,000 people visit that river. The commercial fishers and the sport fishers annually pump about 200 million dollars into the local economies of that river area.

Do we still have the opportunity, and the resolve, to bring a similar picture back to reality here in Washington, or have we already passed the point of no return?



BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

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

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Amnesty International 2nd Thursday at 7:00 PM Key Center Library
Ashes 1st Monday at 10:30 AM Key Center Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 4220 Tuesday-6:00 PM - 8:00 PM - KPCC Whitmore Rm.
Cootiettes 3rd Thursday at 7:00 PM KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
KPCCA Exec. Comm. 1st Monday - 7:00 PM Civic Center
KPCCA Board 2nd Thursday - 7:00 PM KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
KPCS Board 2nd Monday - 10:00 AM Comm. House - Home
KPHC Board 4th Thursday - 7:30 PM Health Center
KP Lions Club 1st & 3rd Wed. - 6:30 PM KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
VFW & Auxiliary 2nd & 4th Mon.-7:00 PM CC/VFW Room/Wm Rm.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Fire Commissioners 2nd Wednesday - 7:00 PM Key Center Fire Sta.
2nd Monday after 2nd Wednesday at 4:00 PM Key Center Fire Sta.
KP Parks & Rec. 2nd Monday - 7:00 PM Volunteer Park Annex

SELF-HELP GROUPS

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

SOCIAL & HOBBY GROUPS

Bayshore Garden Club 3rd Friday of each month, for more information call Sylvia Retherford at 884-2487. Longbranch Improvement
KP Historical Society 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM KP Historical Museum
Museum Open Thursday and Saturday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
LB Improvement Club 3rd Friday - 7:00 PM Longbranch Improvement
Peninsula Neighbors 3rd Wednesday - 7:00 PM Longbranch Fire Station
Lakebay Fuchsia Society 1st Thursday - 7:00 PM Brones Rm./KC Library
Ruth Circle Meeting 3rd Monday - 10:00 AM Bible Study, lunch

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

To Subscribe, Please Write,
Call or FAX:
Key Peninsula News
P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394
(253) 884-4699
FAX: (253) 884-4053

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1. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS is a community newspaper, owned and published by the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION, a non-profit, 501-C3, corporation with main offices in Vaughn, Washington. The name, goodwill and any copyright assets that may exist pertaining to the NEWS are among the financial assets of the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION.
2. The primary purpose of the NEWS is to serve as communication between the KPCCA Board (and its activities) and the residents of the Key Peninsula, generally corresponding with the defined geographical area of Pierce County Fire District 16.
3. The secondary purpose of the NEWS is to serve as a communication means between the KPCCA member organizations and the residents of the same area.
4. The NEWS shall be entirely free of political bias, and shall advocate no particular religious point of view. Further, its service will be open to all local organizations and residents, subject to the availability of space and generally accepted good taste and legal considerations

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

Editors: Marty Marcus, Ann Waldo
Ad Sales: Bob Stackhouse
Production: Alice Tramil
Staff Reporters & Staff Photographers:
Hugh McMillan, Anne LaCroix, Lori Deacon
Proof-readers: Marty Marcus, Ann Waldo
Accounting: Christy Lyon

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 letters for length and content and no religious or political material will be printed. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394.

Get Into Action For Spring

by Mary Nelson

If you still have all the tread on your tennis shoes, if you don't park in the shopping center until you find a place less than 100 ft from the door, or if you wait for your mail until the kids get home from school, so one of them can bring it to you, then you might be in dire need of EXERCISE.

Exercise is just moving. You can increase the amount of moving you do by simply doing everything you already do a little bit faster or a little bit fancier. Rise up on your toes and step from side to side as you wash dishes. Waltz through putting away the folded clothes and make squishing, yawning faces when you are absolutely alone. Put away one clean dish at a time and come back to the dishwasher with a swooping bow to pick up the next dish.

Go get your own mail. Pull a few weeds on sunny days and park further and further from the store when you shop. You will be surprised how soon you will be inventing new ways to extend your exercise program. You will be happier, gain more energy and even lose weight.

To get some help with all aspects of becoming a healthier you, why not join a T.O.P.S. group?

We are the **MORNING TOPS GROUP #WA 1325, Lakebay**, which meets at the Longbranch Improvement Club which is located on the Key Peninsula Highway, about a mile past Evergreen Elementary School. Come in for a visit between 9:00-11:00 any Tuesday morning. Anyone between the ages

of 9 and 90+ may join for \$20 a year and \$5 a month. We begin to weigh in (all confidential) at 9:00 AM and our meeting starts at 9:30. That gives us a half an hour to greet each other and welcome and introduce ourselves to any new ones. Call Lisa at **884-2251**, or Ruth at 884-6906 for more information.

Our best loser this month was **Anna Hostettler**. Her enthusiasm and good example are a wonderful addition to our group. Congratulations on your loss. The second best loser, **Ruth Matthews** always gets to the meetings early and stays to the end. Her faithful attendance and cheerful attitude are a big factor in her loss. Thank-you ladies, for your continuing encouragement.

Come and join us!!

Cub Scouts' Pinewood Derby at Civic Center — Saturday, March 18th

Starting at 5 pm on Saturday, March 18th, Cub Scout Pack 222 will host the annual Pinewood Derby. Using a kit, consisting of only a block of pine wood, 4 wheels and 4 nails, the contestants have constructed "cars" to race. They use a gravity track that is 25 feet long with an elevation of 5 feet and race three cars at a time.

There is also a "Day of the Race" competition. Beginning at 10 am, others may purchase an official kit, work on construction of a car and also compete later in the evening.

Sounds like fun! Public is welcome.



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Local Whodunit?

Some person or persons unknown, using a vehicle that climbed the bank, knocked down Mr. Wetzel's Recycling sign near the highway just a little south of Key Center. If anyone knows who might have been involved in doing this, Mr. Wetzel would like to hear from you at **884-2772**.

T.O.P.S. News

by Frankie Johnson

Time passes so quickly. Before you know it summer will be here and you will want to be slimmer to enjoy lighter clothing. Do yourself a favor and get started on a weight loss plan. TOPS is here for you to help and encourage you. Our members have been doing very well in the first two months of 2000. We collectively lost 39 pounds in Feb.!!! When we honor our best members, it is the policy that you must be present at the awards meeting. Our top three were absent due to vacations and illness so #1 best was Louise Harrison who lost 5 1/4 pounds and Alana Middleton was 2nd with her loss of 4 pounds. Alana is a preteen and is doing very well in her quest for normal weight. She is learning to make good nutritional choices and keeps her activity level high.

Our chapter had the opportunity to help the Civic Center by volunteering to cater the Boy Scout's Blue and Gold dinner. Sixteen TOPS members and family and friends showed up to cook, serve and clean up. It was a fun event and those who participated also learned a lot. It is always fun to come together on a project and get to know each other better. Our meetings are so full, we don't have time to visit. Our annual rummage sale will be April 8th and will be another time for all of us to work together. We are very proud to have an active membership with fantastic participation.

I have been asked questions lately about what TOPS is really like. The first thing we do at our meetings is weigh-in. This is done in a private area to keep your weight confidential. There are two weight recorders and books to maintain accuracy. Then you may enter various contests, visit with other members until 7:00 PM when our leader calls us to order and we recite our pledge. There is a brief business meeting, we have roll call when you declare to the group how much you have lost or if you had a gain, followed by an inspiring program or speaker. Incentives and contest winners are chosen. Then we have a closing circle to send us back home feeling uplifted. We end promptly at 8:00 PM.

You have asked what it costs to belong to TOPS. The yearly fee to TOPS INC. is \$20.00. The local chapter dues is \$5.00 a month. TOPS is a non-profit organization. The dues are used to cover the cost of rent and honors for members. You are welcome to attend a meeting free of charge to see if you would like this type of support. If you have more questions call **884-4102** or come on Tuesday evening at 6:00 PM.



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Obituary of Edmund Vincent Olson, M.D.

Edmund "Ed" Olson was born April 11, 1923 in Vaughn and died of a stroke in Olympia on February 3, 2000. He was the oldest son of Elmer and Elsie Olson, grandson of the Andrew Olsons, the homesteaders of Key Center. He grew up working on his parents' Sunnycrest Farm in Key Center. He attended Glencoe Grade School and graduated from Vaughn Union High School in 1941. He attended the University of WA for his undergraduate study and received his Bachelor of Science in 1945. He studied medicine at the University of Oregon and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1947.

He married Dorothy Crecraft while interning in psychiatry. They had three children, Gail, Janet and Mark.

Dr. Olson was called into service in the Navy in 1954, and the family relocated to Hingham, Mass. He served one year as a Flight Surgeon on the aircraft carrier USS Tarawa. He then was in charge of the naval dispensary as a lieutenant commander in 1956. The family returned to this area, settling in Olympia where Dr. Olson opened his family practice.

Wife Dorothy and son Mark were killed in an automobile accident in 1967 and Dr. Olson married Mary Alice Alexander in 1968 and adopted her son Benjamin, and they had a daughter Emilie. He retired from private practice in 1989 but continued work as a Locum Tenens physician until 1996.

His professional achievements were varied and numerous. He was a member of Phi Beta Phi medical fraternity, the American Medical Association, WA Medical Association and the Thurston-Mason County Medical Society and was appointed to the Faculty of the School of Medicine, U of W. He also held appointments to Centralia Junior College and St. Martins College.

Ed was an avid reader and never ceased learning during his entire life. He was a pilot of small aircraft and also enjoyed fly fishing and traveling. Ed could not keep away from his country roots and restored the Grandparents old family house. With his nephew, Charles Niemann Jr, he grew Christmas trees and timber at Key Center. He was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church, the Olympia Rotary Club and Olympia Elks.

Edmund is survived by mother, Elsie Olson of Vaughn, wife, Mary Alice of Olympia, daughter, Janet Robertson of Gig Harbor, son, Benjamin Olson of Christianburg, Virginia, daughter, Emilie Stevens of Tacoma, and granddaughters, Jessica and Katie Robertson. Other close family members are brother, Don Olson, of Key Center, sister, Phyllis Anker of Vaughn, sister Joyce Niemann of Key Center and Gail Sparks of CA and Vaughn and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Angel Notes

by Frankie Johnson

The Angel Guild thrift shoppe is just humming. It is so enjoyable to be in the newly redecorated store that the time flies by as we greet our customers and earn money to donate back to the community. We have had a lot of requests for funds lately, however that is our purpose, so if your organization or school has a need, please make the request in a letter and send it to the Angel Guild at 9013 Key Peninsula Hwy North. Attention Vicki Swenning. All donations must be to an organization and not a private individual.

Next month we will be having our annual luncheon meeting. Those involved in the planning are putting together some fun ideas for our Angels to enjoy the day. We will let you know more about it at the next meeting.

We want to thank you all who give us your wonderful clothes and household goods that we can recycle in the store. Please, please don't use us for a dump. We have had major expenses to have junk hauled away. Our hauler charges by the weight and an old couch sitting in the rain gets heavier and can't be sold anyhow. Our store is not large enough for big furniture and appliances. In order to keep our quality high we do ask that you donate items that are really saleable. Remember all profit is used by YOU back in the community.

Spaces For New Members In Basic Health Program

A state-sponsored program to provide health care coverage to low-income residents is continuing to enroll new members. Basic Health offers coverage through private health plans throughout Washington, with monthly premiums based on family size, income, age, and the particular plan selected, with copayments required for most services. For those who qualify, state funds will be used to pay a part of the monthly premium.

Applicants must reside in Washington, not be eligible for Medicare, and not be institutionalized at the time of enrollment. If a family qualifies for Basic Health, their children may be eligible for coverage in Basic Health Plus at no additional cost. This offers children a wider range of benefits, including dental and vision care, with no copayments.

To enroll, an application can be printed from the state's Web site at www.wa.gov/hca, or call 1-800-826-2444 to request an application packet.

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VETERAN'S VOICES

By Eileen Young

While still not being sure whether or not the ground hog saw his shadow, I'm looking for signs of the end of winter. I do have one small, brown warbler who gives joy every day with his beautiful voice - hope springs eternal!

The spaghetti dinner, cooked by Gary Helmick, Jerry Davis, Rhys Wood and others, before the February 14th meeting, was a huge success and enjoyed by all. What a wonderful way to spend Valentines Day, with friends, companionship, good food and "love". Thanks fellas.

Had the privilege of viewing the Massing of the Colors at Fort Lewis on February 13th. What a ceremony, and a wonderful turnout from District 4 and Post and Auxiliary 4990. Tim Hale, Billye Smith, Roxyanne Wooldridge and Marguerite Bussard did us proud as our flag bearing representatives. District 4 President Betty Hickman was the lucky recipient of the Korean War Commemorative flag. Congratulations Betty.

Plans are well underway for the big Loyalty Day luncheon and celebration to be held at the Longbranch Improvement Club, April 29th at 2pm. This is sponsored by District 4 and hosted by 4990 Post and Auxiliary. Tickets for the affair are \$8.50 per person and your reservations and money must be in to Cy Young before April 15th.

We ask that you support your post and district to help make this a Loyalty Day to remember. For information call 884-4551 or 884-2442.

Please take time during your busy day to send a loving thought to some less fortunate folks. This month our Care Circle includes Bob Barnes in Tacoma General, Bob Beal, Louie Aguilar, Lillian Montaney in Columbia Basin and anyone else not feeling quite 100%. Our condolences to Jeff Broderson and family on the passing of his mother.

*****If you listen real close you may hear the tinkling of bells on the Peninsula. More later.*****

A big welcome to each and every one of our many new members, from VFW 4990 Post and Auxiliary. Anyone wishing to join our busy group, just contact any VFW member or call 884-4551. We are proud to have you all as members of 4990.

REMINDER: District 4 meeting, March 5th at Post 239 in Bremerton, with luncheon at 12pm, meeting at 1pm. If you want tickets on the afghan, the drawing will be at the Loyalty Day luncheon, money goes to Cancer Aid and Research, contact any VFW member.

Thought for today: Ever wonder, with all the levels of stupidity, why some reach their level sooner than others?!



(Left to Right): Bob Gratias of Camp Seymour, Hara Levitt (Americorp), and Marybeth Coyne (Americorp). Photo by Anne LaCroix

Americorp On The Peninsula

Camp Easter Seal and Camp Seymour are receiving some enthusiastic help from the Americorp volunteers. The volunteers are part of Americorp National Civilian Community Corp, an organization open to young people ages 18-24. The organization travels throughout the United States and "promotes civic pride and responsibility" through community service. Here on the Peninsula, they are clearing storm debris and grooming trails to make them more accessible for the campers. At Camp Easter Seal, they are cleaning up as well as helping out with weekend respite care for developmentally disabled people.

Bob Gratias of Camp Seymour is grateful for the extra help. "We just don't have the time or staff to do these projects on our own." Camp Seymour, opened in 1906, is approximately 160 acres of beautiful outdoors. Being able to keep it maintained for the nearly year-round use is a great asset. During the school year, many schools use the camp as an outdoor educational experience. In the summer, it is a residential camp with water-front activities and plenty of space to learn about the environment from the staff naturalists.

Currently, the Americorp team is a 12-person group of very energetic people from places such as New York, Philadelphia, Illinois, Nebraska and Indiana. They make a 10-month commitment to the program. Throughout this time, they spend 4-8 weeks at different places taking on projects such as the ones at Camp Seymour and Camp Easter Seal. Marybeth Coyne, the team leader, has been with Americorp for two years and said she "wouldn't trade it for the world." She also says that it is an "all encompassing experience." One of the team members, Hara Levitt, said that it is "an experience you might never get otherwise and the rewarding feeling of working together as a team is irreplaceable".

For further information on Americorp, see their website at www.americorp.org.

Contest #4

We've probably all recovered from properly "toasting" in the New Year (Decade, Century, Millenium, whatever), but just in case, here are a few sobering facts brought to our attention recently. Can you guess what country these statistics refer to?

- 1) More than 2.7 million children live in families with annual incomes less than half the poverty level.
- 2) 13.5 million children, one out of every five, lives in poverty, yet 70% of them are in working families.
- 3) One of every seven children lacks health insurance, yet 90% of these live in working families.
- 4) Gunfire kills an average of twelve children every day.
- 5) Fewer than 50% of all the children eligible for a Head Start type program are actually enrolled in such a program.
- 6) Food banks report that one in every five people in a food line is a child.

Send your guess by regular mail (not e-mail, fax, phone, carrier pigeon, Fed Ex or hand delivery) to: CONTEST, Key Peninsula News, P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394. The first correct answer received gets the sender a \$20 gift certificate good at any business that advertises in the K.P. News.

Three For The Army

Seth E. Walsh, the son of Lynne K. Williams of Gig Harbor, Mitchell W. Pomeroy, a 1999 graduate of Peninsula High School and the son of Allan W. and Kathy L. Pomeroy of Gig Harbor, and James C. Jacobson, the son of James D. Jacobson of Vaughn, have enlisted in the U. S. Army and have recently left to begin basic training.

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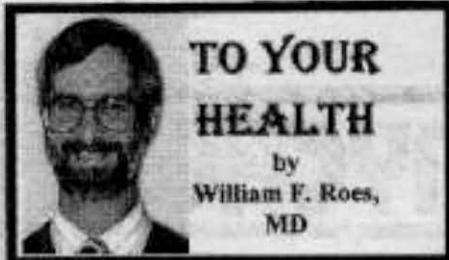
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TO YOUR HEALTH
by
William F. Roes, MD

As a physician there are certain words and diagnoses that you know people don't want to hear, even though from a medical standpoint they may represent treatable disorders. One such diagnosis is Shingles, or more properly Herpes Zoster. Especially for my older patients this represents a dreaded disorder, but it shouldn't as it is very treatable when caught early.

Shingles should be thought of as a late complication of Chickenpox. Anyone who has ever had Chickenpox can at a later date develop shingles. I've seen it occur 80 years after the initial episode of Chickenpox. The theory is that the Herpes virus that causes Chickenpox never leaves the body, but was left inactive in nerves near the spinal cord. Some stress in later life causes the virus to become active again, and the result is a localized eruption we call shingles. Shingles is by nature a unilateral disorder, expressed at the end of the nerve root it has infected. This means that the rash is only on one side of the body, and usually in a very localized area. It can be quite painful, but is more often burning or itching in nature. Sometimes the pain begins days before the blisters appear, which can make for a confusing clinical picture. The natural course of Herpes Zoster is to aggravate for 7-10 days

then resolve, but the older the patient, the more likely this can become a chronic, unrelenting pain.

The good news is that this transfer to a chronic condition can usually be prevented if antiviral treatment is started soon enough. There are very effective (and expensive) treatments available but they must be instituted within the first few days to be effective in preventing post herpetic neuralgia (lingering pain after shingles). If you think you have shingles, call your doctor because a little prevention can prevent a whole lot of suffering when dealing with Herpes Zoster.

Astute readers of my column may note a very similar (not quite identical) column was run in Nov. 1997, but I felt it was worth repeating. The treatment for shingles is very effective, but it must be started early in the course of the disease. Waiting a few days to see what develops can make a big difference in the outcome, so if you have a sudden onset of an otherwise unexplained localized rash, call your doctor. You may be able to prevent a whole lot of suffering by acting early.

I'm starting to get a lot of suggestions for future articles, and will start responding next month. If you can think of medical topics that would interest you or others, let me know at 884-9221 or through the newspaper.

Women of Gig Harbor—Historical Exhibit February 4 — May 19

The women of the Gig Harbor Peninsula have influenced the character of Gig Harbor and made significant contributions to the community's development. This exhibit looks at the lives of women who have made an impact on the peninsula's history. The exhibit highlights pioneers Anna Jerisich, Lucy Goodwin, and Teresa Sweeney; Doris Brown, Elsie Clausen, Vera Eide, Dixy Ray, Rose Tarabochia, and Mary Jane Turner from the mid-century; and from more recent times, Ruth Bogue, Debbie Ross, Shirley Tomasi, Gretchen Wilbert, Pearl Pederson, and others.

These women have made a difference as business owners, church leaders, politicians, fisherwomen, librarians, postmasters, teachers and community leaders.

The exhibit does more than celebrate a select group, however. It pays homage to the daily lives of all the women who have lived on the peninsula. It seeks to show how their lives were affected by everything from fashion trends to national and local events such as the depression and the world wars.

Location: Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society, 4218 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor. (253) 858-6722. Hours: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, Tuesday - Saturday. Free admission.

Spring Sing IV Is In The Air

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Cultural Arts Commission presents "Spring Sing IV" on Saturday, March 25th, from 7 to 9 pm, at the Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church large sanctuary, 7700 Skansie Avenue in Gig Harbor.

Performing in this year's program are the Boeing Employees Choir, The Meistersingers, and the newly-formed vocal jazz group, Sweet Stop. The Boeing Employees Choir has been performing for more than 50 years, and has sung in France, Australia and New Zealand. The Meistersingers will be performing the same songs they will be using in the competition in London the following week.

Admission is a minimum \$5.00 per person, children under 12 and nursing home residents are admitted free. Tickets are available at the CAC kiosk on Kimball Drive, at the door, or by calling Shirley Tomasi at 851-9462.

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Brookside Veterinary Hospital Opens New Home



The new Brookside Veterinary Hospital outside. Photo by Hugh McMillan

by Hugh McMillan

"This has been a three and a half year labor of love," said Lisa M. Woods, DVM, referring to, and obviously delighted to be opening, her new Brookside Veterinary Hospital.

It is located on 118th KPN around the corner from the location on Key Peninsula Hwy N, next door to the Brookside Restaurant she has occupied since establishing her practice on the Key Peninsula in 1994. Woods got her degree in veterinary medicine from Ohio State in 1990. Shortly thereafter, she worked with a local veterinarian in Gig Harbor where she remained for three years.

"Friends and family helped with all the construction," she said. "It's a modular; we tried to hold costs down yet give Key Peninsula a high quality facility yet keep with our country atmosphere. Our goal is to give the community the best care we can at reasonable cost. We want to be high quality."

"With the opening of this new hospital, we've increased available services. We've added specialized medical equipment like an endoscope, which is a fiber optic instrument which enables us to examine the gastrointestinal system without invasive surgery."

When her cat strode by, she explained that its name, Rolo, derives from his having caught a mouse at the old facility. "The mouse had been raiding our 'Rolo' candy supply for charitable fund raising."

Watch for an open house to be held this month at the new hospital. Vendors and suppliers will be on hand with free samples. "We want to show off our new hospital," said Woods; "we're really proud of it."

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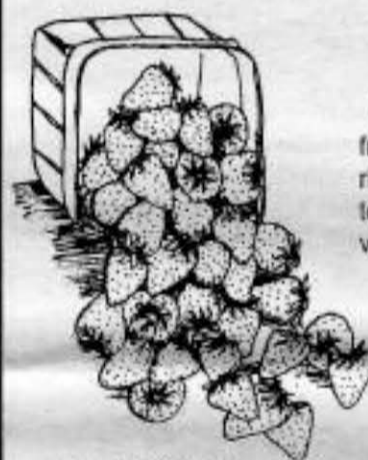
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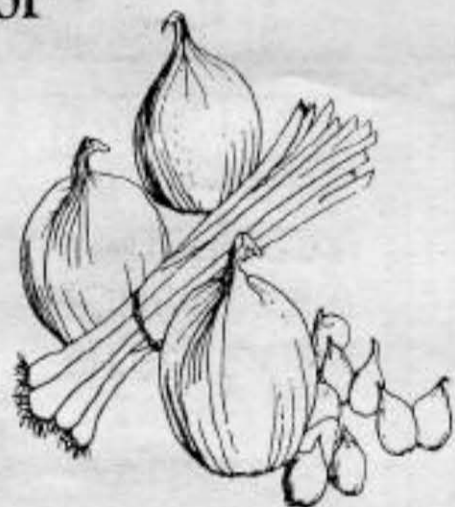
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IN THE LIBRARY

Wednesday, March 8th, at 7:00 PM, the Friends of the Key Center Library will host a program entitled **THE SAVVY CONSUMER**: how to critically evaluate information from the media and the Internet by Stephanie Delaney, a legal instructor at Highline Community College in Des Moines. She teaches internet research, and is currently writing a book on electronic legal research. In the information age, many folks look to the media to help make decisions on everything from health care to what to have for dinner. In this presentation, Stephanie will look at how business and media provide information, especially over the Internet and how to determine what can be trusted, and how to sort through the information overload. A special section will be included on using the Internet to get reliable legal information and when to get an attorney.

Stephanie Delaney is a dynamic, informed speaker not to be missed!

A business meeting of the Friends will begin at 5:45 PM.

Campfire Girls And Boys Support VETs

by Gary Helmick

Campfire Girls and Boys from Vaughn, under the leadership of Rachele Miller, made and delivered Valentine Cards to hospitalized veterans at American Lakes Veterans Hospital on February 14th. The members Bridgette Dickerson, Taylor McDaniel, Haley McDaniel, Rose Miller, Rebecka Miller, Lauren Arnold, Tyler Larsen, Travis Larsen, Katrina Larsen, Jessica Schmitz, Mackenzie Kocker, Brittany Foust, Jordan Farnowski, Megan Farnowski, and Skyler Surratt were recognized for their support of American veterans on February 16th, 2000, when VFW Post 4990 Vice Commander Gary Helmick presented each member a Young American Award. The award certificate read: "For outstanding support of American Veteran activities."

Troop leader, Rachele Miller, was also presented with a Citation of sincere appreciation from the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary.

THE ARTIST IN THE MIRROR

The artist in the mirror has sketched many past lives through caring and talent this artist survives. "Life is a canvas" where she paints her dreams though subject and balance are at odds times it seems. She focuses hard on what she learned as a child the right hues, the wrong mix, you must find your style. Still wet on the paper, some dry on the wall some will go far, some not at all. This artist has talent, her beauty runs deep flowing strong to a point where her soul and brush meet.

D. Blischke



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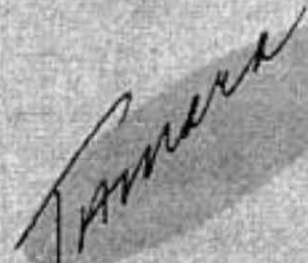
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**YESTERDAY'S
TEENAGERS!**
Key Peninsula Senior Society
by Jim Nolan
Phone: 851-4847

'Tis the Pre-Election season ... and barbs, brickbats and promises are being tossed about with abandon. The presidential candidates are spending millions ... primary elections are being held in various states, including our own. So-in February, Before the South Carolina primary and before our Washington voting, we took our Senior Survey of our membership to see how the candidates were faring. The results, in Our Group Only, as of mid-February: Gore - 10, Bradley - 3, Bush - 7, and McCain - 4.

We note none of the lesser hopefuls were even mentioned. Watch and see how this compares with the actual votes in various primaries. Please - No Political Arguments.

We welcome to our membership, Myron Farr, octogenarian of the Lakebay Area. He's a Big feller, and has recently volunteered to teach English As A Second Language to a group of new immigrants. Good For Him!

A Senior Puzzle -- See if you can identify the person in the following, absolutely true story.

This happening is about 2 months old and has been told at least a few times in the community, and though it isn't strictly News anymore, we thought you would enjoy hearing it.

One afternoon in December, a Peninsula Senior was on her way home from various errands when she stopped her car, engine running, next to her rural mailbox, and walked around the car to get the mail. She opened the rear car door and deposited the bundle of mail on the back-seat, then slammed the door. As she walked around the car to get to the driver's door, the car began to move -- slowly, but inexorably, along Hall Road. WHAT TO DO?

Thinking quickly, she ran to the drivers door where the window was luckily rolled down, reached in, grasped the wheel and steered slightly. She spotted an open space on the left side of the road and thought -- "I can steer it in here and get off the road safely." So she did ... but as she got off the road into the open space the lay of the land began a slight downhill slant, and the speed of her car increased, until at last she was unable to keep up and lost her grip on the wheel. She stopped -- her car did not.

Slowly but faster and fuster, the car continued down the hill ... it missed a building, several trees and continued straight for a slight open space where formerly there had been a bridge over Vaughn Bay Cove. As she watched, her car performed a beautiful racing dive right into the waters of the

Cove, where it floated perkily for a time before settling to the bottom to be covered shortly by the rising tide.

She ran to the house of a neighbor, Evie Stinson, who, once convinced that the story was not a joke, called 911 and raised the Fire Department, which got a quick response indeed, but it was too late to call in heavy equipment to pull the car to safety on dry land, which had to wait until morning and low tide. She says she was most grateful to Chuck and other Fire Department members, and has this advice for friends and other car owners of the Vaughn area: Don't ever leave your engine running when you get out of your car, and always set the emergency brake. A rule she now follows religiously when driving her new car, which replaced the sea-water-soaked runaway.

Her name: Alice Palmer (who tells her story humorously.)

Our latch string is out for any 55-plus folk, who would like to join us for potluck lunch Thursdays at Noon...in the Vaughn Key Peninsula Civic Center. Games and cards follow for those who wish to participate. C'mon -- join us ... phone for information or if you need a ride at 851-4847.

And Remember -- Will Rogers' admonition, "Never squat with your spurs on."

KEY SINGERS

NEEDED.....ACTORS, DANCERS AND SINGERS TO JOIN THE KEY SINGERS IN A SUMMER PRODUCTION OF MUSIC SPANNING THE 20TH CENTURY.

Our membership has been growing rapidly, including some very talented younger people, and we have had a number of successful engagements throughout the area. We always have room for more performers and have an ambitious schedule for the coming season.

Call Jo Sturm, 884-1350, or Jim Starkweather, 884-3172, for details.

PCFD #16 Presents Awards

On a recent Friday the assembly room at Miracle Ranch was the scene of the annual awards dinner for the firefighters of the Key Peninsula. Volunteer firefighter Chance Gower presented a video review of some of the life and property saving activities of the previous year. After dinner, awards were presented to the following individuals: Ryan Williams, volunteer rookie firefighter; Heidi Whittemore, volunteer medical responder; Christie Lyon, volunteer fire officer; Patrick Rugh, volunteer firefighter; Noah Falk, resident firefighter of the year; Michael Riegle, career firefighter; Tracy Lyon, career fire officer; Michael Dumas, career rookie firefighter; Hal Wolverton, outstanding service award; Lieutenant Paul Bosch and Volunteer Lieutenant Robert Fischer, chief's recognition award; Mary Ramsdell, commissioners' recognition award; and Shirley Frame, the Kitsap County Coroner's Office, and Dr. William Powell, who served as the district's medical advisor, received the Helping Hands Award.

Big Reduction in Hazardous Waste in Washington

Over the six-year period from 1992 to 1998, the number of businesses in Washington grew by 41%, but the amount of hazardous waste produced by businesses fell 88 million pounds, a decrease of 28%. Under the law adopted in 1990, the Department of Ecology provides technical assistance in the form of pollution prevention planning to businesses whose operations generate hazardous waste. Not only do the public and the environment benefit from this program, but there are economic benefits for the companies also in the form of reduced disposal costs and they often need less material in their production processes.

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Key Peninsula Little League Starts New Season

As the KPLL starts the new season, we're looking forward to one that is exciting, positive and lots of fun. There are about 29 teams total among the following categories:

- T-Ball ages 5-6
- M Prep (coach pitch) ages 7-8
- Minor ages 9-12
- Major ages 10-12
- Juniors ages 13-14
- Seniors ages 14-16
- Big League ages 16-18

Practice sessions for all teams begin March 6th. There are a number of exciting events planned. The first, a spaghetti feed, was held on February 26th at the Community Center in Home.

Coming Events:
March 23rd—Board Meeting at Fire Station 5, 7 pm
April 1st—Breakfast at Home Community Center, 9am-12n.
We welcome the community, and your support is always greatly appreciated.
April 8—OPENING DAY !!
For more information, call 884-7721.



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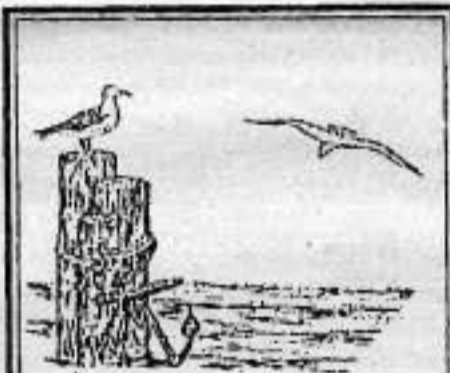


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ANGEL GUILD THRIFT STORE, K.C. Corral, 10 AM to 4 PM Wednesday through Friday, Saturday - 11 AM to 3 PM. In store specials weekly. All proceeds benefit the Key Peninsula. 884-9333.

PARENT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for Friday Night Skate! Skate for free, lite set up & clean up. Contact Lila at 6:00 PM on Fridays at the KP Civic Center. Have fun & enjoy your children!

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED with the following skills or interests: birdhouse building and simple woodworking, gardening with children, data entry, resource library organization. Please call soon if this describes you. Children's Home Society Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, 884-5433.

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Nominees For Citizen of the Year Continued From Page 1

Barbara Trotter

Barbara Trotter Served for four years as a member of the Peninsula School District's Board of Directors, the last two as chair. She chose not to seek re-election after serving honorably and well and was described by at least one citizen as "the best board member we've ever had." Before, during, and after her term of office, she was heavily involved in the schools. She volunteered a day's assistance each week in the office at Minter Creek Elementary while her daughter was there. She faithfully volunteered during one of the levy loss years in the Vaughn Elementary school office where she is described as competent in every respect, always willing to do any project asked of her no matter how big or how small. While on the School Board, she frequently visited Vaughn Elementary where she spent many hours with staff and parents listening and clarifying issues. She is a great listener interested in any subject anyone might wish to discuss. She energetically and enthusiastically participates wherever needed in any capacity. She volunteered as a mentor/tutor in the Washington Reading Corps program at Vaughn Elementary and read to groups of two students each for half an hour. She developed warm supportive relationships with her students who were excited when working with her. She is genuinely interested in our students' lives and academic achievement. She currently serves on the District Task Force for the Highly Capable, is president of the Key Peninsula Middle School PTA and is a member of its Site Council.

Marilyn Brennan

Marilyn Brennan is a local 4-H horse leader who has been involved in teaching and guiding young children for many years. She volunteers for horse meetings, mounted meetings, fund raisers, horse camps, horse shows, horse leader council, and making awards for her members. Her love and guidance is given freely and to all her members. She opened her guidance and knowledge to more 4-H-ers this year. The club is now larger than it has ever been. The Club's name is "Frog and Sole" and our membership thinks she is the greatest. We would like to thank her family, Jim, Katie, Molly, and Patrick for their love and support and wish her to be recognized for the Citizen of the Year she always is.

Gary Helmick

Gary Helmick was vice commander of VFW Post 4990, organized and performed as part of the Post's color guard, was a team member of the group which conducted flag raising ceremonies at Pioneer Day and Old Timers' Day, was keynote speaker at Veterans' day assemblies at Vaughn, Purdy, and Minter Creek Elementary Schools, conducted a classroom program regarding veterans at Minter Elementary, coordinated a guest speaker from Bremerton to speak at Peninsula High School, gave a presentation on scholarship programs to Peninsula High's Parents and Booster Club, represented Key peninsula at Saratoga Memorial Ceremony at Bremerton. He assists local seniors by writing letters and balancing checkbooks and driving them to and from the bank, and doctors' offices and hospitals, voluntarily manages the 116th Street

water system for families on Rocky Bay, cooks and delivers hot foods to shut-ins at Rocky Bay, is active in Citizens Against Crimes' Citizens Patrol acting as scheduler, trainer, and fund raiser. He also ran the "get out the vote" and voter registration booth at Old Timers Day, was Voice of Democracy chair organizing competition, selecting judges and presenting awards, delivered food baskets to the needy during holidays, was one of three who staged the fireworks display at CBC, submitted local youth for the Patrick Henry Award, is an active member of the CBC Board, and was even called on and performed CPR on a neighbor suffering a heart attack until KP Fire Department paramedics arrived. He has contributed time, energy, and money to this community and deserves to be recognized as a Citizen of the Year.

Geraldine Pearsall

After making over 260 baby quilts which she donates to the needy, Geraldine Pearsall should be recognized as the citizen of the year she has been since beginning her project in 1998. She averages 20 quilts per month and makes them all by hand at her own expense asking no help from anyone. She delivers the quilts to the Tacoma Rescue Mission, the Faith House, and the Crisis Center in Tacoma. These groups would gladly endorse and support this nomination as would many others at the Key Peninsula Community Services. She can be found every Tuesday surrounded by materials making more quilts. This wonderful lady is always thinking of others even during the rough spots in her own life. She says she "just can't stand to think of any baby not having a warm blanket to sleep under at night." Gerry has been Citizen of the Year for many years to a lot of us.

Luther Snow Winsor

Luther "Lu" Snow Winsor retired as a Division Chief of the National Park Service in 1980 and in 1986 moved to the Key Peninsula with his wife and son. He became involved in the preservation of land on the Key/Gig Harbor Peninsulas when he became a board member of the Peninsula Heritage Land Trust. He was heavily involved in the Conservation Easement on the Lind property in Home and was a prime mover working with the Home Social Club to turn over to the PHLT the historic Home Cemetery for perpetual preservation. A descendant of a Home citizen buried there donated a bronze plaque with as many names as are known engraved on it. Lu spent many hours chiselling a rock and mounted the plaque on it. He is a member of the KP-Gig Harbor-Islands Watershed Committee which works to keep the watersheds healthy and healing those that need it. On the Parks and Recreation Council he was involved with getting Pierce County to lease to the KP Park District the 224 acre Rocky Creek Conservation Area, our newest KP park, and is always there with solutions and encouragement. He designed and is lettering cedar boards for the park entrance sign. As if that weren't enough, he planned and organized a growing number of veterans of the Battle of the Bulge to meet monthly.

Eugene and Kathy Armstrong

Eugene and Kathy Armstrong took in a Mexican child whose mouth was so seriously afflicted that he was unable properly to eat and suffered a severe speech impediment. During the child's stay with them,

they arranged for and transported the youngster to state of the art medical treatment at various medical facilities at their own expense. They returned the child to his parents in Mexico more than once in the course of treatments. He is a retired commercial airline pilot. The couple have cared for other children as well. They deserve recognition as caring, sharing Citizens of the Year.

Louis Aguilar

Louis Aguilar, a quiet, unassuming veteran gives freely of his time, talent and heart to our community. Although disabled, he does not hesitate to take needy friends and neighbors shopping, to doctors, church, and elsewhere. He plants a well tended garden each Spring and allows those in need to help themselves to the harvest. His rewards are homemade goodies from grateful recipients. While serving as VFW Service Officer helping needy veterans and families, he finds time to tutor elementary students with woodworking projects twice weekly. He donates Christmas trees, money for food and clothing, and turkeys to the needy. He creates and contributes wooden toys to children of needy families and Mary Bridge Children's Hospital, has built podiums for the VFW and for its Auxilliary, donated time and material to the Longbranch Church, and provided playground equipment for the children of Palmer Lake Estates. He created the Aisle of Honor plaque listing deceased veterans whose flags fly at the Vaughn Cemetery every Memorial Day and Veterans' Day. This highly decorated combat infantry paratrooper of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam shares his experiences with students of various Tacoma area colleges who request a speaker. He is a role model for all and merits recognition as a Citizen of the Year.

Gary and Maggi Petersen

Gary and Maggi Petersen of Herron Island are very concerned about the safety and welfare of their neighbors. Gary is a retired Bellevue fireman and Maggi is a paralegal. They know that their island location makes it critical that the Herron Island Community be able to take care of itself. The Petersens have brought the island community together and developed a community emergency plan that surpasses that of many cities or counties.

That plan includes having adequate fuel, food, medical, and water supplies, and ongoing knowledge of who's on the Island with talents and abilities. They have telephone trees, a radio networking system and emergency power sources. The community emergency plan, all computerized by the Petersens, required many hours of dedicated organizing and implementation.

Their efforts have enhanced the Island's affiliation with the Key Peninsula Fire Department which has provided communications equipment, first aid equipment and training, and incident command training.

They also designed one of the best community web pages on the world wide web; visit it sometime.

The Petersens have put in many hours to improve the lot of all members of their community.

Henry and Dale Ramsdell

You do not find Henry and Dale Ramsdell in many organizations or formal meetings, but they are always around doing. Voice an idea or a need and they are take care of it,

sometimes before you have even really decided it was a need. If you do not want it done, make sure they do not hear about it.

If they are not at Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank's Community House hauling things, they are doing minor home repairs for someone in need. If a needy person's car does not run they will fix it or provide transportation.

Not long ago it was mentioned that Scotch Broom needed cutting on the undeveloped back part of Volunteer Park. The next thing you knew, they were there with their equipment cutting away.

You may question the nomination of these two with their distinct personalities, but under those gruff exteriors are hearts of gold.

Richard and Marlies Van Cise

He was President of the Longbranch Improvement Club for five years. As immediate past President, he continues on the Club Board of Directors. He was instrumental in restructuring the Club to the vibrant growing community and social Club it is today. Membership is growing steadily. Monthly meetings are attended by 50 or more members. The clubhouse' hardwood floors have been rejuvenated, the heating system is now effective, bathrooms have been entirely redone, stage size, lighting, and configuration, and acoustical systems are improved, and quality tables and chairs have been added. Parking areas and access ways have been improved. Substantial improvements including adding a Dockmaster's enclosed office, large covered entertainment area, and modernized safer walkways at the Longbranch docks were made. The Club currently enjoys stable income from the docks allowing it to make all improvements without incurring debt. The Club now hosts plays, dinner theater, Old Timer's Day, community musical and choir concerts, and provides a home base to the Bayshore Garden Club, a local Brownie Troop and several other organizations. Thanks to Dick, the Club is ready and able to meet our needs in the years ahead. Marlies actively participates in the Club, assisted as Club secretary, directs annual road cleanups, is current Sunshine Fund supervisor, helps at Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank, is a member of Dr. Penrose Orthopedic Guild, the local Garden Club, and I.M.Pact (Interdominational Missions Pact). She is president of the Longbranch Community Church, started the church "Care Club," has served Christmas dinners to lonely people at the KP Civic Center for four years, gave full time care to a sick friend for a year, is a member of the Longbranch Players and loves acting, sings in the church choir, and runs a travel agency from her home serving the community. With Dick's help, she led the spectacularly successful Millennium New Year's Eve Dinner Dance. He has broadened the Club's utility to include a variety of activities additional to boating, and helped bring us all together. Thanks to their efforts, the Longbranch Improvement Club is equipped to serve social, boating, and cultural needs of the Lower Peninsula.

More Citizens of the Year
Nominees On Page 15

Citizens of the Year Nominees Continued from Page 14

Ruth Bramhall

Although she is a previous Citizen of the Year, Ruth Bramhall continues to give an enormous amount of time and talent to our community. She is a serious, caring, generous person and an unmatched personality. She is chair of the Board of Fire Commissioners, has contributed monetarily to the Fire Department on numerous occasions, and responds to emergency calls and training missions to provide rehab refreshments for firefighters. She helps with various fundraising efforts at Jackson Lake's Key Peninsula Sportsmen's Club, the Civic Center, and the Longbranch Improvement Club. She assists with the annual KP Firefighters' Association's Firemen's Muster, rarely misses a KP Firefighters' Association meeting, has contributed flowers and plants from her garden to beautify the District's fire stations, and is just there to do whatever possible to make ours the fine community it is. She deserves recognition as a Citizen of the Year.

Dee Dee Kerkes

Dee Dee Kerkes is everywhere that help is needed. She volunteered her expertise as a trainer in CPR and First Aid to the Citizens Against Crime Citizens Patrol. She goes the extra mile in every event sponsored by the Key Peninsula Firefighters Association in setting up, organizing, tending booths, and presenting a friendly, helpful, smiling, welcoming presence at all times. Anyone expressing a need in her company receives a sincere and immediate offer of assistance. She is always there to provide rehab support and expertise at live fire training exercises. She is more than deserving of recognition for her many years of service to our community.

Don Blischke

Don Blischke of Local 3125, the Key Peninsula Firefighters' union, almost single handedly put together the Angel Tree, an annual KP Firefighters' Association charitable program wherein food, toys, clothing, and other items are collected for, and delivered to, KP needy families. He did a fabulous job! The count was close to 40-50 families who benefited from the effort. This is in addition to what the Childrens Home Society and KP Community Services did. Don has great contacts for the toys and spent an enormous number of hours ensuring that the program was a great success. Citizens of the Year will give our community a chance to say, "Thanks, Don."

Tom Farrow

Tom Farrow is the Judge for Pierce County District Court 2 which services the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas. He has a deep passion for his job and a love for his community. His sponsors note that, "we don't know of any committee he has been invited to be on that he has turned down." People frequently ask him if he views his job as a stepping stone to a more prestigious position and his consistent answer is, "I am the most lucky person in the world, I love my job, and my focus is my community." Judge Farrow truly wants everyone to reach their full potential and experience the happiness that goes with that. "He amazes me with his energy and his focus." He is a kind person and a good listener. His

wife says, "his only fault is that he doesn't leave his work at the office. He worries about the people who come through District Court 2 and he volunteers to help us all, because this is his community and we are the people he cares about." Judge Farrow has been a volunteer to Peninsula School District classes and has been on countless committees. He is currently voluntarily engaged in a lengthy study of the School District at the request of the District's Superintendent. He also finds time to coach P.A.A. baseball. Simply put, if there is a need, there is Tom Farrow.

Dorene Minter

Dorene Minter's hopes and dreams for the future of the Key Peninsula are readily seen in the committee, "I.M.Pact Key Peninsula" which she started. I.M.Pact, Interdenominational Missions Pact, is represented by six churches which sponsor Community Meals at the Civic Center every Sunday in the school year for those low on food resources or in need of association with others. It champions a project to build a shelter for battered women. Dorene has worked tirelessly on both projects. An active local church member, she is chair of outreach projects and has been a delegate to conferences on Outreach. She served over a year at the Civic Center and several years on the committee and has worked two years to develop the battered womens' shelter continuing as chair for both projects. She represented the I.M.Pact Key Peninsula committee in reducing domestic violence with various other area teams such as Communities in Schools and Family Violence Prevention projects. She does all this as a single mother of three young children and runs her own business from home. She is an active citizen, devoted parent, and successful business woman deserving of recognition as a Citizen of the Year.

Fifth Grader Wins Geography Bee

Correctly answering questions that were put to students in grades 4 through 8 at schools around the country, Purdy Elementary fifth-grader Maya Fein recently sported a medal she won at the recent Geography Bee sponsored by the National Geographic Society. All fourteen contestants at Purdy Elementary were in grades 4 or 5, but they had to answer the same questions that were put to eighth-graders at other participating schools.

The competition at Purdy was just the first step in this national competition. The second step is at the state level. The contestants for that one are selected by their score on a written test. The final step is at a televised competition in Washington, D.C.. The winner of the national gets a \$25,000 college scholarship.

Oral questions used in this phase of the competition covered U.S. geography, historic places, economic geography, cultural geography, physical geography and world capital cities. For example, here are two of the questions from the field of economic geography: "Which of Oregon's neighboring state has the lowest per capita income?" and "Which state bordering South Carolina has an annual per capita income between \$24,000 and \$26,000?" Could you answer those questions correctly?

Firefighters Ball Is For Everyone

by Hugh McMillan

"There's always someone who doesn't get the word," said an anonymous firefighter. "The Firefighters Ball is for everybody, not just fire department people."

It takes place Saturday, March 4, at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn. It includes dinner catered by Out Back from 6:30 - 8:00 PM immediately following which the dance floor will start to jump to the ever popular music of Me, U and Drew (formerly the Herb Garden). Until midnight, dancing will be interrupted briefly for door prizes and raffle prizes.

The theme of the event is "Mardi Gras!" A no host beer garden will provide everybody's favorite beverage.

A children's room will be available from 6:30 - 10:00 PM to those who RSVP to Jenny or Patrick at (253) 884-6082. They can also arrange for your purchase of tickets for the dinner and dance at \$25.00 per couple or \$15.00 for singles.

PEP-C Changes Barrel Sale Schedule

by Hugh McMillan

Because of an apparent drop in public interest in acquiring barrels for storage of water for survival in emergencies, PEP-C (Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Committee) will reduce barrel sale activity to once a month through May. This will be the third Saturday of the month and will be from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Haven of Rest Cemetery off SR 16.

The next sale will be March 18, then April 15 and May 20.

For information: 265-8510 or 851-3843 after March 10.

KPCC ASSOCIATION 2000 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WINTER VISUALS	February 5th
BOY SCOUTS BLUE & GOLD	February 19th
FIREFIGHTERS BALL	March 4th
CUB SCOUTS PINEWOOD DERBY	March 18th
CITIZENS OF THE YEAR BANQUET	April 1st
TOPS RUMMAGE SALE	April 8th
ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT	April 23rd
RENO NIGHT	April 29th
SPRING BAZAAR	May 6th
PROHIBITION JAZZ DANCE	June 3rd
OLDTIMERS PICNIC	June 24th
VFW/KPCCA FIREWORKS DEMO	June 25th
FIREWORKS BOOTH SALES	June 29th
PIONEER DAY	August 5th
ART AUCTION	?
ROADSIDE ANTIQUE SHOW	September 9th & 10th
HALLOWEEN PARTY	October 31st
HOLIDAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW	November 18th
VFW THANKSGIVING DINNER	November 23rd
SALATINO'S CHRISTMAS DINNER	December 25th

Cougar News

by Cheryl Force

Everyone at Key Peninsula Middle School extends a warm welcome to BJ Bolson joining us as Co-Principal. We look forward to working with her. We wish Connie West our very best as she continues her work at Harbor Ridge Middle School.

Sandy Major reports that Heather Jackson has earned an astonishing 65 points during the second quarter for reading and passing comprehension tests in the Accelerated Reader Program! To achieve this feat, Heather read 1,624 pages in 45 school days. What an all star!

Mrs. Krueger has announced that KPMS is having a Science Fair. It will be held March 2, 6-8PM with a Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Lions Club. Come view science investigations and demonstrations produced by seventh and eighth graders. Topics range from Acid Rain to turbine engines to stimulus/response experiments.

February Students of the Month nominated in the Category of Justice are: Sheree Sharts, Justin Vanslyke, Samantha Kulbacki, Jeremy Dilley, Marian Whiteacre, Chris Roe, Ken Carpenter, Elaine Wilson, James Waldron, Linny Reeve, Allie Wilkerson, Kim Stanfill, Nick Ercegovic, Clint Crabtree, Danny Reynolds, Heather Armstrong, Chris Shinn, Kessia Jones, Josh Hasbrook, Josh Duke, Kizell Teague, Kate Royer, Chelea Gragg, George Caldwell, Haley Masbruch. These students demonstrated Justice by exhibiting an attitude of being fair and truthful, being able to cope in difficult situations, encouraging others to communicate, seeking justice and working for peace in their daily interactions. Congratulations!

The wrestling season has been exciting. Come on March 7th to cheer our athletes on at the Wrestling Tournament hosted by KPMS. Intramural Basketball starts in March with the first game on March 28th.

Upcoming events: March 10-Cougar Activity Night at 6:30-8:30 PM
 March 15 -PTA Meeting in the Library at 6:30-8:30PM
 March 27- KPMS Beginning Band Concert at 7:30PM
 March 28- KPMS Intermediate Band Concert at 7:30 PM
 March 28-Mr. Wizard the Science Guy Assembly at 9:30 AM

District Parent Council Meeting

At the District Parent Council meeting held at ESC on February 2, new Facilities Director, Dan Wessel shared his views on addressing the Work Order Process at all the schools. He has a very impressive plan to handle all requests in a timely fashion. Dave Watson explained the Security and Incident Command Response System and Emergency Preparedness Plan being implemented throughout the district. There are drills scheduled, special medical training provided and additional communication tools in place at all schools. Also the Accelerated Reader Program and how it works and the Middle School Honors Program application and test dates were discussed. Further information regarding the Middle School Honors program will be available soon.

Peninsula School District Emergency Preparedness Meeting

Monday, March 6, 2000 at 6 pm Key Center Fire Station

Curious about what the School District is planning for your children in emergencies or disasters? Will they keep them or send them home? Can they take care of them if they keep them? Come and get the latest scoop? David Watson will present information on the current Safety and Security Plan.

For more information contact Peninsulas'
 Emergency Preparedness Committee (PEP-C)
 PO Box 1217, Gig Harbor, WA 98335-3217 253 (265-8510)

KPMS Science Fair

At the Key Peninsula Middle School's science fair on Thursday, March 2nd, the Key Peninsula Lion's Club will serve a free spaghetti dinner starting at 6:00 PM for KPMS students and their families.

More than 100 7th and 8th grade life science and physical science classes' students will display exhibits.

Vaughn Student On UW Dean's List

Carole Aileen Schaub of Vaughn was named to the Dean's List at the University of Washington for the Autumn Quarter of 1999. This requires a grade point average of at least 3.5 in at least 12 graded credits.

Evergreen Students Exult on RIF Day

by Hugh McMillan

An elementary school student-sized igloo was the centerpiece in Evergreen Elementary's Library on February 9th. It was made of cardboard but it looked cold. And it gave meaning to the RIF day's theme, "Snuggle up With a Good Book."

RIF, or Reading Is FUNdamental day, repeats three times a year at Evergreen. Students from all grade levels come to the library one class at a time to spend fifteen minutes during which they may choose a book to keep as their very own. After signing out their book, the youngsters find a seat or sit on the floor to read it with an adult volunteer or with a classmate.

RIF is a major event for the children. "We distribute books three times a year," said Robin Row, the school librarian, adding that, "over 300 books are given out each time." Approximately 20 volunteers help with decorating, set up, ordering books, and other attendant matters. The program is funded by the PTA and every dollar is matched by the national RIF organization. National RIF operates under the umbrella of HUD, the national Housing and Urban Development authority.

GH-KP Safe Communities Coalition

by Hugh McMillan

The steering committee of the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Safe Communities Coalition met last Wednesday to discuss, "a broad vision of the coalition and ways to draw in other non-agency members including youth, community members, and seniors," said Anneki Conners of Safe Streets, a sponsoring organization.

The meeting took place at Gig Harbor Fire Department's satellite station on 144th in Purdy and, in addition to Conners, included Gail Brandt, Peninsula School District; Marie Flahe, Pierce County Health Department; Katy Gaul, Early Head Start; and Beth Wilson, Tacoma/Pierce County Children's Commission.

Those attending were asked to encourage the public to enroll in the Safe Streets Academy, "which will provide an opportunity to increase leadership skills and to learn how to access the systems for Family and Community Safety," said Conners. Other subjects to be covered will be emergency preparedness, group dynamics, methamphetamine (a Pierce County epidemic), assist mapping, and youth summit representatives.

The academy will be held **Thursdays from 6:00 - 9:00 PM** at Gig Harbor Fire station at 5210 144th NW, beginning March 16th, continuing through April 20th.

For more information call (253) 272-6824.

Minter Creek Elementary News

Kindergarten Registration

Children must be five years of age by August 31, 2000 to be eligible to attend kindergarten. A second MMR immunization will be required for entry beginning this fall. Students must register at their home school, even if requesting a transfer to another school in the district.

Music News From Mrs. Rindo

Our music department is still accepting cereal box tops so that we can earn money to purchase more musical instruments. The class that brings in the most "Box Tops for Music" gets a music party.

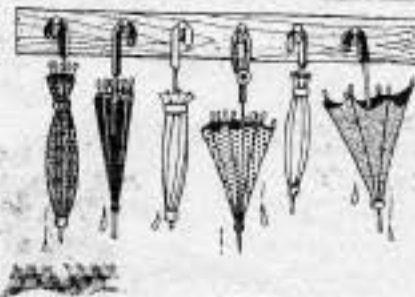
Thank you, Austin and Nancy Bowen for letting us borrow your two clarinets and oboe. The children are learning about these two woodwinds from "Instrument Inchworm". Also, Austin and Nancy donated a guitar to Minter Creek which enabled a new student to join guitar club. Thank you, Amy, Lindsay and Cheryl Mills for donating an African Shaker to our music program. If you have any musical instruments in your home that are not being used, we can use them in our music program. Thank you!

Children's Dental Clinic Day

If your children are in need of reduced cost dental exams, x-rays, sealants, fluoride treatments, cleaning, etc., you may contact Pierce College in Lakewood for an appointment, (253) 964-6351. This service is offered for \$5.00 per person or DSHS coupons.

Date Reminders

March 2nd - PTA Meeting, 3:45PM, Learning Lab
 March 15th - Emergency Bus Exit Drills
 March 17th - No School (State Inservice Day)
 March 22nd - Early Dismissal
 March 28th - Group Pictures
 March 29, 30, 31 - Parent Conferences - (NO Kindergarten classes during parent conference days)



The Garden In March

by Sylvia Retherford
(253) 884-2487



Close to Puget Sound there usually is not a time of the year without flowers. Fall asters (Michaelmas Daisies), Kaffir lilies (Schistostylus cocconea) and others color our fall season. Many winter blooming shrubs including Autumnalis cherry (*Prunus autumnalis*) show pink continuously January through March. Primroses are joined by crocuses, snow drops, and reticulata irises in early February.

The Saxifrage, *Bergenia crassifolia*, up to 18" tall, has bright glossy leaves now showing large clusters of pink flowers. They take shade or sun and do well with ferns, helleborus (still in bloom), hostas, rhododendrons or in rock gardens.

Narcissus, daffodils and tulip bulbs show color and some are fully out. Lily bulbs are showing several inches of their thick red stalks. Many of the species lilies will reach 8 or more feet tall before blooming out ten or more blossoms in late summer. The shorter oriental lilies are earlier and equally lovely. After spending the winter in the greenhouse, the tropical climbing gloriosa lily (*Lilium Rothschildiana*), is now in its large pot of compost under the grape arbor where it will spend summer. It will twine 6 - 8 feet on a rack and produce many large red/orange blossoms.

Calendulas and gloriosa daisies never quite give up blooming in winter but they become long tailed and scroungy. Cut them back severely and they will thank you with new growth and blossoms. Flowering almond (*Prunus triloba*), a shrub, shows its fully blossomed stems after looking dead for so long. Some stems did die and need to be removed.

The glory of the front garden is *Daphne odora* in full pink bloom with its heady fragrance. It was raised from a cutting given by a neighbor when we moved here twenty years ago. So many of our perennials have that history and we try to do likewise for new people.

March is a good time to plant ornamental or fruit bearing shrubs. The chance of a cold spell is remote and they will bud out soon. Some ornamental apples and cherries have swelling buds or blossoms now. Bare root shrubs and trees are a favorable choice. Prepare a large hole and mix your soil with compost to give the youngsters a good start. Water well immediately and during their first summer dry season.

After a winter free of slugs, they have come out of hiding. Slugs are mollusks, landlocked relatives of clams, squid, and octopus. There are many different colors and markings on slugs and most are not natives but immigrants who stayed because they liked the climate. Only the large yellow banana slugs are native in our forests. They do no damage in our gardens. There are small slug-like larval stages of some insects, called pear slugs, cherry slugs and rose slugs which are not true slugs that leave a silvery slime trail and never hatch into insects. A true slug is cursed to remain a slug for its entire life.

Slugs are hermaphroditic, meaning that each slug has both male and female reproductive systems. Egg masses, of a hundred or so, are laid in the soil or under debris. Each white egg is about an 1/8 inch diameter sphere. Most will hatch this season but those laid late in fall do not hatch until next spring.

Prevention of slug damage required reducing their habitat. Keep the garden free of debris, boards, rocks, etc. under which a slug can hide. Baiting them helps. The poison is usually metaldehyde that breaks down in a few days. We hope that our precious snakes and birds do not eat a dead slug before we bury it.

The Bayshore Garden Club

The Bayshore Garden Club, Member of the Capitol District, will meet at the Longbranch Improvement Club on March 17th, 2000.

12 Noon - Lunch - Hostesses: Jean Humphries and Dolores Argabright

1:00 PM - Design and Arrangement: Ruby Hatch

1:30 PM - Theme Speaker: Native Plants - Dorothy Rome

2:00 PM - Conservation: The Amazing Plant World on our Unique Planet - Sylvia Retherford.

Call Sylvia Retherford at 253-884-2487 for more information.

Spring
IN FOCUS



Key Peninsula Parks And Recreation District News

by Nancy Lind

The Key Peninsula Parks and Recreation District Board meets the second Monday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Volunteer Park Annex. Again, the members are Fred Ramsdell, Marilyn Tagert, Dick Granquist, Nancy Lind, and Pat Medveckus. Everyone is welcome to attend and give their input. Call the park (884-9240) to leave any messages or call Fred Ramsdell, Chairman, at 884-4834. The board is looking for someone who would consider donating their services in grant writing.

Volunteer Park

* Little League - Pat Medveckus is in charge of scheduling for the park and is signing up LL players.

* Adult Softball - Sandy Nelson is looking for folks to come forward who want to play softball from mid-April through October. Flyers with information will be going up soon. Call Sandy at 857-3774 for more information.

* Dan Wahemier, the groundskeeper, is getting geared up for spring. He has refurbished the horseshoe pits, made the south parking lot very attractive, cleared a lot of underbrush, made trails walkable, is aerating the fields, and keeping the park in good condition.

* The Upper Field - Fred Ramsdell and his brothers, Dale and Hank, have been mowing the scotch broom from the upper field. This area is finally looking like a park site and will be available for something soon.

Rocky Creek Conservation Area

* On Earth Day 2000, Saturday, April 22, we will have a work day. This will be a day that the Earth Service Corps Club students will be making trail, garbage will be cleaned up, more "No Motorized Vehicles" signs will be put up, hopefully the big cedar entrance sign will be installed, and other activities will take place.

* A Children's Water Festival is being put together and is scheduled for Friday, May 19th for the school kids and Sunday, May 21st for families. This event is sponsored by Pierce County Environmental Education and mainly funded by the Dept. of Ecology. The kids will tour Rocky Creek Conservation Area, the Salmon Hatchery, Minterbrook Oyster Co., Camp Seymour hands-on water tanks, and have other activities. On Sunday families will enjoy events at Camp Seymour, still in the planning.

* Women from the Wash. Correction Center for Women have cleared a spot for the cedar sign and picked up garbage the length of Crews Road. They are scheduled to work at the site once a month.

* Off road vehicles, shooting, and garbage dumping are still problems at the park, especially on the transmission line, north of the park.

* For more information about Rocky Creek Conservation Area, call Nancy Lind at 884-3347.

Home Town Meeting

The Home Town Meeting will be on Thursday, March 2nd, at the Home Fire Station at 7:00 PM. Sgt. Herberholz will be the speaker. We're sending a list of questions that people have asked to Sgt. Herberholz for him to consider. If you have any questions you'd like to send in next week, contact Nancy Lind at 884-3347.

The Critter Corner

by Jeffrey W. Irwin, DVM

Question: My dog scoots on her rump as if it itches. Is this a sign of parasites?

Answer: Parasites rarely cause dogs to do this. Scooting is usually a sign of impacted or full anal glands. These glands produce liquid to semisolid material that normally empties out of 2 pores near the opening of the anus when a dog defecates or any other time the anal muscles are contracted. If for any reason, the gland cannot be emptied via these anal muscles, they can become impacted. Impacted glands can be painful, itchy or just cause the dog to have a "full" feeling. Scooting or rubbing is a counter irritant that may give the pet temporary relief but usually does not resolve the problem. In most cases the sac must be emptied either externally or internally (via the rectum) by a veterinarian, veterinary technician or, in some cases, pet groomers if they have experience with the emptying procedure.

If the impacted sacs are not emptied, they can rupture, which leads to abscessation. An abscess can be recognized as a firm swelling below the anus at either the 4 o'clock or 8 o'clock position. Sometimes an open wound, known as a fistula, can be seen in protracted cases.

It is best to resolve the problem before abscessation occurs by having the sac routinely emptied when the dog demonstrates scooting or in some cases on a regular basis every few months if necessary.



Vaughn Elementary students releasing chum salmon.

Vaughn Elementary Releases Salmon

by Hugh McMillan

Recently, 130 Vaughn Elementary students released 250 chum salmon fingerlings into Vaughn Creek.

"We got the salmon from the Minter Creek Hatchery January 7 as one-to-two month old eyed eggs," said 4th grade Vaughn Elementary teacher Doug Smith. "After about 3 weeks they turned into Alevins and now fingerlings," he said.

His, Cindy Knisley's, and Steve Hagen's 4th grade classes have been studying salmon as have Laura Woods' 1st graders and Beth Harrison's 2nd graders. They were all part of the great salmon release.

"We made mobiles, a mural, sung a song - even in French, no less - played a predator and prey game, and read 3 salmon books," said Smith.

Fourth grader, Brittany Kaurin, wrote, "I named a salmon on 2/15/00. I named it Dolphine. The second time I looked in the fish tank I saw one that looked like Dolphine and it looked dead. I am really sad that Dolphine died."

Amanda Murphy, "wants the salmon to come back but will they or will they die?"

Alecs Lund noted, "January 7th, the eggs invaded our school tank. We had to go and check on the hideous things all the time before it was too late. One day we heard this swirling sound, they swam around viciously, one eating out of his feeding sack, the other dead. When the salmon turned into fry we released them. We don't know if any will return.

"So the salmon will come back to Vaughn creek," said Andy, "Friday, the salmon went bye bye."

Brandon Reed found, "the most interesting thing is that we got to release the Chum."

Jimmy Long said, "the alevins were hiding under rocks, gravel and stuff like that. They grow bigger and their egg sac is gone and they're smolts. We released the salmon and now the fish have to face the world on their own."

Donovan Conley said, "the most exciting thing we did with salmon was the mobiles. We got to hang 5 types of Salmon on 2 coat hangers and made the life cycle of the Salmon on mobiles and got to color them.

Jenna believes, "If I was an egg I would see a lot other eggs. If I was an alevin I would see a lot of children looking at me. If I was a smolt I would see a lot of nets and a lot of fishermen and a lot of boats. If I was adult salmon I would see a lot of pollution in the sea water."

Danika Davis thinks, "It would be wonderful if the salmon come back and spawn."

To Destiny Rossa, "salmon are my favorite types of salmon. There are 6 different types of salmon and the reason I like salmon so much is because they come back to their home stream and spawn."

Kenny Field, "named my chum Kenny and released him to have more salmon to return to spawn." He added, "Some people were shocked when they turn in to alevin before their very eyes!

Stephanie Hahn said "we did all kind of fun stuff like making mobiles and write down how they looked every week. You can ask somebody in our class almost any question and we can answer it like that. You should study salmon with your family. All you have to do is get some salmon books and read."

Shayna D. said, "when the salmon return the female salmon will lay the eggs and the male fish will fertilize the eggs. And it all starts over."

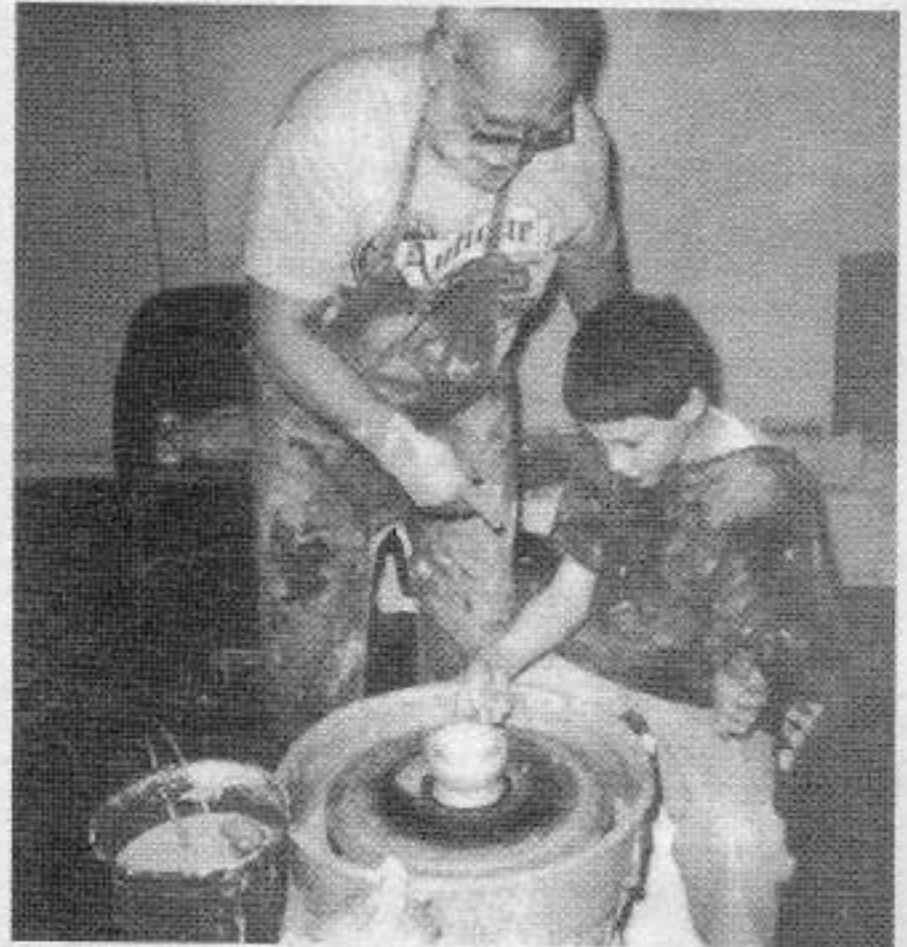
Tony said, "My friends Austin and Tyler released the salmon. They didn't want to go at all! They grew up in the school tank so they don't want to leave. They struggled to stay in the tank. We finally got them! The salmon swam away sadly."

Nikki Pascucci said, "we are doing this for two reasons. One, so the fish will come back to spawn. Two, because Mr. Smith is making us."

Shyla Wilson, "gently put them in to the water. We watch them look around at their new home and we named them. We all think they will come back home."

Becky Nichols, "watched the fingerlings invade the water and bury in the gravel to hide away from predators."

Winter Visuals 2000



Travis Larsen gets some pottery tips from Gary Anderson.



Makenzi Kocker discovers you have to get you're hands messy when your making pottery

Flag Retirement Ceremony

Boy Scout Troop 220 would like to cordially invite you to a Flag Retirement ceremony on Sunday April 2, 2000 at 6:30pm at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

A flag is never said to be burned - it is retired. Burning a flag that is worn, faded or tattered is the only method approved by Congress. This type of ceremony shows respect and honor to the flag being retired.

Please plan on joining us to experience this very patriotic and moving ceremony that will remind you what our flag flies for.

Where Are Your Charity Dollars Going?

Figures released recently by the Washington Secretary of State and the Attorney General show that, in many cases, less than a half or even a third of the money people donate through commercial fundraisers actually gets to the charity being represented. For the 80 commercial fundraisers operating in Washington, the report shows that on the average, 41.5% of the money actually went to the charities. More than a third of the fundraisers provided their clients with 20% or less of the contributions they had collected. Seven out of the 80 passed 10% or less on to their clients, including one whose client received less than 3% of the funds raised.

It is not illegal for fundraisers to keep a large percentage of the money they collect, so it's up to us as donors to find out how much of our donation is going where we think it is.



Questions & Answers
Financial Focus

Submitted by Connie R. Rose

Is An IRA A Specific Type Of Investment? It's really an account that allows the investments within it to grow tax-deferred. You can put a variety of investments in your IRA. Which investments are best for you depends on your time horizon (How long until you retire?), your risk tolerance (Can you tolerate movements in the stock market?) and your retirement goals (How much money will you need?). Here are a few of your IRA investment choices:

CD IRA

People for whom safety is an overriding concern may opt to invest their retirement funds in FDIC-insured certificates of deposit (CDs). When you invest in a CD, your money earns interest at a specified rate, which will generally increase with the length of CD maturity. Two disadvantages of a CD IRA are that you own only one investment type, and your rate of return may be significantly lower than what some other IRA investment options offer.

Mutual Fund IRA

IRAs comprised of mutual funds may be a good choice for investors who want more variety in their IRAs and more growth opportunities than CDs. Mutual funds offer a mix of stocks or bonds, or a combination of

the two, that are professionally managed by the fund company's money managers. Mutual funds comprised of bonds offer a more predictable rate of return, while mutual funds comprised of stocks offer more growth potential.

Annuity IRA

It may seem strange to buy a tax-deferred investment to hold in a tax-deferred account, but annuities offer two features that are not available on other investments, either inside or outside an IRA: 1. The possibility of income payments you can't outlive, and 2. A guaranteed death benefit. A lifetime payment is valuable if you're concerned about having enough income for a long life, and a guaranteed death benefit is important if you are concerned about what might happen if you died prematurely.

Self-directed IRA

A self-directed IRA offers the most flexibility of all the types of IRAs. Any number of investments such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs and annuities can be used in a self-directed IRA. This investment flexibility also allows you to better diversify your IRA to maximize your return potential and minimize your risk.

Windermere Key Realty

9121 Key Peninsula Hwy N.
Key Center, WA 98349

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And to browse at home, please check our website @

www.windermere.com.

Windermere

Windermere Real Estate/Key Realty
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Key Peninsula Civic Center

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 DANCE Creative Movement 3:00 Tap & Jazz 3:45 Healthy Families 10:00 LIONS CLUB 6:30 PM AWANA 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	2 INDOOR PARK 9:30 SENIORS 10:00 AM PARENTING 1:00 KARATE 7:00 PM TCC Watercolor CLASS 7:00 PM	3 TRIBAL DANCE 10:00 AM HOME SKATE 2:00 SKATE NIGHT 6:00 to 9:00 PM	4 FIREFIGHTERS BALL
5 KP BAPTIST CHURCH 9:00 AM IMPACT DINNER 1:00 FAMILY SKATE 1:30-5:00	6 EXECUTIVE COMM MEETING 7:00 PM KARATE 7:00 PM	7 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PARK 9:30 LTL BUDDIES 3:45 DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS MTG 6:00 TOPS 6:00 DOG OBEDIENCE 7:00	8 DANCE Creative Movement 3:00 Tap & Jazz 3:45 AWANA 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	9 INDOOR PK 9:30 SENIORS 10:00 AM RELATIVES 1:00-2:00 CENSUS 1:30-4:30 KARATE 7:00 PM TCC Watercolor 7:00 KP BOARD MTG 7:00	10 TRIBAL DANCE 10:00 AM HOME SKATE 2:00 SKATE NIGHT 6:00 to 9:00 PM	11 TCC Drawing/Tapestry 10:00 AM OLMAN POINT IMPROVEMENT 10:00 CENSUS 1:00-4:00 OUTREACH FAMILY SKATE 7:00
12 KP BAPTIST CHURCH 9:00 AM IMPACT DENNER 1:00	13 VFW and AUXILIARY 7:00 PM KARATE 7:00 PM	14 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PARK 9:30 LTL BUDDIES 3:45 CENSUS 1:30-4:30 TOPS 6:00 BOY SCOUTS 6:00 DOG OBEDIENCE 7:00	15 DANCE Creative Movement 3:00 Tap & Jazz 3:45 LIONS CLUB 6:30 PM AWANA 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	16 INDOOR PK 9:30 SENIORS 10:00 AM CENSUS 1:30-4:30 KARATE 7:00 PM TCC Watercolor 7:00	17 TRIBAL DANCE 10:00 AM HOME SKATE 2:00 SKATE NIGHT 6:00 to 9:00 PM	18 TCC Drawing/Tapestry 10:00 AM CUR SCOUTS PENWOOD DERRY CENSUS 1:00-6:00
19 KP BAPTIST CHURCH 9:00 AM IMPACT DENNER 1:00 FAMILY SKATE 1:30-5:00	20 KARATE 7:00 PM	21 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PARK 9:30 LTL BUDDIES 3:45 CENSUS 1:30-4:30 TOPS 6:00 BOY SCOUTS 6:00 DOG OBEDIENCE 7:00	22 DANCE Creative Movement 3:00 Tap & Jazz 3:45 AWANA 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	23 INDOOR PARK 9:30 SENIORS 10:00 AM CENSUS 1:30-4:30 KARATE 7:00 PM TCC Watercolor 7:00 CRIS Artling Around	24 TRIBAL DANCE 10:00 AM HOME SKATE 2:00 SKATE NIGHT 6:00 to 9:00 PM	25 TCC Drawing/Tapestry 10:00 AM CENSUS 1:00-6:00 VAUGHN ELEMENTARY AUCTION
26 KP BAPTIST CHURCH 9:00 AM IMPACT DINNER 1:00	27 VFW and AUXILIARY 7:00 PM KARATE 7:00 PM	28 WIC 7:30 AM INDOOR PARK 9:30 LTL BUDDIES 3:45 CENSUS 1:30-4:30 TOPS 6:00 BOY SCOUTS 6:00 DOG OBEDIENCE 7:00	29 DANCE Creative Movement 3:00 Tap & Jazz 3:45 AWANA 6:30 PM BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	30 INDOOR PARK 9:30 SENIORS 10:00 AM CENSUS 1:30-4:30 KARATE 7:00 PM TCC Watercolor 7:00 PARENTING 7:00	31 TRIBAL DANCE 10:00 AM HOME SKATE 2:00 SKATE NIGHT 6:00 to 9:00 PM	



**Children's
Museum
of Tacoma**

The Art Of Printing In Becka's Studio! There's a new medium of choice in Becka's Studio starting Saturday, March 11th. Visitors to the CMT can learn how to print, stamp, and etch with the use of sponges, plates, rollers and anything else we can get our hands on ... including our hands! This exciting process is fun for all ages and free with admission.

First Fridays Free: Visitors can enjoy our new exhibits for free on the first Friday of each month from 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM.

Super Saturday Surprise: On the second Saturday of each month the CMT features a guest, activity, or workshop that explores our exhibits in new and exciting ways. On March 11th, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM we're kicking off the first day of printmaking in Becka's Studio with instruction and exploration of all of the different printing techniques. The Super Saturday Surprise is free with admission.

Toddler Tunes: Parents with toddlers have the chance to learn some new songs twice a month with Toddler Tunes! On Wednesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 15th from 10:00AM to 11:00 AM we'll all be singing lively, kid-friendly tunes. We meet upstairs in the Museum for a half-hour of free-play, then move downstairs to our "Fish Bowl" for the songfest. Toddler Tunes is free with admission.

St. Patrick's Day: Visitors on March 17th will be able to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Becka's Studio. All day we will be printing while using shamrocks as our theme. Free with admission.

Toddler Takeover! The CMT has set aside special time for fun, developmentally stimulating activities that are age appropriate for our little friends. Will March go out like a lion or a lamb? For the great kite flying weather, we'll be printing on kite shapes from 1:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 25th and Wednesday, March 29th. Toddler Takeover is free with admission.

Office: 253-627-6031

936 Broadway

Tacoma, Washington 98402

FAX: 253-627-2436

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where art thy
throat lozenges?"**

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m'lady."**

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