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# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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## INSIDE & ONLINE

DECEMBER 2011

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Tree farmers receive award

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- Tree farmers receive award
- General election results
- Photo gallery and more

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## General Election results affect KP liquor store

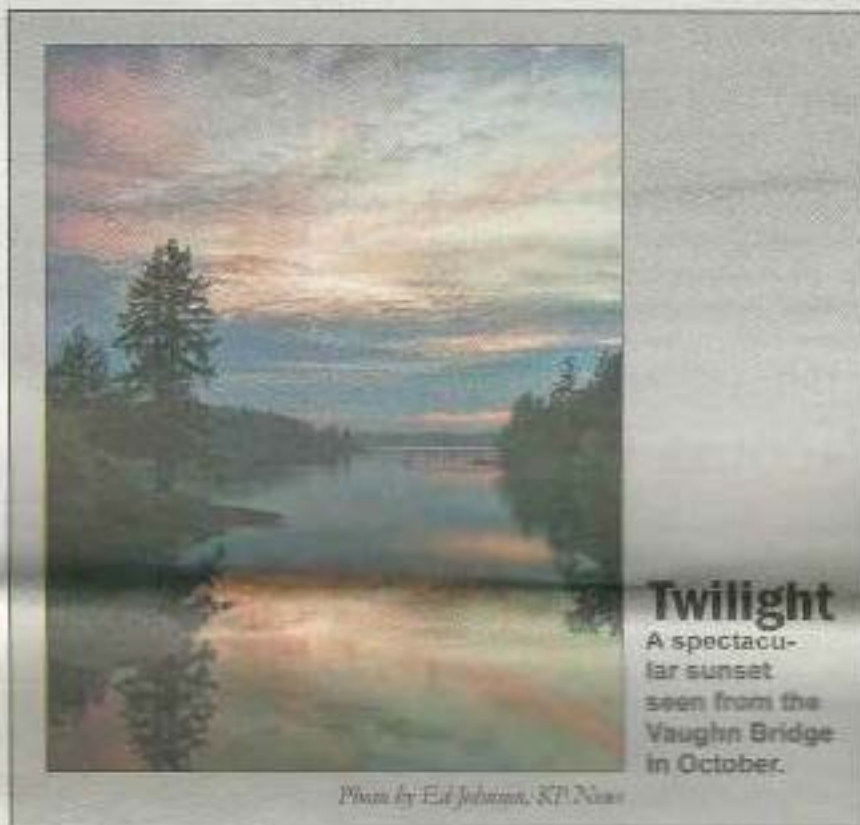
By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Pierce County, as a whole, saw 49 percent of its registered voters cast a ballot at the November General Election. Only 35 percent of Key Peninsula voters participated.

I-1183 privatizes and closes state liquor stores. It passed with 59 percent of the vote.

I-1183 requires that all state liquor stores be closed by June 1, 2012. Contracted liquor distributors will be able to sell retail spirits starting March 1, 2012. New state liquor retail licenses will go on sale Feb. 8, with sales allowed to start June 1. Retail liquor stores must have at least 10,000 square feet of "enclosed retail space". Smaller stores would be allowed, "If there is no 10,000 square-foot liquor store in the

(See Insurance, Page 2)



**Twilight**  
A spectacular sunset seen from the Vaughn Bridge in October.

Photo by Ed Johnson, KP News

## Silent killer, high risk sometimes lurks in winter homes

By Peter Ruble, KP News

With the winter season upon us, there is a silent killer that may lurk within your home. If you own a generator to power your home during electrical outages, you may be at risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fire District 16 Division Chief Guy Allen says that local carbon monoxide related incidents are usually a result of homeowners running a generator in their garage. "The exhaust does not get sent outside and this results in a progressive increase in carbon monoxide build up inside the home, said Allen. "Unfortunately, people are concerned that their generator might get stolen so they try to keep it secure inside their home." Allen went on to say that there haven't been any fatalities in the Key Peninsula area, but

there have been some around the state.

According to the information and research website Ponder.org, carbon monoxide is especially dangerous since it is colorless, odorless and tasteless. When you unknowingly inhale the gas, your body becomes poisoned due to the displacement of oxygen levels in the bloodstream. Your vital organs, including your brain, become suffocated. In a matter of minutes, you could die from it.

With exposure to a large dose of carbon monoxide, some of the symptoms would include nausea and vomiting, headaches, chest tightness, chest pain, muscle weakness and loss of consciousness. However, the results from long-term exposure to minute levels of carbon monoxide are harder to detect because the symptoms can sometimes appear identical to the common flu.

According to Allen, people should never run a fuel-powered motor inside any part of their home, including the garage. Instead, he recommends having an electrician install a transfer switch into the electrical panel and securing the generator outside. Allen also recommends cleaning the chimney annually to ensure that smoke can rise unobstructed.

Anything that burns a fuel can cause carbon monoxide. These can include water heaters, furnaces, cooking appliances, motorhomes, cars and trucks. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, 25 people die each year from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning. These deaths usually result from charcoal being burned inside for heat or cooking. Also, campers have died from burning charcoal inside their tents to keep warm.



(From Insurance, Page 1)

area." There is no limit to the number of licenses to be sold.

The pre-election statistics showed that the state would gain as much as \$1.3 billion in new revenue over 10 years. This assumed a 5 percent increase in retail liquor sales, and over 1,000 new licenses issued. One week prior to the election the State Office of Financial Management released its determination that the state could actually lose \$603 million over 10 years. State Budget Director Marty Brown recommended that both bids submitted be rejected.

Problems with the specific language contained in I-1183 include: (1) "Enclosed retail space." There is no definition included in the language. It is not clear if that would include the entire square footage of a grocery store, or just the shelf space devoted to liquor and fortified wines. (2) "In

the area" is not defined, and it is unclear whether one 10,000 square-foot Costco in Gig Harbor North could prohibit licensing of any smaller store on the Key Peninsula. (3) There are no "grandfathering" provisions identified in the Voters Pamphlet for existing licensed state liquor stores.

The existing state liquor store in Key Center has a total of 1,600 square feet for its entire building.

On Nov. 21 the State Liquor Licensing board held an information meeting concerning I-1183, inviting currently licensed state liquor stores to attend. Jeanne Weston, the owner of the State Liquor Store in Key Center attended.

"They assured me that the Key Center Liquor Store is grandfathered," said Weston. "But they haven't yet determined what licensing criteria they will use. They think they will use the same as for beer and wine licensing, where two offenses over three years will disqualify an applicant.

## KP resident chosen as Jane's Fellow

Staff Report

Holly Hendrick is the marketing and facilities coordinator for the Key Peninsula Civic Center, but she's also a co-founder of Fresh Food Revolution: A Key Peninsula Food Co-op, a member of the Tahoma Food Policy Coalition and a Marketing and Education Committee member of the Washington State Farmers Market Association.

Hendrick can add one more title to her name, Jane's Fellow. Hendrick was one of 10 chosen as the next class for participation in the Jane's Fellowship Program. There were 63 applicants, and Hendrick said it was a competitive selection process that included an individual interview, a group meeting, letters of recommendation and a detailed application form.

Fresh Food Revolution started June 15 and



Holly Hendricks

focuses on farmers on the Key Peninsula and the Gig Harbor area, Hendrick said. More than 60 members of the co-op enjoy fresh food each week, and Hendrick said the plan is to continue through the fall and winter months.

"It is our intention to run all year long," she said. Members can place orders online through the winter months for foods like kale, squash, potatoes and bakery items.

During the next two years Hendrick will gain leadership skill-building, and personal development and peer support through the Jane's Fellowship Program.

The Russell Family Foundation's Board of Directors accepted Hendrick in the fourth class of Jane's Fellows.

## Tacoma Community College takes first in student completion rates

The 2010-2011 cohort of TCC students attained the highest achievement point increase of any community or technical college in the state.

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) uses achievement points to determine how colleges are progressing towards the goal of increasing student completion — which means different things to different students.

Some students attend a community or technical college to attain a certificate. Some want a transfer degree. Some want to complete pre-college work so they can attain a GED or enroll in college courses. Achievement points measure progress in basic skills, certificate and degree completion, and other areas.

TCC achieved a point gain of 1,623. The next-highest performing college, Skagit Valley, achieved a point gain of 1,150. Washington's Student Achievement Initiative rewards schools for increasing student success, so this accomplishment trans-

lates into money for the college, and \$133,086 was applied to TCC's base budget. In an economic climate in which all state colleges are struggling to maintain state funding, that's particularly good news for TCC.

The achievement point gain was no accident. The college recently adopted a college-wide initiative called "Pathways to Completion." TCC examines practices from other colleges, and efforts pioneered by initiatives such as Achieving the Dream, and scales them up to reach large numbers of students.

Achieving the Dream, a national student completion initiative, has already proved its success at retaining students. When it was adopted at TCC, the fall-to-winter retention rate went up from 76.62 percent in 2006 to 82.81 percent in 2010.

TCC's "Pathway to Completion" is designed to keep student completion numbers going up. Steps include outreach

efforts that deliver personalized information to prospective students so that they can arrive on campus prepared to succeed and a Learning Network that provides extra support to students, especially in classes that have been traditional barriers to student success.

"Completion" is the word of the day and it will continue to be our guiding theme for the next year ahead," said TCC President Pamela Transue. "We need to pilot innovations, measure effectiveness, and then focus on those that are both effective and extendable to most of our students. In this effort, we can learn from the experience of other colleges."

"At TCC, we anticipate that as student engagement increases, so will rates of student success and completion," said Institutional Effectiveness Director Scott Marsh.

Source: Tacoma Community College

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

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

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

The opinions expressed herein are the opinions of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher 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 need. THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS reserves the right to edit all submissions for length and content. Mail letters to P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394, or e-mail to news@keypennews.com





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## District Task Force Focuses On Academic Achievement Goals

A Peninsula School District ad-hoc group has been working on districtwide goal for academic achievement. The Academic Achievement Goals Task Force, comprised of teachers, administrators and parent representatives, has created a draft document to help provide each school support and guidance in developing and meeting school improvement goals.

"The schools have been doing an excellent job embedding the school improvement process into their work—their plans and result-focused activities have really had a positive impact on instruction and student achievement. The task force developed an overarching goal statement to ensure all students were considered and to provide clarity for school improvement teams so their goals were consistent with the districtwide, overarching goal," said Dan Gregory, PSD K-12 Academic Officer.

The group looked at the district's student achievement data and analyzed data from other high-performing districts.

"We looked at the work those districts have done



*PSD encourages regular teacher support sessions as part of the school improvement strategy at each building as well as districtwide.*

in setting academic goals and used that as a starting point," Gregory said.

The task force will solicit input on the draft from various stakeholders including parent groups and principals, and the draft will be shared with the Board

of Directors in January.

"We are always about continuous improvement and we want to support our schools at the highest degree so they can do their work and meet higher standards every year," said Claudia Thompson, Academic Officer for Learning and Teaching. "The group looked at setting academic goals and challenging all students at their own level, so they created strategies and defined measures of success for those goals."

The final document is expected to be approved in April and implemented in time for School Improvement Teams to use it as they develop plans for the 2012-2013 school year.

### DECEMBER EVENTS

- 3-4 Gig Harbor TideFest—Entry fee \$5  
Saturday 10:00-5:00 Sunday 11:00-4:00
- 5 Levy Focus Group in PHS auditorium  
6:30-7:00 p.m. Community is welcome!  
Citizens for Peninsula Schools Presentation  
Levy Support in PHS auditorium  
7:00-8:30 p.m.  
Community is welcome!
- 13 School Board Regular Meeting  
6:00 p.m. District Office
- 16 Early release for all grade levels due to  
Legislative reductions in funding:  
High School 10:45 Middle School 11:30  
Elementary 12:15
- 19-30 No School—Winter Break

*School resumes on Tuesday, January 3, 2012,  
at the regular start time.*

PHS Drama Presents Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors"  
Fri/Sat (Dec. 2, 3, 9, 10) @ 7pm,  
Thurs/Sun (Dec. 1, 4, 8, 11) @ 3pm

Tickets are \$7 general; \$5 for Seniors,  
Military, under 12, and Students w/ASB.

*Donations for the upgrade of sound & light systems  
in the auditorium will also be gladly accepted!*

### Replacement Levy

On Wednesday, November 9, 2011, the Board of Directors for the Peninsula School District voted unanimously on a resolution to authorize a Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy. The election date is February 14, 2012, and will be held by mail-in ballots only. Please join us on December 5, 2011, 6:30 p.m., at the Peninsula High School auditorium for a District Focus Group meeting regarding the levy. For additional information, call 253.530.1001 or send an email to [levy@psd401.net](mailto:levy@psd401.net).

### Emergency Bus Routes

The Transportation page with snow/emergency routes is located on the information slider at the top of the PSD website. For safety reasons not all roads are serviced. If you do not find your bus stop, please look for a nearby stop—either on your bus route or another bus servicing your school. **IMPORTANT:** It is standard practice that snow/emergency routes used in the morning are used for the return trip home.

### PSD Budget Development: 2012-2013

We continue to work on the budget development process for 2012-2013. During the next couple of months, we will be working on enrollment projections, monitoring possible changes in the Governor's proposed budget reduction alternatives for K-12 education and keeping a close watch on the Legislative Special Session that started on November 28, 2011. We know that this will be a very challenging process given the state's budget dilemma and the Governor's target of \$2 billion worth of reductions. As we proceed through the budget development process, we will continue to keep you informed through newsletters, meetings, forums and the District website.

### Inclement Weather Coming Soon!

The likelihood of wind, rain, ice and snow on our roads is in the not too distant future. Thoughtful decision making goes into reviewing the District's 120 square miles when inclement weather arises. When the District experiences an emergency, information will be updated regularly on our District's website, the District's emergency line (530-1088), school websites and radio and television stations. All weather related decisions focus on student and employee safety as the highest priority.



# Balancing the Books Sculpture Garden gets a Facelift

By Karen Lovett, KP News

The sculpture garden began as a suggestion by Friends of the Library member Molly Holmes in October, 2000. Members, led by Dick Bates and Keith Stiles, held fundraisers, sold T-shirts and candy, held an art auction and encouraged donations to raise the \$13,000 needed to pay for the commissioned sculptures.

Vaughn resident and retired principal, John Jewell, donated his time and labor to design the sculptures and make the clay molds. Geron, Houston and Kelsey Butchecoc were the child models for the artwork. The bronze statues were cast at The Bronze Works factory in Shelton in March, 2002.

Tom Wilson donated and built the stone wall and worked on garden preparation. Dale Frank volunteered material, time and labor to create the sculpture base. In May, 2002 the sculptures were installed by John Jewell, Dale Frank and Tom Wilson.

Then president of the Friends of the Key Peninsula Library, Dick Bates, planted and maintained the garden until he

passed away. Dory Meyers, Pierce County Librarian in Key Center at that time, assisted with and kept a notebook of records of the progress of the Garden.

The sculpture dedication was held on June 1, 2002. Entertainment included Irish music and cloggers.

The garden has undergone a facelift thanks to the very capable hands of Friends of the Key Center Library volunteer Dianne Everson. A new brick edge along the sidewalk and round aggregate stepping stones were installed by Everson. Purdy Topsoil donated some stones to extend the stone wall when an overgrown vine maple was removed to leave space for smaller trees. Sunnycrest Nursery donated some plants and sold others at cost. Everson stops by the library every couple of days to weed until the weather cools off.

Everson took over as volunteer gardener in July. She plans to add some dwarf conifers and perennials for an all-season, low maintenance garden.

Everson said, "What is so gratifying about the garden is that it means so much



Dianne Everson spends a lot of time in the garden at the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library System. Everson is a Friends of the Library volunteer and took over caring for the space in July.

Photos by Karen Lovett, KP News

to the people coming in and out of the library. The children often talk to the statues. This really is a labor of love."

Everson, a musician, is an accomplished pianist and plays the pipe organ. She plays classical music and jazz. She owns the lo-

cal business, Natural Garden Care, and lives in a house she built with the help of family and friends just south of Vaughn.

Funds for materials are provided by Friends of the Key Center Library and private donations.

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# BRIEFS

## Community

### Kazakhstan topic of December Travel Club meeting

Leonard Hill and Cathy Scoviale will give a presentation on Kazakhstan, where they recently spent several months. The Dec. 5 meeting is free and will be in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library at 7 p.m.

Central Asia has historically been a meeting point for eastern and western cultures. Kazakhstan, celebrating 20 years of independence in December, has moved from relative obscurity during the Soviet period to become a regional leader. A country the size of western Europe, with significant energy and mineral resources but a population of less than 17 million, Kazakhstan since independence has had to play a delicate balancing act, seeking to modernize and westernize while still retaining its traditional culture and maintaining good relations with its much larger neighbors: Russia and China. A program on India by Ron and Louise Talley is scheduled for Jan. 2. For more information call 884-4697.

### PSD to place levy on February ballot

Peninsula School District Board of Directors voted unanimously on Nov. 9 to authorize a Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy. The election date is Feb. 14, 2012, and will be held by mail-in ballots only.

Funding from this levy will be appropriated to pay for essential services such as teachers, school counselors, clerical support, para-educators, technology, sports, campus security, textbooks, staff professional development and critical building maintenance. Voters passed the existing program and operations levy in 2001. It provides about 22 percent of the costs of operating the Peninsula School District on a day-to-day basis. The replacement levy would provide continuation of that funding for the next four years.

The levy will be the subject of the District Focus Group meeting. The public is invited to attend the meeting in the Peninsula High School auditorium on Dec. 5 at 6:30 p.m. For more information call 253-530-1001 or

email [levy@psd401.net](mailto:levy@psd401.net).

### Local Toastmasters win tall tale contests

The Key Peninsula Toastmasters club held their fall tall tale contest in September. William Michael Paul's speech "Soaring with the Eagles," a tale about sky diving, won first place. Frank Shirley was second with "A Night with Irene," a tale about a giant woman and hurricane Irene. That night they entered the Area 24 contest in Gig Harbor. Paul wowed them again, taking first place. Shirley took third. Paul went on to Division B contest in October where the competition was keen. He came in second.

The Key Peninsula Toastmasters meet each Thursday morning 8 - 9 a.m. at the Key Peninsula Library. Visitors are welcome. Come join the fun and improve your leadership and speaking skill.

An open house breakfast is scheduled for Dec. 8 from 8 - 9:30 am at Road House on the Hill. Reservations are required. For ticket information call Ann Campy at 884-2623.

### New guest columnists named for 2012

The Key Peninsula News is pleased to announce that Lori Colbo, Barbie Swayze and Steven Whirford have been chosen as the 2012 guest columnists, and Tracy Butzko will be writing once per quarter as a guest real estate columnist. Also, James Lameri will provide a guest column on the summer and winter reading lists at the Key Peninsula branch of the Pierce County Library System. Congratulations to all of our 2012 guest columnists!

### Correction

The article "KP Parks ready for park development input, planning," which appeared in the November edition, contained misleading information about leased properties. According to Greg Anglemeyer of Key Pen Parks, "We did not spend any of our budget to secure the leases, that was done for us by the state. Key Pen Parks does continue to seek parcels of land and funds to assist the quest for a trail system from Purdy to Devil's Head." KP News regrets the error.

## KEY PEN

# PARKS



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

### TRIPS

#### Pacific Science Center Trip

Want to learn something new over break in a fun way? Sign up for this extra trip to visit the Pacific Science Center in Seattle! Must bring a sack lunch and beverage.

Grades: K-6  
 Date: 12/27  
 Location: Trip departs from and returns to Vol. Park  
 Fee: \$39  
 Time: 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
 Min/Max: 8/10

#### Snowshoe trip

Want to get some extra snow this winter? Sign up for this extra trip to get involved in a different kind of winter sport at Mt. Rainier! Participants must bring a sack lunch and beverage.

Age: 8-13  
 Date: 12/28  
 Location: Trip leaves from and returns to Vol. Park  
 Fee: \$39  
 Time: 8:00 am-4:00 pm  
 Min/Max: 8/10

### CAMPS

#### Winter Camp

The weather may be cold and bleary, but inside Winter Break Camp things are just heating up! We have something for everyone with activities including games, arts & crafts, sports and fitness, and so much more! Reunite with your old friends, or just make some new ones. Must bring a sack lunch and beverage each day. Afternoon snack provided.

Grades: K-6  
 Location: Civic Center  
 Day/Date: 12/19-22  
 Fee: \$85 all 4 days  
 \$29/day drop in rate  
 Time: 9:00 am-4:00 pm  
 Min/Max: 10/20

### FITNESS AND SPORTS

#### Zumba (Ages: 16 +)

Come party yourself into shape! Zumba is an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness class that is like nothing you've ever tried before.

Location: Civic Center, VFW Room  
 Date/Time: Sat 9:00-10:00 am  
 Tues 9:15-10:15  
 Fee: \$53 for a punch card  
 Min/Max: 5/20 per class

Note: Punch cards are good for 2 months after purchase date.

#### 20-20-20 (Ages 16+)

Class is three 20 minute segments that consist of cardio, strength training & stretching. Full body workout builds stamina, strength & flexibility. If you are out of condition this program will help improve your fitness level.

Location: Key Pen Civic Center  
 Day/Date: Starts Jan 2, 2012  
 Mon., Weds., Fri.  
 10:00-11:00 am  
 Fee: \$60 (7 punches)  
 Min/Max: 5/20 per class

Note: Punch cards are good for 2 months after purchase date.

#### Basketball Skills Clinic

Co-ed Basketball Skills Clinics for youth in Pre-K through 2nd grade. Focus on basketball skill development (dribbling, passing, & shooting). Parent involvement required. Scaled down equipment, specialized drills and games will be used to ensure success for all participants.

Ages: 4-7  
 Location: Key Pen Civic Center  
 Day/Date: Saturdays, 1/14-2/18  
 9-9:50 am (age 6-7)  
 10-10:50 am (age 4-5)  
 Fee: \$45  
 Min/Max: 10/20 per age group

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# Peninsula Views

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### Good changes ahead

The newspaper you hold in your hands is the final edition of 2011. The KP News staff is already working on the January 2012 edition, and it will look a little bit different.

We've been planning and meeting for months to come up with a design that will be a joy for the reader, and a product that will take us forward.

In 2012 we will have a new look, a new Web site, and the staff will welcome some new volunteers and guest columnists. While change can be difficult and scary sometimes, we embrace all of these changes as a way to make the KP News even better.

We've also been listening to your suggestions, and will continue to ask for your feedback as we go into the New Year. We are gathering ideas for fresh content for 2012, and of course we'll keep some of the favorite features and those we've added over the past few years.

We will continue to feature our local athletes as they work hard and play hard, and we will keep telling stories of faith in our community. Our news coverage will remain strong with public safety as a focus, and we will work to bring you a variety of features that will introduce you to your neighbors.

If you have ideas for fresh content for 2012, or if you would like to become a volunteer at the KP News, please give us a call at 884-4699, or email us at [news@keypenews.com](mailto:news@keypenews.com).



Marsha Hart, editor

## Key Center gets a facelift

Driving into Key Center is a different experience now that the traffic signal is installed. Gone is the flashing light, and the traffic signal now allows for safer turning from Olson Drive and Cramer Road onto KP Highway.

The old flashing light was donated to the Key Peninsula Historical Society by Pierce County, something that is not typically done. When old lights come down they are discarded, but our community asked, and the county agreed to donate it, complete with a switch that will allow it to illuminate as it once did in the center of town.

The new traffic signal seemed to usher in some changes to Key Center.

O'Callahan's Bar and Grill is getting a new sign, and there is new landscaping and a new flagpole in front of the Liquor Store. Soon the Peninsula Market will open and demolition of the old store will begin. The Peninsula Market will close Dec. 13 and the new store will open the morning of Dec. 14. Weather will determine when the parking lot will be complete. Don Stolz said plans for a Subway at the new market are 99 percent. He is not a proponent of bringing liquor into Peninsula Market for sale. Another crosswalk will be installed and the turning lane will be extended.

Though there was controversy with the traffic signal coming to Key Center, the new signal does have an automatic system built in for power outages. During power outage the signal can operate fully for a couple of days and flashing mode for two through weeks.

We are one of the few who has the automatic traffic signal. The new traffic signal is designed to calm traffic and make the road safer, and hopefully it will also serve to make the intersection easier to navigate.

Now if everyone can remember the signal is there.

## Hong Kong provides treats, taste of home

By Michael Silk  
Special to the KP News

One of the best things about Hong Kong is how close it is to so many great destinations. I can take an hour ferry ride to Macau. It is a beautiful city. Macau was a Portuguese colony and the mix of culture and architecture is something to behold. It is breathtaking to see the effects of Mediterranean charm assimilated into ancient Chinese neighborhoods. My favorite thing about Macau was the egg-tarts, which is the signature dish of Macau. It was passed down from the Portuguese. When you bite into this small pastry you are treated to a creamy, buttery, egg delicacy. I ordered one just to try the local food and couldn't stop myself from ordering three more, it was so delicious.

Macau has become the Las Vegas of China but once you get away from the big casinos and into the neighborhoods you find yourself transported into another world. All of the buildings are built against each other in an endless stream of concrete. There are no trees or grass and the steady stream of buildings all reach about four stories. Walking down the quiet alleyways of Macau, where people live and run small private shops, you notice the stark contrast to the liveliness of the tourist areas. There were almost no noises or people. When I was there I heard only the faint echoes of distant motorbikes and cars. I must have walked for about an hour through these alleyways without encountering anyone. Though, the peace would be suddenly broken by a person on a motorbike rocking past you down the alleyways.

Lan Kwai Fong is the bar district of Hong Kong. It's a place unlike anywhere else in the city. It is a foothold of the West in

this enormous place. LKF, as it is affectionately known by ex-pats here in Hong Kong, is a place where you can go for an almost perfect knock-off version taste of home. You can walk through this tiny two block district and hear an assortment of languages but not once will you hear Cantonese or Mandarin.

You can make believe you are anywhere in the world for as long as you confine yourself to this small area filled with other people looking for a return to normalcy — a return to home. Then again, perhaps they are only seeking to immerse themselves deeper into this place by adding a touch of the familiar to their adopted home. There's a huge mix of people in LKF: students, businessmen, and backpackers are all gathered together in a mass of people that swarms out from each bar and restaurant into the narrow streets. The crowd becomes a living organism composed of its individual cells of human beings.

Although almost entirely composed of Westerners, even this haven has uniquely Hong Kong traits. People are herded into the narrow alleyways between the tiny bars and shops bombarded by sensory overload. The city lights shine in your eyes and for a moment you can fool yourself into believing it is sunlight on your face, until you realize it is too harsh for sunlight. The bright lights, overpowering smells, and pounding music from the bars competing with each other are overwhelming. The human mind was not designed to assimilate all of the experiences of LKF at one time. I have found that sometimes seeking a taste of home in a far away land can make you miss your home all the more.

*Michael Silk has completed all four exams for his CPA, but a Bachelor's in Accountancy and is pursuing a Master's of Science in International Banking and Finance at Lingnan University in Hong Kong. Look for photos at [keypenews.com](http://keypenews.com).*

### Letters Policy

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



# Santa Claus is coming to town...

brought to you by the Key Peninsula Business Association,  
the Fire Fighters Union,  
Pierce County Fire District 16  
and Key Pen Parks

## Key Peninsula Business Association

- American Family Insurance
- Angel Gifts North Shore
- Arts Ltr. Tot. & Breakfast
- Art Studio
- Art's Choice
- Carbony Builders, Inc.
- CC Williams' The Trucke Leader
- Castroville
- Charmous Construction & Supply
- Cloze to Home Services
- Cost Less Pharmacy
- Derek Edner
- Dino's Fitness
- DLI Engineering
- Dr. Sanderson Family Restaurant
- DJ's Accounting & Taxes
- Ed's Landscaping Services
- Four Winds Bldg. Center
- Fresh Food Republic Co-op
- Gig Worker Chapter of Consumers
- Golfers' Alliance
- Gold Dental
- Home Excavating and More
- Home Food & Grocery
- Mountain Restaurant & Lounge
- Horseshoe Lake Golf Course
- Joe Abaja
- Jeff Hunt
- Jeff Murch Construction
- Joel Meyer
- KC Construction Repair
- Keller Windows Realty
- Key Center Auto Repair
- Key Center Family Doctors: John D. Olson MD
- Key Center Pierce County Library
- Key Medical Center PLLC
- Key Pen Parks
- Key Peninsula Child Center
- Key Peninsula Community Council
- Key Peninsula Community Fair Share
- Key Peninsula Health & Environmental Center
- Key Peninsula Lin & Club
- Key Peninsula News
- Key Peninsula Real Estate
- Key Peninsula Retirement Club
- Key to Learning Children's Therapist
- Kristi Sporting Company, Inc.
- Lake Katoma Village
- Larry Bergquist, Rep.
- Landscape Improvement Club
- Landscape Services
- LTA Financial Services
- LS Property Management
- Martha Jensen Realtor
- May Taylor
- Masters Dry Carpet Cleaners
- Mike Fay
- Mustard Seed Project
- My-My Accounting Service Inc.
- Nelson Woodworks
- Pat and Cindy Kelly
- Pedersen Bookkeeping Co.
- Peninsula Gallery
- Peninsula Market - Key Center
- Peninsula Market - Lake Katoma
- Peninsula Light Company
- Peninsula School District
- Pierce County Fire District 16
- Rebecca Debra-Lynn Espinoza
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- Ruth Bradwell
- Ryan Meyer
- Rudy Book Consulting
- Rural Credit Union
- St. Anthony Hospital
- St. High Episcopal Church
- Stacy's Hair Salon & Day Spa
- Three Home - Media Via Plus
- Tim's Mobile Auto Repair Inc.
- Two Waters Arts Alliance
- Verde Point Photography
- Watermark Writers
- Westwood Motel
- Whispering Key Realty
- WMAA Camp Colman
- WMAA Camp Seaman



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Color this page to your hearts desire and then send it to:

**KPBA-Santa**  
PO Box 439  
Vaughn WA 98394

It will be available at [www.kpba.org](http://www.kpba.org) within the "photo gallery" section

They will also be displayed at the retail businesses on the list.

We will be bringing Santa to the following areas, on the designated days, between 6-8pm\* (weather permitting). Listen for our sleigh bells to signal our arrival!!

<b>Sat, December 3</b> Breakfast with Santa 9 - New *pancake breakfast with holiday arts & crafts, music, and a photo with Santa Registered (by Nov 29): 15:00 After Nov 29: 16:00 Key Peninsula Fire Department Key Center Station Register at: <a href="http://www.keypenparks.com">www.keypenparks.com</a>	<b>Sun, December 4</b> Tree lighting-Key Center (3pm) Lake Winterwood (after)	<b>Sat, December 10</b> Home Jackson Lake Taylor Bay	<b>Sat, December 17</b> Pelover Lake Whitterson
<b>Mon, December 5</b> Laka of the Woods Del Hoga	<b>Wed, December 14</b> Horseshoe Lake Estates Creston Heights	<b>Sun, December 18</b> Lake Holiday	<b>Mon, December 19</b> Jordan Beach Farms Hoff/Lorenz Road Loop
<b>Fri, December 9</b> Wind and Tides Green Tree Emerald Shores Del Mar	<b>Fri, December 16</b> Skate Night at the Clear Vaughn		

\*Due to weather and holiday hours, exact times are not possible.





# Church bazaar features historic dollhouse

By Colleen Slater, KP News

A refurbished Victorian cedar lodge dollhouse is the centerpiece of the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church annual Hands & Hearts Christmas Bazaar Dec. 3. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

All bazaar items are hand-crafted or home-baked and sold at affordable prices. Jewelry, aprons, market bags, purses, fire starters, crocheted and knitted items, toys, lap blankets, hats and scarves, fresh evergreen arrangements, and our most popular Christmas goodies. Lefsa, fattigman, krumkaka, and numerous other types of Christmas cookies will be fresh and available for purchase.

All proceeds help support the Community Meals, Backpack 4 Kids and Food Pantry outreach programs provided by the church.

Aileen and Jim Hanson, longtime residents of Vaughn, bought the dollhouse in the '70s, plus boxes of Victorian style furniture, but never finished the construction.



Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

Christine Darsow of Little Dwellings and More restored this old Victorian dollhouse for the Key Peninsula Lutheran Church bazaar.

Christine Darsow of Little Dwellings and More completed the project, including paint, varnish, stain, faux stamped concrete deck floors, colored pebbles, and

assorted interior artwork.

The dollhouse has nine rooms on three floors, plus porches, sun deck, landscaping, Christmas tree and dogs. The intricate, ornate detail of Victorian miniatures can fascinate children and adults alike.

"All the details and materials used in this house were chosen to bring each room its own character and feel of a time lived long ago where traditions mattered and life was enjoyed more fully," said Darsow.

She added some whimsical touches as well as authentic pieces to the original collection of furniture and building materials.

Window panes were not included, but Darsow is able to add plain, etched, or frosted ones to the new owners of this "one of a kind" building built to 1/12 scale. It is 4x2x3 feet.

The dollhouse is available for viewing by appointment at McColey Hall. Call 884-3466 to arrange.

"Opportunity tickets" for the dollhouse sell for \$2 each until just before the bazaar closes at 3 p.m.

Annual Key Peninsula Civic Center

## Crab Feed!

Saturday, January 28, 2012

4:00 to 7:00 PM

\$25 Adults • \$10 kids (6-12yrs)

Crab Feed  
tickets  
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great  
holiday gift!



Tickets available at the Key Peninsula Civic Center & Sunnycrest Nursery in December & January.

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# Judith's Christmas blessing

By Rick Sorrels, KP News

Some dogs are pets that live in a purse or lounge around the house waiting for a belly rub and table scraps.

Some dogs work for a living herding sheep or cattle, chasing coons up a tree, guarding military installations, or catching criminals.

Some well-socialized dogs become "therapy dogs" that provide comfort and companionship.

Some specially trained dogs become "service dogs" with special rights and privileges granted under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

And some dogs are truly extraordinary, the proverbial "super dog".

Judith Crowley, a resident of Lakebay for the past 16 years, has had three of these truly remarkable service dogs.

In 1989, Crowley suffered severe and disabling injuries in a vehicle accident, compounded by subsequent drug reactions. A few of her medical problems include neurological functioning, atrial fibrillation, fibromyalgia, and diabetes.

In 2000, Crowley obtained her first dog, already trained, from a friend in New York. "Cinnabon" was an 85-pound Rottweiler. "Cinnabon" was stolen in 2006, but thanks to an implanted microchip, was recovered, severely injured. The vet said that the broken leg and contusions indicated a strong possibility that Cinnabon had jumped from a fast moving vehicle. Cinnabon's injuries became infected and septic. She had to be put to sleep.

"Maxine," a 110-pound Rottweiler, was her second dog. Crowley trained this dog, as she had been working with AKC, rescue, and shepherd and rottweiler show dogs for 25 years.

"Maxine has arthritis now, with limited mobility," said Crowley. "But she will still alert as she has been trained."

Crowley's current dog, "Citka", an 80-pound Golden Retriever, was born in 2009 and started training when she was 10 weeks old.

"Maxine helped with Citka's training," said Crowley. "Citka was an exception to the general rule that a dog needs to be at least 12 to 18 months old before service dog training can start."

"My diabetes was worse, and I needed up-to-date training methods for Citka. The

American Diabetic Association recommended Mary McNeight at Service Dog Academy in West Seattle, who has been training service dogs for 16 years."

Citka is called upon to do demonstrations at the American Diabetic Association conventions in Seattle, and at elementary schools. Citka can be viewed in action online at [www.servicedogacademy.com](http://www.servicedogacademy.com).

Citka acts as a substitute pacemaker, and will sense and alert for a racing pulse, shortness of breath, or pending loss of consciousness. She can smell both a low blood sugar and a high blood sugar, and will alert and respond differently for each. She will sense a balance problem and will make the decision to either pull Crowley forward to keep her momentum, or else lean against her and a large object to keep her from falling. Citka will pick up and retrieve dropped objects, pull Crowley's wheelchair, and steer left or right on command, she can open refrigerator doors and bring required medication to Crowley, as needed, and can even push the "red panic button" on the special phone, which will then dial "911".

If Citka senses Crowley's blood sugar is too low, she will bump her thigh, and then mouth her wrist or hand to get her attention.

If Citka senses a high blood sugar, she will stand on her hind legs, give a "high five" with her paw, and then hug Crowley's leg.

"Citka can sense a blood sugar level from another room," said Crowley. "A dog's nose is 25,000 times more sensitive than a normal human."

"Citka will also alert for other people. She cannot tell which person has the abnormal blood level until she follows the smell to the individual and then she alerts," said Crowley. "This has happened with non-diabetics whose sugar level was extra high from something they just ate."

She has also saved Crowley's life.

"At Christmas last year, I sensed something wrong, my sugar level suddenly dropped. I lost consciousness as I was reaching for my test kit," said Crowley. "My doctor credits Citka for saving my life, as I had less than a 20-minute window to live. When I could not respond to her alert, Citka immediately found my husband on the far side of the property and brought him to my side."

While her human rests, Citka is on alert 24-7.

"Citka can sense a change to my 'aura',

## Recipe for diabetic dog training

Take one diabetic with varying blood sugar levels. Calibrate blood sugar measuring device. Test blood level frequently. Spit into cotton balls. Place in Ziploc in freezer marked clearly with blood sugar level. Remove from freezer and spread samples around house. Apply normal training techniques. Apply reward treats for desired response. Modify response for different blood levels. Re-test periodically for uniform consistency.

even when I'm sleeping, and then attempt to wake me if I start to slip into a coma," said Crowley. "A service dog gives me a lot more independence and takes away the fear factor. I am not afraid to be by myself, because I know that I can rely upon my dog. The big difference with service dogs is that they are trained to be a thinking problem solving

dog" which can make life and death decisions. A well-trained service dog can be worth in excess of \$15,000. My vet and I believe that my first dog, Cinnabon, had been specifically targeted for theft."

A friend of Crowley, who lives on the same street, credits her Rottweiler service dog for saving her life when the dog dialed 911 when she went into seizures. That dog has appeared on Larry King, Oprah, and Phil Donahue.

Crowley tells of another service dog, a Papillon, on the KP that alerts for its diabetic owner, and yet another who "helps" a local child who has cerebral palsy.

"Any well-behaved dog can be trained as a service dog," said Crowley. "At the Academy classes, there were Pit Bulls, Corgis, and Lab/Pit Bull mix."

"The Womens' Prison does basic service dog training. The closest Seeing Eye training is in California," said Crowley. "The Academy in Seattle can train for deaf and most everything else."

Non-profit agencies like Washington Access Fund will provide a grant to cover the cost of training a service dog.

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Give a gift of COMMUNITY!

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# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Now GED classes

Key Peninsula residents may complete a basic skills education for college entrance, employment skills, or a GED. Class meets Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Home Fire Station. Evening classes (6-8 p.m.) are available at the TCC Gig Harbor Campus. One can enroll at any time. For detailed class information, registration and orientation call Tracy Clark, 253-460-2356.

## Now Swim times set

Evening open swims on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5-6 p.m. and family swim on Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. (children under 2 swim for free) are available. Cost is \$4.25/swim or 10 swims with a punch card available for \$40. Call 884-2722 or email [estonc@wa.easterseals.com](mailto:estonc@wa.easterseals.com) to register.

## Saturdays & Tuesdays Zumba class

Zumba for ages 16+ is offered on Saturdays from 9-10 a.m. and Tuesdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. in the VFW Room of the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Fee is \$53 for a punch card, which is good for two months after purchase date. 884-9240.

## Tuesdays & Thursdays Preschool play time

The Children's Home Society Key Peninsula Family Resource Center offers a preschool/toddler indoor park program from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the KP Civic Center gym. Children play in a non-structured environment with age-appropriate toys. Care-givers must stay with child. Drop-ins are welcome; stay for as long as you can. A \$1 donation per child is suggested. Call Tami, 884-5433.

## To submit an event

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

## Thursdays & Saturdays Museum hours

The Key Peninsula Historical Museum, in the KP Civic Center, is open 1-4 p.m. on Thursdays and Saturdays through Dec. 10. Do Christmas shopping for books, T-shirts, mugs, notecards by Kelson Mills, postcards, etc. 884-3702 or 884-5403. The museum will close Dec. 11 until Feb. 2.

## Dec. 2, 9, 16 Skate night

Friday night skate night for elementary and middle school students is from 6-9 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Entry is \$5 and includes skate rental, games and crafts. Fresh concessions are available. Dec. 16 features a holiday theme. 884-3456.

## Dec 3 Christmas bazaar

KP Lutheran Church holds annual free Hearts & Hands Christmas Bazaar from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Lots of hand-crafted and home-baked items for sale. The bazaar centerpiece is a three-story furnished Victorian dollhouse, available for viewing at McColley Hall; 'opportunity tickets' are \$2 each. 884-3466.

## Dec. 3 Santa breakfast

The KP Fire Department and KP Parks present a pancake breakfast with Father Christmas from 9-11 a.m. at the Key Center Fire Station. Price includes breakfast, holiday arts and crafts, music

and a photo with Santa. Pre-registration by Nov. 29 is strongly encouraged and is \$4/person. Registrations will be accepted as space is available on the day of the event at \$6/person. 884-9240.

## Dec. 3 Winter concert

A Key Peninsula favorite, Madrigalia, returns to perform at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. This concert is presented by the Friends of the Key Center Library. Donations for the local food bank are appreciated. 253-548-3309.

## Dec. 4 KP tree lighting

The annual tree lighting and other free fun activities begin at 4 p.m. at the Key Corral in Key Center. 884-5433.

## Dec 5 Travel club

Leonard Hill and Cathy Stevulak present on Kazakhstan, a relatively new independent country in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. All are welcome to this free event sponsored by the KP Travel Club. 884-4697.

## Dec. 5, 12, 19, 27 Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile is at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Note Dec. 27 is a Tuesday.

## Dec. 7 Food bank forum

The general public is invited to a talk on the current status of the Key Peninsula Community Services/Food Bank by KPCS Director, Penny Gazabat, at 7 p.m. in the VFW Room of the KP Civic Center. This free program is sponsored by the KP Lions Club. Attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items or sanitary, laundry, or toiletry sup-

plies for KPCS. 884-4440.

## Dec. 8 Toastmaster breakfast

The KP Toastmasters are hosting an Open House Breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. at the Road House on the Hill Restaurant. The 8 a.m. buffet breakfast will be followed by a demonstration from 8:30-9:30 a.m. and the Toastmasters meeting. Reservations are required; call Ann Campy at 884-2623 or [campyza@yahoo.com](mailto:campyza@yahoo.com).

## Dec. 8 Teens at library

Teens will make German straw stars at the Key Center Library from 3-4:30 p.m. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 253-548-3309.

## Dec. 10 Fun at library

Gingerbread houses will be made by families at 11 a.m. at the Key Center Library. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library. Donations for the food bank are encouraged. 253-548-3309.

## Dec. 10 Food drive

The Peninsula School Bus Drivers host the 3rd Annual Food Drive: Staff the Bus at the Albertson's on Borgen Blvd. from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 884-3427.

## Dec. 11 Christmas concert

The Key Singers present their annual Christmas Concert at 3 p.m. at McColley Hall at the KP Lutheran Church. This year the Grinch will appear in person. Free admission but donations for the KP Community Service Food Bank are encouraged.

(See Community, Page 11)



(From Community, Page 10)

## Dec. 13 Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet chemo hats, baby items and blankets for non-profits in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. at the WayPoint Church. They also meet on Thursday, Dec. 22 from 7-9 p.m. Yarn donations are always welcome. [lovingheartsonkp@aol.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@aol.com) or Virginia, 884-9619.

## Dec. 13 KP youth meet

The Key Peninsula Youth Council, a committee of the KP Community Council, meets at 3 p.m. at KP Middle School. The youth are currently working on a radio show. All teens welcome.

## Dec. 17 Lyme group

The Lyme support group meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Lyme mimics over 200 other diseases including MS, and ALS. Positive group support for chronically-ill patients, caregivers and family members, and informa-

tion and education on the fastest-growing vector-borne disease in the world is offered. Local doctors and nurses, on the frontlines for rural communities, are especially invited to come and learn from patients. Lyme has four times the number of AIDS patients in North America and is growing.

## Dec 18 Christmas jam

The Longbranch Community Church Bluegrass Gospel Jam session will use Christmas music this month from 6-8:30 p.m. Bring your instruments to play, voices to sing, ears to listen, and finger-food to share.

## Dec. 19-22 Winter camp

Winter Break Camp will be held for K-6 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. Included are activities, games, arts & crafts, sports & fitness and more. Campers must furnish a sack lunch and beverage daily. An afternoon snack is provided. Cost is \$85/4 days or \$29/day for drop-ins. There is a minimum of 10 and maximum of 20 campers. Key Pen Parks, 884-9240.

## Dec. 27 Field trip

Key Pen Parks sponsors a field trip for K-6 to the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. Trip departs and returns to Volunteer Park. Participants must bring a sack lunch and beverage. Departure is at 9 a.m. and return is 4 p.m. and the cost is \$39/child. There is a minimum of eight and maximum of 10 for this trip. Sign up now at 884-9240.

## Dec. 28 Snowshoe trip

A snowshoe trip to Mt. Rainier for ages 8-13 is planned by KP Parks. The trip departs from Volunteer Park at 8 a.m. and returns at 4 p.m. Participants must bring a sack lunch and beverage. There is a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 children for this trip. The cost is \$39. Sign up now at 884-9240.

## Jan. 2 20-20-20 class

A class consisting of three 20-minute segments of cardio, strength training and stretching will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. in the VFW Room of the KP Civic Center. There will be five to 20 (ages 16 and over) participants allowed; fee is \$60 for a punch card good for 7 classes over a two-month period. This class will help improve everyone's fitness level no mat-

ter what age or condition one's in. Scott, Key Pen Parks, at 884-9240.

## Jan. 7 Friends' open house

The Friends of the Key Center Library host an open house/coffee for current Friends and potential Friends from 2-5 p.m. at the KC Library. 253-548-3309.

## Jan. 14 Youth basketball

Key Pen Parks offers coed Basketball Skill Clinics on Saturdays from Jan. 14-Feb. 18 at the KP Civic Center gym. Children, aged 4-7, will learn dribbling, passing and shooting with scaled-down equipment, specialized drills and games so all will succeed. Two times will be offered for groups of 10-20, fee is \$45 and parental involvement is required. Register at 884-9240.

## Jan. 28 Crab feed date set

KPCCA's Crab Feed will be held from 4-7 p.m. at the Civic Center. Tickets cost \$25/adults and \$10/kids.

(6-12 yrs) and are available from Sunnycrest Nursery and the Civic Center. [kpciviccenter.org](http://kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

(See Off the Key, Page 14)

# PUBLIC MEETINGS

## Tuesdays TOPS #1325

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

## Tuesdays Key singers

The Key Singers, the KP community chorus, meets from 7-8:30 p.m. in the KP Lutheran Church sanctuary. 884-5615.

## Wednesdays Lakebay writers

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

## Wednesdays Watermark writers

The Watermark Writers present a free writer's workshop from 6-8 pm in

Vaughn. Call 253-778-6559 for information.

## Thursdays Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at the Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability. Dec. 8 is an Open House Breakfast.

## Thursdays Senior Society

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

## Saturdays Writers' guild

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

# WEEKLY EVENTS

## KP Community Fair Association

Dec. 6, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; [www.keyfair.org](http://www.keyfair.org)

## Fire District 16

Dec. 13 & 27, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station.

## Key Peninsula Community Council

Dec. 14, 7 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station.

## Peninsula School District Board

Dec. 8, 6 p.m. regular meeting at dis-

trict office.

## KP Civic Center Board

Dec. 8, annual holiday party potluck at 6 p.m. & meeting at 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room.

## Key Pen Parks

Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex.

## LIC

Dec. 21, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club.

## KP Citizens Against Crime

Dec. 16, 7 p.m. at Home Fire Station



# HOUSES to HOME

YOUR GUIDE TO HOMES, PROPERTIES AND THE REAL ESTATE MARKET TRENDS ON THE KEY PENINSULA

## EXCLUSIVELY PRESENTED BY Windermere Real Estate



**LAKEBAY** \$79,000  
Breathtaking views of the Olympic Mountains, Case Inlet & terrain that is unobstructed for many years to come. Mobile needs floor work & cleanup. Excellent deep well so lots of water. Major value in the land, well & septic.  
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**LAKEBAY** \$119,500  
Well maintained & clean home on a private & quiet beautiful 1-acre site with Mt Rainier view. Spacious open floor plan with 2 bedrooms on opposite end from master suite. Roomy kitchen with eating nook & breakfast bar.  
Andee Bemrose  
253-857-3304 #238891



**PURDY** \$150,000  
Picture framed by tall firs, this log home sits on 1.24 level acres at the end of a cul-de-sac. Country living yet only minutes from schools, shopping, new hospital & Hwy 16 for an easy commute. 3 bedroom, 3 baths & almost 1700 square feet.  
Dottie Mazza  
253-857-3304 #208334



**GLEN COVE** \$199,950  
Three story 4 bdrm. A-Frame w/over 3800 sq ft of living space. Multiple decks allow you to enjoy the great outdoors from this unique home. Spiral staircase leads to the loft, big deck, oversized 2 car garage with workspace & 1/2 bath.  
Andee Bemrose  
253-857-3304 #165928



**ROCKY BAY** \$80,000  
4.6 acre of wooded land with Rocky Creek bordering the West side. Older mobile, potting shed, green house, shop, covered porches & more. Come take a look today!

Bill Poch  
253-857-3304 #289935



**PALMER LAKE** \$125,000  
This 3 bdrm, 1 bath, 1400+ sq ft home is situated near a salt water state park, community baseball field & other sporting events. Lots of new homes nearby & pride of ownership.

Bill Poch  
253-857-3304 #247504



**LONGERANCH** \$139,950  
70 ft of no bank waterfront. Peaceful, serene, gorgeous westerly to southern exposure. Just a few steps from the salt water & smooth pebble beach. Live in the travel trailer while you build your waterfront home.

Bill Poch  
253-857-3304 #247554



**GIG HARBOR** \$249,500  
Pleasures of Horse Head Bay, 80 ft of no bank waterfront. Only 4 miles to the City of Gig Harbor. Land is one acre of gently sloping rural terrain. Close to neighbors but away from the hustle & bustle of busy roads.

Bill Poch  
253-857-3304 #224989

Thru November 2011  
Key Peninsula Real Estate

## MARKET REPORT

### NON-WATERFRONT HOMES REPORT

Homes for Sale	145
Average List Price	\$232,760
(price per sq ft)	\$121
Average Days on Market	188
Homes Sold (ytd)	170
Average Sold Price	\$161,110
(price per sq ft)	\$100
Average Days on Market	134
Properties Pending	43

### WATERFRONT REPORT

Homes for Sale	40
Average List Price	\$304,386
(price per sq ft)	\$196
Average Days on Market	204
Homes Sold (ytd)	19
Average Sold Price	\$461,618
(price per sq ft)	\$233
Average Days on Market	158
Properties Pending	6

### LAND REPORT

Land for Sale	210
Average List Price	\$99,183
(price per acre)	\$81,779
Average Days on Market	478
Land Sold (ytd)	18
Average Sold Price	\$73,775
(price per acre)	\$71,506
Average Days on Market	255
Properties Pending	5

*This report is provided as a generic reference only...as all properties are unique. Contact a REALTOR® for specific pricing information.*

Key Peninsula Market Report provided by:



**Tracy Butzko**  
253 617 9670

tracybutzko@johnlscott.com

**John L. Scott**  
REAL ESTATE  
Gig Harbor



Windermere Real Estate-Key Realty 11615 SR 302 NW  
Gig Harbor 253-857-3304 windermerekeypen.com



# Sterling Mortgage moves to KP

By Danna Webster, KP News

New occupants are moving into the front area of the Key Peninsula Real Estate building on SR 302. A home loan division of the Sterling Savings Bank in Gig Harbor is opening a mortgage loan service before the end of this year. Two loan officers, Justin Roffel and Josh Comstock, will work in this branch division under the supervision of Peter and Dawn James who co-manage the Sterling Bank in Gig Harbor.

Prospective home buyers will have the opportunity to get pre-approved for a home loan before they go out with their real estate agent to view properties. "One-stop shopping," Peter James calls it.

"I'm really excited about the opportunity to not only do business ... but also to have a presence ... on the Key Peninsula," he said.

James is enthusiastic about many opportunities for this new branch. He sees it as a partnership with the real estate offices and a chance for the two loan officers that will empower them to grow their own business. The Key Peninsula office will offer mortgage lending on a daily basis but it is not a banking branch.

According to James, the Sterling Savings Bank is growing financially stronger

this year and he credits the company's objective of remaining community oriented as essential to this success. Sterling Bank has branches in nine western states and is known in Washington for the popular commercials titled "The Switch" and "The Runaround". James says he plans for the Key Pen branch to be "vested in our community and show that we care. That is so important."

James is not a stranger to the Peninsula area. His parents moved here in 1977 and he attended Pardy Elementary, Goodman Elementary, Harbor Ridge Junior High and Peninsula High School. "I've seen it grow," he says of Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula, "but still it's not so big. We are still part of something special."

He and his wife, Dawn, are raising their four children, ages range from 18 to 5, in their home on Henderson Bay. He secretly admits that, for him, "work is recess."

One of the last steps for the moving-in process is to get the signs up announcing the new business. Once the signs are up, James is certain that the whole community will know the name of the office because of the prime location. "It is close in on the Peninsula and almost everybody that lives ... there drives by," he said.



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# OFF THE KEY

## Dec. 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 11 Christmas play

Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" is presented at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday at Paradise Theatre. A special dinner theatre presentation is on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. Call 851-PLAY for tickets which are \$20 adults, \$17 seniors, \$10 students (\$2 more for the mezzanine seating). Dinner Theatre tickets are \$40 adults, \$34 seniors, \$25 students. Group discounts are available for 15 or more.

## Dec. 2

### Family fun time

Family fun time at the Harbor History Museum is held from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Children ages 3-6 will create rain gauges as they share a fun story about the crazy weather. 858-6722.

## Dec. 3

### Tree lighting

Gig Harbor marks the beginning

of the holidays with their tree lighting ceremony with entertainment at 5 p.m. Santa will arrive at 5:30 and light the tree.

## Dec. 3, 10, \$2 movies

Galaxy Theatre Uptown and the Gig Harbor Police Department raise money for the Jaycox Gig Harbor Police Benevolent Fund by presenting \$2 family movies on Saturdays. The Dec. 3 movie is "Rudolph & Santa" and the Dec. 10 movie is "The Polar Express." Doors open at 9:30 a.m. and films start at 10:00 a.m.

## Dec. 6

### Argosy arrives

Community caroling at Skansie Park happens while waiting for the Argosy ship to arrive at 8 p.m.

## Dec. 6, 13 & 20

### Rug-hooking class

Learn to hook a small handmade rug in

three sessions held from 10 a.m.-noon or 1-3 p.m. Learn rug finishes, color planning and other techniques. Basic kit (\$60) includes a hook, a 16" by 16" pattern and recycled wool. Class fee is \$75. Call Carlie at 206-351-7739 to reserve a space.

## Dec. 7 & 14

### Needle felting class

Learn to Needle Felt for Christmas gifts or just to add to any display in this two-day class. Choose your pattern from a Santa, a dog, cat or bunny. Class fee is \$35; kit fee is \$32. Classes are 10 to 12 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m. Call Carlie at 206-351-7739.

## Dec. 9

### Family movie night

Fox Island Alliance Church hosts a free movie night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Free popcorn and candy is available for all ages. Kids under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. 253-549-2831 or foxisland.org for details.

## Dec. 9 & 10

### Christmas concert

Chapel Hill Church presents the Festival of Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. 851-7779.

## Dec. 10

### Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at the Safeway in Gig Harbor from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

## Dec. 10

### Bazaar held

The Fox Island Holiday Gift Bazaar with many vendors is held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Nichols Center. Please bring a food or cash donation for the FISH food bank. 253-549-2701.



## Longbranch Community Church

[www.longbranchchurch.net](http://www.longbranchchurch.net)  
Come and join us for  
Interdenominational Services  
Sunday Service 11:00 am  
16518 46th St. KPS, Longbranch  
253-884-9339

Fellowship Hall available for rental

## Dec. 10 Boat parade

The annual free Gig Harbor Lighted Boat Parade is held near the waterfront beginning at 5 p.m. 857-4842.

## Dec. 13 Bloodmobile

The bloodmobile will be at Gig Harbor High School from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

## Dec. 17 Kids' corner

Kids of all ages will create some old-fashioned Christmas decorations and then help to decorate the Harbor History Museum at 1 p.m. 858-6722.

## Dec. 17 & 18 Santa arrives

Santa will be at the Beach Basket from 12-4 p.m. 858-9639.

## Dec. 17 & 18 Cinderella kids

Paradise Theatre hosts Disney's Cinderella Kids at 3 p.m. 851-PLAY.

## Dec. 22 Menorah lighting

A free Menorah lighting ceremony is held at 6 p.m. at Uptown in Gig Harbor. 851-4557.

## Dec. 24-25 Services held

Christmas Eve worship services at 3 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. will be held at Chapel Hill Church. Christmas Day service is held at 10 a.m. All are welcome to the free services. 851-0233.

## KP SCHOOLBUS CONNECTIONS

### "Tuesday Trips to Town"

An Innovative Transportation Pilot Project  
(Not available Dec. 20 or 27 due to PSD Winter Break)



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**253 884 9814**

or

[TMSP@centurytel.net](mailto:TMSP@centurytel.net)

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# SHERIFF'S BLOTTER

A summary of calls for Pierce County Sheriff's Department for Oct. 19 to Nov. 17

## Oct. 19

22:00 hrs. 12100 block of KP Hwy N.: Arrest, suspended license/revoked/DWLS/DWLR. David Paul Hubbard, resident of Bremerton, 43, white male.

## Oct. 21

Noon, 13400 block of 138th Ave.: Destruction of property/damage/vandalism. Unknown person smashed victim's mailbox.

## Oct. 22

7500 block of KP Hwy N.: Burglary. The house on the property was destroyed by fire in September and no one lives there. Neighbor reported suspicious person on the property around the detached garage. Owner was contacted by neighbor and found side door had been pried open, and large amount of tools and work equipment were stolen, including rollaway Snap-On chest full of tools, a genera-

tor, two compressors, two planers and a handsaw. Est. \$60,000 of equipment stolen. Many of the items would require two people to carry out and would have to be loaded into a truck to move. No suspect info.

## Oct. 23

9:48 a.m., Vehicle recovery. A deputy was on routine patrol and saw a 4-door white sedan Nissan Maxima parked in the 8400 block of Goldman Drive NW on the south shoulder of the right of way. A metal floor jack was under the driver's door under carriage. No one was inside or around the vehicle. The dashboard had missing pieces and the passenger seat was not attached to the floor and the back seat was pulled to expose the trunk area. After checking records, the deputy found the car listed as stolen from University Place. Vehicle was towed for impound.

## Oct. 24

3:40 p.m., 64th St. KP N.: vehicle recovery. Deputy arrived after a call of suspicious vehicle off the road in the woods and found the gray Toyota Celica. No one was in the car and there were no license plates on the vehicle. ID numbers on the dash and inside of door were removed, and the engine had been removed, all seats were gone. The registration was in the car, and the vehicle was reported stolen from Bremerton. Vehicle was towed.

2700 block of 205th Ave. Lakebay: Burglary, motor vehicle theft/prowl. Victim discovered a window screen had been removed from one of the garage windows, but the door to the garage was unlocked. Loose change he kept in the vehicle was missing. No suspect info.

## Oct. 25

Midnight, 19800 block of 30th St. KP S.: Motor vehicle prowl. Victim reported unknown person entered two of her vehicles and iPhone was stolen.

20400 block of 22nd St., Lakebay: Vehicle prowl. Victim went to sleep at 11 p.m. on Monday and when he went to leave at 5:30 a.m. Tuesday found someone had been in the vehicle. A trumpet, case, music stand and mute for the trumpet were stolen. Estimated value at \$2,500.

## Oct. 26

15400 block of SR 302 KP N.: Theft. The victim said he invited a friend to stay

at his house after she got out of the hospital. Victim stated the friend stole several personal items while he was away from his home.

14200 block of Goodrich Dr. NW: Burglary. Unknown suspects entered the home through an unlocked door on the upper level of the home. Jewelry was stolen, and suspects left through the same door.

## Oct. 28

13400 block of Goldman Dr. NW: Burglary. Victim said someone pried open the front door of his house. Once inside stole five handguns, three shotguns and two rifles from his bedroom, and also a Samsung computer, Xbox, Playstation 3. No suspect info.

300 block of Madrona Blvd., Lakebay: Burglary. Neighbors reported someone had been walking away from the home with a flashlight. One neighbor went to check on the home and found crawl space doors open, back sliding glass door not secured and latch ripped from casing, and the other neighbor found the front door unlocked. The neighbors secured the sliding door, but could not lock the front door. Deputy did a walkthrough of the residence and appeared nothing was tampered with. Homeowners were unable to be contacted. Fingerprints were placed into evidence.

(See Sheriff, Page 17)

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(From Sheriff, Page 16)

**Oct. 31**

9500 block of SR 302, Goodwill donation trailer: Burglary. Unknown suspects hammered the padlock to the overhead trailer door forcing it open. Rummaged through bags and scattered them onto the floor of the trailer. No suspect info.

**Nov. 10**

400 block of Lorenz Rd., Lakebay: Theft. Victim said she just bought the property and had a generator delivered and placed in the yard behind some shrubs. Unit was not hooked up. Between 1700 hrs and 8:30 a.m. was stolen from the yard. No suspect info.

**Nov. 11**

13800 block of Goldman Dr. NW: Theft, motor vehicle prowl. Suspects entered victim's unlocked vehicle parked on street in front of residence. Laptop and bag missing, handicap placard also missing. No suspect info.

**Nov. 12**

13900 block of 82nd Av NW: Theft, motor vehicle prowl. Suspects took an

Ipod and GPS system from one vehicle and the registration from the other. No damage to the vehicles, no suspect info.

14900 block of 88th Ave. NW, theft motor vehicle prowl. Suspect entered unlocked car and took a GPS system, and a backpack.

**Nov. 13**

17100 block of 132nd St.: Found property. Deputy responded to a call of a found wallet. A woman was out for a walk and found the wallet in the 13400 block of Wright Bliss Road. No credit cards or cash were in the wallet. Attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful. Wallet was placed into property as found property.

12400 block of 104th St.: Burglary. Victim said someone entered his shed and stole a 1986 Suzuki dirt bike. The shed was unlocked and the victim noticed the door was standing open. Victim said the bike doesn't run and is not licensed for the street. No suspect info.

**Occurred between Sept. 27 and Nov. 15**

9600 block of 150th St. NW: Burglary.

Victim stated that while she was in Arizona someone kicked open the front door and took the television and related accessories, also kicked open the door to a well house out-building, but nothing was taken. The stolen property would have to be carried more than 1,000 feet to the road as the property is secured by locked gates and sits several hundred feet from the public roadway.

**Nov. 15**

15200 block of 82nd Ave. NW: Burglary. Victim and his girlfriend stated suspects entered the home through unlocked kitchen window and took a Playstation, laptop computer and jewelry. No suspect info. Forensics appointment was made for fingerprints.

14700 block of 71st St., Lakebay: Theft motor vehicle. Victim said her green 1973 Ford F250 was stolen from the driveway of her vacation home. The vehicle has a white canopy. Victim said in last two months has had items stolen from the yard, including a 2-gallon gas can, 2 hp Mercury boat motor, 8' Zodiac rubber dinghy and \$40 worth of gas. No suspect info.

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# FIRE DISTRICT 16 CALL LOG

A summary of calls for FD 16 for Oct. 15 to Nov. 15

Oct. 15 to Nov. 15

Total Calls: 138

FMS: 99

Fire/service: 10

Other: 29

**Oct. 18**

A 19-year-old man was visiting a friend at Palmer Lake when he was abruptly attacked by another person and struck multiple times causing moderate injuries. He was treated by Key Peninsula FD medics and transported to St. Anthony hospital.

**Oct. 20**

Multiple resources responded to a local community center for a report of a gas odor in a commercial structure. Crews entered the building in full protective gear and the entire building was tested for flammable and toxic gases. Having found nothing of serious concern, crews were able to remove their respiratory protection and continue the investigation. In the end, an open grey-water drain was found behind a stack of braces, providing the origin of sewer gases

entering the building. The drain was then plugged.

**Oct. 21**

A 56-year-old Key Peninsula resident awoke early Saturday morning with severe abdominal pain. She called 9-1-1 after finding she had blood in her urine. Paramedics treated the woman and transported her to a local hospital for further testing and treatment.

**Oct. 23**

A 65-year-old Key Center woman began to have shortness of breath. She was recently discharged from the hospital for similar problems. Responders arrived to find her with severe difficulty in breathing and they promptly administered oxygen and medications to help her. Key Peninsula Medic One transported her to a Bremerton hospital for further treatment and observation.

**Oct. 25**

A 63-year-old Lakebay man was suffering from post-surgery knee pain. The man was treated and transported to St. Anthony hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

**Oct. 27**

While eating a burrito, a 67-year-old man of the Elgin area choked on a bite of his food, requiring assistance from EMS providers. Bystanders at the scene made efforts to assist the man, such as performing a finger sweep of the man's mouth and attempting to dislodge the obstruction by having the man drop his abdomen onto a table. While being transported to St. Anthony hospital, medics were able to coax the man to cough up a golf-ball size chunk of food, thereby improving his breathing ability.

**Oct. 28**

A Lakebay grandmother received quite a scare while babysitting her grandsons at their home in Lakebay. The two boys managed to topple a bedroom dresser, sending it crashing to the floor and striking the 5-year-old boy. Grandma called 9-1-1 and Key Peninsula firefighters responded from a training session. After examination firefighters determined that the young boy was not injured and he was left at home with his grandmother.

**Nov. 3**

Crews responded to Longbranch for a 28-year-old woman who was found in an unconscious state and barely breathing. The woman's condition was such that she required respiratory support. She was treated and transported to St. Anthony hospital in Gig Harbor.

**Nov. 6**

Key Peninsula Medic One was called to assist a 55-year-old woman who was thrown from a horse in a forested area in Kitsap County. Responders found the woman approximately one mile down a logging road complaining of hip pain. She was transported to a local hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

**Nov. 5**

A 74-year-old woman of the Minter area was experiencing cardiac symptoms when she decided to request emergency medical services. The woman was treated by Key Peninsula Medic One crews and transported to St. Anthony hospital for further evaluation.

**Nov. 7**

A 62-year-old woman of Vaughn suffered from a seizure attack. Family members noticed the woman, who has a history of

seizures, begin to experience a seizure attack and were able to assist her to the floor. Fire/medical personnel responded to the woman's aid and treated and transported her to St. Anthony hospital for further evaluation.

**Nov. 8**

Paramedics were called to a local school where a 14-year-old boy was suspected of intentionally consuming a found prescription medication. The boy was reportedly trembling uncontrollably and markedly lethargic during class. Key Peninsula Medic One transported him to a Tacoma children's hospital for further evaluation.

**Nov. 9**

Firefighters responded to a report of a cardiac arrest at a Longbranch residence to find two men and a woman standing in the driveway. One of the men stated that he had just done CPR on his friend three times after witnessing his friend collapse. The "friend" was brought into a waiting ambulance where he admitted to being very high. He was transported to a local hospital for further evaluation.

**Nov. 10**

Paramedics were called to a Rocky Bay home where a 75-year-old woman had felt her hip pop out of place. She was changing into sleep wear when the hip popped out of joint for the seventh time following two hip replacement surgeries. The woman was in such severe discomfort that the paramedics administered "laughing gas" to numb the pain before moving her to the ambulance cot. Key Peninsula Medic One transported her to a local hospital for further treatment.

**Nov. 13**

Firefighters responded to a report of an overturned boat at the head of Vaughn Bay. The 27-foot cruiser was found on the beach leaking fuel. Firefighters contained the spill and advised the Coast Guard.

**Nov. 14**

A 28-year-old man of Palmer Lake twisted his back when he got out of bed, then again when he was moving firewood and playing with his kids. The man was experiencing serious pain when he decided to request emergency medical services. He was treated and transported to St. Anthony hospital.

The Key Peninsula  
Civic Center Association  
wishes to thank all the  
donors, volunteers, and  
community members for  
your support in 2011.

May your holidays  
be festive, and  
your New Year  
be bright.





## Parks Foundation to benefit Key Pen Parks and community

By Marsha Hart, KP News

It has taken a full two years to get the infrastructure in place for the Key Peninsula Parks & Recreation Foundation, and now that it is in place the next step is outreach.

President of the foundation, Michael Hays, said the foundation was created for two main reasons, to help the park district and help preserve land on the Key Peninsula.

"The park district does not have the ability to accept certain kinds of donations, but the foundation can, so that accomplishes opening funding doors," Hays said. "The foundation will be a funding mechanism for the park district for open park expansion and preservation. So if someone wanted to donate land for bird watching and not ball fields, the foundation has the systems and mechanisms to make sure it is used in keeping with the benefactor's wishes."

The five-member board will begin outreach this month, and Hays said that is the second step in the process.

"The park district has been working on the foundation for two years," he said. "We spent this year putting the structure together so we have the legal asset and authority and resources to do what we're talking about. All of that preceded outreach, because we wanted to be completely organized."

Board members will visit community centers and begin a campaign to educate through printed information as well.

"As the foundation builds cash resources, if an elderly couple with property on the KP consider clear cutting or development due to lack of funds, the foundation could step in and put conservation easement on the land in return for helping the landowners financially," Hays said, "as opposed to clear-cutting to raise funds, we can help them."

Having the non-profit foundation will allow tax benefits to those who want to donate money or hard assets, he said.

"If people donate cash it is tax deductible, but if they donate property or hard assets there are positive tax benefits and ways to manage issues like probate and

inheritance taxes that can only be accomplished through an IRS approved mechanism," he said.

A foundation provides that IRS approved mechanism, and Hays said.

"The structure is set up, and how big it gets depends on the community," Hays said.

For more information about the Key Peninsula Parks Foundation, visit the Web site at [keypenparksfoundation.org](http://keypenparksfoundation.org).

Do you have a story suggestion or photo to share with your Key Peninsula friends and neighbors? Send it to:

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### Breakfast with Santa

Key Peninsula residents can create a new family tradition with lots of happy memories. Come enjoy a pancake breakfast with Father Christmas. Price includes breakfast, holiday arts and crafts, music, and a photo with Santa Claus. Breakfast with Santa made possible by the Key Peninsula Fire Department and Key Pen Parks. Pre-registration strongly encouraged, registrations day of event will be accepted as space available basis.

<b>Location:</b>	Key Peninsula Fire Department Key Center Station
<b>Day/Date:</b>	Saturday December 3
<b>Time:</b>	9:00 am-11:00 am
<b>Cost:</b>	\$6.00



Key Pen Parks

"The key to your next adventure"



# Just another article about the Real Meaning of Christmas

It's the story of a pregnant teen and her shame in the face of an honor-bound society. Subplots include a government that will stop at nothing – even violence – to maintain control. Throw in economic hardship, lack of affordable housing, and an ill-timed road trip. As for the characters, you have it all – from kings and priests to common day laborers and migrant workers in the field.

Sometimes this is all lost to our modern sensibilities. Christmas has been re-defined for us by cute crèches adorning our lawns, by Christmas card watercolors of happy people living happy lives, enjoying their place in this drama. Choirs sing songs of silent nights, of peace, of joy and gladness and festivities as we celebrate this season.

But strip that all away and take another look. It wasn't a silent night. Childbirth never is. Transport the scene into a dark cave, surrounded by smelly farm animals, and no midwife to be found. You can bet the cattle were, indeed, lowing. A frightened mother giving birth to her first child

in the dung; and then, just when she's ready for a quiet moment, in-barge filthy shepherds clamoring about angels. It's not the most sanitary way to begin a story.

Things take a frightening turn. The local politician, sensing a threat to his power, orders the National Guard to head into town and kill every baby boy. What should have been a celebration with visiting dignitaries turns into a midnight flight, with death nipping at their heels.

This is the story Christians tell at Christmas: a Savior born to shame and poverty, a child bullied by the authorities, a king who shows up in the grimy soil, a messiah whose coming was announced to the outcasts of society.

In the end, it's our story, yours and mine. We who struggle with shame, who work hard to put food on the table, we who find our lives manipulated by those in power, we who have been hurt by religion and politics and family and so-called

friends. We who come home with dirt under our nails and grease stains on our clothes. Who, as the old carol says, find ourselves "beneath life's crushing load... who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow."

This ancient story surpasses the sanitized store-front display and becomes our story. As the angels declared, this is "good news of great joy for all people." "All people" includes you and me. And I don't know about you, but I could use some joy right about now. The world is in desperate need of good news.

And so, this: God showed up, standing in opposition to the slave-traders, the bullies, the religious elite, the violent, the thieves in high places. In so doing,

he stands in solidarity with the poor, the marginalized, the broken, the victim, the lonely, the shamed. There you have it: God is on the side of the minimum-wage-earning single father forced to work through the holidays just to feed his kids; he stands against the corporate powers growing rich on the backs of those workers.

If you're feeling particularly lonely, desperate, sad, used, or angry, then remember this: Christmas is for you. Not the plastic, shop-till-you-drop Christmas of our local malls, but the real Christmas – the story of one who came to be with you in the darkness. Behind the facades of office parties and family gatherings and fake snow and manufactured joy, the real story is a story of hope, a story that gives meaning to the struggles of our lives. We are not alone, but are part of this story. God is on our side. God is with us. Emanuel.

On behalf of the Key Peninsula Ministerial Association, I bid you a truly merry Christmas, and joy in the New Year.

## Dan Whitmarsh Writing by Faith



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## The Voice of the Key Peninsula

# KEY PENINSULA NEWS



# Peninsula Schools benefit from Fred Meyer contest

Peninsula School District received a check for \$5,000 to support Peninsula Schools Education Foundation. The money was donated by the Gig Harbor Fred Meyer store.

An annual giving campaign was launched in May at area Fred Meyer stores. Associates were given the option of donating to the United Way or to the Fred Meyer Foundation.

Employees of the Gig Harbor Fred Meyer store had 97 percent participation in the giving campaign, and it was the highest percentage of participation in the district, said Tracy Bertch, the Gig Harbor Store Director.

"The grand prize for our accomplishment was \$5,000 and we chose to donate it to the Peninsula Schools Education Foundation," Bertch said.

In 2010 PSEF granted approximately \$20,000 to teachers throughout the Peninsula School District for projects and materials they could not otherwise afford for their classrooms.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Warren Zimmerman, Vice President of the Peninsula Schools Education Foundation accepts a check for \$5,000 from Tracy Bertch, store director of the Gig Harbor Fred Meyer.

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## Lakebay resident graduates Marine Corps Boot Camp

Private First Class (Meritoriously) Rebecca J. Clark graduated from United States Marine Corps Boot Camp on Oct. 7, Fourth Recruit Training Battalion Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S.C.

She became Squad Leader, then guide of Platoon 4031 November Company. Upon graduation she received the following recognition:

USMC Honor Graduate, November Company, presented by The Board of Governors of the Marine Corps Association in recognition of high endeavor and superior accomplishment while enrolled in a course of study in professional education prescribed by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General (Ret.) S.G. Diefen.

USMC Certificate of Commendation, presented by Lt. Col. M.A. Marte, in recognition of her exceptionally noteworthy performance in the areas of academic instruction, field training, leadership and

physical fitness. Truly "A cut above." PFC Clark was recognized for her outstanding patriotism and Esprit De Corps that are in keeping with the highest traditions of the USMC.

The Molly Marine Award, as voted by her peers, represents an ideal of excellence that all women Marines strive for and was presented by Ronda Amtower, President of The Women Marines Association.

PFC Clark graduated from Peninsula High School in 2006, was recruited by SSgt. Friedrichs in Tacoma, and is the daughter of Bruce and Maureen Morlang, Gambrel Farm in Lakebay.



## Kellie Blayden Dellplain

Kellie Blayden Dellplain was born July 11, 1958. With amazing courage and strength she lost her battle with cancer on Aug. 24, 2011.

Kellie lived on the Key Peninsula and graduated from Peninsula High School in 1976. She then worked for the Washington Ferry System for 18 years. She moved to Maui with her family and resided there for the next 10 years. Kellie then returned to the Key Peninsula for the duration of her life.

She is survived by her parents Yvon and Gerry Layden, her daughter Madison, sisters Debbie Thompson, Sherric (Don) Lynch, Yvonne (Virgil) Wensky, Leslie (Kevin) Tegge, Tracie (Lance) Thornton and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kellie's big smile, generous heart and gentle soul will be greatly missed by all of those whose lives she touched.

Many thanks to Franciscan Hospice House for helping the family navigate through this most difficult time and to Kellie's special friend P.K. Byrd. The



joy you brought to her will always be remembered.

No services were held at Kellie's request.

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# Out & About

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



*Photo courtesy of Ed Johann, KP News*

A band performs at the 2010 Tree Lighting at the KC Corral. The 2011 Tree Lighting will be Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. The KC Corral owners allow the community to enjoy the tree and celebration each year. Chuck West officiates the ceremony. The community event includes a visit from Santa and a musical celebration.



*Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News*

Colleen Masbruch performs a Middle Eastern Dance during the Winter Warmup at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in November.



As part of this year's Veterans' Day observance, third and fourth graders at Evergreen Elementary School were thrilled to receive free American flags from the Key Peninsula Lions Club. Here, as the youngsters demonstrate their excitement, in the background Lion George Robison, teacher Susan Henderson, Lion Cindy Robison, and teacher Eileen Sauer enjoy the celebration as, seated on the right, Librarian Robin Roe organizes some papers.

*Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*