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The Prez Sez...

by Marty Marcus

The editor thought it might be nice if the KPCCA president provided you from time to time with some up-to-date information on what's happening at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, what kinds of plans we're considering for the future; and ways we can do more for the community as well as ways more community members can be involved in activities of the Civic Center.

Whether your interests lie in family skating, supervised play activities for pre-schoolers, Karate, belly-dancing, or just getting together with others to eat and have discussions or play cards, the Civic Center has something for you. And if you'd like to suggest other ways the KPCC could meet community needs, you have an opportunity to do that at monthly meetings of the Board.

Many of you may not be aware that everyone over the age of eighteen who lives on the Key Peninsula, or owns property on the Key Peninsula, or works on the Key Peninsula is automatically a member of the Key Peninsula Civic Center Association. Policy and budgetary decisions are made by the Board which currently has about twenty-five members, but we're always looking for more.

The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M., and all meetings are open to the public. It's really easy to become a member of the Board. The present Board can vote in new members four times during the year: the February, May, August and November meetings. If you'd like more information about getting on the Board or how it operates, call our vice-president in charge of membership, Shirley Olson, at 884-2481, and she'll be happy to tell you all the reasons why you, the KPCCA and the community will benefit from your joining our Board.

by Hugh McMillan

Twenty four nominations for Key Peninsula Citizen of the Year, comprising 26 individuals, were received by Friday's deadline. They are:

James Corroo, Della Darbyshire, Jerry Davis, John Glennon, Barbara Granquist, Edward Hardesty, Peter and Sheryl Hedin, Vicki Husted, Tim Kezele, Marty Marcus, Ruth Mathews, Patricia Medveckus, Loyd Miller, Fred Ramsdell, Diane Ram-



On Saturday in front of Walt's Fine Foods in Key Center, Campfire girls' leader, Rachele Miller together with Campfire Girls, Rebecka Miller and Katrina Larsen, are rewarded for

their efforts by Deanna Schwaiger's purchase of Campfire Girls candies in support of the organization. Of the two girls, the taller is Katrina Larsen. Deanna Schwaiger is on the left.

Photo by Hugh McMillan

Winter Visuals

Once again, it's an exciting adventure! Participating artists include: Carol Ann Anderson - Computer Art - Wearable Art, Lois Ashley - Polymer Jewelry, Myrna Binion - Watercolor, Assoc. of Stained Glass Lamp Artists, Margo McDonald - Tapestry, Jim Mattern - Metal Sculpture, George Fagella - Ceramic Tile, Clarise Falconer - Rolled Porcelains, Peter Kaune - Bird Sculptor, Eve Begley Kiehm - Children's Story Author, Elana Linquist - Pastels - Oriental, Christopher Mathie - Raku Pottery, Teres Millar and Paul Wise - Scottish Plaid Glass, Dwayne Northrop - Native American Dolls - Leather, Bev Pedersen and Rose Grant - Silk Scarves, John Peralta - Wood Carvings, Karen Pew - Oils, Kenneth Pim - Photography, Terri Placentia - Sculptor, Joanne Sessions - Antique Carousel Horses, Sheri Simpson - Colored Pencil Drawings, Coleen

Slater - Poet, Mary Lou Slaughter - Cedar Basketry, Lita Dawn Stanton - Historical Drawings, Shelly Troyer - Photography, Lois Tucci and Sandra Erickson - Mixed Media, Barbara Vanpelt - Ceramics, Barbara Williams - Papered Owls, Flowers and Kati Wright - Beanie Babies.

Performers will be:

Alex Fordyce - Classical Piano, Mary Manning, Karen and Paul Pew - String Ensemble.

Artists donate their time and talent to this CAC fund raising event. Sunnycrest Nursery is decorating the Key Peninsula Civic Center for the event and their items will be available for sale.

Winter Visuals will be held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Saturday, February 6th, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM. Children, students, nursing home resident are invited free, adults by donation.

1999 Key Peninsula Citizens Of The Year Nominees

sey, Lethaniel Ray, Lu Lu Smith, Walter Smith, Keith and Lee Stiles, Barbara Trotter, Chuck West, David Wiltfong, and Allen Yanity.

Photographs and personality briefs of the nominees will appear in a future edition of the Key Peninsula News.

The 15th Annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Awards Dinner will be held in the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn on Saturday, March 13th. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

Dinner is scheduled for 7:00 PM. Each nominee will be the dinner guest of the sponsoring Key Peninsula Lions. Other guests may enjoy a sumptuous feast for \$12.50. A no-host bar will slake any thirst. Tickets will be available at Sunnycrest Nursery and Key Bank in Key Center, Country Gardens Florist, 9507-B SR 302 NW, the Home Country Store in Home, or from members of the Lions' Club. For information, call 884-3319 or 884-1038.



UNDER MY HAT

by Irene Zimmer
Facility Coordinator

Happy Valentine's Day to all of you! Don't forget to do something nice for the 'Sweetheart' in your life.

February is a busy month! You don't want to miss the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Cultural Arts Commission's second annual "Winter Visuals" here at the Center! Last year's exciting show was a smashing success! Come see and talk to local artists about their particular artwork. This wonderful event takes place on February 6th from noon until 5:00 PM. The kitchen will be open serving those great 'Center Burgers', dogs and nachos. Admission is free for seniors, children and nursing home residents; donations are welcome from everyone else. See you there!

On February 13th, the annual "Firefighter's Ball" takes place here at the Civic Center. Dinner will be at 6:30 PM followed by dancing to the music of "Bob and the Good 'Ole Boys". There will be door prizes and raffles, too! Ticket information is available by calling 884-2222 between 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

The Civic Center Board has decided not to have the "Reno Night" in March this year. A lack of volunteers and someone to chair the event were two of the reasons for this decision. As you know, your participation is truly necessary to help us put on all of these entertaining and fun events each year. If you don't already participate, please consider joining us by becoming a

member of the Civic Center Board. The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Whitmore Room. Your input can help set policies and programs for the Center and help to make the decisions that point us in the right direction as a hub of community activities. If you are 18 years or older, live, work or own property on the Peninsula you already are a member of the Civic Center Association. All you need to do is come to the meetings and let your voice be heard. We look forward to seeing you!

My thanks go out to Cy Young and Marty Marcus who saved me from a home invasion attack by a wild, angry and very speedy squirrel! Armed with only a broom and a salmon net, they caught and released this very upset, furry rodent outside! When last seen, the squirrel was running as fast as he could toward the trees. I haven't seen him since. Thanks again, oh mighty hunters.

Don't forget to submit your applications for the "Spring Festival" on May 1st.

The Civic Center offers a Family Skate on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Come on down with the kids and have some good, clean family fun! Skating starts at 1:00 PM and ends at 3:00 PM. Limited snacks are available from the kitchen.

See you next month!

A Closer Look At...

Citizens Against Crime's Citizens' Patrol

by Kryz Wylie

The Citizens Against Crime Patrol, a newly acquired crime prevention program in the area is off to a good start. Based solely on volunteers who ride around in pairs to watch our neighborhoods at varying times throughout the day, they report crimes, watch for strange activity, patrol, and make us all feel a little safer. Though in the works for quite some time, due to lack of volunteerism it did not have the ability to expand into a patrol unit until recently. Still low on volunteers and funds, the Patrol is out there watching neighborhoods as often as is possible.

A trailer houses the Patrol's gear, which consists of a record book, gasoline container for those in need, blankets, first aid kit, and other things to help you in case of emergency. Each Patrol consists of two people; one drives in an insured car and the other makes notes on areas covered and things seen that, if needed will be reported to the police.

The patrol drives around at varying scheduled times, on four hour increments. Each person's car must be insured by their own insurance, each person must have up to date CPR and First Aid lessons, and each person must be accompanied by another as well as have Patrol training.

Jerry Davis, President of the Patrol Board states, "we are still low on volunteers, and because of this the monthly calendar has holes in it. We are always looking for new volunteers. Just four spare hours a month would be a tremendous help." You can contact Jerry for more information at 884-3386, or come down to a meeting. The Patrol meets every third Tuesday at the Key Center Fire Station at 11:00 AM, and every third Thursday at 7:00 PM. You can also show your support by donating money directly to the Patrol or in the baskets you see throughout the neighborhood. "Increase your luck, donate a buck".



The Children's Home Society's FAMILY ROOM

On behalf of the 271 children who received Christmas gifts this year through the Holiday Helper program, we would like to thank and acknowledge the following community sponsors:

St. Nicholas Catholic Church, CenturyTel., Pierce County Fire District #16, Evergreen Elementary School, Vaughn Elementary School, Peninsula High School Honor Society, Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, Lakebay Community Church, Longbranch Community Church, New Beginning Church Home Group, Brownie Troop 204, Gig Harbor Eagles, Gig Harbor Republican Women, Key Peninsula 4H Differences, Vaughn T.O.P.S. 1019, Key Bank of Purdy, Realty One of Gig Harbor, Windermere Realty of Gig Harbor.

We also want to thank the following individual sponsors:

Kristine Barker, Christine Bartlett, Sally Bell, Mary Ellen Demachie, Jeri Garwood, Wayne and Dana Gibson, Claudia and Dale Loy, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Marra, Kathy Olson, Julie Richter and family, and Jaymie Roswell.

Because of the incredible generosity of these sponsors, we were able to serve every family that came to us hoping to find gifts for their children. And special thanks to Don Blischke, Laura McClintock, Renee Kraft, Laura Jaggi, and Irene Zimmer for their extra efforts in making the program successful.

We would like to welcome the following new staff: Margy Clair, our Program Manager, and Amber Larson, Family Center Assistant. Amber replaces Marla Saxer. Marla still continues to lead the Stampin' Fun group that meets on the first and third Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Call Marla at 884-3097 to reserve a space.

We're excited about sponsoring the Art on Saturdays program in conjunction with the Tacoma Art Museum. Children 7 years and older are invited to come with an adult for free art lessons from 10:00 AM to noon on four Saturdays at the Museum. They will be creating original works of art and learning from the artist-in-residence. Free transportation is provided from the Civic Center. Participants must commit to a four-week session (Session One: February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th; Session Two: March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th). Please call to register.

There is still time to sign up for the Birth - 5 Year Parenting Class being held every Friday between January 29th and February 26th from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. This is a discussion group for parents of young children who want more information and support. Some of the areas covered are using different discipline methods and taking time for self-care. This parent-driven class will help encourage a more loving, happier bond between parents and their children. Childcare is available at no charge and is limited.

Our Little Buddies program meets Tuesday Afternoons from 3:45 to 5:00 PM at the Civic Center. Big Buddies from Peninsula High School plan activities and fun for their elementary school Little Buddies. A snack is served and the program is free. Please call to sign up. If you're in high school and would like to participate as a Big Buddy, we'd be happy to hear from you. Please note: this program does not meet on days when there is no school.

We are looking forward to beginning a new fathers' support group in the near future, through the Father to Father program. This is for all dads who want to enhance positive relationships with their children, and will be co-sponsored by the Child Guidance Clinic of Tacoma. Weekly meetings will be held here at the Family Resource Center. The time and day are still flexible, so if you are interested, now is the time to call and let us know your preference for times.

During the February 3rd meeting of Healthy Families, the group will be learning some brief relaxation/meditation techniques to help parents deal more effectively with their young children. They will also be discussing other topics dealing the parenting and child development. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month from 9:30 to 11:00 AM in the Whitmore Room of the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Childcare is available at no charge on a limited basis.

A new service here at our office is providing voter-registration materials. We want to support a good turn-out at the March 9th election.

For more information on any of our programs or to sign up for activities, please call us at 884-5433.

The staff of the
Children's Home Society
Key Peninsula Family Resource Center



THE LAW COLUMN

by Michael Misner

February seems to be the time of the year when things get a little hopped up - politically speaking. Abraham Lincoln's birthday is on February 12th and George Washington's birthday is on February 22nd. And it was in February 1868, that Tennessee's Andrew Johnson took on Thaddeus Stevens and the Reconstructionists.

During the Civil War, President Lincoln had appointed Edward Stanton as his Secretary of War. After the war, Stanton was sympathetic to a group of "Radical Republicans", the leader of whom was Mr. Stevens. Among many things, the Radical Republicans believed in guaranteeing the freedom of newly emancipated slaves as well as treating the confederacy as conquered territory.

Differing from the Radical Republicans, President Johnson, a Democrat from the south, preferred to let things cool down a bit and move slowly in enforcing the Reconstruction Acts. However, in one area he wanted to move quickly: he wanted to immediately remove Mr. Stanton as Secretary of War.

Mr. Stanton wouldn't volunteer to leave, so President Johnson fired him. The Radical Republicans decided that the firing of Mr. Stanton could serve as a basis to get President Johnson out of the way by impeaching him. In this way, they could move forward with their view of what Reconstruction should be like.

The Republicans claimed that by firing Secretary Stanton, Mr. Johnson had violated the Tenure of Office Act, a law passed the preceding year. The Act's goal was to prohibit Presi-

dent Johnson from firing Lincoln's appointees without congressional approval. In this way the Radicals could keep many of their people in office thereby guaranteeing the implementation of their Reconstruction policies and not President Johnson's.

Failing to follow the Tenure of Office Act was not treason, nor was it bribery - the clearly identified bases for impeachment. Consequently, President Johnson's refusal had to fit in the category of "other high crimes and misdemeanors."

There was a trial in the Senate presided over by Lincoln's former Treasury Secretary, Salmon P. Chase, who by now was the sixth Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. President Johnson's presidency was saved by one vote, due to seven Republicans breaking ranks with their party. While these senators didn't like Mr. Johnson, they did not think that his failure to enforce the Tenure of Office Act equaled an impeachable offense. After President Johnson's victory in the Senate, Secretary Stanton finally vacated the War Department.

The following year, President Johnson was succeeded as president by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, who appointed Edward Stanton to the Supreme Court. Mr. Stanton took the oath of office on December 20, 1869 and died four days later on Christmas Eve.

The Supreme Court eventually found the Tenure of Office Act, the law upon which Mr. Stanton claimed his right to serve as Secretary of War, to be unconstitutional.



A View From Home

By Marty Marcus

A former student of ours, who is also a great friend, comes up from California to visit with us from time to time. On one of her visits she looked around at the piles of magazines and wondered how many different periodicals we actually subscribed to. I didn't know at the time, but upon compiling a list I came up with the number forty-three. Obviously, we don't read every article in every one, but it's safe to say that reading has not been displaced by the "boob tube" at our house.

As a result of reading many of these articles, as well as newspaper editorials and the "letters to the editor", it has become apparent that we are in the midst of a BOTS period again. BOTS is an acronym for Bash Our Teachers and Schools. And the latest weapon being used as the "basher" is TIMSS, the Third International Mathematics and Science Study, in which some forty nations participated.

This particular study purports to show that in the areas of math and science at least, U.S. fourth graders do fairly well; eighth graders have dropped to average or below; and our twelfth graders are near the bottom. There now seem to be many in the media who just can't say enough bad things about our schools, the curriculum and the teachers. As an example, an article in *The Washington Times* about a year ago stated that "The public schools, as we once knew them, are destroyed." The article went on to state that students do worse as they move up through the grades, and that this is the fault of the teachers.

One would have to have just ar-

rived here from some other planet not to be aware that there are problems, serious problems, in many of our schools. There are schools that are overcrowded, underfunded, understaffed, in disrepair, lacking enough books and other supplies. Although it was forty years ago, I still remember doing my student teaching at an inner-city junior high school with a class of forty-five students. I don't know why I wasn't dissuaded from a teaching career right then and there. Eighteen years later, things hadn't improved all that much. Even in a suburban district I had thirty-six students in a science lab designed to hold eighteen.

We have schools in this "land of plenty" where the best, and sometimes only, meals the children have are the breakfast and lunch they get at school. We also have schools in which for more than half the students, English is a second language. Serious problems exist, and they need to be specifically addressed. But they do not characterize all the schools in our country.

In evaluating international comparison studies such as TIMSS, one must look very carefully for design errors which result in "comparing apples with oranges". Professionals who analyze such studies recognize that even one such design flaw renders a study invalid. The truth is, and unfortunately most of the media are not going to report this, that TIMSS is riddled with such flaws. In next month's column we'll look at some of them and how they contribute to making our students, teachers and schools look bad.

Community Wide Thank You!

Well, you've done it again! No, ifs, ands, or buts about it. This community of ours has rallied together and caused quite a commotion. Like the ripples from a stone cast in water, your generosity and desire to help one another has spread in all directions throughout our community. Those ripples directly touched 73 families and children in need while indirectly many more felt the impact through sharing their good fortune, some seizing the opportunity to teach their children about giving and about community.

Your Fire District #16's, Angel Tree Program belongs to all of us. We are a family and we are about helping one another.

If you know of a family or individual truly in need, if you would like to help us, please call to find out how. And to each of you that sponsored families, donated money or gifts thank you so very much!!!

"Help for the community by the community."

Don Blischke
Angel Tree Program Coordinator

The National Registry of Who's Who 1999

Lisa M. Woods, D.V.M. has been accepted by The National Registry of Who's Who as a Life Member. The acceptance of Dr. Woods as a Life Member is in recognition of exemplary service, both to community and to her profession.

The National Registry of Who's Who is a highly recognized biographical publication for professionals. The responsibility of choosing only people of significant accomplishment is taken very seriously by The National Registry of Who's Who.

Songs And Stories To Reconcile By

V. Ted Hutchinson traces African American history through folktales and songs, leading the audience on a journey from the villages in Africa to the slave ships, the plantation of the South, the Underground Railroad, the Civil War, and finally to the aftermath of the war and into the Civil Rights era.

For elementary through adult audiences. Saturday, February 13th, at 1:00 PM at the Peninsula Library, 4424 Pt. Fosdick Dr. NW. For more information call 851-3793.

PEP-C Barrels Available

Emergency water storage barrels are again available from PEP-C (Peninsula's Emergency Preparedness Committee). On the Key Peninsula they will be sold at the KP Community Services/Food Bank Community House in Home at the juncture of Hoff Road and the KP Highway. The first such sale will be Saturday, February 6 from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

The barrels are made of food grade polyethylene previously used to hold chlorine bleach, the same substance you use to purify and preserve water. The 55 gallon version sells for \$15.00, the 15 gallon for \$10.00. Proceeds support activities and equipment purchases for PEP-C.

Sales were suspended in September last year when supplies were exhausted as a consequence of theft of 48 barrels from the then-storage site at Gig Harbor's fire station on Kimball Drive. No barrels have been available until now.

It is planned that barrel sales be held each first and third Saturday from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at Community House.

Sales at an as yet unspecified

location in Gig Harbor will adhere to the above schedule.

For Key Peninsula information, call Fred Ramsdell on 884-4834. For Gig Harbor, Marsh Allen on 851-3843.

Vaughn Bay Garden Club

Roses, pruning and feeding, will be the program by Joyce Niemann at the February 17th meeting of the Vaughn Bay Garden Club. Rose Malmgren will be hostess, with Erma Dunn assisting. The annual White Elephant Sale will also take place at the meeting.

Visitors or prospective members are welcome. For further information, call 884-5403.

Ashes

Ashes will be having a meeting on February 4th, 1999, at the Key Center Fire Station #16, at 10:30 AM. This meeting will be a potluck.

We have been asked to serve at the Fireman's Ball on February 13th, 1999. See you all there.

Darlene Brawn, President

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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MISSION STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, PURPOSE, AND OPERATION OF THE KEY PENINSULA NEWS

1. The KEY PENINSULA NEWS is a community newspaper owned and published by the KEY PENINSULA CIVIC CENTER ASSOCIATION, a non-profit Washington 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 the communication means 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 organization 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!

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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.

BE MY VALENTINE



KEY DATES 1999



BUSINESS / PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

KP Business Assoc. Feb. 5 - 7:30 AM Home Port Rest.
Feb. 19 - Noon Horseshoe Lake Rest.

Fire Fighters Assoc. Feb. - 24 7:00 PM Key Center Fire Sta.

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Ashes Feb. 4 - 10:30 AM Key Center Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop #220 Thursdays - 6:00 PM KPCCA VFW Rm.
Coollettes 3rd Thursday - 7:00 PM KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
KPCCA Exec. Board Feb. 8 - 7:30 PM Civic Center
KPCCA Board Feb. 11 - 7:30 PM KPCC/Whitmore Rm.
KPCCA 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 Feb. 15 - 10:00 AM Brones Rm./KC Library
Cancer Support Group 3rd Thursday - 1:00 PM Brones Rm./KC Library
Children's Home Society Family Resource Center - Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 3:00 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.

Key Center Library 884-2242 - HOURS: Tuesday & Wednesday 1 - 5 PM, Thursday & Friday 1 - 6 PM, Saturday Noon - 4 PM

KP Baptist Bible Study Wednesday - 7:00 PM KP Civic Center
KP Baptist AWANA Wednesday - 6:30 PM KP Civic Center
Overeaters Anonymous Wednesday - 7:30 PM St. Nicholas Church
Seniors Exercise Program Tues. & Thurs. - 8:30 Comm. House - Home
WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Every Tuesday 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at the Civic Center, in the Whitmore Room. Call: 884-3835 on Tuesdays for an appt.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

KP Fire Commissioners Feb. 10 - 7:00 PM Key Center Fire Sta.
Feb. 22 - 4:00 PM Key Center Fire Sta.

KP Parks & Rec. 2nd Monday - 7:00 PM Volunteer Park Annex

SELF HELP GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous - Mon. & Fri. 8:00 PM, Wed. 7:00 PM - Sat. & Sun. 6:00 PM - Sat. - 9:00 AM, Women's Group, 11:00 AM, Men's Group at the
Key Peninsula Community Services in Home - Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00 PM in the Lakeshore Community Church, 11 Cornwall Road, Lakeshore.

Peninsula ALANON - King of Grace Lutheran Church, Purdy - Tuesday 1:30 PM

Caregivers Support Feb. 11 - 7:00 PM Brones Rm./KC Library

Grandparents Group Feb. 6 - 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

SOCIAL & HOBBY GROUPS

Bayshore Garden Club Feb. 19 - Meeting Longbranch Improvement

Cancer Support Group 3rd Tuesday - 1 - 3 PM Brones Rm./KC Library

Key Singers Tuesday 7 - 9 PM LB Comm. Church

KP Historical Society 1st Thursday - 7:30 PM KP Historical Museum.

MUSEUM CLOSED UNTIL FIRST THURSDAY IN FEBRUARY

LB Improvement Club Feb. 19 - 7:00 PM Longbranch Improvement

Peninsula Neighbors Feb. 9 - 10:00 AM Longbranch Improvement

Lakeshore Fuchsia Society Feb. 4 - 7:00 PM Brones Rm./KC Library

Ruth Circle Meeting Feb. 15 - 10:00 AM Bible Study, lunch and

Meeting at 12:00 Noon at the Longbranch Church

Senior Society Luncheon Thursdays - Noon KPCC/Whitmore Room

Vaughn Bay Garden Club Feb. - Call 884-5403 for more information.

NOTE: IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR ORGANIZATION LISTED HERE, PLEASE MAIL THE INFORMATION BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH TO: DATES, KEY PENINSULA NEWS, P.O. BOX 3, VAUGHN, WA 98394, OR FAX IT TO US AT: 884-4053.



IN THE CRITTER CORNER

by Jeffery W. Irwin, DVM

"You Gotta Love That Smile"

by Jeffery W. Irwin

February is national pet dental health month, and as such, I feel it appropriate to discuss dental disease. Most pet owners pay little attention to their pet's teeth until the pet's mouth odor begins to invade their space. We as pet owners can't be faulted for this, as our pets can't directly tell us that their teeth and gums hurt. So, how can you tell? Watch for these warning signs: Bad breath, reddened gums, drooling, lots of tartar buildup, reluctance to eat

hard food and chewing on only one side of the mouth.

Dogs and cats, just like us, build up plaque, a white and filmy substance above and below the gum line. This plaque consists of food debris, saliva and bacteria. When plaque accumulates on the gum line it causes irritation that can lead to gingivitis (inflammation or redness of the gums). As this plaque and tartar accumulate, an insidious progression of gum recession and bone resorption can occur when untreated, not only

perpetuating the bad breath, but can lead to pain, tooth loss, and, in some cases, to diseases that affect other organs in the body.

Fortunately, there is hope for your pet. You and your veterinarian can work as a team to halt the progression of this problem. First, the veterinarian or his veterinary technician must thoroughly clean and polish the teeth to remove the plaque and tartar. This procedure requires anesthetizing your pet. If needed, procedures such as extractions (pulling teeth), root canals, capping and crowning may also be necessary. Some of these more advanced techniques require the attention of a dental specialist or someone who has acquired additional training.

A "teeth cleaning" or what we call in veterinary medicine, a "prophy," is much like what you would experience at the dentist. The major difference is that dogs and cats have more tartar accumulation because they inherently develop it faster than we humans and because they don't usually brush their teeth daily. This tartar is effectively removed using an ultrasonic scaler which operates like a larger and more powerful version of the various "Water Pics" available to people. After removal of all the tartar, the teeth are polished with a special paste that seals any small grooves present in the enamel. Finally, to delay reformation of bacteria, plaque and tartar, fluoride is applied to the teeth surfaces.

If your pet's teeth are cleaned regularly (about one to two times per

year) before tartar accumulation or shortly thereafter, your pet may never lose its teeth. There are some dogs and cats however, that not only need regular cleaning by a veterinarian or veterinary technician, but also weekly to daily brushing between visits to effectively control tartar and subsequent periodontal disease. Most pets can be taught to accept teeth brushing. How easily this can be accomplished obviously depends on the personality or demeanor of the pet. Some dogs and cats can be approached with tooth brush and toothpaste in hand and have their teeth thoroughly brushed as you would brush your own teeth. With other pets, it may be necessary to introduce the veterinary tooth paste by letting your pet lick it off your fingers once a day for about 2-4 days. Then, proceed to gently rub her teeth as she attempts to lick the toothpaste from your finger about once a day for another 2-4 days. Next, introduce the tooth brush (special veterinary variety or small child's soft bristle brush) by allowing your pet to lick the toothpaste off of it as you hold it up to her mouth. Once your pet gets used to the sight of the tooth brush you can start brushing. If your pet can't get used to a tooth brush but will allow you to put your finger in his mouth, you might try applying to paste with special "finger brushes" or some gauze wrapped around your finger.

With regular cleaning and home dental care, your pet can enjoy the use of his teeth for the rest of his life. Let's work as a team to ensure this!

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Drizzle Doesn't Dampen Park Spirit

by Hugh McMillan

More than 40 people ducked through a drizzle to gather in Camp Seymour's dining hall early Monday morning. It was Martin Luther King Day and these folk chose to use the holiday to help clear trails in newly established Rocky Creek natural Area on the Key Peninsula.

Enthusiastic park support, Nancy Link of Home, shared with Jason Madeiros of the YMCA's Camp Seymour briefings of the teams before they embarked for work in the Park. The work force represented Peninsula and Gig Harbor High Schools, Wilson High of Tacoma, Shorewood High School, Camp Coleman, West Seattle High, Kenmore Junior High, and even one Camp Seymour representative from Mukilteo.

Armed with shovels, rakes, saws, Pulaski picks, and shrub shears, the young people and their adult supervisors spent the better part of the day hacking out underbrush and baring the ground for walking trails through the heavily forested embankments.

"Seeing these young people enjoying themselves in the woods doing good, makes me feel just great. They represent the vast majority of youth, not the hand full of trouble makers who get all the media attention," said Key Peninsula Park Board President, Fred Ramsdell.



From foreground: Lacey Digel and Caitlin Corey, both of Kenmore Jr. High and Camp Coleman, and six other volunteers clearing the pathway.

Photos by Hugh McMillan

"The day's efforts are one more step in creating a place for everyone. The more we use it, the less people will use it as a garbage dump and

soon, no one will," said Ramsdell.

"We found at least twenty five salmon backbones and heads that had been dumped in the wetland along the side of the road by some irresponsible people," said Nancy Lind. "They were really beginning to smell bad. Roy Lampson and I hauled them to Rocky Creek and distributed them in the stream" This is in keeping with the park supporters' stream restoration project. When salmon spawn upstream, they die and their decaying carcasses are vital to the natural order of healthy stream maintenance.

"Visitors to the park often bring their dogs to stroll the paths and roadways," Lind said. "Rotting salmon are irresistible to dogs," she added, "and eating them almost always causes salmonella poisoning and that almost always kills the dogs."

If you suspect that your animal has ingested salmon, fresh or rotted, contact your veterinarian at once.



Part of the garbage found on the trails, this newspaper vending machine with ripped open cash box and vending door and shot full of what appears to be 22 cal. Rounds. This was way up the trail and must have required Herculean efforts to get it there. Ya gotta wonder

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Land Trust And Park District Join Forces To Protect Estuary Land

The Peninsula Heritage Land Trust and the Peninsula Parks and Recreation District announced last week the transfer of five acres of estuary land at the head of Wollochet Bay to Park District ownership, with the Land Trust holding a conservation easement on the land.

Under Park District management, the property will be accessible to the public for education and low-impact recreation such as wildlife watching and view enjoyment. Under the terms of the conservation easement, the land trust will monitor the property regularly, in perpetuity, to ensure that its conservation, scenic and habitat values are not threatened. The easement spells out in detail the permitted and prohibited uses of the land. Local educators consider this piece of land an ideal site for nature and science education, in part because of its position adjacent to both Wollochet Bay and Artondale Creek.

The Land Trust purchased the land several months ago, using loans and donated funds. The total amount raised by the Trust was \$100,000 plus an additional \$8,000 for transaction expenses and a stewardship endowment. The Trust had earlier applied for about \$20,000 in grant funds available from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) under the federal agency's Coastal Zone Management grant program. Since NOAA gives these funds only to public agencies, the Land Trust approached the Park District about a cooperative arrangement under which the District would receive the NOAA funds and would own the property.

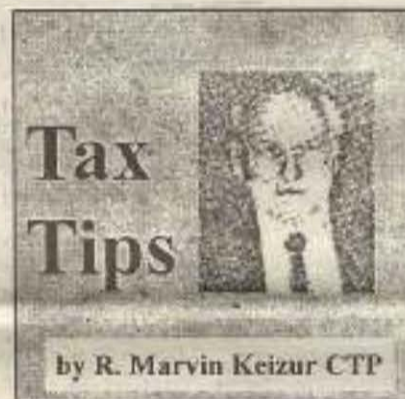
"This arrangement suited us perfectly", said Land Trust board member Vernon Young. "Since this site is the best location on the estuary for public education, we had planned, anyway, to seek management of it by a public agency." The Park District agreed to the proposal.

With receipt of the grant funds several months away, PHLT went ahead and purchased the land. Park District President Jeff Wilbert handed Land Trust President Doug Murphy the grant money and received title to the land for the Park District. The Land Trust will use the money to repay the loans that helped enable it to buy the property.

Preservation of this parcel is part of the Land Trust's project to obtain permanent protection for undeveloped estuaries on the Gig Harbor and Key Peninsulas. The group now

holds conservation easements on approximately ten acres out of about 35 acres targeted for protection at the head of Wollochet Bay and owns 185 feet of waterfront, part of the Lay Wildrose Preserve, on a Lay Inlet estuary in Rosedale.

To protect the remaining Wollochet estuary land, the Trust is seeking community donations and volunteer help. Donations may be sent to: PHLT Acquisition Fund, P.O. Box 1973, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. To volunteer or learn more about this or other PHLT projects, call the PHLT message number, 853-5626.



Here we go into another income tax season - again some warnings on whom you allow to prepare your income tax return.

1. Did they go to school or to a seminar for updated information?
2. Have they received at least 20 CPE credit hours of instruction?
3. Just because they charge less to prepare a return it could cost you more in unrealized deductions - thus you pay more tax or receive a lesser tax refund.
4. Are they available the year around in case any questions come up from IRS? Follow these suggestions - you should get the best of the deal.

Free Income Tax Assistance

Free income tax assistance will be available at the Key Center Fire Station each Tuesday, from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, beginning February 2nd through April 13th. The volunteers are sponsored and trained by AARP and the IRS. The program is for taxpayers of any age, of low to middle income. Those wishing help should bring all of their 1998 income statements and, if possible, a copy of last year's return.



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TO YOUR HEALTH
by
William F. Roes, MD

As a theme for the last year of this century, I'm planning on discussing therapies in medicine that have changed in the twentieth century, and things on the verge of undergoing

changes in the near future. The causes of blindness in the American patient have changed considerably during this century. At the beginning of the century, infections of the eyes were a common cause of loss of vision, but with the development of antibiotic eye drops, especially those given to all new born infants this has really become a thing of the past.

Cataracts, or clouding of the lens in the eye, although technically not causing blindness, certainly has represented the major cause of diminished vision. The treatment of this is surgical, and as recently as during

my medical training (1974-1978), this was a major operation and fairly risky for loss of sight. There has been a revolution in cataract surgeries since that time, and now the vast majority of them are performed under local anesthesia on an outpatient basis. The result of this is the operation is available and used by a much larger number of people, and those whose vision is limited by cataracts are largely those who have not sought care by an ophthalmologist.

Glaucoma, an increase in pressure in the eye, was also a leading cause of blindness. Recent advances in detection and treatment have also diminished its prevalence, although it remains the leading cause of loss of sight in African-Americans. All ophthalmologists and optometrists routinely test for glaucoma with every eye exam, and most causes are controlled with eye drops.

In the early 20th century most diabetics eventually developed blindness if they lived long enough. The development of insulin and improved glucose control has prevented this in many diabetics, and vigilant monitoring with eye exams can discover which diabetics are at risk. There is general medical consensus that all diabetics should have at least an annual evaluation by an ophthalmologist.

The leading cause of blindness in America in 1999 is macular degeneration, or the destruction of the visually sensitive retinal tissue at the

back of the eye. There are two forms of macular degeneration, "dry" macular degeneration in which there are deposits of material in the retina, and "wet" in which there is development of new blood vessels in the retina which obscures vision. There is no current treatment for the "dry" form, but the visual loss is usually slow and minor. The "wet" form can cause a much faster and more significant loss of vision. This can sometimes be arrested with zapping these new vessels with a laser beam, but this does not usually restore the lost vision.

We have come a long way in preserving sight in this century, but there are still a significant number of people, especially those with macular degeneration, that will benefit from future research and therapies.

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- Union 76 Station - Unocal Plaza
- Walt's Fine Foods - Key Center
- Walt's Fine Foods - Lake Kathryn
- Westwynd Motel & Apartments - Purdy
- Windermere Key Realty - Key Center

February Activities At Grace Presbyterian Church

On February 7th, Grace Presbyterian Church will host a group from an Indonesian Fellowship in Seattle. Their choir will participate in the 10:30 AM worship service.

A Prayer Breakfast, Pie Social, and a Fellowship Dinner are all planned events for this month. Weekly Bible Studies are held Tuesday evenings at Miracle Ranch. Sunday School for children is held each Sunday.

All are welcome to attend. The church meets at Miracle Ranch on Horseshoe Lake, Sidney Road. For further information, call Pastor Jim Christianson, 857-7284.

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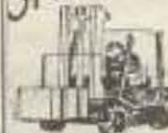


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Hawaiian artist Carol Ann Anderson will tell stories based on Hawaiian versions of classic fairy tales such as *The Three Little Pigs*, *Snow White*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, and *Goldilocks*, at the **Key Center Library, Saturday, February 27th at 1:00 PM**. Carol illustrated the published books of these tales, and will lead the audience in a drawing session after the stories. She has been an active art professional for thirty years. She is currently the president of the Peninsula Art League and a board member of the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Cultural Arts Commission. This is a free program for all ages sponsored by the Friends of the Key Center Library.

Preschool storytime for ages three through five will be held each Friday at 10:30 AM through March 26th. The library will be open for storytime only, for the children and their fami-

lies, therefore the front door sign will still read "CLOSED".

Gifts to the library include a display rack for free publications now located in the lobby. Some of these publications include the *Key Peninsula News*, *Blues-to-Do*, and *Puget Sound Parents*. Please check out the new location. Thanks to the Friends of the Key Center Library for this gift.

The Angel Guild has been very generous to the library this last year, making possible the appearance of Pearl Django, and new shelving for cassette tapes, compact discs, videos, and newspapers. Many, many thanks to the Angels.

Several memorial gifts now grace the shelves of the Key Center Library:

- from the Altrua Study Club in memory of Olwyn Merrill
- from Debra Jahn in memory of Harvey Hilmer
- from Ray and Virginia Thompson in memory of Suzanne Benson
- from Frankie, Dick, Don, and Diane Johnson in memory of Dick Noble
- from family and friends in honor of Robert Dale McCain.

Angel Notes

by Frankie Johnson

January proved to be a very good month for the Angel Guild Thrift Shoppe in KC Corral in Key Center. Our members had done a fantastic job of refurbishing the shop. Those who worked during that time were Shirley Olson, Joyce Bischoff, Judy McDonald, Georgia Steele, and Joan Snyder, under the direction of Bonnie Stinson, our coordinator. We give them a big THANK YOU.

Last month I made a big mistake (my first this year). I had the wrong person in mind that was to give the annual Christmas party for our group. With a total apology to Nell Blanchard for my faux pas (is that spelled right?). How about my goof? Anyhow, I gave the wrong person credit for our fabulous potluck party which was held at Nell Blanchard's most beautiful home in Longbranch. We enjoyed an elegant luncheon and tour of Nell's outstanding home. Most of us were overwhelmed by the outstanding decor and the wonderful ambiance of Nell's home. From the den to the doll workshop area, we were mostly impressed by the entire setting. Nell truly is one of the great hostesses of the area. She not only gave the setting, she also made many of the dishes that were served. She deserves a special thank you from all of the angels and the community for

her contributions of her time and talent.

We want to acknowledge that Cathy Domme has been volunteering her time to our store. Cathy is a student at Peninsula High School. We don't have minor members so we will call Cathy our Cherub member. She volunteers on Saturdays. Thank you, Cathy.

We gave a donation of \$700.00 to Evergreen Elementary School to buy musical instruments.

We are very thankful to Tom of Lakebay Roofing who will put a new roof on our sorting shed only charging labor. Scott Swenning is making new shelves for the store. We are so appreciative for any help we can get since we are a non-profit organization and all monies go to the community.

If you need to get more information, call our shop at 884-9333.

Reynold's Roost

by Howard Reynolds



Betcha Didn't Know ... If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't stand in her way.



VETERAN'S VOICES

By Eileen Young

All is well with our local VFW post and auxiliary. January and February are "quiet" months after a hectic November and December, but plans are being made for the rest of the year. A future column will disclose all!

Three new members deserve a big welcome. They are for the post, Duane Neuhauser and Ray Valles. For the auxiliary, Helen Neuhauser. Welcome; we hope you enjoy us and our community involvement. A reminder that the VFW meetings are the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 7:00 PM in the Civic Center.

Our "plea" for two artificial trees has been answered. Many thanks to Lillian Montaney and Shirley Olson for their contribution to our cause. The Trees of Sharing are well received in the community and much appreciated by the veterans in Retsil and American Lake. Thanks again, ladies.

Did you know your commander also comes to the rescue of damsels in distress? A call from Irene Zimmer of the Civic Center that a WILD animal was loose in her apartment sent Cy and Civic Center President Marty Marcus to the rescue. Armed with only a flashlight and a salmon net, these two brave individuals managed to rid the apartment of one very angry, frightened SQUIRREL! Action above and beyond!

Apparently moving to California did not change the luck of Bill Howe. Last report, he had broken three ribs

in a fall while out feeding some quail. Get well quick Bill. Meanwhile, Lola is doing great.

A crab dinner is being planned for March, will have more news and prices after contact with the crab merchants in Westport. Tim Hale is this year's chairperson.

We sincerely hope all of you read the beautiful article, written by Scott Turner for the *Peninsula Gateway*, titled "Toy Soldier". This article chronicled the military life of our own member Louie Aguilar and leaves the reader feeling very humbled by the story of this remarkable man.

If you are finding this winter long and boring, maybe you would like to join some of the auxiliary ladies who go to Retsil every fourth Wednesday to help the residents play Bingo. They need volunteers to check the cards and be there should a player need help. Also, needed are volunteers to make cookies, as the ladies supply the refreshments. If you can help with this worthwhile project, call Roxyanne Wooldridge at 884-4407.

Marguerite Bussard is due for some minor surgery in February, and we all hope and pray that she is up and about in record time.

Till next month, I leave you with this thought. If you tried to do something and failed, you are vastly better off than if you tried to do nothing and succeeded.



BE MY VALENTINE

Thank You!

Many thanks to the Vaughn Community Church for all the love, prayers and effort of so many people when our son Carlos was in the hospital. Thanks also, to Vaughn Elementary School, for all the support and care that came from all the students and staff. Sometimes when you think you're standing alone, miracles happen. So many people reached out and gave us the support and love, even families we didn't know, it was overwhelming. Our thanks and appreciation goes out to all of you.

God Bless you all,
The Cartwright Family

Citizens Against Crime Holds Patrol Briefing

by Hugh McMillan

At its Thursday, January 21st, meeting, 24 members of Citizens Against Crime's Citizens' Patrol were briefed by Pierce County Sheriff's Sergeant Ross Herberholz. Herberholz is in charge of the Sheriff's Peninsula Detachment.

Herberholz said there is a rise in mail theft crimes particularly on the Key Peninsula. "There is little doubt that most of this is drug related," he said. The thieves steal checkbooks which they sell. They take checks which they cash by falsifying names. They take credit cards with which they charge a variety of goods in one shopping area, then take to another to return for refunds," said Herberholz. "But they love debit cards and will drain a legitimate owner's account for cash." Herberholz recommended against carrying debit cards in your wallet.

He also noted that there is a rise in burglaries, vehicle prowling, and growing use of marijuana. "You'd be surprised how many burglaries occur simply because people leave their doors open, let alone unlocked. That's an invitation to the bad guys to walk off with your belongings," Herberholz said. "A common target is garages with their big doors opening onto a treasure trove of tools exposed to passers by," he added.

The winning ticket for the 4 KW gas-powered electric generator, which CAC has raffled off as a fund raiser, went to Virginia Parshall. She was called immediately after Herberholz pulled her ticket from the bucket. When she arrived at the meeting site, she asked, "What did I win?" She said she "only bought the tickets to support CAC."

Jerry Davis, CAC's President, immediately handed Virginia an application to work with the Patrol. She said that if she could, she would.

CAC thanks Don and Elaine Anderson, who donated the generator to the organization, "A very generous gesture," said Davis. "We would also like to thank all

the people who, like Virginia, bought raffle tickets, 'to support CAC'"

"It's obvious," said Davis, "that we can sure use more volunteers for the Patrol." If you are inter-

ested in joining in this volunteer work, call 884-3386, 884-6511, or 884-3319.



Against the wall sitting on a table is Ross Herberholz (w/Mickey Mouse sweat); to his left, Roland Nease CAC Crime Watch Trainer and Patrol member.

Photos by Hugh McMillan



CAC President Jerry Davis hands Virginia Parshall, winner of the 4 KW generator, an application form for membership in CAC.

T.O.P.S. News

by Frankie Johnson

Maybe the rain is getting you down in the dumps, or maybe you feel low because you are overweight. If you want to have fun and a new direction in your life, T.O.P.S. could be your answer. We are a self-help support group right here in Vaughn. Our chapter of T.O.P.S. has been in Vaughn over 10 years. During that time, we are proud to say that we have helped many, many people to reach their desired weight and maintain it for years. In 1995 we had the Washington State Queen, Laural Johnson, who had lost the most weight of all the women in the state and reached her goal. Laural lost over 100 pounds. Maybe you have only 10 pounds or less to be at your ideal weight. T.O.P.S. will still give you the support you need to get there. So, if you have 1 to 500 pounds (or whatever), T.O.P.S. will welcome you and cheer you to your goal weight.

You might wonder what happens at a T.O.P.S. meeting. First of all, you will be weighed in private. You will fill out paper work to join, if that is your desire. You are welcome to visit first. You will be placed in a contest with all the other T.O.P.S. members based on your first weigh-in figure. People who weigh 120 pounds don't compete with those who weigh over 200 pounds. Men and women are in different categories and children and teens are separate. No matter what you weigh, there is a place for you in T.O.P.S. with no embarrassment. After weigh-in and "roll-call", (you declare if you are up or down but never reveal your weight), we have a short business meeting to let our members know what is going on and then we have a motivating program given by volunteers of our membership. Lately, Laura Wrzeski has given a highly motivating report on the book "Sugar Busters", Julie Higgins led us in resolutions with

ideas to make small changes that we can keep. She then has us go into small groups to really tell what we need to do or are doing. Mary and Sarah Nixon gave their lesson about staying in the groove once you find it. Both Mary and her daughter, Sarah, have reached their goals.

We are very proud of our chapter of T.O.P.S. This year we have lost over 400 pounds all together. One of our best losers has lost over 100 pounds. Several have lost 25 to 45 pounds. The best part is that they are keeping it off.

January 26th, 1999 was our annual Open House. We featured some of our best successful members on a panel discussion to share how they have been successful. They were a varied group so you can see that weight gain does not pick on one type of person. The panel included Betty Ostovich, Colleen Spezia, James Spezia, Eva Roth, Rosalie Busz, Laura Wrzeski, Pauline Longley and Samantha Schlipp.

Our first meeting of February will celebrate Pauline Longley's attainment of her K.O.P.S. status. She will have completed her 13 weeks of maintenance of her goal weight. We present our winners with a new Awards scarf to display her charms and awards. We salute Pauline for her achievement of a weight loss of 20 pounds.

We will have our annual RED NIGHT to celebrate Valentine's Day. All members dress up in all the red they can find and the one with the most items wins a prize. On that night we will exchange valentines with positive messages for every member.

As you can see, we have a lot of fun as well as lose weight. You are invited to join us. Just come to our meeting at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn on Tuesday night at 6:00 PM, or call 884-4102 for more information.



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T.O.P.S. Morning Groups Helps With Your New Year's Resolutions

by Mary Nelson

What is the subject of the most New Year's Resolutions in 1999? You may have heard on the news. It is LOSING WEIGHT!!

To aid you in reaching this goal, the Morning T.O.P.S. Group, T.O.P.S. #WA 1325, would like to invite you to their Open House, Tuesday, February 9th, at 9:00 AM at our new location, the Longbranch Improvement Club, just south of Evergreen School, on the Key Peninsula Highway. There will be fun and food (low calorie, of course). Past members are especially welcome. There will be no make-up monthly dues or penalties.

We are starting on the 3rd successful year of our T.O.P.S. (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) Group. We meet every Tuesday morning from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM. Dues are \$20 a year and \$5 a month. Come and

check us out. No obligation. For more information call Delores at 884-2620. T.O.P.S. is open to people of all ages, male and female, including teens. You are welcome to tap into the personal support system that we are sharing.

We are proud to announce Jan Glover has made best loser two months in a row. She is an inspiration and a joy to know. Runner up was Ruth Matthews. With a smile and a hug, this assistant weight recorder makes weighing in more fun. This month, Ruth was our best loser and Joanne Gilkison was a close second. We are behind you gals 100%! Keep up the good work!!

This may be the time of year when you need some support in eating healthy. Let us help. We hope to see you soon. Watch for the recipes that will be included in future articles.

Great Decisions - Foreign Policy Discussion Groups To Meet

The Gig Harbor Chapter of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) welcomes participants in Great Decisions, an eight-week foreign policy discussion group. A morning group will begin Friday, February 5th, 10:00 AM, at the home of Carol Robinson, 3729 Moose Trail NW, Gig Harbor. An evening group begins Wednesday, February 10th, 7:00 PM, at the home of Beth Brouillette at 3811 - 26th Ave. Ct. NW, Gig Harbor.

Thousands of people across the

country participate in Great Decisions groups each year, a program sponsored by the United Nations Association concerning foreign policy. Their study book on various timely topics is available by remitting \$15.00 to Marge Casebolt, Box 146, Wauna WA 98395. Participants prepare by reading the material provided (and other outside material as they choose) on the week's topic and then meet to discuss the issues.

For program information, please call Marge Casebolt at 253-857-6711. For AAUW membership information, write AAUW, POB 2705, Gig Harbor, WA 98335, or call Carol Robinson at 253-265-6141.



Mon. - Thurs., 6:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Fri. - 6:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Sat. - 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Sun. - 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

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KPFD Makes A Save



Photo by Hugh McMillan

by Hugh McMillan

After flames were seen pouring
 from a single-wide older model mo-
 bile home in the 16800 block of Elgin
 Clifton Road, Friday, January 15,
 several neighbors called 911. The
 structure was only about five blocks
 from Key Peninsula Fire Station 5.
 Within minutes, firefighters were on
 the rain-swept scene. Ultimately, 14
 firefighters and four pieces of equip-
 ment were involved in the fight. Most
 were there for three and a half hours.

"We were so close and so fast,"
 said Fire Chief Gary Franz, "that the
 fire was confined to a single room."
 The first response came from Station
 5 at Elgin Clifton and Wright Bliss.

Franz added, "Older mobile homes
 are notorious for lighting-fast blazes.
 As a general rule, once the fire starts,
 it moves so quickly through the in-
 cendiary materials of which the older
 models are constructed that the only
 thing firefighters can do is to make
 sure no lives are endangered and to

save adjoining properties."

Lt. Paul Bosch was the officer in
 charge of the operation. "Paul and the
 rest of our personnel deserve a lot of
 credit. This was a good save," said
 Franz. "An almost new RV motor
 home immediately adjacent the burn-
 ing structure suffered no damage be-
 cause of the professionalism of the

firefighters."

There was no one at home at the
 time of the fire. It was reported that a
 dog was in the building but managed
 to escape without injury. It is believed
 the fire was a result of an electrical
 malfunction. Damage is unofficially
 estimated at \$25,000.

Retired And Senior Volunteer Program

The Retired and Senior Volunteer
 Program, sponsored by The Ameri-
 can Red Cross, has the following
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Grandma's Garden

by Colleen Slater

Each year when I read the new seed catalogues and plan my annual garden, I recall the days of my childhood spent in my grandmother's garden. Actually, Grandma Agnes Bill had several gardens around her house, and they all performed admirably. One of my favorite places in the summer was under the rose arbor, where four different varieties grew, entwining and dropping scented blooms through the top. At the time, I knew the names of the roses Grandma grew, but Dr. Van Fleet and American Beauty are the only ones that come to mind now. Assorted tea roses had a bed to themselves in the sunshine, and a favorite pastime was wandering through, sniffing each flower, savoring the heady fragrances. Down the path, beyond the locusts, more roses alternated with pink Flowering Almond. A summer lilac stood lower on the hill, and an apple tree occupied the point before the path joined the driveway.

Around the front door was a honeysuckle vine, lovely to smell, but one had to exercise caution on warm sunny days when it was bee heaven. Mock Orange scented the air at one corner of the house. Under the May tree (Hawthorne) was a bed of Oriental poppies, surrounded by Snow-in-Summer, where early crocuses poked up in the spring. Originally there were two Hawthornes, called Grandpa Buckell and Grandma Buckell, but only one existed when I was helping garden there. Along the drive grew near perfect mounds of purple pink cranesbill, the true geranium. To the west of the house were flowering shrubs - Lilac, Laurestinus, Flowering Quince, Flowering Currant, Japanese Quince, and Bridal Wreath.

Vinca, ivy and hypericum covered

some areas of ground. Fruit trees - assorted plums, a pear and many apples grew next to paths, with a pair of cherry trees at the top of the hill near the pump. Gravenstein apples were my favorite, but a great variety existed, and a crunchy juicy apple on a warm fall day was a regular treat.

Sweet Williams, still among my favorite flowers, clustered along the path to the pump. Blue Peach-leaved Bellflowers, which for some unknown reason were called "Tablecloth flowers", remain another favorite. Daffodils, snowdrops, scilla, grape hyacinths, tulips and crocus reappeared each year, while wild violets, trilliums, tiger lilies and adertongues crept into some areas from the woods.

The annual garden, sloping down from the lawn, always contained California poppies, Scarlet flax, Stocks, Pincushion flowers, Clarkia, Satin flowers and Bachelor Buttons. Many other varieties bloomed profusely each year, and Grandma sometimes allowed us to choose something new to try. The scatter gardens were my favorite, as there would be so many different flowers from one packet.

My gardens have never reached the perfection of Grandma's which I recall as a child. Perhaps because gardening was Grandma's way of life, and I have so many other interests as well. She passed on her love of gardening to her children and grandchildren, and the results can be seen in our gardens, many in this area. Grandma's house has been replaced with a new home, and we descendants nurture a few plants retrieved from her neglected gardens some years back, but I never pass the location without a picture springing to mind of happy times there, always with flowers included in the remembrance.

Paint Tacoma-Pierce

Beautiful Applications Available

Applications are now available for low-income seniors and low-income disabled men and women all over Pierce County to get their homes painted at no charge this summer by Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful. To be eligible, applicants must be at least 60 years old and/OR disabled, meet low-income guidelines, live in Pierce County, and own the home where they live. The deadline for applications is April 1st, so now is the time to apply.

This summer will be the 15th year for paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful, and they hope to paint at least 100 homes.

The painting done by this program is exterior house painting only. Locations range from Gig Harbor to

Northeast Tacoma to Lakewood to Puyallup to Ashford (right next to Mt. Rainier National Park!). All the work is done by volunteers from churches, service clubs, businesses, unions, local government offices, schools, and military bases, etc. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 100 homes are painted each summer (123 in '97!). All the paint is either donated or purchased at cost, and there is no charge whatsoever to the homeowner.

Paint Tacoma-Pierce Beautiful is a program of Associated Ministries of Tacoma-Pierce County. Individuals may apply for themselves or make referrals for friends, neighbors, relatives, etc. For applications and further information call 383-3056.



YESTERDAY'S TEENAGERS!

Key Peninsula Senior Society

New President Of K.P. Seniors

Chuck Williamson took over the reins of KPSS this month, presiding over the first meeting of the year shortly after returning from Hawaii, where he and wife Pauline celebrated their 50th anniversary. No sooner had he accepted the gavel than he announced that he and Pauline were again traveling in the opposite direction - to Florida where they joined a cruise.

Assuming office with Williamson are: Vice President, Don Blakemore; 2nd Vice President, Helen Wolniewicz; Secretary, Rose Malmgren; Treasurer, Erma Dunn and Board Members, Bob Smith, Evelyn Stinson and Jim Nolan.

Blakemore, who recently returned from Las Vegas to see his grandson get married, will preside until Williamson's return. Williamson announced the winner of the Afghan raffle was a happily surprised Norman Wade of Vaughn. The Afghan was crocheted and donated by KPSS member, Bea Emil.

"If you are recently retired, we are welcoming fun loving retirees who would like to become part of an organization that needs energizing. If you would like to help plan day trips, for example to Leavenworth, Mt. St. Helens, Portland, etc., and do crafts, plan parties, play games and cards, then join us," said Williamson. He added, "we have no dues, no government subsidies, pay our rent with yearly yard and craft sales, eat lunch each Thursday on a potluck basis and are quite solvent. We just need influx of over 55ers and new ideas. If interested, contact President Williamson at 857-3020, or drop in for potluck on any Thursday at 12:00 Noon at the Key Peninsula Civic Center in Vaughn."

Survey For Seniors

A new feature at KPSS is a monthly survey of Senior Society members to determine how members are thinking. Politics will NOT be a subject, but anything else will be fair game. This month membership responded to the query: "How Should Elder Citizens Be Referred To In The Media Or Otherwise?"

A tabulation of 23 members indicated the results as follows:

Seniors or Retired = 6 votes
Over the Hill = 4 votes
Mature = 2 votes
Past 60 = 2 votes
Oldsters = 1 vote

The term "Aged" was resoundingly rejected with NO votes. When asked to respond as to age and sex, KPSS members showed 6 men responding and 16 women. Two responses as to sex, gave the replies of "Yes and When".

Next month's survey will ask for reasons why members attend the Thursday meetings with possible answers of: hungry, gossip, to meet people, play bridge or pinochle, cribbage, conversation, or others.

Future surveys will deal with volunteerism, weather, vacations, automobiles, news, and other subjects. Responses may be most interesting.

1999 Marks 20th Anniversary for KP Seniors

The Key Peninsula Senior Society celebrates its 20th Anniversary this year. In 1979 a small group of retired Peninsula residents of Vaughn, Key Center and adjacent areas met to try to form a social group for the purpose of meeting weekly for fellowship and a potluck, and to travel together for various trips from time to time.

After several organizational meetings, the group was formally instituted as KPSS and has continued every week since that time. Research into the group's history is going on, and will be further reported throughout this Anniversary year, according to President, Chuck Williamson. Chuck can be reached at 857-3020.

Best Story Of The Month

Norman Storset says he received a Christmas letter from close relatives in Norway who told him that last summer was the hottest, driest summer Norway has experienced in many years. So dry, they said, "the cows all gave powdered milk". Norm's wife Marie, is doubtful.

Coming Events

Cupcakes are on the way to the folks at the Rocky Bay Health Facility for this month. It's a monthly gift from KPSS members, and has gone on for many years.

Minter Creek School News

"We've Got The Room For You!"

I have come to suspect that there are new folks here on the Peninsula who aren't aware of what a great facility we have here at the Key Peninsula Civic Center! Although bookings are steady, we still can accommodate your events - IF you give us a little notice! Right now the evenings are solidly booked, six days a week. Saturdays in February are all booked, but in March there are some openings. Mondays are available all during the daytime from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Tuesday through Friday there are openings during the middle of the day. Sundays usually have a spot open for skate parties from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. The 1st and 3rd Sunday we have Family Skate during that time.

The business office hours are from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Tuesday through

Saturday to accommodate your scheduling needs. This facility can offer meeting rooms for 50 to 90 people, or provide an area for 300 people for larger events. We have a complete kitchen available, dishes, chaffing dishes, silverware, and cups, large baking pans, trays, etc. There is a commercial size refrigerator and commercial size freezer. We have a restaurant-type stove with a grill and two ovens, a convection oven, a dishwasher, popcorn maker, microwave oven and all the room needed to cook a meal for 300 people.

All you need to do to reserve the space you need is to call 884-3456 and pick a date! There is voice mail if the human isn't around so you can leave a message and phone number. We do call back! Remember, "We Have the Room for You!"

Minter Recovers From Broken Water Pipes

The winter freeze caused damage to our cold water pipes over the winter break. The fire department responded to a call on Christmas Eve to find five rooms swamped with water. A special thank you to the Key Peninsula Fire Department who stayed to help pump out the water, to Service Master who brought in a special flood crew to clean and dry the carpets, and to our custodial staff, Nate and Bob, who put in extra time for the clean-up.

Hoop Shoot Champions

Congratulations to Jon Larson, Amanda Diunno, Chelsea Suepke and Sean Sigafos who won the Minter Creek Hoop Shoot contest for their age divisions. Jon continued to win the district Elks Club Hoop Shoot over winter break. Jon sank 20 out of 25 free throws at the contest. He will represent Gig Harbor at the regional contest in Olympia. We all wish Jon good luck.

Urgent Safety Recall

(Plastic Mini Mag Flashlight)
This item was sold during the Holiday Gift Shop in December, and should be immediately returned to school for a replacement item of greater value. If you have questions, please call Leesa Haugen (Fun Services) at 1-800-326-8805.

Voter Registration Forms

We have forms for you to register to vote, change your precinct or apply for absentee ballots. Please stop by the school office and pick up a form.

Play Ball!


The Key Peninsula Little League sign-ups has begun. All baseball players between the ages of 5 to 18 years old before August 1, 1999, are eligible to play. Registration is at Elgin Clifton fire Station on the following dates:

Wednesday, February 3rd from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

Saturday, February 6th from 19:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Registration fee is \$55.00.

FEBRUARY 1999

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| | 1 7:00 PM Karate | 2 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM WIC 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 3:45 PM Little Buddies 6:00 PM T.O.P.S. 7:00 PM Dog Obedience | 3 9:30 AM Healthy Families 10:00 AM Yoga 1:00 PM School Skate 6:30 PM AWANA 6:30 PM Lions Club Dinner 7:00 PM Bible Study | 4 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 12:00 PM Seniors 1:00 PM Museum Open! 6:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Karate | 5 9:30 AM Parenting Class 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Home School Skate 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Skate Night | 6 12:00 PM "WINTER VISUALS" 1:00 PM Museum Open! |
| 7 9:00 AM KP Baptist Church 1:00 PM Family Skate 5:00 PM Friendship Dinner 6:30 PM Outreach Bible Fellowship | 8 7:00 PM Karate 7:30 PM KPCCA Exec. Comm. | 9 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM WIC 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 3:45 PM Little Buddies 6:00 PM T.O.P.S. 7:00 PM Dog Obedience | 10 10:00 AM Yoga 6:30 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study | 11 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 12:00 PM Seniors 1:00 PM Museum Open! 6:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Karate 7:30 PM KPCCA Board | 12 9:30 AM Parenting Class 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Home School Skate 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Skate Night | 13 1:00 PM Museum Open! 6:30 PM - 11:59 PM Firefighter's Ball |
| 14 9:00 AM KP Baptist Church 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pvt. Skate 5:00 PM Friendship Dinner 6:30 PM Outreach Bible Fellowship | 15 7:00 PM Karate CHS CLOSED | 16 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM WIC 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 6:00 PM T.O.P.S. 7:00 PM Dog Obedience NO LITTLE BUDDIES | 17 10:00 AM Yoga 6:30 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study | 18 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 12:00 PM Seniors 1:00 PM Museum Open! 6:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Cottlettes 7:00 PM Karate | 19 9:30 AM Parenting Class 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Home School Skate 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Skate Night | 20 1:00 PM Museum Open! 6:00 PM Scout's "Blue & Gold" Dinner |
| 21 9:00 AM KP Baptist Church 1:00 PM Family Skate 5:00 PM Friendship Dinner 6:30 PM Outreach Bible Fellowship | 22 7:00 PM Karate | 23 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM WIC 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 3:45 PM Little Buddies 6:00 PM T.O.P.S. 7:00 PM Dog Obedience | 24 10:00 AM Yoga 6:30 PM AWANA 7:00 PM Bible Study | 25 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Indoor Park 12:00 PM Seniors 1:00 PM Museum Open! 6:00 PM Boy Scouts 7:00 PM Karate | 26 9:30 AM Parenting Class 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM Home School Skate 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM Skate Night | 27 9:00 AM Friendship Breakfast 1:00 PM Museum Open! 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Pvt. Skate |
| 28 9:00 AM KP Baptist Church 5:00 PM Friendship Dinner 6:30 PM Outreach Bible Fellowship |  | | | | | |

Be My  Valentine



Pierce County Sheriff's Community Academy

by Hugh McMillan

Ever wanted to climb behind the wheel of a Sheriff's patrol car and floor it? How about plunking a few rounds into a target at the Department's range? Doing a wall-sized video shoot 'em out with the bad guys? Having a complete tour of the County Jail? The Purdy Washington Corrections Center for Women? The 911 Communications' Center in op-

eration?

You can.

One of the most interesting and exhilarating learning experiences I have ever had was attending the Pierce County Sheriff's Community Academy in 1998. I recommend it highly to anyone wishing to learn what happens, how it happens, who makes it happen, and where it happens in the lives of our sheriff's Deputies on a

daily basis.

The academy is held at various times and locations throughout Pierce County. There is concern that, due to a severe budget crunch, this valuable program might become a thing of the past.

The next Peninsula area Academy begins February 11th and runs through May 6th. It meets at 7:00 PM each Thursday for two hours at the Gig

Harbor Fire Department's Training Center and Emergency Operations Center.

Like everyone of the dozens of attendees with whom I have spoken in many classes in many years all over the County, I too voiced but one complaint about the Academy: "It ended."

For more information call Susan McDougal at (253) 798-6646.

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