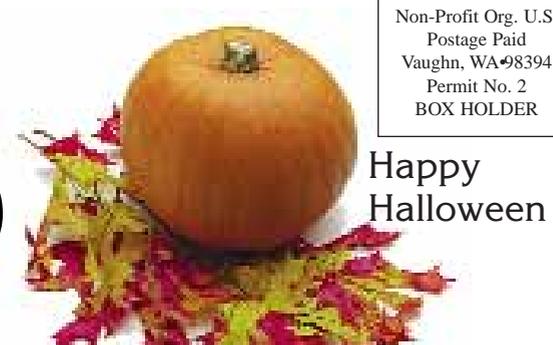




Guppy, page 18

KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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FD 16 lid lift on November ballot

Firefighters and residents weigh in on the issues surrounding the lid lift levy proposition for the November elections.

By Ted Olinger, KP News

For the fourth time in as many years, Fire District 16 will ask voters to approve a "lid lift proposition" on Nov. 2. The proposition "will authorize the property tax levy rate of \$1.09 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2010 tax collections," according to the official ballot description, an increase of 22 cents above the current level.

Voter approval is needed to override Initiative 747, which limits annual prop-



Photo by Mindi LaRose, KP News

L to R: Doug Gelslechter and Eddie Swanson, both volunteer firefighters for the Key Peninsula Fire Department, are seen here in a training exercise called a "simulated quick attack with a 3-man engine company." A crew of four is desired to make a safe initial attack on a fire. Swanson says "the community population is growing but the fire staffing is staying the same, and minimum staff isn't guaranteed."

erty tax collection to 101 percent of the previous year's revenue.

Voters already approved a higher rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 value in 2004, according

to the Pierce County Auditor's office. Three levy votes since 2004 have failed,

(See **LEVY**, Page 30)

New market for Key Center is still on track

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Peninsula Market owner, Don Stolz, was the guest presenter at the Key Peninsula Business Association meeting Sept. 18. He shared stories describing set-backs that have caused some delay in building plans but emphasized that a complex project can expect interruptions to its schedule.

Building of the new 18,000 square foot market and 5,000 square foot retail business space is expected to start in October and finish in six months. Though the new market is a considerable increase over the approximate 8,500 square foot of the present store, there "isn't a lot more grocery shelving—most

expansion is in other areas," Stolz told KPBA members. Shoppers can expect some new shelved items but wider aisles will be the main increase in that area. Most of the area gain will be in the frozen food, produce and meat departments. "I'm real happy with the way the layout has come out," he said as he presented drawings and blueprints of the new store.

Several complications have impacted the building schedule. One example is the Key Center intersection project. Stolz is required to put in a turn lane on the Key Peninsula Highway for his store. The county requires that the turn lane extend 200 feet

(See **MARKET**, Page 26)

BRIEFS

news

KP emergency responders to be part of blessing

Key Peninsula's emergency responders will be part of the Blessing of Law Enforcement, Firefighters and EMT personnel and Their Families Oct. 4 at Gig Harbor United Methodist Church. The event is from 1 to 4 p.m. and open to all clergy as well.

"Gig Harbor and Key Peninsula are one in so many ways, so its great to be recognized as a community in that way," said FD 16 Chief Chuck West. "It's a great thing that they're doing for all of us. I think it's a great way for us to interact with the other agencies we normally just do business with. This is a great opportunity for us to come together outside of the business aspect of our work."

The event is one of the ways the church is living out its mission, said pastor Jim Head-Corliss.

"We've been in the process of revisiting mission, vision, core purpose and how we align ourselves with those things," Head-

Corliss said. "As a result of studies and congregational process, we've clarified our mission to be 'following Jesus to love, grow and serve.' That's our mission statement. Now we're trying to live into that."

The idea for the blessing came from Ed Brook who has been attending the church for about a year. Brook is a member of the church's Outreach Committee, and that committee has implemented the organization and planning of the event, Brook said.

The blessing ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Emergency responders will be on hand to meet the public, and there will be children's activities and lots of equipment to explore.

For more information, or to be involved with the blessing, contact Gig Harbor United Methodist Church at 851-2625.

Key Peninsula Senior Housing Forum

The Mustard Seed Project will present a two-part forum on local housing for seniors Oct. 15 and 22 from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Brones Room at the Key Center Library.

"The first session falls during National Aging in Place week and is our way of honoring that movement," said Edie

Morgan of the Mustard Seed Project.

The first forum is a way to find out what options are available right now in the world of local senior housing, meet representatives from four local adult family homes; learn about auxiliary housing Units and how they can be very well used as senior housing; discover Pierce County Shared Housing Services, and explore the possibilities for homeowners and home seekers.

The Oct. 22 session includes film presentations of successful and progressive senior residence models.

Attendees will also hear about the senior housing dream the Mustard Seed Project hopes to realize on the Key Peninsula, meet the national level housing consultant and learn what is involved in the upcoming feasibility study. The second forum will also feature a success story from the community of Vashon Island.

Refreshments will be served, and there will be time to chat with your neighbors about the very important topic of Senior Housing on the Key Peninsula.

This is a chance for those who plan to age in place to get more information, and add their voice to the conversation, Morgan said.

Call the Key Senior Information Center at 253-884-9814 for more information.

The raffle drawing for the beautiful handmade reversible Quilt will take place at the Oct. 22 session. Raffle tickets are still

available for \$5 each at the Key Senior Information Center at Key Center. The Quilt travels around the KP for various functions, and raffle tickets go with it. It will be on display at the Fiber Arts show at Longbranch Improvement Club on Oct. 3, as well as at these Senior Housing forums.

Library fees to be forgiven

For the first time, the Pierce County Library System announces Amnesty Week, Oct. 4 through 10. It's a chance to have those pesky library fines wiped away. The program applies to fines up to \$75.

It's part of the Library Card Drive, complete with prizes such as a laptop computer or a set of earbuds.

Everyone is being encouraged to sign up for a library card, either through the library or the bookmobile. Those who already have a card can get into the drawing for prizes by bringing a family member or friend to sign up for a card.

The cards are free, and the library provides access to 1.3 million books, movies, CDs and more.

"Amnesty from fines should help respond to the economic downturn and reduce further pressure to people, while welcoming them back to the library," said Neel Parikh, executive director of Pierce County Library.

For more information visit piercescountylibrary.org, or your local library.

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Travel Club to host first meeting

By Sharon Hicks, KP News

Those who have traveled to distant places will have the opportunity to share their experiences at the new KP Community Travel Club meetings. The first meeting will be Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Library.

Organizers Claudia Loy and Jeff Harris held a pilot meeting in September, and said the purpose is for people who have traveled to listen and share their experience exploring the diversities of different cultures, including foods, daily routines, and language.

"It's all about getting to know people of the world," Harris said.

Often two couples have been to the same place and will observe that country differently than others making the same trip. Some happen upon very unique stories.

Dennis Taylor of The Compassionate Travel Foundation and his wife Marilyn took a trip to Belize and Guatemala. They stopped at a Mayan village and spent three days living with the villagers, they said. When the couple asked a class of 12 children what they needed most, Dennis said it was not clothes, food or shoes, but pencils. When he asked how many pencils they needed, they replied 11. Why not 12, he asked, and was told they already had one that the children all shared.

His story is an example of what to expect at KP Community Travel Club meetings, and Taylor will be the speaker for the Oct. 5 meeting.

Harris said he is looking for people like this to share pictures, artifacts, or cultural foods and listen. His goal is one hour each month.

For more information call Harris at 884-4697 or Claudia Loy at 884-4169.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Knapp Column

Ms. Knapp is using her latest column to insist “each of us needs to do our part to make sure reform is passed.” She rolls out the usual twisted statistics that make little sense — supposedly our health care rate is behind even Costa Rica. We are apparently to believe that our doctors are pulling out their hair wondering how they can match the medical wizardry of those darn Costa Rican M.D.s. This is a superficial statistic that is used irresponsibly by health reform true believers to flog their arguments but has no relation to the actual quality of American health care.

Ms. Knapp repeats studies that claim the average medical debt of those who filed for bankruptcy was \$12,000. That’s about the cost of a good used car. Obviously, people who file for bankruptcy over such small amounts are probably already in financial trouble due to other causes.

Finally, Knapp weirdly tells us that “retiring elderly couples will need \$250,000 in savings just to pay for the most basic medical coverage”. I know lots of retired folks, and not one of them has built up that amount of savings to pay for their medical, nor do they anticipate having to. Hasn’t she heard of Medicare?

Ms. Knapp wants us to “get educated” and be “not fooled by misinformation”. I fear it is she who has been misinformed in her rage against the insurance industry. The rest of us have done our homework on this incredibly bad legislation, Ms. Knapp, and we know a manure sandwich when we see one.

Thor Albro, Home

Yanity Levy Campaign

I am writing this letter in regards to the failed lid lift levy of Pierce County Fire District 16 (PCFD16) and commissioner Yanity’s misleading tactics he presents to the voters.

The following is my personal observations and opinion only; they do not represent the Citizens’ Advisory Committee or PCFD16.

I was a volunteer for the Citizens’ Advisory Committee which was created by PCFD16. We met once a week for four months to review policies, procedures,

operations, budget, organization and leadership. We were tasked with suggesting recommendations to the PCFD16 Board of Commissioners of changes we felt would benefit PCFD16 or the community it serves.

Commissioner Yanity attended many of these meetings and expressed how he had heard from others about PCFD16’s fitness levels and drug problems; he did not provide any documentation to back up these allegations. As a retired public servant, we had a saying; if it’s not in writing, then it didn’t happen. Mr. Yanity’s political platform is based on hearsay, not evidence or fact. Courts of law will not allow hearsay to be admitted as evidence in a trial, but Mr. Yanity bases his campaign on hearsay and wants the voting public to believe it is true without providing documentation to support his claim.

Before the Citizens’ Advisory Committee had completed its final recommendations report for the board of commissioners, Mr. Yanity filed with the Pierce County Auditor that he was against any lid lift levy, once again demonstrating he takes action without having all the information.

I will give credit to Mr. Yanity for sticking to his campaign promises, but he needs to think about his priorities. As a commissioner he is responsible for the needs of PCFD16 and the community it serves as a whole and not his personal political agenda. His campaign against the levy claims responsibility first, perhaps he should look at himself first and do what is responsible for the community and lead by example. The voters need to research the issues and not just believe the partial information and hearsay provided by Mr. Yanity.

Ronn Mayer, Vaughn

Support the Levy Lid Lift

My wife and I moved to the Key Peninsula in 1982. We have seen many positive improvements in our fire department though the years. We have always voted in favor of fire department levies. The need for the current levy lift is vital to the community. A “no” vote is like saying we do not need a fire dept or paramedics or the level of staffing to maintain service even at our present level. Please believe the fire chief’s assessment of the cost of not lifting the levy.

The loss of paid staff will raise home owners insurance and in some cases make it hard to get. It will also make response longer. Much longer if coming from

District 5 in Gig Harbor.

Our paid fire fighters and volunteers are a very impressive group of people, however they have to make a living, and they cannot always be available. Our paid fire fighters need to be paid a living wage comparable to other departments.

These fire fighters are the first responders to save your life, provide medical care, keep you from burning to death in auto or house fires, and save property. Many lives have been saved by this fire department.

I am not connected with any group. I am one of you — a tax payer in Fire District 16 and these, and many other reasons, are why I am supporting this levy. I hope you will join me, the life you save may be your own or that of a loved one.

Robert L Elliott, Key Peninsula

Thank you KP firefighters

I live on the corner of Jackson Lake Road and 174th Avenue. I want to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who stopped and came by to try and help and offer any assistance needed. I also want to give another HUGE thank you to all of the firemen, firewomen, and the EMT’s. You saved many items for us and no one was hurt, you got my dog and cat out, and the turtles held their breath and were okay.

Thank you all again,

Audrey Peer, Lakebay

Questions posed by a fire commissioner

When I was elected nearly four years ago I promised to do my best to bring physical fitness including drug testing to your fire department. It has been a battle we have yet to win.

My fellow commissioners and the fire fighters union have repeatedly opposed drug testing and they say all your fire-fighters are fit.

I have 3 questions for them:

1. Is it possible for a firefighter to be fit and obese at the same time?
2. If there is no substance abuse in your fire department why the opposition to testing your urine sample you give as a part your annual physical?
3. Why be so afraid of random testing if you are not using?

Now we are being told it is illegal to test firefighters for drugs the same way most of the workers are tested who pay the taxes that support the fire department. I think that is pure Bull____. Testing for drug and alcohol

abuse makes a safer work place and provides a higher degree of protection for us, the citizens paying the bills with our tax dollars.

Lately I have been called a liar because of my statements that we have had problems with drug and alcohol abuse in your fire department. All I can say is there is an effort to cover up any and all problems of this nature. This cover up includes the statement that there has never been a problem with drugs... Does anyone out there remember the newspaper articles about your past Chief? Why did Chief Tom Lique call all the board into executive session to tell us of an instance of drunken behavior at a training session if it is now called a lie?

Your firefighters and the rest of the board need to listen to your call for “Responsibility First” and institute a program of real physical fitness including substance abuse testing both random and annual if they ever expect to pass a levy.

We the people, the voters, demand reform in our fire department but the firefighter’s union would rather see the destruction of the department than give into your demand of “Responsibility First”.

Please vote “NO” until your demand is met.

Fire Commissioner, Allen A Yanity

Key Center crossroad

I have been involved in talks with Pierce County and the Community Council regarding the signal planned for Key Center. I find it interesting that Key Center may be at a critical crossroad of its life on the issue of a crossroad. Key Peninsula Highway, Olson and Cramer Roads. Some people think the issue is just a matter of whether there should be a signal, roundabout or no change at all. But it’s really more than that. It is about what kind of Key Center we are going to leave our children and grandchildren. Do we want it to have a big strip mall feeling similar to Belfair? We have seen downtowns all across our country overhaul themselves to more aesthetically pleasing designs. However, Key Center is not an incorporated entity. Pierce County is our governing body and it is not in the business of developing planned communities. See Meridian on the South Hill of Puyallup. If we want something besides a big strip mall in the center of our Key Peninsula then we, we the people, need to make it happen.

The entity of Key Center belongs to us. It is our responsibility. What are we going to leave our grandchildren?

Mike Baum

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Trick-or-treat has changed with the times

It's almost Halloween again, one of the best holidays ever. Here on the Key, of course, we have indoor trick-or-treating at the civic center, and trunk-or-treat at the Longbranch Improvement Club.

I'd never even heard of the Trunk or Treat thing until we moved out to the Key three years ago, even though since then I've learned that it's a nation-wide phenomenon. I grew up in the 70s, and we had huge neighborhoods next to other huge neighborhoods, and all the kids dressed up, grabbed their pillow cases, and set out on foot to the conquest of hitting every house possible in the hours allotted.

As I grew up over the years, I heard of indoor events in malls, and it seems much of the wandering and ringing doorbells for free food has gone by the wayside, a sad testimony I think, and something lost for our children.

But then I heard about Trunk or Treat, and while it's a completely different concept than legions of trolls, witches, ballerinas, and superheroes fanning out onto our nation's streets, it's a pretty

KEVIN REED HERE'S SOMETHING



exciting tradition on its own.

Basically, it's candy tailgating. Halloween night, a bunch of people park their vehicles in a rectangle shape, trunks facing the inside, and kids walk around in the rectangle and go "door to door" to get their candy.

These last few years I've been amazed at how much the hosts decorate themselves and their vehicles, to the delight of all the kids. Strings of orange lights, dry ice mist, spiders, diseased rubber rats, and coffins decorate trunks and tailgates. Witches sitting stoically, or giant skeleton people, and other frightening apparitions hand out candy to cautious, costume-clad young'uns. The whole thing regains the feeling of community that was always so great about door-to-door trick or treating, and keeps it in a smaller, more easily managed location.

Inside the Longbranch Improvement building, a surprisingly good haunted house awaits the little ones with the nerve to enter. It's not too scary, of course, but if you're little, it's a pretty good time.

This is the time of year when the candy makers manufacture smaller sizes of their products. Mini Snickers, tiny Milky Ways, minute Butterfingers, little shrunken versions of the chocolate and sweets we buy in full and jumbo size all year long. These smaller versions are often labeled the "Fun Size." I never got that. I mean fun size to me is the 3-pound bag of M&Ms that I can get up at Costco. But a tiny bag the size of airline peanuts containing, say, seven M&Ms? What's fun about that? I guess the fun comes when kids get to try a bunch of new candies that they've never had before, and if that's the definition, then I can buy that. The folks that make the indoor trick-or-treat, any remaining outdoor trick-or-treats, and the trunk-or-treats happen, they're the ones that are keeping the magic alive for the kids coming up today.

KP Civic Center plans set for Chili Cook-Off, Craft Fair

The Key Peninsula Civic Center will jump-start the holiday shopping season with the 2nd Annual Winter Warm-Up Craft Fair and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 17010 S. Vaughn Road KPN in Vaughn, WA. The event will feature handmade and one-of-a-kind local crafts and creations, a Kids' Crafts Corner, sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance, entertainment, a giant raffle and chili cook-off. The kitchen will serve chili, nachos, hotdogs, childdogs and cornbread, as well as hot and cold beverages for sale.

"This year we've added entertainment and a raffle to build on last year's success," PJ Kezele, marketing and facilities coordinator said. The cost to enter is \$5, which will be pooled and awarded as prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Separate prizes may be awarded for meat, chicken and vegetarian categories, depending on the number of entries. The deadline to enter the cook-off is Nov. 7. All proceeds benefit the Civic Center. The civic center is a non-profit organization promoting the welfare of the Key Peninsula, its citizens and the surrounding area.

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Photo by Karina Whitmarsh, KP News

Larry Wingard of Shiloh Farms poses with his record setting pumpkin. It is the largest he has ever grown, he said, and it is nearing 800 pounds.

KP pumpkin patches

Pumpkins for pies and other baked treats or pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns and fall decorations are big business in October.

Two actual pumpkin patches will be open all month – The Farm at the southwest end of Wauna, and Shiloh Farms, on Herron Road west of Home. Both are open daily. The Farm hours are 9 a.m. 'til dusk, Shiloh hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Shiloh is also the home of the Giant Pumpkin that is gaining 10 pounds per day, says owner Larry Wingard. It should be about 800 pounds by Oct. 1.

Creviston Valley Farm, event headquarters for the HARVESTFest farm tour, will harvest pumpkins every day, as well as an abundance of other produce. Open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Calico Cat Farm, in north Vaughn, will have harvested pumpkins for sale the day of the farm tour, plus other produce.

The Farm – 10812 Highway 302, Wauna
 Shiloh Farm – 1127 188th KP N, Lakebay
 Creviston Valley Farm – 3421 Creviston Rd KP S, Longbranch

Watch for signs near all of these farms.



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2009 BALLOT ISSUES

The General Election is November 3rd. In addition to six local elections of concern to KP residents (two Fire Commissioners, two Park Commissioners, one School Board Member, and the County Auditor), there are: one statewide Initiative, one statewide Referendum, three County Charter amendments, and a repeat of the FD16 Fire Levy. Let's take a look:

I-1033: Limits growth of certain taxes. Requires that surplus revenue reduce property taxes.

PRO: Great to limit taxes, especially when the economy makes everything involving money so difficult.

CON: Recession will not last forever. Will eventually cause problems in future boom times.

VOTE: Depends which way you lean.

R-71: Asks citizens to approve or reject recent law passed by State Legislature which grants state registered same-sex and senior domestic partners rights equivalent to "marriage".

RICK SORRELS THE PRAGMATIC SOPHIST



PRO: The time has come; our society is more sophisticated and accepting now.

CON: "Marriage" is a religious institution with incompatible prohibitions. Lawyers should stay out of religion.

VOTE: Depends which way you lean.

CHARTER AMEND 1: Increase term limits for County Executive and Council Members to three consecutive four year terms, and move their election to odd numbered years.

PRO: It's good to keep a good guy longer.

CON: Makes it harder to get rid of a not-so-good guy.

VOTE: Coin flip.

CHARTER AMEND 2: Move election of

Sheriff, Auditor, and Assessor-Treasurer to odd-numbered years.

PRO: Current even-year elections are overshadowed by Federal elections.

CON: Higher cost. Makes more sense to move all elections to even numbered years.

VOTE: Coin flip.

CHARTER AMEND 3: Eliminates Instant Runoff Voting.

PRO: Survey of voters by Auditor indicates voters want IRV to go away.

CON: Voters had recently voted to implement IRV.

VOTE: Let them know what you really want.

FD16 FIRE LID LIFT LEVY: Exact same levy that the voters rejected at the Primary election in August.

PRO: FD16 needs more money to provide necessary fire services.

CON: FD16 doesn't listen. Voters are dissatisfied for some reason. Changes need to happen before FD16 gets more money.

VOTE: Vote carefully. Important and long-ranging impacts.

ELECTED OFFICES: Key Pen Parks and

FD16 are both at a crossroads with very important decisions to be made. Who you elect will drastically impact the KP far more than their proposed tax levies. Attend the upcoming public forums to learn the candidates' positions, and carefully consider your vote, as you will live with the consequences for a long time to come.

FYI: An Initiative is "law" created by the voters, bypassing the State Legislature. The ultimate in governance by the people. Requires 241,153 signatures to get an Initiative on the statewide ballot.

A Referendum is a vote by the citizens that would overturn (veto) a law passed by the Legislature. Needs 120,577 signatures to get on the statewide ballot.

Initiatives and Referendums can be used to pass/reject either State Law or County ordinance.

Pierce County is one of only a handful of Washington Counties that are "home ruled" (governed by the citizens) with a "Charter" as its Constitution. Other counties are governed more by the State Legislature.

Learn more about your government. You cannot protect your interests if you don't even know the basics.

The opinions expressed on this page are not necessarily those of the KP News. We neither endorse nor oppose issues or proposals discussed on this page and present these views for public information only.



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Longbranch Improvement Club

October's bright leaves end the summer—and start autumn fun.

Oct 3 Fiber Arts Show

Threads Through Time Local artists working with fiber share their techniques—traditional to modern—and show their work—artistic, utilitarian. Free event, from 10am to 4pm with fiber art exhibits, demonstrations, fiber-related vendors. *Harvest (2007) farm table, hand-tied and finished*

Oct 3 Cornucopia Dance

Dinner Dance at Key Peninsula Civic Center from 5 to 10pm to be 6:11 Mustard Seed Project. Call 984-9450 for information and tickets.

Oct 21 Monthly meeting

Members potluck dinner, 6:30 pm LIC general meeting. Bring a friend!

Winter Moorage

Limited space is available, first come, first served. Call Marina at 984-5170

253 884-6102 for LIC information
 253 884-9157 for event info or tickets
 LIC Clubhouse at 4312 Key Pen Hwy S,
 5 miles south of the Home Bridge
www.longbranchimprovementclub.org

BRIEFS

news

Burn ban lifted for Key Peninsula

The countywide burn ban was lifted Sept. 10. Fire Marshalls of Pierce, Kitsap, King, and Mason counties along with the Department of Natural Resources made the decision. The lifting of the fire safety burn ban does not affect those areas in Pierce County where burning is prohibited because of environmental or pollution laws, nor in areas where the local fire district limits or prohibits burning. Burning in those areas is still not allowed.

Remember, burning is restricted to natural vegetation from the burn site only. The burning of garbage, paper, or other refuse is strictly prohibited at all times.

Contact your local fire department to see if you are required to obtain a burning permit.

For information in Pierce County please call your local fire district, the Fire Prevention Bureau at 253-798-7179, or 1-800-323-BURN.



TWAA is celebrating its seventh year of arts programming on the Key Peninsula. Two Waters serves the local community with public events for all ages, artists in schools and exhibition opportunities for local artists as well as aspiring student artists. We invite you to join us for one of our upcoming events and sign up to become a member in order to attend TWAA events at a reduced cost and support the arts on the Key!

Free Annual Mask Making Workshop
 Key Center Library, Brones Room
Oct. 24th, 2 - 5 PM

Two Waters Arts Alliance • PO Box 668 • Vaughn, WA 98394 • www.twowaters.org

FD-16 STATS

Key Peninsula Fire Department rescue calls

Aug 20

A woman from one of the local fishing tribes was pulled from the bay after her boat capsized. She suffered minor injuries and was transported by KP EMTs to a local hospital for evaluation.

Aug 21

A garage fire in the Herron area was started by a 50-year-old man who was working on his truck. The man reported that he was cutting brake lines with a hacksaw when the fire erupted. He received burns to his arms and face before exiting the building. His mother who was inside the nearby home suffered chest pains after witnessing the ordeal. The shop, truck, a nearby motor home and another vehicle were lost in the fire.

Aug 27

A 40-year-old Longbranch man was

August total calls: 159

A summary of emergency responses for the week of: Aug. 16 - Sept. 15

EMS: 107

Fire/service: 48

Other: 4

treated at the scene for injuries he sustained during an assault. While attempting to collect a debt from a business partner he was struck repeatedly in the head. His injuries were minor and did not require transport by ambulance.

Aug 30

Firefighters responded to the Vaughn area for a brush fire and found a car over an embankment that was on fire. The car and its associated brush fire were quickly extinguished. An investigation found no driver in the area.

Aug 31

A 51-year-old Buckley man lost control

of his motorcycle in the Wauna Curves. The man was treated for head trauma and was quickly transported to a Tacoma trauma hospital.

Sept 1

A 49-year-old Vaughn woman was found unconscious and suspected to have overdosed on narcotics. She was treated while en-route to a local hospital.

Sept 2

While seeking a short cut in the dark a 29-year-old Lakebay man became entangle in blackberry bushes where he spent the night. He was discovered as he shouted for help at sunrise. Firefighters and Sheriffs deputies located the man and assisted him to the road where he was promptly arrested on outstanding warrants.

Sept 4

Firefighters en-route to a training class came upon a vehicle over a small embankment with heavy frontend damage near Key Center. Upon investigation they found a 35-year-old Longbranch man with chest injuries. The man was treated and transported to a local hospital.

Sept 5

A 30-year-old Puyallup woman was found unconscious by Fire Dept. medics after her truck left SR302 near Lake Holiday. The patient was transported to a Tacoma Hospital. Alcohol was suspected to have played a role a in the accident.

Sept 13

A 26-year-old Tacoma man lost control of his Dodge truck but was un-injured in a late afternoon roll over accident. The truck blocked SR 302, near Mason County for about an hour as Fire and Sheriffs deputies worked to clear the roadway.

Sept 14

Firefighters and paramedics responded to a motor vehicle accident involving a garbage truck and a school bus with several children on board. There were no injuries. A second bus was dispatched to take the children to school after they were evaluated at scene.

BRIEFS

news

Two Pierce County committees have openings

Applicants are needed to fill vacancies on two Pierce County committees administered by the Department of Community Services.

The Lodging Tax Committee has an opening for a representative from a business that collects lodging tax in the county and an at-large community representative.

The committee meets three to four times a year.

Members representing the lodging industry, the tourism industry and the general public, encourage and promote activities to increase tourism, evaluate funding applications, and make recommendations to Pierce County on the allocation of lodging tax dollars.

An application is available at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/LTAC>

Member, or by contacting Stephanie Bray at 253-798-6917 or sbray@co.pierce.wa.us.

The Allocation Advisory Committee for Prevention Programs has openings for new members who live in unincorporated areas of Pierce County.

The committee meets monthly January through June.

The committee advises the county on the use of tax dollars set aside for youth violence prevention programs. Members make a difference in the lives of children by increasing the understanding of the impact of violence prevention programs, evaluating funding applications and making recommendations on the allocation of the Criminal Justice Sales and Use Tax.

For more information, as well as an application, please go to <http://www.piercecountywa.org/VPMe> member, or contact Stephanie Bray at 253-798-6917 or sbray@co.pierce.wa.us.

Monster Dash 8k

Saturday, October 31, 2009

Sponsored by Northwest Sports Physical Therapy and PTA. All proceeds will go to The Anne Hoyer Foundation.

Race start time: 9:00am
Location: Gig Harbor, Cushman Trail
Registration Fees: Pre-race \$20, day of race \$25

Registration options:

1. On-line until midnight October 29th at www.dnr.knwspc.com
2. Mail in entry form to NW Sports Physical Therapy, 4411 Pt. Fosdick Dr., #101, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Forms must be received by October 29th.
3. In person at NW Sports Physical Therapy, Route 16 in Gig Harbor, or South Sound Running in Tacoma by October 29th.

Awards:

Top overall male and female will receive a gift certificate from Route 16 Running. Prior prizes will be given out during the race. All runners will receive a short sleeve shirt.

Call NW Sports PT for additional information at

(253) 851-7472

www.knwspc.com

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LAKEBAY

Flood plan management out of date

Pierce County is preparing to update and expand the plan for addressing flooding on major rivers.

The existing flood management plan, written in 1991, is out of date and includes only the Puyallup River system. The new plan will include more rivers and reflect current issues, policies and priorities for managing river flooding.

The update comes at a critical time, as county funding sources are declining due to the recession, while the need to reduce flood losses is growing. A 2008 flood hazard assessment predicted billions of dollars in damages would result from a major levee failure in the lower Puyallup River. Elected officials and citizens have raised questions about how best to reduce flood damages, and how much residents and businesses are willing to invest to achieve this protection.

The updated plan will address the range of resource and policy issues facing local jurisdictions, resource managers, tribes, property owners and businesses.

"The goal is to reduce the risk to life and property from river flooding and channel migration," said Pierce County Executive

Pat McCarthy. "It requires striking a balance among cost-effective flood hazard management, available funding, compatible human uses, economic sustainability, and improved fish and wildlife habitat in flood-prone areas."

River flooding affects everyone, and all Pierce County households, even those in incorporated cities, will soon receive a postcard with information about the flood plan update and how get involved.

The project is a multi-department effort led by Public Works and Utilities, with participation from Emergency Management, Planning and Land Services, Parks and Recreation, Economic Development, and Government Relations.

Pierce County is encouraging a high level of public involvement in the update process. The plan Web site, www.piercecountywa.org/floodplan, offers surveys and opportunities for the public's input on such issues as floodplain development regulations, levee maintenance, gravel removal, fish habitat, emergency response and public education.

"We really want this to be a good plan that addresses flood issues in a compre-

hensive and coordinated way," said Lorin Reinelt, project manager for Public Works and Utilities. "We invite people to share their opinions through the online survey, to be part of the advisory committee, or to send us their comments. We have already seen a strong interest in working together on this."

It is important to start planning now. Local population and property values have grown significantly in the past two decades. In addition, advances in science and engineering have led to an improved understanding of the importance of natural river processes. With global climate change comes the possibility of increased flood frequency and magnitude, and significantly increased flood risks.

Contact: Lorin Reinelt, project manager, 253-798-3096, or Hunter George, Pierce

County communications director, 253-798-6606, or hgeorge@co.pierce.wa.us

Find more Pierce County news at www.piercecountywa.org <http://www.piercecountywa.org/PC/default_noflash.htm

Request for reports of invasive species

The Washington State Invasive Species Council has set up a hotline and Web site for sightings of invasive plants and animals.

These plants and animals that are not native to Washington can be detrimental to native plants and animals, can crowd out local wildlife plants and destroy landscapes.

"If left unchecked they can change how Washington looks and what wildlife lives here, and devastate farming, fishing and other businesses that depend on this state's natural resources. They also can affect where and how people can recreate in the state's lakes, rivers and Puget Sound," said Chris Christopher, chair of the Washington Invasive Species Council. People are encouraged to call the hotline or report online if they see a new plant, insect or animal in their neighborhood or know of someone smuggling plants into the country or releasing pets, such as snakes or aquarium fish into a stream or park.

State agencies and academic institutions spend an estimated \$28 million every two years to control and prevent the spread of invasive species. Nearly half of the 958 species of plants and animals listed as threatened and endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act are at risk primarily because non-native species out compete them for food or eat them, according to the Washington State Invasive Species Council.

To report sightings of invasive plants and animals, call 1-877-9-INFEST, or go to the Web site www.invasivespecies.wa.gov.

Support Your Local Food Bank!

Dear Community Members,
Your Local Food Bank Needs Help. We are serving close to 300 families. It has become very difficult to keep our shelves stocked. Please consider donating food, monetarily, and/or your time as a volunteer! We are beginning a very busy season and can use all the help we can get.

Our Food Bank Needs:
Rice, Oat Meal, Peanut Butter, Pasta, Juice, Flour, Sugar, Pinto Beans, Mac & Cheese

We are looking for Bread Run Drivers! Give us a call at 884-4440

A Special Thank You to:
Food Bank Drivers who pick up donations for us every week!
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Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank & Senior Center
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P. O. Box 392
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FA X 253-884-6196



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BRIEFS

business

Belfair Safeway remodeled inside and out

By Danna Webster, KPNews

Big changes have come to the Belfair Safeway. The front of the store has experienced a face lift and square footage is added to the produce and floral departments. All departments are remodeled and for the first time the store has a full-service seafood and full-service meat department. "It's nice, very nice," says grocery manager, Rick Cormier. He has worked at the store since it opened in 1999. As a result of the changes and expansions, 20 new employees have been hired.

Grand Opening Celebrations began Sept. 26 and will continue through October with many in-store specials and a coupon book good for four weeks. Customers should watch for "Hot Ads" says Cormier.

Four year anniversary for Key Fitness

The past year has seen some significant changes at Key Fitness. The most significant change is from a "women only" facility to an "adult" facility. The health and exercise programs were open to men in November last year. Special rates are allowed to spouses of members. When asked about the change to a men and women membership, owner Kristen Bottiger said, "Everybody embraced it. The comfort level is real good."

With the increase of clientele came some equipment changes. The resistance circuit was replaced by resistance weights. Four people can work weights at a time. Still available for exercise options are the elliptical and treadmill equipment and the popular yoga studio. Two new television sets were added to enhance workout time.

Bottiger is celebrating her commitment to a healthy community with a special salute to the 23 members who started four years ago. Good health is good business, Bottiger observes. "I haven't seen people withdraw because of the economy. They know how important it is being healthy," she said.

Cheese making classes offered on KP

By Marsha Hart, KP News

When Mary Brennen moved from Virginia to the Key Peninsula, she said she really had no intention of being a goat dairy farmer. She had some brush on the property that needed to be cleared, and someone suggested getting a goat. She got two, and they did an excellent job of clearing the land.

"This is an original homestead, built in 1870" she said.

One thing led to another and before she knew it Brennen had a herd of goats, and now has everything from miniature goats to the only American breed of dairy goat.

Some of the best cheese milk comes from the miniatures, Brennen said.

There is a small cottage on the property she said quite a few people in the community have shared stories about. It used to be a small country store. Some residents

say they visited the store in the 1950s.

Brennen plans to use it as a small humble store again. She sells her goat cheese at farmers markets and has scheduled classes for goat cheese making that will be held at the cottage Oct. 11 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"This is home cheese making," she said. "It will be very low tech."

The class is \$35, and for \$50 you can get a kit to take home, she said.

"We're going to milk the goats, and we'll make a couple of cheeses," Brennen said.

"I've got a lot of people interested in making cheese and several are already signed up. If it gets full I'll probably schedule another class."

Students will learn how to make feta, panir and chevre cheeses.

For more information visit tripletmedia.com/herronhill/cheese-making.php

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 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. KPN in Vaughn

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- Minter Creek Elementary Marimba Band & Chorus
- Chili Cook-Off with cash prizes

Free Admission!



Key Peninsula Civic Center
 www.kpciviccenter.org
 253.884.3456

Swine flu shots available for Key Peninsula residents

William F. Roes M.D.,
 Special to the KP News

Each year the Center for Disease Control selects the three strains of influenza virus they feel are most likely to cause widespread infections. This changes every year, so the vaccine also changes. This year's vaccine will cover A/ Brisbane, and B/ Brisbane. There will also be a second flu vaccine offering protection from the "Swine" flu, also known as H1N1. This is a novel strain of flu, and as such most people don't have immunity to it, even if they've been getting flu shots each year. The government is developing a separate vaccine for the H1N1, but because it is new, it will require two separate shots for those 24 and under. It will also be a live vaccine (as opposed to the traditional flu vaccine which is not). Live vaccines tend to have the potential for more side effects than traditional vaccines. We will receive the H1N1 vaccine along with everyone else from the government in October, but we are not sure when. We plan to start giving the regular adult flu shots this year on Saturday Oct. 10 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Key Medical Center (15610 89 St. in beautiful downtown Key Center). This adult flu shot clinic will be open to all residents of the Key Peninsula, not just the patients in our practice. The H1N1 shot can be given at the same time as the traditional flu shot.

This year's flu vaccine is recommended for virtually everyone over 65, as well as

younger residents with chronic health problems such as diabetes or lung disease. There is a vaccine for children from 6 months to 5 years, but that will not be available through our flu shot clinics. It will be available to community children at our Tuesday morning well child clinics in October. Those clinics are held each Tuesday at 9 a.m. No appointments are necessary.

In addition to flu shots, there is also a nasal flu vaccine for people from 8 years to 49 years, but we will not have that at the flu shot clinics. The vaccines take several weeks to take effect, and its protection usually lasts 4-5 months. The H1N1 vaccine will be directed at the younger population, from grade school children to 24 year olds. People younger than 64 with chronic health problems should also get the H1N1, as well as those living with or exposed to the people in that age range. The H1N1 is not being marketed for seniors over 65 as their risk of getting the swine flu is much less than for children.

We will also be providing flu shots at the senior center and on Herron Island for the community as well as our patients. We will be at the senior luncheon at the Key Peninsula Community Services in Lakebay at noon Oct. 21 and at the fire station on Herron Island on Monday afternoon of Oct 12. Look for a sign on the road in front of the library announcing when community shots will be available, or call us at 884-9221 if you have questions.

Application for Chili Cook-Off Deadline Nov. 6

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Phone _____ Cell _____
 Email _____ (Email required to be notified of next year's event)
 Types of Chili: Beef Chicken Veggie
 Entry fee \$5 (to be pooled and awarded as prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place).

Judging will be at 12:00 p.m. Please bring chili to VFW Room in a crock pot to keep warm during judging. There may be two rounds, depending on the number of entries. You can expect 3-5 judges per round. There will be no public sampling of entries due to Tacoma-Fierce County Health Department's regulations. Mail application and payment to: KPCCA, PO Box 82, Vaughn, WA 98394.

Senior Living

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COMMUNITY WORKS

Submit calendar items to news@keypennews.com • Deadline 15th of the month

Now-Adult co-ed kickball

The Key Pen Parks adult co-ed kickball league started Sept. 27 and will run until Nov. 15. The games are on Sundays at Volunteer Park. If interested contact chad@keypenparks or 884-9240.

Oct. 1- Parent/child group

A parent/infant/toddler group will meet at the KP Lutheran Church from 9:30-11 a.m. for an eight week session. Get involved with your child, ages 0-30 months, using sensory, movement, music and activities designed to enhance brain connections. Discussions on research based parenting topics are facilitated by a parent educator. Fee is \$82.94 and scholarships are available. Register by calling 253-680-7500 or online at www.bates.ctc.edu/homefamily.

Oct. 1-Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Society meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library.

Oct. 3-Cornucopia returns

The Cornucopia Dinner and Dance will be from 5-10 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For the second year, this event will include a delicious dinner featuring locally produced foods prepared by Chef Oliver Coldeen followed by dancing to the music of Little Bill and the Blue Notes, the Northwest's favorite blues band. A silent auction will offer intriguing items for bid and a complimentary glass of wine will be provided courtesy of Trillium Creek Winery. The Cornucopia Dinner and Dance is the perfect way to end the day after the HarvestFEST Farm Tour. Tickets for the dinner and dance are \$25 and one must be 21 or older to attend. Tickets are available at the KP Civic Center, Sunnycrest Nursery, the Mustard Seed Project office in Key Center and Trillium Creek Winery in Home. If available, tickets will also be sold at the door. All proceeds of this cooperative fundraising event benefit the KP Civic Center, the Mustard Seed

Project and the KP Farm Tour Board. For information or to volunteer, call 884-1205 or 884-3456 or kpcivic-center@centurytel.net.

Oct. 3- Soccer challenge

Boys and girls 14 and under (with proof of birth date) may test their soccer abilities in a free positive competition behind the gym at the KP Middle School from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The event, sponsored by Key Pen Parks, will occur rain or shine. Each participant gets one throw-in, one kick for distance, one dribbling trial, and two goal shots. Kids enrolled in the indoor soccer program or drop-ins are welcome. Chad, 884-9240

Oct. 4- Computer recycling

Evergreen PTA hosts a computer recycling program from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Longbranch Improvement Club parking lot. Anyone can recycle computers, computer monitors and TVs for free. There is a \$5 fee for recycling fax machines and printers. Part of the proceeds for recycling the fax machines and printers will benefit the Evergreen PTA. Bernadette, 884-6999.

Oct. 5, 12, 19 & 26- Blood drive dates

The bloodmobile will be at the Albertson's in Gig Harbor North from 11:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m. each Monday. For other dates and locations, see the online calendar on keypennews.com.

Oct. 7-Visit Mt. Rainier

Key Pen Parks is sponsoring a day trip, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., to Paradise Lodge at Mount Rainier National Park. Fantastic views, flowering meadows and trails are all available from the lodge. The group of 5 to 7 people will meet at Volunteer Park parking lot at 8:30 a.m. Cost is \$35/person plus money for lunch at one of the lodge's restaurants. For reservations, call Chad, 884-9240.

Oct. 8 - Urban wildlife talk

The Friends of the Key Center Library present a talk by Northwest naturalist Lyanda Lynn Haupt, author of *Crow Planet: Essential Wisdom from the Urban Wilderness* at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242

Oct. 10 & 24

Mushroom Identification Workshops will be held at Penrose Point State Park at 1 p.m. "Mushrooms Demystified" by David Arora will be used by Ranger Dan to help identify local mushrooms. Bring your own mushrooms if they are in good condition. Meet at the bulletin board in the big parking lot at Penrose Point. The first 15 people to call for each group will be taken. Both days will have the same workshop. This is free, but donations to help the park are always welcome. To register, call Ranger Dan, 884-2514.

Oct. 14- Youth wrestling registration

Peninsula Youth Wrestling registration will be held at the McDonald's on Borgen from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Boys and girls from 5 to 13 are welcome. There are three teams: one each at KP Middle School, Harbor Ridge Middle School and Goodman Middle School. Contact www.peninsulayouthwrestling.org or Christie, 851-6499.

Oct. 15- Candidate forum

The Key Peninsula Business Association will sponsor a Candidates' Forum, for the positions of Key Peninsula Park Commissioner and Fire District 16 Commissioner, and pro con on levy lid lift from 7-9 p.m. in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center. Interested people are welcome to hear the candidates and ask questions.

Oct. 15-Harvest celebration

Key Pen Parks invites all to an all-

hallows harvest celebration at Volunteer Park from 6-8 p.m. There will be entertainment with Don Allard, pumpkin judging contest (see below), and campfire storytelling with Karen Haas. Bring lawn chairs and roasting sticks for s'mores. Event will happen rain or shine and is free although a dollar donation or can of food for the local food bank is much appreciated.

Pumpkins should be carved, decorated, or designed at home prior to event. There will be 3 categories over 18, 8-17 years, and 3-7 years. The community voting determines the best pumpkin in each category. Judging will begin at 6 p.m. and run to 7:30 p.m. Winners will be announced at 7:45 p.m. Winners in each group will receive a prize for their pumpkin.

Children's category will be judged on the pumpkin picture provided on the keypenparks.com website under events or at the park office. Make sure to put your name and phone number on the back of the coloring sheet. 884-9240

Oct. 17 - Organic marketing panel

The Friends of the Key Center Library host a panel from the Key Peninsula Farmers Market "dishing the dirt" about "Marketing Organic Foods" at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. The panel will be moderated by Holly Hendrick, KP Market manager. Donations to the Key Peninsula Food Bank encouraged. 884-2242

Oct. 21-22- Driver's course held

Key Pen Parks sponsors an AARP Driver Safety Program, an 8-hour, 2 day classroom refresher course for experienced senior motorists. Those 55 & older may qualify for an insurance discount. Those under 55 should contact their insurance agent to find out if they qualify. Classes will be held from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Department community room. Cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. AARP only accepts checks-payable to AARP; checks should be sent to Key Pen Parks. Pre-

OFF THE KEY

Now-Haunted house volunteers needed

Paradise Theatre is recruiting volunteers for the annual haunted house. Needed are teens and adults who can build scenes, decorate, paint, sell tickets, work security, work the parking lot, put up posters, be an actor and do special effects. We are looking for approx. 60 volunteers of all ages. No experience necessary. Kids 12 & under need to have a parent work the event with them. Contact vrichards@paradisetheatre.org or 253-851-7529.

Oct. 2-11-Play presented

Encore! Theater will present "A...My Name Will Always be Alice" on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. This is an all-female musical. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7 p.m.; Sunday shows are at 5 p.m. Call: 858-2252

Oct.3-Alzheimer support

The Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group: Gig Harbor meets from 10- 11:30 a.m. at the Gig Harbor United Methodist Church, 7400 Pioneer Way. The group provides a consistent and caring place for people to learn, share and gain emotional support from others who are also on a unique journey of providing care to a person with dementia. This free information and support group is for care partners, family members and friends of individuals with dementia. Contact group facilitator Whitney Farr-Pilz at 206-229-1540.

Oct. 7- Welcome Club meets

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club invites all to their luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at

Harbor Place Independent and Assisted Living, 1016 - 29th St. The featured speaker is Don Weitz of the Prison Pet Partnership Program based at the Gig Harbor Washington Correction Center for Women. Cost is \$8. Call 253-514-8944 by Oct. 5 for reservations.

Join the club or get information on club activities by calling 857-5324.

Oct. 10-Chum festival

Enjoy a family event celebrating local chum, kayak races, food and booths held at Donkey Creek Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 856-3554

Oct. 16-17-Film festival

The second Annual Gig Harbor Film Festival will be held at the Galaxy Theatre in Uptown Gig Harbor. Meet filmmakers, attend workshops, or join panel discussions. Volunteers are invited to join in this happening for Gig Harbor. Visit www.gigharborfilmfestival.org to download the volunteer form or call 253-381-4647.

OCTOBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Civic Center Board, Oct. 8, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KP Civic Center
- KP Metro Parks, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex
- Fire District 16, Oct. 13 & 27, 3 p.m. at Key Center Fire Station
- Key Peninsula Community Council, Oct. 14, 6:30 p.m.-business meeting
- Peninsula School District Board, Oct. 7, regular meeting, 6 p.m. at Gig Harbor High School and Oct. 22, study session meeting, 6 p.m. at district office.

Nov. 21

The Key Peninsula Farmers Market is hosting a special opportunity to buy fresh locally grown food in the Whitmore Room of the KP Civic Center from 12-2 p.m. "Eat Local for Thanksgiving" is the theme with the goal of everyone having one local treat included in their Thanksgiving dinner. Fresh locally grown fruits and vegetables, pork, poultry, salmon, bread and more will be available. For more information, visit www.kpfarmersmarket.org.

Lions Club meets

The Key Peninsula Lions Club which meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month in the VFW Room of the KP Civic Center in Vaughn invites all interested parties to attend its meetings and to consider joining the club, the motto which is, "We Serve." Lions are the world's largest service organization and, among other things, are dedicated to sight preservation, hearing preservation and diabetes and drug awareness. Locally, the KP Lions sponsor the KP Citizens of Year Awards banquet and the Volksmarch in Penrose Point State Park. The club also supports KP parks, Little League Baseball, scholarships, Boy Scouts, and provides assistance to those in need. For information, please visit the club's web site at: <http://keypeninsula.lionwap.org> or call 253-853-2721 or 253-884-3319. A series of forums with community leaders has been scheduled: Oct. 7 County Councilman Terry Lee, Oct. 21 Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor Candidate, Nov. 4 Dr. Sumner Schoenike, Project Access Pierce County, Nov. 18 State Representative Larry Seaquist.

register at 884-9240 or chad@keypenparks.com

Oct. 24-Mask workshop

Two Waters Arts Alliance presents their annual Mask Making Workshop from 2-5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Contact Information: www.twowaters.org or 884-3869.

Oct. 25 - Group opera trip

Join members of the Friends of the Key Center Library at a matinee performance of the Seattle Opera's production of Verdi's "La Traviata," a tale of masked revelry, family strife, blighted love, and selfless sacrifice. Group discount seats are available for a Sunday 2 p.m. performance. Plans are to leave Key Center at 11 a.m. and return about 6 p.m. Lunch at the opera. Transportation provided. For information, call Christine Gilbert at 253-370-0694.

Oct. 31-Halloween Fest

The KP Civic Center and Vaughn Elementary PTA host this fun, family-friendly event from 6 -8 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Business and

individual donations of candy and prizes are needed. Volunteers to staff the booths, clean up and decorate are also needed. For details call 884-3456 or go to www.kpciviccenter.org.

Fridays-Skate night

Friday Night Skate from 6-9 p.m. for Key Peninsula elementary and middle school youth is held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. In addition to skating, other activities include air hockey, foosball, and video games, contests and more. The kitchen will be open serving burgers, pizza, fries, candy, sodas, and other treats. Entrance is \$5. All proceeds benefit the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For information or to volunteer: 884-3456 or kpciviccenter@centurytel.net

Nov. 7-Coffee sampling

Learn about free trade coffees from different countries, distinguish their varying characteristics and enjoy carefully chosen paired pastries from 10 a.m.-noon in the community room of the Key Center Fire Station. This fundraiser, for Compassionate Travel Foundation, is presented by Joe Sanchez of Jake's Brew Company, a new

coffee shop opening soon on KP. Cost is \$20; space is limited. Register at 884-5241 or info@compassionatetravelfoundation.org

Nov. 14-Vendors needed

Key Peninsula Civic Center invites artists and crafters of all kinds to participate in the 2nd Annual Winter Warm-Up Craft Fair and Chili Cook-Off on Saturday, November 14. Vendors who offer handmade and one-of-a-kind local crafts and creations, and live in the Key Peninsula and Gig Harbor area, may sell their wares at the event. No second-hand products or re-sales. This event sold out in 2009, so vendors are encouraged to sign-up early. For more information, call 884-3456 or www.kpciviccenter.org.

Nov. 18- Shop in Bellevue

Key Pen Parks plans a trip for holiday shopping to Bellevue Square, with over 200 stores, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meet at the Volunteer Park parking lot, bring \$30 for the transportation and some lunch money, and be ready for a good time. There is only room for 5-7 people, so register early. chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240

Paid Advertisement

NOW IS THE TIME TO VOTE JIM BOSCH OUT!!!

IT'S TIME to get out of the rut of rash spending without true and factual accounting.

IT'S TIME to make room for real change in the Fire District 16 agendas so the community is really served.

IT'S TIME to consider the wants and needs of the citizens and address them honestly.

IT'S TIME to realize that the tough economy tightens everyone's purse strings and the citizens won't support any commissioner who rubberstamps every request made by the local firefighters' union.

IT'S TIME to ask; are the commissioners there to serve the community, OR to collect a paycheck?

IT'S TIME to ask why the District Manager, daughter-in-law of Jim Bosch, receives one of the top salaries in the state for that position?

IT'S TIME to open the doors and let in fresh air along with lots of fresh ideas.

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Paid for by Mike Salatino. P.O.Box 640, Wauna, WA 98395

KEY PEN PARKS



www.keypenparks.com ~ 253-884-9240
answers@keypenparks.com

2010 Budget Hearings
Key Pen Parks will hold two public meetings to discuss the 2010 Budget as required by RCW 84.52.020. The first meeting will be Monday Oct. 12 and the second meeting will be on Monday Nov. 9. Meetings take place at Volunteer Park Annex at 7:00 pm.

Second Public Workshop on Master Plan for Volunteer Park
The second of three public workshops on a Master Plan for Volunteer Park is scheduled for Thursday Oct. 22 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Key Center Fire Station. The purpose of the master plan is to gather the community's input on future improvements to Volunteer Park, as well as other park properties under the control of Key Pen Parks. Voice your opinion for this important and vital community asset for generations to come.

Holiday Food Sampler
Tired of the same old holiday foods? Come and get some new ideas for appetizers, snacks, desserts, and turkey basics. There will be samples to taste and recipes to take home!
Instructor: Rebecca Rowland
Ages: 7-4
Location: Volunteer Park Concession Building
Day/Date: Monday 10/19
Time: 6-8 PM
Fee: \$12
Min/Max: 5/20

All-Hallows Harvest Celebration
This outdoor event will bring in that harvest time feeling, while not forgetting the excitement of Halloween! Come join us for music entertainment with local musical artist Don Allard, public pumpkin judging contest, and storytelling by the fire with Karen Haas. An evening of fun for the whole family! Make sure to bring lawn chairs and roasting sticks for your s'mores! Event will run rain or shine.
Location: Volunteer Park
Day/Date: Saturday 10/17
Time: 6-8pm
Cost: Free
Note: Dollar donation or a can of food for the food bank

AARP Driver Safety Course
AARP Driver Safety Program is an 8 hour classroom refresher course for experienced senior motorists. Those 55 & older will qualify for an insurance discount. Those under 55 should contact their insurance agent to find out if they qualify. Min/Max: 12/20
Date: Sess #1: 10/21
Sess #2: 10/22
Location: Key Center Fire Depart. Community Room
Time: 9:00 am - 1:00pm
Fee: \$12 for AARP members
\$14 for non-members
Note: CHECKS ONLY and make payable to AARP

Pumpkin Contest Information
Pumpkins should be carved, decorated, or designed at home prior to event. There will be 3 categories Adult (18+), Youth (8-17), & Child (3-7). The community will vote to determine whose pumpkin is the best in each age category. Judging will begin at 6 pm and run to 7:30 pm. Winners will be announced at 7:45 pm. Winners in each group will receive a prize for their pumpkin!
Note: Children's category will be judged on the pumpkin picture provide. Make sure to put your name and phone number on the back of the coloring sheet. You can get your picture on our website under the Events section or at the Park Office.

Key Pen Parks
"The key to your next adventure"




Evergreen Elementary 5th graders Shelby Lawrence, Madison Hansen, Isaac Marsah and Megan Judd dance to the beat of the DJ's musical offerings during Friday Skate Night at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. For the full story, please visit our website at keypennews.com.
Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Friday Skate Night kick-off

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

Kids aged pre-school to high school filled Key Peninsula's Civic Center in mid-September at the "Friday Skate Night" kickoff. Although it was the same day all our kids got free tickets to the Puyallup Fair, over 200 came for Skate Night.

Vaughn's Brian Heaven said it best: "Skate night has come a long way since I started coming in 1996. As a parent, I am really happy about the way the skate floor is run, with safety first and plenty of trained supervision. For kids 8th grade and younger, it is the best activity in the area by far."

In contrast to the above statement, a few years back, Heaven chose not to let his kids attend Skate Nights; he considered it a bad scene. He is now a strong supporter of the wholesome activity for which he volunteers his help.

Evergreen 5th graders Taelor Sheats and Alyssa Carbone come "because you get to hang out and chat with your friends." Classmate Serena Carlson, "came for a birthday party and to have fun with friends and skate." She's been coming for five years as has classmate Nicole Dinsmore who, "always makes new friends." Another classmate, Madison Hansen said, "OMG! Skate night is my favorite place to go. You get to dance, hangout, and do whatever you want. It is awesome!"

Troy Miles, took over the activity from Tom and Julie Boardman who rescued Skate Night.

Miles said, "the program is running very smoothly; no issues. A major contributing factor is help from high school volunteers who serve as 'staff'."

Peninsula High School 10th grader Dannee Lance, a staff member, said it's a great place for kids to come and have a great time.

About 20 high school kids are on hand wearing a variety of clearly identifiable uniforms giving them authority to keep the kids safe, non-scuffling, and having an enjoyable time and make sure that once the kids are in the KPCC, they stay there. In the event any kid leaves, re-entry is not possible.

Evergreen 5th grader Megan Judd summed it up: "OMG! I love skate night. I'm always begging my mom to let me go. This is my special hangout place that somehow everybody found out about. I will definitely come back."

Past KPCC president Phil Bauer said, "Our Friday night skate program is a long running and very successful one. It's been in continuous operation for over 35 years. Our current program, run by Troy Miles, DJ Kip Miller and Kitchen Manager Jen Miller has been extremely successful. We average 150 youth per event with that number sometimes exceeding 200. We have an activity room, a dance floor area plus our gym for skating. It's a lot of fun and a continuous beehive of activities. Please come and join the fun. Adults skate free with their youngsters."

For more information about Skate Night call 253-884-3456.

New Habitat for Humanity homes completed on KP

By Hugh McMillan, KP News

A large number of friends, relatives, and volunteers gathered on the Key Peninsula at the dedication and blessing ceremonies of two new Habitat for Humanity homes earned by the Bennett and Chambers families.

The homes are the third and fourth such structures completed on the Key Peninsula within the last year by the Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Chapter of the Tacoma/Pierce County Habitat for Humanity.

The Bennett family, was joined by Habitat for Humanity Family Partner,

Judy Kuehn. A similar presentation was made to Abram and Brook Chambers and their children, son Kyan, 4, and daughter Kaisa, 3, by Habitat for Humanity Family Partner, Jennifer Speidel. Habitat for Humanity Chapter Council Vice-Chair Lois Eyrse handed over the house keys to the two families.

Persons eligible to partake of this program must be able to meet reasonable house payments on low interest loans and must dedicate at least 500 hours of "sweat" in the construction of their own and other's structures. Kerry Bennett had contributed over 900 hours of "sweat" by the time of the dedications.



Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

The Bennett family, Bobby, Robert, father Kerry, mother Jennifer, and daughter Arial, are joined by Habitat for Humanity Family Partner, Judy Kuehn, who presented the family with the traditional welcoming hand-made quilt and Bible at the key presentation.



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KPCCA Seeks Board Members, Officers

The Key Peninsula Civic Center Association (KPCCA)

serves as a central meeting place for many of the non-profit organizations on the Key Peninsula. Community participation from any of these groups, and the general public living on the peninsula, is needed.

Next month on November 12, elections will be held by the KPCCA to select officers and general board members. By October 8, the nominating committee will report to the present board a list of interested parties who are ready to join the ranks of the board.

If you wish to serve as a KPCCA board member or officer, or want to work with the nominating committee to recruit new active members to run for a position on the civic center board, please contact Alissa Johnston, chair, 253-851-4556. Call and get the job done!

GET INVOLVED!

Go online to www.keypennews.com anytime for news all month long.



KEY PENINSULA FIRE DEPARTMENT

"SERVICE WITH PRIDE AND COMPASSION"  WWW.KEYPENINSULAFIRE.ORG

Funding Challenges

Charles Dickens said "Change begets change" and how true that is today. In the emergency services we are constantly training and buying for that ever changing environment. Here on the Key Peninsula, growth is that most obvious change, and it is ever so visible in the new faces that we see that have discovered our little secret.

This influx of new people, combined with the growth in our own families, has caused an increase in the demand for fire and EMS emergency service of more than 20% since the year 2000. Like many in this economy, the fire department is struggling with a shortfall in our operating budget and the need to provide for that demand. As the district moves into 2010 we are dealing with a deficit of \$190,000. Many



budget cuts and cost saving measures have been implemented throughout the department over the last few years leaving the very painful cuts to the last. Proposed solutions included everything from reduction in the staff to selling fire trucks. Unfortunately that only meets the budget challenge and does not provide for the increase in service demand.

To that end we are evaluating our services very thoroughly. One measure that is under consideration is the selling of the three older fire engines. These older engines are based out of Longbranch and Herson Island, the other is our reserve. It may not look good on the surface but the reality is that those areas are covered by the career stations and the older rigs rarely respond on calls. They cost the district about \$5000 / each, per year, to maintain and that figure goes higher as they age.

Up until this point the district has been doing all it can to keep the promise of staffing two medics unit each day, one each at the Waura and Home fire stations, but that may no longer be possible in 2010. Whatever the firms outcome, we promise to deliver the highest level of service possible within the funding available.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers have long been the backbone of our community and here at the fire department that tradition continues. We utilize volunteer members in many roles as well as firefighters. Volunteer Medical Responders work along side our career paramedics in the ambulances and Volunteer Tender Operators deliver the needed water to our fire scenes. We have one senior volunteer who answers our phones in the afternoons and a former police officer who will be helping with internal accident investigations. Help us help you, volunteer!

Donated Labor

Special thanks to the many outstanding community volunteers. You may have noticed the landscaping work at our Vaughn, Home, Waura and Longbranch Fire Stations. This is due in large part to some wonderful volunteers. If you see them out working give a hand to say thank you.

Bicycle Helmets

The Key Peninsula Fire Department is offering bicycle helmets at cost.

- It is just \$6 for any size helmet.
- Come into the Key Center station during office hours to get fitted.
- QUESTIONS: Call Vanessa 884-2222

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Learned Brothers

Sometimes good things come in pairs and that was the blessing we received with these brothers. Jerrad moved into our community in 2006 from Gig Harbor where he was an active Volunteer Firefighter/EMT already. Jason was already on our hiring list and was brought on in 2007 as a career Paramedic. Together these two have been an outstanding asset to our organization and we'd like to thank them for their service.



Calendar of Events

*Our new meeting room is available for public use.
Contact Vanessa to schedule at 253-884-2222*

Commissioner's Mtgs @ 3 pm	Oct. 13th & 27th
CPR/1st Aid	Oct. 10th

Fire Prevention Week is Oct 4th-10th: Stay Fire Safe, don't get burned!



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Peninsula School District Refinances Bonds

Peninsula School District has refinanced its outstanding 1999 bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The recent refinancing will save the District's taxpayers a total of over \$85,000 during the next three years. Superintendent Bauck emphasized that these savings flow directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and are not available for District expenses. "This is a direct savings to our community members in the form of taxes they expected, but will not have to pay," Bauck said.

The Peninsula School Board accomplished these savings by approving the issuance of \$2,385,000 in refunding bonds at its meeting held on September 16, 2009. The District has been monitoring bond market conditions and recent low interest rates allowed the District to exceed its savings target. Interest rates averaged 1.35% on the new bonds compared to 4.20% on the old debt.

H1N1 (Swine) Flu Update

The H1N1 virus and the possible outbreaks of illness among children in school continue to be a concern. Our district works closely with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department in providing guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus and in planning for the management of any outbreaks of the illness that may occur in our schools.

District's Facilities Rental Program Popular in the Community

One of Peninsula School District's successful community programs is the facilities use. The district's buildings and fields are available to community organizations when school or extra-curricular events are not in session. The program is offered to nonprofit organizations and community groups that include swimming clubs, county committees, Girl Scouts, arts or music groups and churches. Rental rates are lowest for youth groups. Visit our website: www.facilities.psd401.net or call Donna Ness: 530-3941.

Free YMCA Wednesday Morning Program Continues 2009-10

The YMCA continues to provide before-school supervision at each of the elementary schools for late start on Wednesdays at no charge. The one-hour program emphasizes health and wellness. For further information or to register online please visit our website and Onsite Childcare under Helpful Links: www.psd401.net



Online Flyer Distribution Information & Postings

We are excited to announce our NEW nonprofit flyer posting on our district website! The flyer posting page is a "one stop shopping" for students and families to view what is available from our nonprofit community organizations. The district flyer posting website is already linked to all school websites. Postings are updated frequently so please check back often.

Graduation 2010



Gig Harbor High School *Tides*

Sunday June 13, 2010
Tacoma Dome
1:00 pm



Henderson Bay High School *Bulldogs*

Friday June 11, 2010
Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church
7:00 pm



Peninsula High School *Seahawks*

Sunday June 13, 2010
Tacoma Dome
4:30 pm

October Events

- 2 2009 Fishbowl- PHS v. GHHS football at PHS Roy Anderson Field 7 p.m.
- 7 School Board regular meeting 6 p.m. at Gig Harbor High
- 7 PHS Open House 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- 12-16 Bus Ridership Week. If you ride the school bus in the mornings, please be sure to do so this week so that we can include you in our count for state transportation funding!
- 22 School Board study session 6 p.m. at District Office.

PSD Pools Announcements:

Registration for Fall swim lessons session II begins Thursday, October 1st for GHHS and on Friday, October 2nd for PHS at 5:00 p.m.

Peninsula pool now offers Sunday recreational swim from 5:30-7:00 p.m.

PHS is open on Sundays for rentals from 11:00am - 5:00 p.m.

Water Aerobics are ongoing at GHHS on Tuesday & Thursday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Drop-ins are welcome

Synchronized Swimming starts Tuesday, Oct. 13 at PHS from 5:30-6:15 p.m.

Visit Peninsula Pools at www.pools.psd401.net

SafeSchools LifeLine

As a student, parent or community member you have the power to keep our schools safe. Administrators rely on you to be their eyes and ears—letting them know when a member of our schools or a district building is in danger. Be a life saver and help stop school crises before they happen. When you call 1-866-LIVE-TIP you will be asked to enter the district code: 162. The SafeSchools LifeLine is completely anonymous.



BOSCH



JONES



HUNT



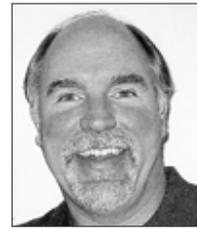
HANNA



TRANDUM



TINIO



HAYS



ROBISON



WOJTANOWICZ

Key Peninsula candidates for the November General Election

Information compiled by Rick Sorrels, Special to the KP News

FD16 Commissioner, position 2

JIM BOSCH, 66. Incumbent since Jan. 1998. Vaughn resident for 39 years. Bachelors Degree. Retired small business owner. Retired from Tacoma Public Utilities. KP Firefighters Association Certificate of Honor 2009. Fire Chiefs Outstanding Leadership Award 2002. Firefighters Union Appreciation Award 2001. Wants to "maintain high quality emergency service, fiscal responsibility, and transparency."

CLAUDIA JONES, 52. Herron Island and Vaughn resident for 10 years. Burien prior. Current employment Key Center Chiropractic, Peninsula Market, and as a paraeducator for Peninsula School District. FD16 volunteer EMT past 8 years. FD16 Volunteer of the Year 3 times. Wants to be "the voters' representative, fighting to regain the confidence and support squandered by past commissioners."

FD16 Commissioner, position 4

SHEILA HUNT, 49. Incumbent since Feb. 2008. Vaughn resident for 22 years. Masters Degree. Manages Emergency Room at Tacoma General. FD16 volunteer firefighter 1990-96. FD16 Volunteer of the Year 1992.

State Volunteer of the Year 1996. Wants to "continue the changes I have started, be a stand-up voice for the citizens, with emphasis on personal accountability, professionalism, and good business decisions."

RICHARD HANNA, 74. Longbranch resident since 1986. Retired after 29 years as Captain in Omaha Nebraska Fire Department, which has 650 firefighters. Firefighter, EMT, and Inspections Bureau. Lions Club Citizen of the Year 1995. Wants "big changes to the Board and hire more firefighters to man unused stations."

KP Parks Commissioner, position 2

BILL TRANDUM, 68. Incumbent since Oct. 2008. Vaughn resident since 2001, purchased property 1989. Browns Point prior. Masters Degree. Financial advisor for Royal Bank of Canada. Retired Navy Captain with 21 years service. Wants to "maintain the current Board's Fiscal responsibility and momentum of acquiring and developing parks and making them accessible."

SYLVIA TINIO, 73. Lake of the Woods resident 4 years. California prior. Masters Degree. Serves on Aging and Long Term Care Advisory Board for Pierce County. Earlier appointments to various human resources positions. Attended international symposiums on infrastructure development. Training and experience developing parks. Wants "parks to be aesthetically pleasing and

functional for all age groups."

KP Parks Commissioner, position 4

MICHAEL HAYS, 47. Longbranch resident for 8 years. Federal Way prior. Owns and reconstructing Longbranch Merchantile. VP of nationwide plastics company. KPAC Board member. Past Director of KP Community Fair Board. He "admires the fiscal responsibility of the current Parks Board" and is "very sensitive to the delicate balance in property rights in developing park land."

ED ROBISON, 47. Minter resident for 2 years. KP property owner 6 years. Wollochet area prior. Masters Degree. Navy service 23 years, Commander in the Reserves. Conducts engineering business from his home. Board member for Little League and Boy Scouts. Donated 350 hours of professional engineering time to KP Parks over last 4 years. Wants to "develop the existing primitive parks to meet the people's needs."

SCHOOL BOARD

WENDY WOJTANOWICZ, 43. Incumbent since Jan 2008. Wauna resident for 6 years. Rosedale prior. Employed by Scholastic Book Company. Parents Group VP at PHS. Wants to "fix the funding problems and ensure that the schools are adequately staffed." Running unopposed.

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 Cindy Baldwin & Dottie Mazza
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 Cindy Baldwin & Dottie Mazza
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Historic Allyn Church celebrates 100 years

By Colleen Slater, KP News

A public Open House in August celebrated the centennial of the little white church by the side of the road in Allyn.

Some members of the Allyn Community Church Organization (ACCO) appeared in 1909 dress, cake and punch were served, and a display of all that the group has done with the building was available to view.

The building, built in 1909 as Ebenezer Congregational Church, is visible some distance down Case Inlet and is marked on navigational charts.

Early pastors arrived by boat from Vaughn, and church services were held when a pastor was available.

A family in Grapeview donated a pump organ in 1914 with the stipulation that it remain in the church building. It has.

Concerned Allyn citizens formed the ACCO in 1965 to save the church from liquidation and pay off the \$900 plus debt.

Donald Maddox, who studied at St. Hugh Cathedral in Lincoln, England, organized Episcopal Missions at Allyn, Hoodspout and Tahuya in the mid-1960s, and visited each once a month while serving as rector at St. David in Shelton.

Maddox named the Mission in Allyn St. Hugh of Lincoln, in honor of the English cathedral he loved. The Episcopalians bought the little church building and after much repair work, began worshipping there in 1969. The church was deeded to the Diocese of Olympia in 1970.

Members of the congregation installed heat, rebuilt the bell tower, and added a

basement with social hall, kitchen alcove and restrooms.

By 1988, the congregation needed more space, but could neither expand on the site, nor purchase adjacent land for a larger church.

They built a new St Hugh's church, higher on the hill, moved in 1995, and sold the historic structure back to the reformed ACCO.

A six-member Board of Trustees handles the operation of the building, and they insist the church belongs to the community of Allyn.

The little church is used for community events - weddings, memorial services, family celebrations, and for beginning churches.

Several other denominations have used the building, including Baptist, Nazarene and Pentecostal congregations.

Current Sunday morning occupants are St. Ita's Celtic Catholic Mission.

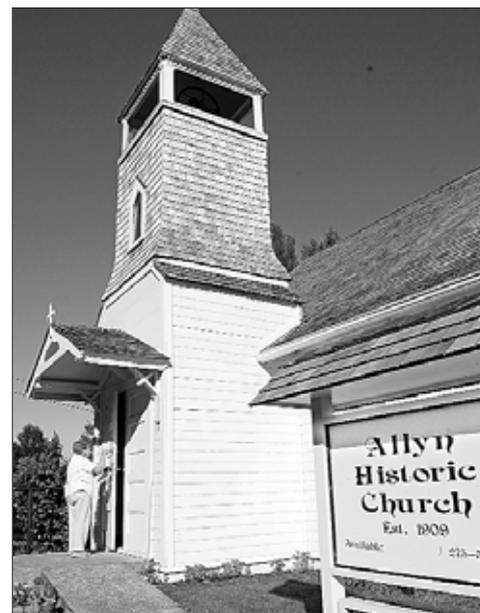
Seating capacity is listed as 50 - 60, but that many people make it feel pretty crowded.

The lower level, gutted and remodeled in 2005 and 2006, with an occupancy of 27, is available for rent.

A quilting group, TOPS, AA and other support groups meet there.

The building is open on Allyn Days each summer when the board has a yard and bake sale. Board member Barbara Stormo still bakes her cinnamon rolls in the church kitchen that morning.

Congratulations to ACCO and its supporters in Allyn for renewing and maintaining this historic presence in their community.



The original pulpit still remains in the Allyn Historic Church (foreground), but many upgrades have recently occurred inside the hundred year old church. The church's Board President, Bernice Nigh, shows off the newly painted walls, new windows, and refurbished pews inside of the main level the church. Board President, Bernice Nigh, opens the doors to the newly renovated Allyn Historic Church.

Photos by Mindi LaRose, KP News

The Mustard Seed Project-October

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BRIEFS

school

KP university students recognized

Western Washington University released the names of the 2009 Spring Quarter honor roll and degree recipients. Four of those individuals are from the Key Peninsula.

Annie Lim made the Spring Quarter Honor Roll, and Kayce Hillstrom, Todd Ketcham and Angela Wehmeyer each received degrees in the Spring Quarter.

Free and reduced school lunch applications available

Your child could qualify for a free or reduced lunch program. The public school system provides a confidential application process, and families whose incomes are below the level thresholds can qualify for the program.

The USDA charges 40 cents per reduced lunch and 30 cents per breakfast, however Washington pays all lunch costs for public school students in kindergarten through third grade, and all breakfast costs for public school students. The Special Milk Program may provide free milk, depending upon the school, for all eligible students.

Students who receive federal assistance through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families or through Basic Food Program automatically qualify for free meals if their school participates in the federal child nutrition programs.

Applications for the free and reduced lunch program are reviewed and a determination is made within 10 working days of receipt of the application.

Parents who are denied eligibility can appeal the decision by contacting their school.

Applications are accepted throughout the school year.

Eligibility lasts from the date of approval to the first 30 days of the next school year or until a family contacts its school or district.

For a list of eligibility requirements, contact your child's school, or visit the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction at www.k12.wa.us.

Rickey Badua, band director of Peninsula High School's marching band, stands on the street above to direct via microphone the marching band members below as they rehearse. The students were rehearsing for the Peninsula Classic Marching Band Competition held at the Kitsap Fairgrounds & Events Center.

Photo by Mindi LaRose,
KP News

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Photo by Ron Cameron, Special to the KP News

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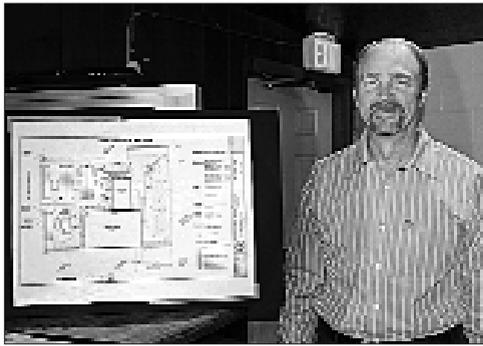


Photo by Danna Webster

Owner of the Peninsula Markets, Don Stolz, presented drawings and layout plans of the new Key Center Market to the Key Peninsula Business Association.

(From MARKET, Page 1)

in each direction beyond the store. However, that places the north portion in the middle of the intersection at Olson and Cramer roads.

Stolz has approached the county asking for a waiver to the requirements of the turn lane. And furthermore, because a waiver may reduce the cost of the turn lane, Stolz is asking that the remaining budgeted amount be applied to a project that would benefit Key Center such as a new bus stop location and/or sidewalk construction. He is working to assure that the budgeted remainder does not go into a general fund for the county. The waiver request has been further impacted by the reconsideration of the traffic signal project at that intersection, according to Stolz. Once the county finalizes the intersection plan, they can attend to his waiver.

A second example of a complication is the county requirement that the old building be removed to allow construction of the new building. Stolz has hired counsel to work with the county to waive this requirement. The appeal is based on the grounds that it causes community hardship since Pen Market is the only grocery store in the community. He is hopeful that the appeal will succeed.

KPBA members complimented Stolz on the design of the building and shared their enthusiasm about having a new store in Key Center. In spite of a long career as a grocer, Stolz indicated that the new building has been a 'learn as you go' project and that he enjoys meeting the challenges. "It is exciting for me," he said. "I'm a box boy that came up through the business."

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Join us as we say thank you and bless Gig Harbor's
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much to protect our community.

The event will be held Sunday, October 4, 2009 from 1-4 p.m. hosted at the Gig Harbor Methodist Church located at 7400 Pioneer Way. The blessing ceremony will be from 2-2:30 p.m. Featured will be fire engines, police, sheriff and state cruisers, police motorcycle and ambulance, K-9 unit, bomb disposal truck and robot. Photographers will be on hand to take pictures of children enjoying themselves on the emergency equipment. There will be live music, entertainment, children's carnival games, face painting, fingerprinting, giveaways and light refreshments. Fun for all.



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Peninsula Youth Cheerleaders learning to fly

By Ted Olinger, KP News

Fall has come to Roy Anderson Field, where half a dozen Peninsula Youth Football teams of different ages are drilling. The Peninsula High School band is marching in silent formations on the field above, big tubas floating over the players below like giant white flowers on the evening breeze.

"Cheer stance!" comes the call from Coach Amanda Boley. Eighteen girls in front of the stands snap into ranks, ramrod straight, eyes forward.

Their ages range from 7 to 11, and they stand like statues until the next instruction: "Bananas! Ready! Okay!"

"Go bananas, go bananas, b-a-n-a-n-a-s!"

"I asked Peninsula Youth Football if they were interested in a cheerleading component that did what their football instruction does," said Sandy Anderson, head coach of PY Cheer, "and they said, 'do it.'"

Anderson, a career dancer and former cheerleader, has been running the

program for two years. "We've got about 50 girls and we teach them the fundamentals," she said. "These are the same things they'll do in high school cheer."

The PY Cheer program trains the girls together but also assigns them to Seahawk and Tides cheer groups, depending on what high school they may attend, and they perform cheers for their teams at PY games. "It builds their self-esteem and self-confidence," said Anderson. "Every girl learns to speak publicly, every girl gets to lead a cheer. They learn it's important to get it right."

Coach Boley stops the routine. "Everybody make an 'L' with your fingers, like this," she says, holding up both hands with forefingers and thumbs at right angles. "See? 'L.' Now take away the backward 'L.'"

She takes down her right hand. "The one that's left is your 'left' hand, and it always will be!" she says with a big smile, moving along the rows, holding hands up or switching them for the girls—"Yes, yes, yes, no, yes, no, yes, yes," until all 18 have



Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

Seahawks coach Amanda Boley demonstrates a move called the knife for Peninsula Youth Cheerleaders.

their left arms up.

"Which way do we go when we go to the left?" asks Coach Boley.

"LEFT!" shout the girls.

"Let's do it!" She points at a girl in the middle rank, "Come lead the cheer."

The young girl runs up in front of her colleagues, skinny and straight as a fence post, then belts out, "Cheer stance! Bananas! Ready! Okay!"

The squad joins her in the cheer, all sliding their feet and pointing their arms in unison: "Peel it to the left, peel it to the right, come on boys, fight, fight, fight!"

After a beat, there is a burst of fist pumping and yelling, whether to energize an imaginary crowd or because they

got it right doesn't seem to matter.

Longtime Key Pen resident, 7-year-old cheer student Hanna Boley, said, "I like cheer leading because the cheers are fun, but I'm really interested in the stunts."

"I want to do back flips and learn how to climb up in formations [human pyramids] and then fall back in the bucket catch," said second-year cheer veteran, 7-year-old Lauren Olive.

"They learn to fly," acknowledged Coach Anderson, who is stunt certified by the Washington State Coaches Association.

When 7-year-old cheerleader Morgan Madden is asked what she's learned at PY Cheer, she doesn't hesitate: "How important it is to be strong."

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at Auburn v. Mt. View Oct. 5, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Cross Country
v. Franklin Park, Yakima Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at McCormick Forest Park Oct. 7, 4 to 6:30 p.m.
at Titlow Park, Tacoma Oct. 3, 9 a.m. to noon.

Girls Soccer
at Lakes High School, Oct. 6, 5:15 to

9:15 p.m.
v. North Thurston at PHS Oct. 8, 5:15 to 9:15 p.m.

Girls Swim and Dive
v. Auburn Mt. View Oct. 6, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Golf
v. F.P. at Canterwood Oct. 6, 3:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Girls Volleyball
at North Thurston Oct. 6, 6 to 9 p.m.

Historic Guppy Bowl win

By Ted Olinger, KP News

The Seahawks shut out the Tides 27-0 at the annual Guppy Bowl played at Gig Harbor Sept. 3. The frosh football season opener between hometown rivals Peninsula and Gig Harbor High Schools usually ends in defeat for Peninsula. Not this year.

"We missed our first PAT [point after touchdown]" said Coach Maurice Hanks, "but the Hawks got it done."

Peninsula scored two touchdowns in each half thanks to such standout plays as Max Reyes (RB/LB) running in a 40 yard sweep, and Doug Kanouse (DB) returning the Tides' second half starting kick off for a third touchdown. Coach Hanks singled out the performance of

quarterback (and DB) Alex Weymiller: "This is a fast kid, very smart, who can outrun the defense and still execute."

Both Hawks and Tides had their share of incompletes and fumbles, expected at a C Team game, but in the end skill outweighed error for both sides. "We had a turnover on offense and our defense really stepped up, stopped [the Tides] on the 40 or 50, and got the ball back to us. They did an outstanding job," said Coach Hanks.

In a post game huddle, the Seahawks themselves singled out their offensive line for congratulations: center Jacob Richards (#56 OL/DL), guards Austin Wheat (#51 OL/LB) and Tyler Brown (#55, OL/LB), tackles Robert Gallucci (#63 OL/DL) and Daniel Portillo (#50 OL/DL), and tight end Kyle Self (#88



Alex Weymiller executes at speed during the 2009 Guppy Bowl. The Seahawks went on to an historic win.

Photo by Ted Olinger, KP News

TE/DL), "the man," said Coach Hanks, "who's just everywhere."

Twenty-two of the 37 boys on the team are from the Key Pen, said Coach Hanks.

"And what you've got to remember, is that we're 3A (South Puget Sound League) and Gig Harbor is 4A (Narrows League). They've got twice as many

kids—my guys have to go both ways, playing offense and defense," Coach Hanks said. That made keeping Gig Harbor scoreless for the win, "a double pleasure."

The rivalry continues when the varsity squads face off at the 31st Annual Fish Bowl, Oct. 2, 7 p.m., at Peninsula.

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- ✓ Increased citizen participation in the fire service
- ✓ Providing high quality service while maintaining sound fiscal management
- ✓ Implementation of stringent physical fitness and drug testing programs

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Thank you for your continued support!

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(From LEVY, Page 1)

with the last levy losing by 422 votes out of 3,366 in the Aug. 18 primary election, according to the auditor's records.

"I've had some good questions from the community," said Fire Chief Tom Lique. "Why do you need the money, where would it go, what does 22 cents mean to the fire department? If you use our current assessed values, it's about \$342,000. That's what the 22 cents means."

"We've got an estimated shortfall now of \$253,000," said Lique, because assessments are lower than expected or people aren't able to pay their assessed property tax. "If I go into a levy-less 2010, I've got to save at least that much." That could mean consolidating crews to one station, selling engines, and not filling vacant firefighter positions, he said.

The department also needs to fund the first quarter of 2010 with "carryover" money from 2009, said Lique. "Right now, we're carrying about \$500,000 from this year to cover the first three months of next year."

The problem is we spend about \$265,000 a month. Passing the levy means we keep the service level, but it doesn't fund the next carryover."

MANPOWER

"We're very visible," said volunteer firefighter Lt. Anne Nesbit. "You can see rigs coming and going all the time, but manpower-wise we're very limited."

"I'm the lieutenant of the Home Station and the Longbranch Station, and I've got roughly 10 volunteers under me, but there are only two — including me — who can fight a fire," said Nesbit.

"We've got minimum staffing of four career firefighters, two of those being paramedics, 24 hours a day," Division Chief Chuck West said. "If you have everybody there — nobody's sick and nobody's on vacation — you could have six or seven career people on duty at one time."

"That isn't even enough on the scene to make an initial interior attack," said career firefighter Lt. Gary Way. "And that's the law, that's not just our ideal."

Way was commanding an engine backing up a medic call July 29 near the Herron Island ferry dock when he was called to a fire in the 7000 block of Lackey Road. Way said he had two firefighters with him, both volunteers.

"It was two mobile homes and a motor home, a few cars, a boat and a brush fire," said Way.

—Key Pen population in 2000 was 15,061 according to the U.S. Census.
FD emergency calls year to date:
1,254; EMS 869, Fire 59, Other 326.
Total calls for
—2008: 1,918
—2007: 1,864
—2006: 2,119 (winter wind storm year)
—2005: 1,768

"We ended up with about 15 people there but really we needed 30 and it took probably two hours to get that 15," said Way. Over the next six hours, the fire destroyed all of the structures, vehicles and brush in a two-acre area, he said. "City of Tacoma will roll up on a house fire with 25 to 27 people on the first alarm and they're there within 10 minutes."

The total staff of the fire department fluctuates between 53 and 55, said West. Thirty-five are volunteers, but only 15 of those are firefighters. There are 20 career firefighters certified to fight fires, including the four day chiefs, said Lique.

"What's happened over the years is that staffing hasn't increased to meet the increased population," said West. "We're sitting in a place where we failed three levies, so during that time everything has stayed stagnant except for the demand for service and the cost of providing it."

TAXES OR POLITICS?

"How many failures at the polls is it going to take for this commission and the department itself to recognize the serious public relations problem that they have to address?" said local resident Mike Abernathy at the Sept. 8 meeting of the Key Peninsula Fire Commission. "The public has got the impression that nothing they can say or do is going to affect what this commission does, or what the union is going to do, so they go to the polls and they vote against it."

Longtime resident and 40 year volunteer firefighter veteran Wally Cornman also spoke at the meeting.

"I have no animosity against the two commissioners, Mr. Yanity and Mr. Bosch, but I think, for the good of the fire department and for the good of the community, both of them should hand in their resignations," Cornman said. "The only reason you're getting a 'no' vote on the levy is the squabbling between them two."

"Everybody wants to discount the 'no' vote as a Bosch issue or a Bosch-Yanity issue, when it's maybe the signs they're

putting in your yards," said Fire Commissioner Jim Bosch during the meeting. "[The sign] doesn't say Bosch-Yanity... it says 'no new taxes.' It's not a new tax, it's a reauthorization of a tax for 22 cents... The articles you read in the paper are about drug testing, physical fitness, new taxes. It's not Bosch-Yanity."

Fire Commissioner Allen Yanity, who was absent from the Sept. 8 meeting, opposed the three previous levies and is opposed to the fourth.

"I hate to do it this way," said Yanity. "Our fire department does need increased funds, but the reason I was elected was to bring physical fitness and drug testing to our department."

"A firefighter should be as fit when he's 40 as he is when he gets hired.

Our union claims they are, but I can't believe that," said Yanity.

A QUESTION OF CONDITION

"We use the Wellness Initiative of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the International Association of Firefighters," said Lique, who is not part of the union.

"There's not an employee or volunteer working in our department that I've been told by the doctor is unfit to be here," said Lique.

"How many of our firefighters could put on all the bunker gear and climb a ladder with a 70-pound hose on their back?" said Yanity. "I cannot believe that even Chief Tom Lique can do that."

"I'm not out to fire Tom Lique, don't get me wrong," Yanity said, "but if something goes wrong, and we've got overweight firefighters [on safety back-up], are they really going to be able to rescue their people on the inside?"

"I could stand to lose 15 or 20 pounds," said Lique, "and me and other crew members have been working pretty rigorously on that since I've been chief. But I am fit to go into a fire." A hose pack weighs 45 pounds, he said.

DRUG TESTING

The "Statement Against" the levy which Commissioner Yanity submitted for the November election Voter's Pamphlet says in part, "Can a firefighter be so drunk that he falls on a patient and not have an alcohol problem?"

"There was an incident with alcohol at a training conference out of town earlier this year," said Lique. "It didn't happen in an emergency situation, it didn't happen with

Key Peninsula firefighters will be hosting meetings to discuss the levy and listen to the public Oct. 1 and 12, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., at the Whitmore Room in the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

a real patient. The member was immediately removed from the conference and returned to the department and disciplined. It's not what Commissioner Yanity is leading people to believe.

"The expectations are very clear about these conferences, which include training and have social events where sometimes there is alcohol," said Lique.

The department has a strict suspicion-based drug and alcohol policy, said Lique. "If you come to work smelling of alcohol or appear impaired you're gonna go get tested," said Lique. "That's happened twice that I'm aware of in the last 10 years. In one case the employee was terminated, in the second case the employee was clean."

"In my mind, if you come to work drunk you've got a real problem," said Yanity, who wants to implement random drug testing. "Part of fitness is being substance-abuse free. If you're not using, what's the big deal about random drug testing?"

"We don't have the factual basis required for random drug testing here," said administrative attorney Joe Quinn, at the Sept. 8 commissioners' meeting. Quinn represents many fire districts in Western Washington, including the Key Pen. "To my knowledge, there is only one district that has random, suspicion-less drug testing and that's King County. We've already got suspicion-based drug testing in place by policy, so what the heck is this debate about? It's a bogus issue," said Quinn.

"I do not believe that the public thinks there is a widespread drug problem in the department," said Mike Abernathy after the meeting. "They think that the union is being stubborn and is unwilling to respond to the public's desire for some form of limited random drug testing. That's why it's become such a damn issue for everybody."

"Valid or invalid isn't the point anymore," said Abernathy. "They've got a public relations problem they're refusing to deal with."

A REASON TO VOTE

"If people are voting 'no' because they want the commissioners out, there are



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Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News

Peninsula Schools Education Foundation president, John Purbaugh and PSD Superintendent Terry Bouck chat with Frosty Westering at a local eatery about the upcoming PSEF annual fund-raising breakfast on Oct. 6 at the Canterwood Country Club. Westering, a successful coach at Pacific Lutheran University and inspirational speaker, will be the event's keynote speaker. The event takes place at 7 a.m. and the cost is \$50 per plate. All proceeds go to PSEF's continuing assistance programs for the Peninsula School District. For information on the event, please call 253-530-1002.



South Sound Sailing Society Commodore's Cruise presented a spectacular view for boaters as well as bystanders as 20 boats moored overnight in Vaughn Bay Sept. 19. Commodore is Don Waterman. *Photo by Frank Slater, KP News*



September sun sets on Von Geldern Cove.

Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News



Aargh!

Koko Pipkin of Home, her boyfriend Craig Thielen, and Stephanie Galindo of Lake Minterwood help set the official Guinness World Record for the "Most Pirates in One Place", with an official count of 1,651 pirates on September 20th, 2009 at the Portland Pirate Festival. The previous world record was 1,469 pirates gathered at the Brixham Pirate & Shanty Festival in Brixham, England, last May.

Photo courtesy of Stephanie Galindo