



# KEY PENINSULA NEWS

The voice of the Key Peninsula



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MARCH 2011

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## Inside

### News

- New commissioners for FD 16 .....2
- Citizens of the Year nominees ...12-14
- FeastorFamine .....20

### Sections

- Peninsula Views ..... 6
- Briefs .....8 and 11
- Features ..... 15
- Community Works ..... 16-18
- Faith ..... 18
- Business ..... 22
- Obituary Notices ..... 24-25
- Out & About .....28

## KP Council asks for halt to Key Center traffic light project

By Marsha Hart, KP News

In an attempt to preserve control over decisions pertaining to the Key Peninsula, the Key Peninsula Council has requested that the intersection traffic light project in Key Center be halted. Opening bids are expected April 1 with construction beginning early summer.

The executive committee of the KP Council voted to draft a resolution requesting that the project be stopped until Pierce County fully considers multiple options for the design of the intersection at Olson Drive, Cramer Road and KP Highway and publicly justifies their preferred design in light of the Key Peninsula Community Plan provisions.

(See **Light**, Page 4)



Photo courtesy of Mike Baum

### Traffic delay

A large box van overturned at the 10500 block of Power Line Road and SR 302 around 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 10. A female passenger in the box van was taken to the hospital. One witness described the accident as looking like a yard sale because of debris. Traffic was diverted at Creviston Road and 118th Ave. NW to detour motorists until the cleanup could be completed.

## GH pulls out of KP Farmers Market, future uncertain

By Marsha Hart, KP News

After a dismal Farmers Market season in 2010, the Gig Harbor Farmers Market board has decided to pull out of the Key Peninsula. When it took over management of the Key Peninsula market location last year, the agreement was for three years.

Vendors were notified Feb. 19 that Gig Harbor would not open a market at the Key Center location in O'Callahan's park-

ing lot this season.

Market manager Dale Schultz said he was met with opposition from the start, and said the farmers felt loyalty to former manager Holly Hendrick and chose to vend with a food co-op Fresh Food Revolution formed by Hendrick and former board member Barb Schoos.

"It would have been nice to have all the farmers part of the market, another group chose to go a different direction. Their comments and actions gave a feel-

ing we weren't wanted there," he said. In the meeting last March it was obvious the vendors felt blindsided by the news that Gig Harbor was taking over management and "it was like a bomb went off," Schultz said.

Whether the vendor count was due to resentment of the change in management, or due to the poor growing season,

(See **Market**, Page 3)

# Fire district fills one position, vacates another

## Staff Report

Keith Davies was appointed to the KP Fire Commissioner Board to fill the position of the late Rick Stout at the Feb. 8 meeting. The board will review applications for another vacancy. Alan Yanity's position was declared vacant after three consecutive unexcused absences per



Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News

The chair reserved for Alan Yanity sat empty for the third consecutive FD 16 Board of Commissioners meeting. It was his third unexcused absence, and his position was declared vacant on Feb. 8.



Photo by Marsha Hart, KP News

Keith Davies is sworn in by Christina Bosch at the Feb. 8 Key Peninsula Fire District 16 Commissioner meeting. Davies will fill the vacancy of the late Rick Stout.

RCW 52.14.050.

"Because it is the third consecutive unexcused absence the office of Alan Yanity shall be declared vacant," said Sheila Hunt, after the board voted unanimously to do so.

Applause erupted around the meeting room.

"I offered to write an excused absence for him and he declined," said Chief Tom Lique.

Hunt then announced the board would

review the remaining applications in executive session on Feb. 22 and appoint to fill Yanity's vacancy. There were no requirements to advertise the open position, said Joe Quinn, attorney for FD 16.

"It is unusual circumstances to have two vacancies and there is no reason by law to start all over again," Quinn said.

The board chose Raymond Lamoureux to fill the vacant seat of Alan Yanity during an executive session of the Feb. 22 commissioner meeting. That seat, along-

with the seats currently held by Keith Davies and Ruth Bramhall will be up for election this year.

Davies has been a Key Peninsula resident since 1997 and is a firefighter at Station 56 in Gig Harbor.

"I'm excited," he said. "It's an honor to serve, and this is a new day. This is an opportunity to serve and hopefully I can contribute to bringing back the public trust that was lost a long time ago. I'm looking forward to where this group can go."

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## KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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

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(From Market, Page 1)

Schultz said the market had low participation.

"It was a very viable location," he said. "It's a shame this all took place. I can't force people to come there and sell. It just didn't work out. All those farmers I thought would be a part of the farmers market and it just didn't happen. They have their own mindset and I can't change it."

An agreement was signed with the Gig Harbor Farmers Market, and all permits, accounts and assets were handed over with the understanding that management would have three years to grow the Key Pen location market.

Though Schultz felt resentment from KP farmers, the farmers say the season was the worst growing season for them in a long time.

"Everyone had a bad year," said Greg Sikora of Gentle Giant Meadows Ranch in Vaughn. "In 2009 we sold eggs and

fruit and took orders for beef and lamb. Then last year all we had available were eggs, so we participated as often as we could selling eggs, but we didn't have that many to sell because we also sell from the premises. Our apple trees had nothing. The grapes weren't even as great as they should have been."

Chances of a market for the Key Peninsula are not good, said Claude Gahard, owner of Trillium Creek Winery in Home and a member of the Farm Council.

"The future of the market is unknown at this point," he said. "Are we going to be able to rally farmers to come to a market? Perhaps."

An original member of the Key Peninsula Farmers Market board, Barb Schoos, said it is late in the game to try to start a market for the 2011 season.

"We gave up our EIN, all that stuff and I don't know how long or what it would take," Schoos said. "I think it's a shame they folded easy. It was a bad year for farmers. A very rough year."

## Original exhibit debuts at Harbor History Museum

### Staff Report

The Harbor History Museum in Gig Harbor opened its first original exhibit, "An Excellent Little Bay The U.S. Exploring Expedition 1838-1842" on Jan. 29. The exhibit will run through May 29.

In 1842, Lt. Charles Wilkes wrote "Gig Harbor" on his working chart of South Puget Sound waters, giving a permanent name to the harbor. The U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842, led by Wilkes, was as important in its time as landing on the moon was in ours.

This exhibit explores the expedition

and the men who left home and family on this dangerous yet fascinating voyage of discovery.

"This isn't the tale of explorers visiting and naming islands. This is a story of intrigue and life at sea with an ego-maniacal captain, says Jennifer Kilmer, Executive Director. We are proud to show the community the kind of high-quality special exhibits our curator Victoria Blackwell and her team is capable of producing. I think our visitors will find this exhibit will be well worth the visit to the museum," Kilmer remarks.

*Source: Harbor History Museum*

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# KEY PEN PARKS



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### Basic Vegetable Gardening Workshop

Gardening season is almost here! This fun interactive seminar will get you ready for a successful vegetable gardening season. You will learn about organic gardening, how to prep your garden soil for best growing conditions, and what varieties are best to plant to maximize our short growing season. We will discuss how to control weeds, garden pests, and learn how to start plants from seeds. You will plant seeds to take home. Make sure to bring a sack lunch. Workshop presented by Key Pen Parks and Barb Carr, Community Gardens Coordinator for the Gig Harbor Key Peninsula Community Gardens.

Ages:	12 +
Locations:	Key Center Fire Station Community Room (11:00-1:00pm) Key Center Garden (1:05-2:00pm)
Day/Date:	Saturday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>
Fee:	\$3 per person
Min/Max:	8/15

*Note: Deadline to register 3/17*

### Disc Golf Clinic

Join us for an introduction to the game of Disc Golf with professional Disc Golfer and course designer Paul Wright. Learn how to drive and putt your way to a par game! A course clean-up will be done after. No discs needed to participate.

Ages:	12 +
Location:	Volunteer Park Disc Golf Course
Date:	Saturday, April 30 <sup>th</sup>
Time:	10:00-1:00pm
Fee:	\$5 per person

*Note: Deadline to register 4/28*

### Parks Appreciation Day April 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00- 12:00 pm

Join Key Pen Parks, PenMet Parks, and the City of Gig Harbor as we host the 10th Annual Parks Appreciation Day! Come out and support your local parks by helping to clean up trash, brush trimming, and light construction. No registration required. Bring your enthusiasm, smiles, and appreciation for your parks. Burn a few calories and have some fun! A hotdog lunch will be provided to all volunteers in the LDS Key Center parking lot. Parks Appreciation Day is sponsored by REL.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt Saturday April 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:00-12:00 pm

Come join us for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pet Easter Treat Hunt at Volunteer Park. Check in will begin at 10:00 am and the hunt will start promptly at 10:30. The hunt will last until supplies run out or by 12 pm. Put your pet's nose to work uncovering eggs containing treats or something special. Prizes will be given for best holiday dressed, funniest, and most unique. The Gig Harbor Kennel Club will be here to showcase their expertise. Pictures will be taken with the Easter Bunny! Please bring a collection bag for your treats. Concession building will be open at 9 am to fulfill your appetites! (DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH)

For more information contact Key Pen Parks at 253-884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com)

## Key Pen Parks

*"The key to your next adventure"*



(From Light, Page 1)

This resolution was sent to Pierce County Councilmember Stan Flemming on Feb. 15.

"The Community Plan was written precisely for projects like this," said Mike Baum, president of the KP Council. "Developers are required to align their projects with the Plan. Pierce County should do so as well."

Pierce County has been monitoring the intersection for years. In 2004 Pierce County Public Works was ready to replace the flashing light, but a study of the intersection showed over time it didn't have capacity to handle future traffic, said Brian Stacy, an engineer with Public Works.

"The board moved toward capacity and safety improvements and applied for a County Road Administration Board grant in 2004 and it was given in 2005," Stacy said. CRAB granted Public Works \$792,000 for the project, he said. "We have to use grants for exactly what we applied for, and this was a competitive grant. Some people believe we can just use this money for another project, and that is not the case."

In fact, not only can the money not be used for a different project at that inter-

section, any money that has been spent would have to be paid back if the project is stopped, he said.

To date \$720,000 has been spent on design and right of way acquisitions, and of that \$315,000 was from the CRAB grant, Stacy said.

If the project is stopped, the entire amount would go back to CRAB and would be granted to another project in the state.

Applying for the grant again would be possible, but Stacy said they can only apply every other year, and that depends on funds available. It is competitive, and there is no guarantee the funds would come through again, he said.

Though the exact cost of the project is not yet known, estimates are around \$2.25 million. Three funding sources are already secured for the project including the CRAB grant, traffic impact fees and the county road fund, Stacy said.

Over the past two years the KP Council has held public forums on the intersection project to get input from residents. Comments posted on Key Peninsula, WA Facebook page show 23 of the 47 who commented want a traffic light. The other comments were a mix, in favor of a round-

about, turn lane, or leaving it as is.

"Doing nothing is not an option," said Chuck West, a member of the Land Use Advisory Commission, a Battalion Chief for FD 16, and one of the members of the committee who wrote the community plan.

"From a safety aspect, we need the alignment of the intersection fixed," West said. "When you come into that intersection it creates a blind spot for any large vehicle with limited visibility such as our ambulances."

Fear of too much development prompted Chris Fitzgerald, a member of the KP Council to vote in favor of the resolution to halt the project.

"I watched Yelm go from a spot in the road like Key Center to what it is now—a big strip mall with a four lane highway running through it," she said. "Something should be done to slow traffic through Key Center, but not with a traffic light. It's not in keeping with the rural character when you can do so much with a roundabout and turn lane and other alternatives."

The Community Plan calls for pedestrian improvements, and West said the traffic light project includes some of those improvements.

"Though the community input may have been lacking in its entirety, there was community input," he said. "This is not the project to use as an example to force that change."

Though still in negotiations with the county over the final numbers, Don Stolz, owner of Peninsula Market said he has planned to put money into the project to improve drainage and install some sidewalks in front of his property. Plans for a new market have been in the works for a few years.

"We've been working on redeveloping the center for three years now," Stolz said.

"The county was going to require that I widen the road and put in a center turn lane in front of my property in order to grant me a building permit."

That would require tapers beyond the width of the property and because of the proximity to the intersection he said he can't physically create those tapers without being within the range of the intersection project itself.

"Those two projects have to work together," he said.

Sidewalks are not required for his project, but Stolz said he has been working with the county to voluntarily put in sidewalks.

"Everybody can give or take and have a success for everyone in the community," Stolz said. "If the signal comes to a stop that rules out any possibility of a joint combined effort."

Though he isn't on either side of the traffic light vs. roundabout debate, Stolz said the project needs to move forward.

"If we stop this project from moving forward we could never see it funded, or not for a substantial period of time."

Money that has been budgeted for the project could be lost to another county project, Flemming said.

"I explained to the president of the Community Council that if we stop this project there is a high risk of losing the funding," Flemming said. "It would be shifted to a 'shovel ready' project and there is no guarantee it would ever get funded for a project there. We would have to go through the whole process again to get funded, so we don't want to halt the project but I'm willing to slow it down and take another look."

Flemming said he was coming to walk the site with crews from Public Works and from there sit down with the county to, "look at where we've been, where we are and where we need to go."



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## Classrooms Pilot Mobile-Device Technology

Gadgets like iPods and iPads may be super-popular for entertainment purposes, but Peninsula School District students are using those devices for learning. Teachers in 33 classrooms throughout the district have been piloting a program this year focused on mobile computing.

“It’s a new paradigm to shift from desktops to mobile computing,” says Director of Technology JB Fitzpatrick. “We see the future of computers being wireless, portable and small in terms of the device footprint — the student doesn’t go to the device but the device travels to the student.”

The pilot works in conjunction with Google and other Web applications already available to teachers for desktop computers. The devices are being tested at all grade levels, and were made available at each PSD school.

In addition to their portability and flexibility, the devices are much less expensive than traditional computers. “We know we give up some functionality

with a smaller device but being more frugal with our dollars means looking for other ways of putting technology in the hands of students,” Fitzpatrick says.

The teachers who are participating in the project are meeting regularly to discuss their experiences. They will also meet with other teachers in their buildings to introduce them to the applications and other ideas. By the end of the school year, as many as 150 more teachers will be introduced to the concept as a result.

The project will continue into the next school year. The teachers will share feedback at the end of

this year to help fine-tune next year’s plan.

“Our goal is to create a sustainable model we can replicate,” Fitzpatrick says. “We’re preparing for our next round of technology, whether it’s in two years or five. If this is the wave of the future and things are moving in this direction, it’s better to figure it out now. We’re trying to be proactive with our planning.”



*Purdy Elementary School students (left to right) Chelsea Smith, Sam Bortel and Ailsa Gilbert use iPads during a recent class session.*

## Student Transfers: Deadline April 30, 2011

Peninsula School District policies 3130 and 3140 speak to the process of requesting student transfers. The policies listed above and forms referenced in the paragraphs below are available online at [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net)

A *Request to Transfer within Peninsula School District* form must be completed on an annual basis by any student requesting transfer.

To become a Non-Resident Student in the Peninsula School District, parents must first complete an *Application for Non-Resident Admission* and obtain a district release from their resident school district. Non-Resident transfers are granted on space availability at the school

and grade level requested. To obtain a release from Peninsula School District, parents need to complete either a *Choice Form* or an *Interdistrict Agreement* — not both. *The Request for Release—CHOICE* or *The Request for Release—Interdistrict Agreement* forms must be completed.

All completed forms must be returned to Peninsula School District, Attention: Dan Gregory, Academic Officer K-12 Programs, 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332 by **April 30**.

Questions? Please call Roxann Tallman at (253) 530-1007.

## March Events

- 1 Parent Council Meeting District Office 9:30-12:00 Rooms 4 & 5
- 2 Read Across America—special reading events ongoing in all PSD schools!
- 9 School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. at Vaughn Elementary
- 11 School in session—Snow Make Up Day!
- 16 Regular start in all PSD schools--No teacher collaboration
- 22 Superintendent Forum 6:30-8:00 at Goodman Middle School Library Everyone is invited to raise issues and ask questions pertinent to the school district.
- 24 School Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. at District Office

## KGHP Radio Station Survey

Your opinion is important. Your local radio station - KGHP (FM 89.3, 89.9, and 93.7) can no longer be supported singularly by the Peninsula School District. We are curious about what value this station has to your organization and the greater Pierce County Peninsula Community. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey and let us know what you think. Go to the front page of the Peninsula School District website to complete the survey: [www.psd401.net](http://www.psd401.net) Thank you!



### Sebastian Christensen-Peters, Evergreen Principal for the Day

Hi. My name is Sebastian Christensen-Peters. I was principal for the day. Mrs. Crisman and I went to greet the buses and cars then had coffee and hot chocolate while we went over my schedule. Mrs. Betty and I saw places I never knew were here, like the sprinkler controls and the computer control room. I think this was a really cool experience. My favorite part was eating with my friends and Mrs. Crisman because we got to chat and talk about what we learned. I learned from this experience that it is not so easy being a principal for a day. But it is really, really fun.

# Peninsula Views

## EDITORIAL

### Some things are inevitable, change is one of those

While Key Pen residents enjoy the community the way it is, it is sure to change. One of those changes will come at the intersection of Olson Drive, Cramer Road and Key Peninsula Highway.

Pierce County identified a need to change the flashing light in 2004, and moved forward with a plan to replace it with a traffic signal. In order to fund that project, the county applied for a grant and identified two other sources of funds. The grant was awarded in 2005, and grants must be used for exactly what the application states. That money cannot be used for anything other than a traffic light at that intersection.

The KP Council, formed in 2002, has written a resolution and voted in favor to send it to District 7 representative on the Pierce County Council, Stan Flemming. That resolution requests that the project be halted.

The KP Council believes that the county acted on the project without enough input from the Key Pen community.

It does look as if the money from the grant is making the decision on what will be installed there. Without that money, the project would lose a substantial amount - \$792,000 - and with budgets tight across the state, it is not likely that the intersection project could move forward.

Clearly the KP Council has the attention of the Pierce County Council, and is forging a relationship with it and the Public Works department. Flemming came out with county crews Feb. 28 to physically look at the intersection and revisit the options.

Though the decision may have been made in haste to proceed with installation of a traffic signal, the intersection needs improvements. The alignment of it is off center and creates difficulty for motorists coming from Olson Drive and Cramer Road. The busy shops in Key Center and increased traffic on Key Peninsula Highway make navigating the intersection dangerous, and it is worse at night.

If this project is stopped, the funding will be lost and there is no way to predict when the improvements could be back on the schedule for Public Works.

Debate continues over which is safer, a traffic signal or roundabout. At this point either one would be better than what we have. It's time to stop the debate and move on with the project.

### Letters Policy

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

*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.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Chief makes mom happy, makes child's day

I happened to pick up a copy of the January edition of the Key Peninsula News while at the YMCA yesterday and read the story of Tom Lique being named Chief Officer of the year. About a week ago, my 3-year-old son Max and I were at the library. When we go to the library he loves to walk next door to the fire station and look in at the fire trucks parked inside.

Well, that day we were greeted by Tom Lique, who asked Max if he wanted to come inside and get a better look. He let him climb up and sit in the fire trucks (even the super-cool antique truck) and gave him a 'junior firefighter' badge sticker and some coloring pages. Max was thrilled! He has been telling me ever since that he is going to be a fireman when he grows up.

What a nice thing for him to do, to go out of his way to make a 3-year-old's day. I think he was most deserving of his award. Way to go, Tom! Thanks again!

*Rebecca Wallingford*

### Thank you FD 16

On Monday, Jan. 31, I drove past a man, Art Olsen, lying on Delano Road around mid-day. After rolling my jacket to pillow his head, I called 911. They patched me through to Fire & Rescue. Art had fallen near his mailbox so I was able to give them an accurate address. As cars went by without stopping, I held Art in my arms to try to soothe him. Within 15 minutes at the most, two fire trucks, an ambulance dispatched from the Home Fire Dept. plus a Pierce County Sheriff's deputy were on the scene. The professionalism, quickness in determining Art's medical situation, care and, yes gentleness, which the Key Peninsula FD 16 gave to Art was amazing. Chief Lique and his team must be acknowledged and congratulated. Now I know that should I need help like Art did, I am in the safest, most professional, caring help. Thanks, Key Peninsula Fire Dept./District 16! While Art did not survive and we extend our condolences to his lovely wife,

Phyllis, and family, I know that all citizens of the Key Peninsula salute your hard and constant work.

*Wendolyn Joy Herman, Lakeway*

### Citizens of the Year Banquet invitations

The 27th annual Key Peninsula Citizens of the Year Banquet will be held March 19th at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. The Key Peninsula Lions Club has extended invitations to many of the volunteers and supporters in the community but no doubt have missed some interested persons. If you didn't receive your invitation to this event honoring volunteers on the Key Peninsula, please speak with any KP Lion or contact either Hugh McMillan at 253-884-3319, Pat Medveckus at 253-303-0277 or George Robison at 253-853-2721 for information and your personal invitation.

### Thanks to Crab Feed volunteers

Thank you to the numerous volunteers who helped plan and staff the KP Civic Center's annual Crab Feed on February 12. Cub Scout Troop #222 bussed tables, and, with their parents, helped set up tables and clean up afterwards. Pat Medveckus, KPCCA Board Member, led the kitchen crew which included Jena Henak, Stephanie-Lynn Stevens, Mary Collins, and Denise Smith. Douglas Miller and Todd Rosenbach tended bar. Key Peninsula Senior Society members Bob & Lou Mauk, John Ball, and Sharon Rikansrud assisted with serving and clean up. Also, numerous KPCCA Board members were on hand, helping behind the scenes to make the event successful, including Sharon Miller, Bruce Macdonald, Mark Roberts, Stephanie Flintoff, Scott Dervaes, Claudia Jones, and Smitty.

Thanks, also, to Will Moody, Friday Night Skate DJ, and Mike Skwewler, Steel Impressions, for donating their time to play music for the attendees. Additionally, we are grateful to Steve Lodholm, Winkles Seafood, for great crab at a great price.

The Civic Center was able to raise \$3200 thanks to everyone's time and assistance. Lastly, thank you to the community for attending this fun fundraising event; we'll see you again in February 2012.

*Lloyd Miller, Crab Feed Event Chair*

FRANCISCAN HEALTH SYSTEM

++



Richard Brynestad  
Gig Harbor, WA

## Thanks to St. Anthony Hospital, I feel 80-years-young again.

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**St. Anthony Hospital**

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# BRIEFS

## News

### Interim shoreline regulations repealed

On February 15th the Pierce County Council voted to repeal the Interim Shoreline Regulations as a result of a Superior Court decision entered in the case of Seattle Shellfish and Pacific Coast Shellfish Growers Association v. Pierce County. The Interim Regs dealt with rules for docks and geoduck harvesting. The Ordinance was sent to the County Executive for signature on Feb 16th. The regulations will again be considered by the Shoreline Citizens Advisory Committee during their ongoing revision of the shoreline regs.

#### KEY PENINSULA NEWS

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### Livable Fair seeks sponsorship and vendors

Key Peninsula Civic Center readies to celebrate 10th Annual Livable Community Fair

The 10th Annual Livable Community Fair will be May 7 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center, 17010 South Vaughn Rd., K.P.N., Vaughn. The event hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Last year the event hosted 55 nonprofit organizations, local entertainment, and plant sale hosted by the Lakebay Fuchsia Society, Touch a Truck, food and a trout pond. All nonprofit groups from the Key Peninsula and associated with the Key Peninsula are encouraged to participate in this annual community event. The event is also looking for business sponsorship. For more information please contact the KP Civic Center office at 253-884-3456 or email the Civic Center at [kpciviccenter@centurytel.net](mailto:kpciviccenter@centurytel.net).



Photo by Colleen Slater, KP News

### That sinking feeling

The morning of Feb. 11, a sinkhole opened up on South Vaughn Road. A local couple walking saw it and stayed to flag traffic and try to mark the hold. A contractor and a water company truck driver stopped, called the county road crew, and marked the spot. A roadcrew found the corrugated pipe was rusted out and made a 7 by 10 foot hole to repair it.

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# Thatching Ants – Friend or Foe?

When we first moved to Washington I was poking around behind our house and was startled to find a three-foot high mound of twigs, pine needles, and plant debris carved out of a thicket of blackberries. I'd never seen anything like it. I didn't see any activity, but when I flicked the side of the mound, sure enough a swarm of angry ants poured out to defend of the nest.

Since then I've seen mounds along the roads, and heard stories of people digging up nests with backhoes or dowsing them in gasoline. Eventually I got curious as to what these critters are all about.

The Western Thatching Ant, sometimes called the wood or mound ant, is native to many western states, up into Canada. They are typically the dominant ant species in their range. They build mound nests on top of underground tunnels that extend four feet or more, and can have

up to 40,000 individuals. The mound helps the ants regulate wide changes in temperature and humidity. So are they Good or Evil? Overall, the ants are beneficial. Like us, they're omnivores. Workers have trails they use to find dead or dying invertebrates.

I've seen them cleaning out snail shells and hauling in dead bugs, for example. They are especially beneficial on forest property where they control tree-defoliating pests like western spruce budworm, tent caterpillars, sawfly, and gypsy moth.

Another cool thing these ants do is protect and tend to groups of aphids, tiny green insects that drink plant juices. I've sat and watched this behavior and it's fascinating to see. A bunch of aphids are hanging out on a stem, just sitting there

**Kevin Reed**  
Here's Something



like sheep, doing whatever aphids do, which is most likely sitting there drinking plant juices with that faraway "I'm eating cereal early in the morning" look that people get on their faces when they're eating cereal early in the morning.

While that's going on, you'll see the ants walking around, foraging, and periodically an ant will walk up to an aphid, tickle it with its antennae, and then a little drop of "honeydew" comes out of the aphid's abdomen, which the ant promptly drinks. This is another food source for the ants. In exchange, the aphids get pro-

tection, and the plant benefits because the ants ward off other insects that might eat the plant. So basically, the ants have domesticated aphids and worked out a contract agreement with the plant.

The downsides?

They attack any threat, inflict painful bites, and spray folic acid as they bite, which stings and may blister (wash bite areas with water). But I've stood right next to a nest without any issues. I think you'd really have to agitate them to get any bites. They can become a problem if they nest someplace you don't want them, like under your deck steps or right next to your favorite apple tree.

Cypermethrin or cyfluthrin pesticides work well, if you work them into the nest. But the bottom line is that thatching ants are extremely beneficial to our ecosystem, and should just be left alone or observed.

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*Photo by Hugh McMillan, KP News*

## Crab feast

Pierce County Councilmember Stan Flemming and Jud and Lynn Morris enjoy crab dinners with all the fixings at the annual Key Peninsula Civic Center's fundraising Crab Feed Feb. 12. The seemingly limitless supply of crab was provided by Wink's "Real Fresh Seafood" of Key Peninsula.

# COUNTY BRIEFS

## News

### Board of Equalization opening announced

Applications are being accepted to fill a vacancy on the Pierce County Board of Equalization. The seven-member board hears appeals from taxpayers who disagree with the assessed value of their properties as determined by the Assessor-Treasurer's Office, such as property valuations and exemption changes and denials.

The board session begins on July 15 each year. The board is on a three-member rotation cycle; each member works three weeks in a row with two weeks off. Upon completing work before it, the board adjourns until fall when petition hearings begin. Members receive a per diem for attending board meetings.

New members are required to attend a two-day Department of Revenue training session. Elected officials or employees of elected officials are ineligible for board service. People who have worked in the Assessor-Treasurer's Office within the past two years also are ineligible.

Board members are appointed by the county executive subject to County Council confirmation. Applications are due by March 11 and can be requested in person from the Clerk of the Board of Equalization's Office, 2401 S. 35th St. (room 176), by e-mail at [pcexecutive@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:pcexecutive@co.pierce.wa.us) or on the Web at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/xml/services/citpop/B&C.Application.pdf>.

### Applicants for Surface Water Management board needed

Pierce County is seeking applicants to fill vacancies on the nine-member Surface Water Management Advisory Board. Advisory board members will be involved in such issues as storm drainage and surface water management, water quality, storm drainage plans, rate structures, capital improvement projects, financing and annual program goals for the Water Programs Division of Public Works and Utilities.

The mission of Surface Water Management (SWM) is to be a responsive service organization that efficiently addresses flood

control, water quality and the preservation of natural drainage systems.

Meetings are held monthly. Advisory board members will be selected to represent each of the watersheds, and preference will be given to candidates living in unincorporated Pierce County. Surface Water Management will maintain a roster of applications to fill current and future vacancies on the board. These positions are not compensated.

Completed applications should be submitted to Harold Smelt, SWM Manager at Pierce County Water Programs, 2702 S. 42nd St. #201, Tacoma, WA 98409.

The application can be obtained by calling 253-798-2725 or downloading from [www.piercecountywa.org/swab](http://www.piercecountywa.org/swab).

Source: Pierce County

### Emergency Management partners with Wounded Warrior pilot project

In March, injured service members transitioning out of the military will begin internship programs within the Department of Emergency Management and other partner agencies in a first-of-its-kind venture. The new Wounded Warrior Transition Project will be piloted in Pierce County with the intent of developing it for wounded soldiers nationwide.

Emergency Management is collaborating with Madigan Healthcare System, the Warrior Transition Battalion and the Puget Sound Federal Coordination Center to develop a pilot project for returning soldiers as they transition back into civilian life. This initiative will strengthen emergency response by providing strong resources to help local communities rebuild and strengthen neighborhoods and infrastructures.

The Wounded Warriors Transition Project commenced in mid-January with an initial meeting between the selected soldiers and staff from Emergency Management. The military participants were asked to fill out interest surveys after hearing about the variety of services that Emergency Management provides. Those surveys, along with resumes and interviews, were used to place the warriors with appropriate mentors.

Source: Pierce County Department of Emergency Management

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# Nominees for KP Citizen of the Year

## Janet Anker

Janet Anker. For years volunteered over 40 hours per week at the KP Community Services Senior Center and Food bank and currently works three+ days per week at the KP Lutheran Church food bank. She also takes food out to the homeless in the woods here on the KP and puts on dinners for the needy at State Parks.



homes. An attorney, he has assisted in reviewing complex Mustard Seed contracts without charge. His sense of humor brings people together to talk about issues.



## Wally Haugaard



Wally Haugaard's undying commitment to helping the people of the Key Peninsula is amazing. He has worked tirelessly with the Food Bank at the KP Lutheran

Church, goes to Tacoma every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to gather food he brings back to the church where it is distributed to those in need. He has personally paid for many projects that help the food bank run more smoothly and keep it spotlessly clean for inspections. He is an incredible representative of commitment to helping and serving others on the Key.

Claudia and Bill Jones have been nominated many times for all that they do in the community but have yet to win the award. This should be their year. They do SO much for our community - too numerous to list - but everyone who knows them knows how much they do. They are everywhere helping when/where they can.

## Karen Jorgenson

Karen Jorgenson, recently honored with Rotary Clubs' "Service Above Self" award, as vice president of Communities of Faith comprising 20 area churches



pooling resources to assist families hit by the recession, is the founder and main organizer of the KP Lutheran Church's Back Pack Program and its Homeless program. She volunteers 60 hours a week to help others and gives freely of her own money to also help the needy. The list of all that she has done for people would be very long over many years.

## Mike Baum



Mike Baum, an aerial photographer, stepped up to the plate and took over the presidency of the KP Citizens Against Crime for which he organized a committee to bring the body's By Laws up to current needs, reorganized the group's Citizens Patrol cooperating with the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and has attracted new members to assist in CAC's vital work on behalf of our citizenry. He also was elected to the office of president of the KP Community Council to which he dedicates countless hours.

Tom and Julie Boardman assumed leadership to lead volunteers make a success of the KP Community Fair in 2010, will be highly involved in the fair for 2011 and have been hard working volunteers on previous fairs. A few years ago when they realized that the Friday Night Skate program at the KP Civic Center was being abandoned, they seized the reins and brought it back to be a very popular and properly directed event for our kids.

## Tom and Julie Boardman

Barb' Copley began volunteering for the Communities In Schools of Peninsula Reading Program at Evergreen Elementary in 2008. She has inspired children to read every Tuesday afternoon for the last three years and remains dedicated to student success. Her encouragement and positive work with her mentees is a delight to observe. Barbara is a very modest and hard working reading volunteer and provides caring support to the children matched with her.



## Barb' Copley

Howard and Diane Johnson have been serving hot meals to the Homeless for over 16 years. They give out food every week to the needy. They serve meals to the needy each week. If they receive extra food they give it to the KP Lutheran Church food bank and visa versa.



## Howard and Diane Johnson

Eric Kvinsland has for four years been a member of the "SmileMobile" team which visits Vaughn Elementary to provide one week of free or sliding scale dental care to the needy and also brings in his assistant and free dental supplies to Minter Creek Elementary where he provides sessions on oral health care under his School Oral Health Care Program at no cost.



## Eric Kvinsland

Claudia and Bill Jones

## Claudia and Bill Jones



John Biggs, active on KP for years, led the latest evolution of the KP Fair/Fest with which he has long been a mover and shaker. He provided leadership, support and lots of just plain work at the Longbranch Improvement Club with which he is a past president, the KP Business Association, and the Mustard Seed Project dedicated to letting our elderly remain in their own

## John Biggs

John Biggs, active on KP for years, led the latest evolution of the KP Fair/Fest with which he has long been a mover and shaker. He provided leadership, support and lots of just plain work at the Longbranch Improvement Club with which he is a past president, the KP Business Association, and the Mustard Seed Project dedicated to letting our elderly remain in their own



(From COY, Page 12)

### Terry Lee



Terry Lee has simply been the most valuable representative to the Pierce County Council ever to represent our community. Time after time he filled the breach when funds needed to achieve advances for the Key were deemed unavailable; Terry found and delivered them. When disputes over whatever arose, Terry amicably and to everyone's satisfaction resolved the issues.

### Tom Lique



Fire Chief Tom Lique in an extraordinarily difficult year, has shown himself to be a man of integrity, willing to do what is right even though it is difficult, painful, and could have been political suicide. This most recent display of honesty and courage are not singular events in the life of the man; rather there have been singular events which have revealed the character of the man. It is time the community recognizes the Chief as did the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association, which declared him Fire Chief of the Year.

### Debbie Michalke



Debbie Michalke has spent countless hours working with organizations that support our community's children. She is the acting Treasurer of the Minter Creek PTA and has also worked as the PTA Secretary. She is heading up the 5th grade Camp funding raising effort. She is also very active in Little League volunteering as the KP Little League treasurer, has been a team mom for Little

League and a score keeper. Additionally she runs the Homeowners Association for her local neighborhood.

### Robyn Miller



Robyn Miller, the Vaughn PTA president, is a tireless volunteer and does it all with a smile on her face! She has made a large impact on our school. She organizes and oversees all school PTA activities, runs board meetings, attends Hands on Art trainings, teaches and volunteers in classrooms, pops popcorn, helped with Bond activities, and much more. She and the PTA have helped provide new radios to assist with our safety of all students. She truly cares about making Vaughn the best school for our students and families.

### Troy Milles



Troy Milles has dedicated a tremendous number of hours on behalf of Key Peninsula children. He initiated and directed a "Fridays' teen coffee house" at the KP Lutheran Church. Subsequently, when it appeared that the recently freed Friday Night Skate program for K through 8th graders at the KP Civic Center might be curtailed, he stepped into the breach, arranged for electronic and other games, for hot food to be available at modest prices, and involved high school volunteers to serve as referee-uniformed mentors and monitors of skating activities, tolerated no rudeness, fighting, or abuse and has successfully turned the program from one which once had been avoided by some families into one in which those same families are now involved in helping to make it the continuing huge success it has become.

### Gaye Nelson



Gaye Nelson has contributed her time to KPCS Food Bank for several years now. Her consistent dedication to make the lives of others just a bit easier is something that makes her a great Citizen of the Year nominee.

### Anne Nesbit



Anne Nesbit, a volunteer Lieutenant firefighter with the KP Fire Department is a single mom with a positive attitude who works at St. Anthony Hospital as an ER technician, raises her two children, is involved with the Peninsula School District and always finds time to give to others. She is definitely an example of someone who practices what she teaches.

### Tom Nieman



Tom Nieman works over 30 hours per week for the KP Lutheran Church Food Bank. Always ready to help out. Was homeless less than a year ago and now is helping others in a big way.

### David Nordberg



David Nordberg has worked for 16 years at the KP Community Services Senior Center and food bank and at the KP Lutheran Church Food Bank. He works long and hard and is a very very good man who lifts heavy boxes of food and he is 84 years old, is very quiet and nev-

er brags. He just works long and hard to help others.

### John Odell



John Odell, a retired US Coast Guard Captain, has served as scoutmaster of KP-based BSA Troop 220 as a great role model, counselor, and mentor who brings families together to provide a quality program for the youth on the KP. He attends every camp-out, community service project, or other scout activity, additional evenings for planning meetings, not to mention the weekly Troop meetings every Tuesday night. He led the annual Easter Egg Hunt by Troop 220 at the Civic Center, the Halloween Festival, and Park's Clean-up Day and also serve The Aisle of Honor at the Vaughn Cemetery, food drives, and taking boys to Summer Camp for the last six years.

### Gary Reineccius



Gary Reineccius, in consort with LuLu Smith of the Homeport restaurant contributed his time talent and food for a free Christmas dinner for anyone who cared to drop in to the Homeport on Christmas day. He plans to team up with LuLu for a spring time free dinner and to repeat the free Christmas dinner in 2011.

(From COY, Page 13)

## Connie and Victor Renz



Connie and Victor Renz are the driving force behind the distribution team for the KP News. With Connie's attention to detail and ability to organize, and Vic's dedication to seeing the job through this couple has kept the KP News going. Without the distribution team the KP News would not make it to resident mailboxes and drop racks throughout the area.

A lot goes into that job that no one realizes or sees happen, and Connie and Vic do it all as volunteers for the KP News.

The couple also volunteers for the

newspaper in other capacities. Connie is a proofreader and Vic is a photographer. Connie and Vic are a vital part of the KP News team.

## Ed Robison



Ed has served on many volunteer projects. He provides assistance to a Boy Scout troop leading scouts in campouts, field trips, merit badge pursuits and other scouting activities.

He serves as an elected member of the Board of the Key Peninsula Metro Parks, is President of the Key Peninsula Business Association, and is active in his church. He has assisted the Key Peninsula Lions in several activities over the years; one of which is the picnic shelter in Home Park.

## Irene Torres

Irene Torres has served for years with the KP News as a reporter and additionally has represented the KP News on the KP Civic Center Association Board. She



## Marlies Van Cise

Marlies Van Cise has served families of the KP selflessly for a few years. My daughter worked with her for two years

at the after school program through the Children's Home Society, at the KP Civic Center. The service she provides is challenging, but she gives it her all. She organizes and runs the program with sometimes minimal help. Her giving of herself is phenomenal.



## Paula Vander Poel

Paula Vander Poel puts in countless hours ensuring the success of the popular Peninsula Youth Orchestra for which she serves as an organizer, driver, inspirer and cheer leader. She can claim a large measure of the success which the PYO has achieved.



## Danna Webster

Danna Webster, a frequent nominee for this honor, has served tirelessly with the KP News as reporter and assistant editor. Has been president of the KP Community Council and, in general is one of those people who is always ready to make the right things happen at the right time.



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## The Mustard Seed Project

### February Third Thursday Community Forum Creativity, The Arts and Healthy Aging

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# Longtime KP resident turns 100

Dorothy Bouvia-Lusby celebrates her 100th birthday on March 13.

She came to teach English at Vaughn Union High School in 1945. Her classes were in the library, and she also became librarian. Art Skurdall was principal and Homer Howe, superintendent.

Dorothy, born in Illinois, arrived with son Brian, who entered third grade at Vaughn Elementary.

A graduate of Monmouth College, her first teaching job was at Crouch School near Fulton, Ill. in 1934. Two years later she married, then had a variety of jobs, and Brian was born. Dorothy next taught at New Windsor Community High School for three years.

She applied for teaching jobs around the country and received offers from Eastern Washington, California, Idaho and several other places, but chose Vaughn. She knew no-one in Washington and thought she'd stay a year or two in one state, then move to another, and continue to travel and explore during her teaching career.

She grew to love this area, and once settled, never thought of moving on, Brian says.

They first lived in The Little House on Allen Nichols' farm at Key Center, then moved to a summer cabin of the Pratt family in Rosedale, later to a remodeled turkey house on Anderson's property, also Rosedale, to an apartment under the old Johnson garage in Gig Harbor, then to Purdy. Dorothy bought her first house, in Wauna, when Brian was a junior at Peninsula.

Vaughn and Gig Harbor Union High Schools merged into Peninsula in 1947. Dorothy taught English there for 23 years, retiring in 1970 at age 59. She attends almost all class reunions she's been invited to.

She organized and sponsored Panmasquers, a drama club that presented skits and short plays for the student body and PTA. In 1949, Troupe 965 of the National Thespian Society was organized under her direction. Students earned points by participation in dramatic productions.

Dorothy's father was depot agent at the Fulton train station and had free Burlington Railroad passes. Dorothy and Brian spent summer vacations visiting her parents, brother and sister in Illinois, or other relatives in Montana. Her relatives visited



here, too.

"On our trips to the Midwest, we would travel different routes through many states to see different parts of the country," says Brian.

Dorothy joined the International Folk Dancing classes and group at Scandia-Gaard on Peacock Hill in Gig Harbor when it began in 1960.

She married Gordon Lusby in 1965 and after more years in Wauna, they moved to

Burley, then Tacoma. She now lives at Linda's Home With a Heart in Midland.

Dorothy and Gordon traveled to foreign countries until he tired of it. She then went on her own with tour groups. She said she'd been to "a small part of the world," including China, Russia, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Morocco, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Denmark, The Netherlands, France, Greece, Egypt, Portugal, Japan, Tasmania, Bangkok and Hong Kong!

Brian and his wife Gail invite former students and others who know Dorothy to join them at the Open House birthday celebration on Sunday, March 13, from 2-4 p.m. at the Gig Harbor Eagles, 4425 Burnham Drive, Gig Harbor.

"There will be cake, coffee, picture presentation of her life. Come and meet a woman who is 'history in the making.' We wish to honor her and acknowledge her very full, active and interesting life" say the Bouvias. No gifts, please.

For directions or other information, please call Gail Bouvia – 848-0976 or Dian Tallman – 858-6901.

## Young magician ready to wow crowd at civic center

By Colleen Slater, KP News

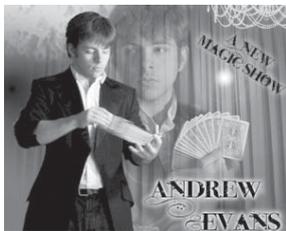
"Illusions: The Art of Magic," a mesmerizing family show featuring Andrew Evans will be held March 12 at 3 p.m. at the Key Peninsula Civic Center sponsored by Two Waters Arts Alliance.

Evans first became interested in magic at a young age, and had his first public performance at a school talent show at age 5.

His interest in the art was rekindled in 8th grade when a math teacher showed him an amazing card trick and told him about a magic shop in Seattle's Pike Place Market.

"For the next few months, my mom drove me to that shop every weekend and I slowly started building a collection of tricks and a basic knowledge of magic by talking to the magicians who worked there," says Evans.

His great uncle also influenced his



*Photo courtesy of Andrew Evans*  
Andrew Evans began performing magic for audiences while he was in high school. He will entertain all ages at the civic center March 12.

work with various tricks, acting as the perfect audience member for learning new effects and offering advice on how a trick might be improved.

Evans performed often at birthday

parties by the time he entered high school. He also was salesperson at a local magic shop in Lakewood, and demonstrated tricks for customers. He rehearsed effects many times to become consistent.

"There really is no substitute for practice, more practice, and then, just when you think it's perfect, another two weeks of practice!" he says.

Marc Janes, a high school teacher who became a great mentor for Evans, stressed the importance of hard work, effort and "stick-to-itiveness," crucial ingredients when trying to perfect any new routine.

Evans entered Brown University in Providence, RI, to study engineering, and found the school had one of the largest collections of magic literature in the world – over 10,000 volumes devoted to the study, art, and theory of magic.

Evans learned to appreciate magic as historical art form and began studying the progression of the art through the centuries.

"After reading about magicians who were performing as early as 1450, I created my own style of performance, infusing classic techniques and effects with modern presentations and scripts," Evans says. He also looked to vaudeville and sideshows for inspiration and enjoys performing stunts and escapes alongside the more classic effects.

The 23-year old from Lakewood holds a degree in engineering and designs and builds large scale fully finished tree homes all around the country for Treehouse Workshop Inc., in Issaquah.

See the show and be prepared to laugh and be surprised and delighted with professional magician Andrew Evans.

Suggested donation: \$5 per person, \$10 per family.

# COMMUNITY WORKS

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

## Now GED classes

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

## Now Mentors wanted

Communities in Schools of Peninsula (CISP) needs reading mentors for Minter Creek Elementary on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45 p.m. CISP also needs math mentors for Key Peninsula Middle School on Tuesdays from 2:45-4:30 p.m. Both programs follow the school calendar. Help mentor local students to success; it is rewarding to both students and mentors. To learn more or to volunteer, call 884-5733 or visit [www.peninsula.ciswa.org](http://www.peninsula.ciswa.org).

## March 2 April 9-Zumba classes

Zumba classes are held Thursdays (6:30-7:30 p.m.) and Saturdays (9-10 a.m.) in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center. Zumba Gold for seniors/beginners is held on Saturdays from 10:15-11 a.m. The cost is \$48 for six weeks or one can purchase a punch card to attend any class (\$53) or a punch card to attend both Zumba and Zumba Gold (\$80). [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com) or 884-9240.

## March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Friends' night

Lakebay Community Church hosts children from grades K-6 to Friends' Night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Kids experience games, projects, snacks, music, and activities based on a weekly Bible story. 884-3899 or [www.lakebaycovenant.net](http://www.lakebaycovenant.net).

## March 3 Fuchsia club

The Lakebay Fuchsia Club meets at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Ginnie, 884-9744.

## March 4, 11, 18, 25 Friday skate nights

Skate night is held from 6-9 p.m. for elementary and middle school-aged students at the KP Civic Center. Admission is \$5, which includes skates and all the games in the Whitmore Room. Refreshments are available for purchase. Wear green on the 18th. [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) or 884-3456.

## March 5, 19 Lyme group

The Lyme Support group meets from 1-3 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Patients and families dealing with any chronic illness are encouraged to join in to share not only information and positive emotional reinforcement, but ideas to face the daily challenges together.

## March 5, 19 Edible Plant Program

Come and learn about local edible plants! The programs begin at 1:30 p.m. and will be limited to 15 people, so you need to call in advance to register. Bring in plants you have questions about. The walk is free, but donations help keep the park going. Call 253-884-2514 to register.

## March 6, 13, 20 Silver cinemas

The Mustard Seed Project and the Friends of the Key Center Library present a series of films for adults. The films are about aging gracefully and will be shown at 2 p.m. at the Key Center Library. "Do Not Go Gently" will be shown on March 6 and is an hour long. "Ram Dass: Fierce Grace" will be shown on March 13 and lasts 90 minutes; "Almost Home" is 80 minutes long and will be shown on March 20. 884-2242.

## To submit an event

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

## March 7 Travel club

Cathy Stveulak and Leonard Hill share their experiences living in Bangladesh at 7 p.m. at the Key Center Library. See more information and photos at [kanthathreads.com](http://kanthathreads.com). 884-4697 or 884-3937.

## March 7, 14, 21, 28 Bloodmobile dates

The bloodmobile will be at Albertson's from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. It will be at the Safeway in Gig Harbor on Feb. 12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

## March 8 Singers rehearse

The Key Singers begin spring rehearsals at 7 p.m. at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church (Key Peninsula Highway and Lackey Rd) Music for a May concert and other venues will be handed out. Annual membership is \$10 for music and a folder. No auditions necessary; if you love to sing and can carry a tune, come and join the fun. (Enter through kitchen door) 884-5615.

## March 8 & 24 Knit or crochet

Loving Hearts voluntarily knit and crochet chemo hats, baby items and blankets for non-profits in the community. They meet from 1-3 p.m. at the Way-Point Church, 12719 - 134th Ave KPN. They also meet on Thursday, March 24 from 7-9 p.m. Yarn donations are always welcome. [lovingheartsonkp@aol.com](mailto:lovingheartsonkp@aol.com) or Virginia, 884-9619.

## March 9 Fundraiser

The El Sombrero Restaurant, in Key Center, hosts a fundraiser event to benefit the Food Backpacks 4 Kids, a service of the Peninsula Communities of Faith in partnership with peninsula area schools. El Sombrero will donate 10% of all sales on March 9. Bring the family for a delicious meal and support a great cause. [www.peninsula-communitiesoffaith.org/backpack-4-kids.php](http://www.peninsula-communitiesoffaith.org/backpack-4-kids.php).

## March 10 Dance sign-up deadline

Key Pen Parks offers a dance class sampler for kids 8-14. The classes will be on Tuesdays, 3/15-4/19, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center. Amanda Blevins is the dance instructor. Cost is \$43. Register with Chad at 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com) before March 10.

## March 12 Movie & pizza

Second Saturday at the Library features a silent Buster Keaton movie, pizza and making a flip book. This free family program at 2 p.m. is sponsored by the Friends of the Library; donations for the food bank are always appreciated. 884-2242.

## March 12 Magician

Andrew Evans, an award winning magician, presents "Illusions: the Art of Magic" at 3 p.m. at the KP Civic Center. This event is sponsored by the Two Waters Art Alliance. The suggested donation is \$5/person or \$10/family. There is one intermission and refreshments are available.

## March 13 Spring ahead

Spring ahead an hour for daylight savings

(See Community, Page 17)

(From Community, Page 16)

time at 2 a.m.

### March 13 Celebrate 100 years

An Open House will be held from 2-4 p.m. at Gig Harbor Eagles (4425 Burnham Drive) to celebrate the 100th birthday of Dorothy Bouvia-Lusby, a former English teacher at Vaughn Union High School and Peninsula High School. Former students and anyone who know Dorothy are welcome. 858-6901 or 848-0976.

### March 14 Friends meet

The Friends of the Key Center Library meet from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Key Center Library. 884-2242.

### March 15 to April 19 Dance class

Children, ages 8-14, may sample all elements of dance on Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the KP Civic Center's VFW Room. Amanda Blevins will teach the classes; cost is \$43/6 classes of 5 to 20 kids. KP Parks registration ends on March 10. Chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

### March 19 Gardening workshops

Key Pen Parks and Barb Carr, Community Gardens Coordinator for the Gig Harbor-Key Peninsula Community Gardens, will hold workshops for basic vegetable gardening. One workshop will be from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Key Center Fire Station and the other will be held from 1:05-2

p.m. at the Key Center Garden. Cost is \$3/ person and pre-registration must be done by March 3. Bring a sack lunch. chad@keypenparks.com or 884-9240.

### March 21 Teen program

Teen Time for kids 12-18 is held from 3:30-5 p.m. at the Key Center Library. Join friends for gaming, crafting, and snacks. This free event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. 884-2242.

### March 21 to 25 Dental van

The SmileMobile, a fully equipped mobile dental clinic, will be at Vaughn Elementary for gaming, crafting, and snacks (from low income families) from pre-school through high school. Call Jennifer Bunch at 253-272-1101 to schedule

an appointment before March 18; for Spanish call Marcella Tomlin at 253-530-4408.

### March 24 Fireside stories

The Friends of the Key Center Library present an evening with five members of the Fireside Story League 7 p.m. at the library. Tales about Mt. Rainier, nature, forest fires, and conservation are featured at this free event. Donations for the Key Peninsula Food Bank are encouraged. 884-2242.

### March 24 SR 302 hearing

A SR 302 briefing for the public will be presented by John Donahue, from WS- DOT, at 7 p.m. at the KP Civic Center.

# OFF THE KEY

## Now Nominations needed

The Gig Harbor/Key Peninsula Arbor Day Foundation is seeking nominations for their annual "Good Stewardship" award. Candidates should be a person or group who significantly contributed to the preservation or planning of native habitat, especially trees, in the communities over the past year. The award will be presented during the "Arbor Day Celebration" on Saturday, April 16 at the Gig Harbor City Hall. Send nomination and reason for recognition of your nominee to the foundation by March 31: GH/KP Arbor Day Foundation, PO Box 1493, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Call Carol, 858-8797 or ccalex47@yahoo.com for more information.

## March 2 Welcome luncheon

The Gig Harbor Welcome Club hosts a monthly luncheon at Harbor Place. This month a French luncheon with chef Joe Baugus will be followed by Mark and Rebecca Knowlden, who are authors of the book "On the Upside." They will

address the issue of parenting autistic children. www.gigharborwelclub.com

## March 12 Health/safety expo

Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One host the Gig Harbor Health & Safety Expo from 9a.m.-2 p.m. at 10222 Bujacich Road NW. Free screenings include: bone density, BMI, carotid artery ultrasound, cholesterol, PSA, vitamin D, breast exams, colon cancer, hearing, vision/glaucoma, oral health for adults and children, skin cancer, spinal exam and medical consultation with a medical professional. For information, call 253-851-3111 or go to www.piercefire.org/pcf15.

## March 12 Wine & dine

Whiskers Wine & Dine, to benefit pets, will be held from 5-9 p.m. at Clover Park Technical College, 4650 Steelacom Blvd SW in Lakewood. Reservations are \$50 per person and include dinner as well as silent, live and dessert auctions. For tickets, call 253-265-2290 or visit www.coalition-humanec.org.

## MARCH PUBLIC MEETINGS

### KP Community Fair Association

March 1, 6 p.m. in Roadhouse Restaurant VIP room; www.keyfair.org

### Fire District 16

March 8 & 22, 6 p.m. in meeting room, Key Center Fire Station

### Key Peninsula Community Council

March 9, 7 p.m. at Key Center Library

### Peninsula School District Board

March 10, 6 p.m. regular meeting at district office

### KP Civic Center Board

March 10, 7 p.m. in Whitmore Room, KPCC

### KP Metro Parks

March 14, 7:30 p.m. at Volunteer Park Annex

### LIC

Potluck dessert meeting, March 16, 6:30 p.m. at Longbranch Improvement Club

## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Tuesdays TOPS #1325

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

### Thursdays Toastmasters

The Toastmasters meet from 8-9 a.m. at Key Center Library. Join the fun and improve your speaking ability.

### Thursdays Senior Society

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

### Thursdays Lakebay writers

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

### Saturdays Writers' guild

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

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(From Community, Page 17)

## March 26 Scrapbooking

Carla Swainston presents "spring borders" for scrapbooking from 12-6 p.m. in the Whitmore Room at the KP Civic Center. Class fee is \$15; register online at [kpciviccenter.org](http://kpciviccenter.org) and clicking on Volunteer Application. 884-3456.

## March 26 KPHS meeting

The Key Peninsula Historical Society holds their annual membership meeting in the VFW room at the KP Civic Center with a potluck beginning at noon. Coffee and tea are provided. Annual dues of \$10/person or \$25/family are due, but all interested people are welcome. This year's programs include some exciting presentations and events. The main display, still in process, is Picnics, Parties and Ice Cream Socials from the Past. Anyone with appropriate photos or memorabilia is encouraged to call 884-3702 about donating or loaning them for the display.

## March 27 Interfaith exchange

SpiritualTEA: An interfaith exchange will be held at 2 p.m. at the KC Library. Interested folks are to bring writings, quotes, prayers, etc. to share on the topic of Unity. Light refreshments and tea will be served. Contact April-ashtemasage@gmail.com or 253.439.0124.

## March 29 Friday skate night orientation

Any teen interested in volunteering at the Friday Night Skate program must complete a 4 hour orientation class. This is the last class until August. To register, visit [www.kpciviccenter.org](http://www.kpciviccenter.org) and click on the "Volunteer Application" link under Friday Night Skate. 884-3456.

## March 29 Tennis deadline

Key Pen Parks sponsors a Spring Tennis Clinic for ages 5-12 to be held on Saturdays from April 2-30 at the KP CC tennis courts. Kids play with specialized equip-

ment, short courts, modified scoring and games. Make sure to bring your rackets! Cost is \$43/child and there will be 6-12 in each group (ages 5 & 6 or 7 to 12). Kids must pre-register by 4 p.m. March 29. Call Chad, 884-9240 or [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com).

## March 30 Adult softball

A meeting for the managers of the adult coed softball teams is at 6:30 p.m. at the KP Park Office, 5514 Key Peninsula Highway N. Spring softball for adult coeds will begin April 14 with Thursday games at 6:30 p.m. The season is 8 games plus playoffs. \$530 includes fees for umpires, registration and softballs. [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com) or 884-9240.

## April 1 to May 27 TWAA art exhibit

After a public opening from 4-6 p.m. on April 1, the Two Waters Arts Alliance Members will hold a Juried Art Exhibit at the KC Library. Lynn Denino, a Tacoma artist and jurist will determine awards totaling \$150. TWAA will donate art books to the library as a thank you for hosting this show. [twaaentries@mc.com](mailto:twaaentries@mc.com) or 884-2286.

## April 2 Pierce Conservation District

Join the Pierce Conservation District at Sunnycrest Nursery from 1-2:30 p.m. Discussions will be held about soils, grasses, common weeds and fertilizer strategies to maximize growth where you want it while minimizing the need for herbicides and pesticides around the farm and garden. The class is free. Contact Erin at (253) 884-9474 or [erinc@piercecountycd.org](mailto:erinc@piercecountycd.org).

## April 2 to 30 Kids' tennis

Tennis clinics will be held on Saturdays from 10-10:50 a.m. for ages 5 & 6 and from 11-11:50 a.m. for ages 7-12. Cost is \$43/participant/5 weeks and each class will be 6 to 12 kids. Kids must be registered by 3/29. Clinics are held at the KP Civic Center tennis courts. [chad@keypenparks.com](mailto:chad@keypenparks.com) or 884-9240.



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# Not just manners learned at this table

By Marsha Hart, KP News

First hand experience is usually the best teacher, and this year's Feast or Famine Dinner on March 8 will be a little different.

Diners file into the Longbranch Improvement Club knowing they will be assigned randomly to tables that reflect the world's population. Only 10 percent sit at the head table with a full meal and desert, while others are given just enough, or have to be satisfied with a thin broth.

"The format is different this year," said Carolyn Wiley, organizer of the event. "We will reflect our neighborhood, so 80 percent will get a meal that is possible with help from the food bank."

The theme will be a little more Mardis Gras and the menu includes some red beans and rice. Tacoma Community College students have crafted soup bowls for the event, and there will be an auction and desert options for the highest bidder.

When Wiley heard Stan Flemming speak at a recent Key Peninsula Business Association meeting relating a personal story of his time in Haiti, she asked him to consider sharing his insight as the Key-note speaker of the Feast or Famine Banquet.

"She asked if I would share the analogies of what the people of Haiti and the citizens of the Key Peninsula experience and compare and contrast those and I was intrigued," Flemming said. "I said I would like to take that one on because it's a good

challenge for me."

Proceeds from the event go to the Key Peninsula Community Services food bank.

"Not all of our KP families need help," said Penny Gazabat, executive director of the food bank. "Typically we have about 10 percent of our population struggling, so it gives us an opportunity to share with the community what hunger looks like from a world and county perspective."

Subtle lessons are learned at the banquets, she said.

"One year one of the servers gave vegetable soup to an outer table that was supposed to have broth," she said. "She tried to take it back and they said, 'Back away, you're not getting this soup,' and they did not give it back to her. The expression on her face was priceless. Another time a child was at the head table and decided to share her food. She went out to the outer tables and everyone said, 'that's OK, you keep it.' She asked her aunt why they didn't want the food and her aunt said because she ate off of it. She learned you have to present the food you want to share first to those you are sharing with. It's a quiet lesson, but all kinds of things like that are happening in that room."

Feast or Famine tickets are available at Key Peninsula Community Services and Key Peninsula Family Resource Center, or call Carolyn Wiley at 884-9157 or email her at cwiley@mac.com

Tickets are \$25 per person.

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The Angel Guild Thrift Shop is an independent philanthropy and is not affiliated with any other organization.



Photo by Don Tjossem, Special to the KP News



Photo by Eleanor Walters, KP News

### What's up, dock?

Above: A crew of electrical contractors worked to install electricity at the Longbranch Improvement Club Marina after the new wharf was completed.

Left: The Longbranch Improvement Club wharf was replaced in February. The old wharf was demolished and removed and a brand new one was put in place by Feb. 15 before the fish window for spawning began.



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# Indoor Garden store could be answer to growing pains

## Hydroponics is a good way to overcome a disappointing outdoor growing season.

By Irene Torres, KP News

After last summer's disappointing growing season, indoor gardening may promise a better 2011 crop. Standing ready to help is a new business, KP Indoor Garden Store at 8912 Key Pen Highway in Key Center. It is the first and only hydroponic supply store in this area. Fully stocked with a wide range of products and backed by a staff with expertise and years of experience, the store offers the best in hydroponics, lighting and organic equipment for indoor germination, propagation and growing.

This family operation is owned by four partners, Jesse Darnell, Monica Rakowski, Owen Mansfield and Josh Turner. "We came together at the end of October 2010 with the idea. By the third week in November we had ac-

quired the keys to our store and were finalizing our business plan. With help from some good friends, we had the interior sprayed with fresh paint, built shelves and relationships with our future wholesalers," Rakowski said.

The doors of KP Indoor Garden Store opened Dec. 15, and the four said they have had great support from local customers.

"Being residents in the community for years we know the hassles of having to cross the bridge to acquire gardening supplies," Rakowski said in an email to KP News.

Darnell is a certified horticulturist, a familiar face from working at Sunnycrest Nursery, just a few doors to the north of the new store's location. To the team, he brings superior customer service and a wealth of knowledge and experience in gardening, landscaping,

and industrial agriculture. Rakowski's business background was essential in her role of organizing most of the start-up for the business. Darnell said, "She is the brains of the group." She handles day-to-day management, marketing, and is the mastermind behind the store's advertising campaigns.

Mansfield is the veteran, a storehouse of product knowledge, the one with the most experience in handling inventory and ordering, and representing the store to wholesalers. Turner moved back to the KP from Spokane to do what he loves for a living. He enjoys constructing state-of-the-art gardens, and is good with systems maintenance and marketing.

The first thing a visitor to the store will notice is a 'Zero Tolerance' sign on the door. Darnell said, "We've drawn the line. If you mention medical marijuana, you will be asked to leave." Once inside, the entire 400 sq. ft. store is lined, shelved, and stacked with inventory, including light fixtures (compact

fluorescent, full spectrum, CFLs, sodium HPS and LED). There are reflectors, ozone generators, ballasts, fans, buckets, tubing, plant stakes, clamps, thermometers, starter pots, seedling mats, potting soil, herbal pesticides, and soil sweeteners. There are rows of vegan and organic plant food mixtures, pH adjuster solutions, and organic hydroponic and soil solution called "Budswel" and a "Super Tea Mix" from the Guano Company, and more.

On display is an 8 foot tall indoor greenhouse, also available in sizes up to 10 by 10 feet, made of reflective material with built-in ports to intake air and exhaust heat.

Darnell said, "Hydroponics gives better production, you can grow all year round, and there is no waste," as he demonstrated a small bucket farm kit. "It's a simple, easy method to grow in a clay pellet medium. It's self-contained and portable." He moved to a hydroponic cloning kit for vegetable starts: "This one has tomatoes, peppers, onions, a 'salsa garden,' he said.

A first-time customer from Bremeron interrupted the interview, but Darnell didn't seem to mind as he rung up an \$80 sale for the man.

The owners' goals are education and keeping the Key Peninsula up on hydroponic growing. They want to expand their inventory and stay local. They are planning monthly promotions and offer gift cards and drawings. Darnell said he plans to return to work at Sunnycrest as the growing season gets underway. He feels a strong relationship with the Claudia and Dale Loy, owners of Sunnycrest, and hopes their two businesses will complement each other.

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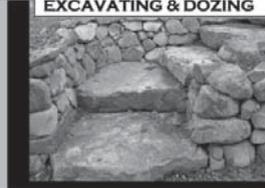
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**KEY PENINSULA  
NEWS**

# It's Tax Time

By Irene Torres, KP News

The tax filing deadline has been moved to April 18, 2011 because of the Emancipation Day holiday in the District of Columbia. Some early filers found they had to wait for legislation that passed on Feb. 15 before their tax returns could be submitted to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Tara Hendrickson, owner of The Tax Shack, Inc. took time to explain that two-year extension means "most taxpayers will probably not notice much of a difference for 2010." But there are some changes: "There is no longer a Schedule L or any additional credit of \$500 for property taxes paid that can be added to the standard deduction. While there is still a sales tax deduction, there is no longer an additional deduction for sales tax paid on motor vehicles. There is still an Energy Credit, but it has been reduced back down to 10 percent of the purchase, whereas last year it was up to 30 percent."

If you bought a home in 2008 and claimed the \$7,500 first-time homebuyer

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credit, you must begin repayment on your 2010 return. Hendrickson said, "The credit at that time was actually an interest-free loan that will be paid back at a rate of \$500 per year for 15 years."

A significant change for the 2010 tax year is the new e-file mandate. Any preparer who files more than 100 returns is required to file all tax returns electronically. For some people this is a big transition."

Marvin Keizur, owner of Myr-Mar Ac-

counting, said this change is being met with consternation from some preparers and the public. Myr-Mar serves many clients who prefer filing paper returns and Keizur says he can continue to accommodate them. Hendrickson said electronic filing "is not only much faster for receiving a refund than a traditional paper filing, but it is also much more accurate."

Another change that affects tax preparers is the new requirement to become Registered Return Preparers with the IRS and take a required professional examination, so that all preparers are held to the same standard with regard to continuing education and professional integrity. Hendrickson said, "I urge all taxpayers to ask their preparers whether or not they are Registered Return Preparers."

Laurie Ellis, owner of Ellis Accounting is now an Enrolled Agent with the IRS and cannot comment on tax law changes. Hendrickson advises that taxpayers "look for huge changes in 2012 such as changes to tax brackets, to capital gains rates, to the standard deduction as it relates to married

taxpayers, and to several credits that a lot of people take for granted, like the Child Tax Credit. These changes could result in some hefty tax bills for taxpayers so everyone needs to be sure and talk to their preparers in order to plan for these changes and make adjustments as necessary," she said.

For more information on taxes visit the Internal Revenue Service Web site at irs.gov.

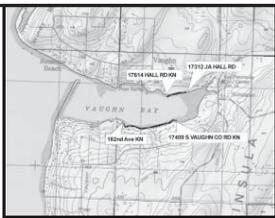
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## PUBLIC NOTICE

SQUAXIN ISLAND TRIBE'S NOTICE OF SHELLFISH SURVEYS ON PRIVATE TIDELANDS FRONTING PORTIONS OF VAUGHN BAY BETWEEN APRIL 4 AND AUGUST 1, 2011

The Squaxin Island Tribe hereby notifies the public, including affected tideland owners, of an upcoming Tribal survey of shellfish populations on the following tidelands along Vaughn Bay that are not used for commercial shellfish growing: (1) tidelands along Vaughn Bay's north shore between and including 17614 Hall Rd. KN to 17312 JA Hall Rd.; and (2) tidelands along Vaughn Bay's south shore between and including 182nd Ave. KN and 17409 S Vaughn Co. Rd. KN. The Tribe will conduct the surveys in a manner consistent with federal court orders in U.S. v. Washington, CV No. 9213, sub-proceeding 89-3. The surveys will begin April 4th, 2011 and conclude by August 1st, 2011. The surveys, which determine the existence of shellfish populations before Tribal harvests may occur, are at the Tribe's expense. Survey results will be provided to tideland owners and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. The surveys take between 2 and 5 hours, and will usually be conducted during daylight hours centered around low tide. Tribal staff (usually 2 biologists) will access the tidelands by boat to sample beach areas. Tideland owners may have representatives present and may perform their own estimates. For more information, to share concerns, or to request special accommodations, please contact:

Rana Brown, Shellfish Biologist, Squaxin Island Tribe  
2952 SE Old Olympic Hwy., Shelton, WA 98584  
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**Gene  
Battell**

Karen Lovett, KP News

Gene Battell passed away peacefully in his sleep Feb. 11. Even those local residents who didn't know him personally can

usually recall reading one or more of his poems posted on neighborhood bulletin boards. His hand-printed poetry reflected the strong political viewpoint of the outspoken critic of politicians and corrupt officials. A genuine supporter of the underdog, he spoke out against discrimination and oppression of those less fortunate.

After a stint in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War he became a staunch advocate for peace. Battell was born in Wisconsin, but after moves to California, Alaska and Oregon, his family settled in Tacoma. After his honorable discharge from the service where he was trained in ordnance, he moved to California before returning to Washington. In the mid-1970s he relocated to the Key Peninsula and in 1987, settled in Vaughn.

A well driller, with a background in geology, he was a certified dynamite blaster. Battell was an avid fisherman, scuba diver, skilled welder, brush picker and a very experienced tree-feller and woodcutter.

The feisty, anti-war, anti-establishment, man of the people, freethinker and free spirit was a trained boxer who loved to party and dance. Gene gravitated to the local tavern, his favorite haunt to pass out poems and debate politics. He loved

music, but his gravelly voice couldn't sing a note. He gave up drinking and settled down in later years.

Battell looked forward to meeting with members of the Key Peninsula Writers Guild at the Key Center Library on Saturday mornings where he displayed his proficient literary talent. His good friend, Eric Knight said, "He was the ideal roommate, always loyal and honest. Even at his worst, he was always a gentleman. Gene was not a rich person, but he had a rich life."

Battell is survived by his wife Jeannie, brother Herbert, sister Midge, daughter Lisa, sons Richard Battell and Byron Souza and six grandchildren and one great-grandson.

There will be a celebration of Gene Battell's life Saturday, March 12th at 2 p.m. at O'Callahan's in Key Center.

## Vesper Irene Zimmer

Vesper Irene Zimmer born in Seattle Jan. 28, 1940. She was given up at birth by parents too young to raise a child, neither had jobs. She was adopted by Frederick

(See Obituaries, Page 25)

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(From **Obituaries**, Page 24)

and Ruth Burton at the age of 2.

At the age of 18 she married Talbert Zimmer. He passed away at the age of 43 from cancer. Irene, as she preferred to be called, lived most of her life on the Key Peninsula. She belonged to the Eagles, The Lions Club and was nominated Citizen of the Year two years in a row. She worked at the Key Peninsula Civic Center as a caretaker and was Editor in Chief of the Key Peninsula newspaper, she also wrote an article called "Under My Hat."

She leaves behind a niece and many dear friends. She was greatly loved and will be missed by all. Rest in peace.

### Ruth Miriam Quesnel

Ruth Quesnel, 56, a longtime resident of the Key Peninsula, died Jan. 17 in Lakewood, WA, after a long illness.

She was born in Spokane and moved to the Vaughn area later that year. She graduated from Peninsula High in 1972, took a few business classes and began working for stockbrokerage firms. Bright, hard-working, and quick to learn, she rose rap-

idly. Within a few years, she was a Vice President of Paine Webber, a large national stockbrokerage company.

Later on, she worked for Safeco in Seattle and Pierce County in Tacoma.

To her friends she will be remembered as a generous, caring person with a great sense of humor. She will be sorely missed by all of us who knew her. A memorial service was held Feb. 5 at the Key Peninsula Civic Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and May Quesnel. She is survived by her brother and sister, Pat and Judy Quesnel, and two nieces, Megan Smith and Rachel Quesnel.

Remembrances can be made to the Humane Society and SPCA.

### Arvin Neil Meyer

Arvin Neil Meyer died at the age of 69 on Feb. 9, 2011. He was born Feb. 11, 1941 in Sydney, Neb. and is preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Rhoda Meyer.

The family moved to Hillsboro, Ore. in 1946. Arvin graduated in 1959 from Hillsboro High School where he was Student

Body Vice President. He then joined The Coast Guard and was active for one year and followed with four years of reserves. Arvin resumed his education at Pacific Lutheran University and graduated with a Chemistry Degree in 1964.

He worked at the Oregon Primate Research Center, and at Reed College Radiation Dept. He then came to Tacoma and worked for Mann Russell Electronics and Jesse Engineering where he retired in 2004.

There was nothing Arvin couldn't do, fix or build. He loved life, traveled with family and friends, hiked, fished, golfed, hunted, camped and sailed.

Arvin is survived by his wife, Jan, married for 31 years, two brothers and sister and his three children and two step-children, Cathleen Meyer, Seattle; Wendy Meyer, Oregon; Steven (Fernanda) Meyer, Uruguay; Julie (Brent) Langberg, Auburn; Kevin (Gretchen) Svinth, Gig Harbor and his five amazing grandchildren, Cole and Aaron Madden, Natalie and Rachel Svinth and Marco Meyer.

A memorial was held at the Key Peninsula Civic Center on Sunday, Feb. 20. Donations may be made to the Franciscan Hospice House, 2901 Bridgeport Way W, University Place, WA 98466.

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# Sequist introduces bill to fund education

OLYMPIA - Rep. Larry Sequist doesn't bring many military strategies out in the Legislature, but he thinks one might be worth bringing in to better fund education. Sequist, a former battleship cap-

tain and Pentagon strategist, suggests a Washington state version of the successful Federal Base Closure and Realignment Commission (BRAC). Tasked by the Legislature to hold public hearings, the tax priorities realignment commission would identify tax exemptions, which could be closed in favor of funding specific education-improvement objectives. Their proposal would then be sent to the voters for final approval. Sequist, D-Gig Harbor, envisions moving a billion dollars a year from tax exemptions to specific education improvements. "Education is our state's ladder out of this deep economic hole," Sequist said. "We must stop cutting education. End to end, from early learning to K-12 to higher education, the prospects both for our young students and all our adults who are un- or under-employed are being damaged by the cuts we've had to

force on our education system. We must act, or hamstringing the future of our state for generations to come." "The plan is simple," said Sequist of his proposal, House Bill 1980.

He outlines a four-step public process:

\* Educators nominate their next, "best-dollar" investment would buy - what educational improvements from early learning to higher education they can deliver for how much money.

\* The Legislature selects a balanced package of those ideas adding up to about a billion dollars a year in outcome-focused increments and sends that package to the public commission.

\* The commission holds public hearings across the state to select a set of lower priority, less effective tax exemptions and loopholes to be closed to produce the required funds.

\* The Legislature sends that package to state voters for an up or down vote. Sequist calls this an, "apple-to-apple" tradeoff.

"Tax exemptions are intended to create economic benefit for someone, education creates economic benefit for everyone," Sequist said. "For the first time, my bill provides a way for all our citizens to participate in setting priorities about how best to climb out of this recession."

Sequist is asking for a statewide discussion of this idea.

"I ask everyone to contact their own legislator. Tell them if you like this bold new approach or how you could improve it. We need everyone in the state thinking about how to ensure that our education system is delivering everything the people of this state need to thrive in the 21st Century economy."

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2. Jesus Knowest All, John 2:17

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the Key Pen News,  
The Mystery Church Member



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*Photo by Connie Renz, KP News*

Librarians Rosina Vertz and Holly Smith help Marky Lemon and grandpa Larry prepare for making origami valentines at the Second Saturday at the Library.

## KP News 'Where in the World'



*Photo courtesy of Holly Hendrick*

KPCCA Board member Phil Bauer, Friday Night Skate Kitchen Staff member Shirley Watson, and KPCCA Caretaker James Allyn, didn't have to go far to grab a copy of the KP News. These folks were taking a break from their painting duties at the Key Peninsula Civic Center. Between the three of them, they've logged over 60 hours of prep and painting, in addition to the 30+ hours Friday Night Skate DJ Will Moody, Friday Night Skate Volunteer Amanda McFarlin, Friday Night Skate Volunteer Sherri LaGood, Shirley & Sherri's mother, Sherrill, and friend Stephanie-Lynn Stevens volunteered for the painting project in January and February... with many more hours to come.



*Photo by Leticia Stewart*

A group of parents from the Evergreen school met Feb. 10 to represent and defend the ECEAP program cuts of 662 children from the program to lower the state budget. This was not only for ECEAP, but also the Head Start program. The group met with Sen. Derek Kilmer and a representative of Rep. Jan Angel. The ladies from Evergreen made a banner with all 19 children from the ECEAP class and were asked to stand in the front to represent the gathering. From left: Leticia Stewart, Derek Kilmer (D) Gig Harbor, Crystal Smith, Melissa Wokenhauer, Jennifer Price-Paul and kneeling in front, Heather Aubart.