

Water Rate ALERT:

Kala Point Utility Co. (KPUC) has asked for a monthly rate increase ranging from 14% to 17%+ (depending on whether your home is metered or flat rate). They want this approved in state level hearings some time in December.

At the November board meeting, General Manager Brian Belmont brought to the attention of the board the impact the rate change would have on KPOA. He gave comparisons between our rates and the rates at his home in Port Hadlock. The board approved for him to write a letter to the state regarding the impact on KPOA utility needs. In addition, the board president, John Snider, will be writing a letter of complaint on behalf of all Kala Point residents. (This is a first for KP. We praise the board for this). If you feel strongly about your water rates you also need to write a letter to: **WUTC, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., PO Box 47250, Olympia WA 98504** or email comments@wutc.wa.gov by December 8.

According to paperwork by KPUC submitted to PUD (we have copies under the freedom of information act) our utility company already makes a sizable annual profit.

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Buying That First Computer

By Pete Juliano

Grandkids want to email you, your friends talk only about their latest deal on eBay and now, companies only want to do business via the Internet.

With Christmas coming what better excuse to buy your first computer. Buying that computer can be a daunting task, and it is easy to get lost in the "techno-speak." What you need is some process to determine what you need and how much to buy.

A computer system is comprised of three major components. First are the input devices like the keyboard and mouse. Second are devices involved with processing information like the motherboard, hard drive, memory and CPU (Central Processing Unit). Finally, there are the output devices such as the monitor and printer. The software, including the operating system (Windows or MAC O/S) and the application programs (such as word processing), are required to make it work.

You need to ask yourself "What do I plan to do with this computer?" If the answer is email and web surfing, then a simple basic machine is all you need. If you also plan to re-run the presiden-

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Swiftly Speaking

Toward a Policy on Filling Board Positions

By Editorial Staff,

Over the past three years, the KPOA board had five board positions become vacant, and in each instance the board used a different method for choosing the new member. Now Bob Lowe's Nominations Committee is soliciting applications from anyone willing to fill future board vacancies. So far, only one applicant has written in.

To clarify the selection process, we need a single policy and procedure. Here's a suggestion (followed by a run down of various procedures used in recent years).

POLICY SUGGESTION: When a vacancy occurs on the KPOA board, the board shall announce in the Kala Pointer that applications and nominations will be accepted for three weeks. At its next regular meeting after applications are closed, the board will discuss and vote in open session to elect its new member. In line with the 1998 Amendment to Bylaws Article VI, Section 2, "Any Director so elected shall serve until a successor is elected by the membership to fill the unexpired term of the vacated office at the next annual meeting of members."

This policy may help prevent the board from becoming a group largely self-appointed. Right now we have three board-appointed members.

Here is the history of how the five recent vacancies were filled.

1. When Dick Franklin's position fell vacant, the board met in a closed session to nominate possible successors. In a second closed session, after some nominees had already been queried, president Ray Kemery said he had learned of a KPOA tradition: a board vacancy must be offered first to any member who ran unsuccessfully for office. Only Rose Morrison filled that bill, so she was offered - and accepted - the vacant position.

2. When Jeffrey Hartman resigned, the board met in executive session and emerged with Merlyn Werscher as their choice. Werscher accepted. On what basis he was selected is a mystery.

3. When Sylvia Bowman resigned, the board asked for letters of application. Two members wrote in: Bill Mayhall, who had come in fourth in the recent election, and John Snyder. The board discussed the candidates' merits in a regular meeting and voted by secret ballot. Mayhall won.

4. When Janet Morgan resigned, John Snyder was selected. There was no invitation for applicants to write in and there were no other nominees considered.

5. When Jack Dersham resigned just before the last annual meeting/election, his slot stayed vacant for the incoming board to fill. That board left its first clubhouse meeting, went to a private meeting in the administration building, and there voted to fill the slot with Dave Gooding.

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Kala Kwips

Submitted by the original shy neighbor et al.

Games For When We Are Older

1. Sag, You're It.
2. Hide and Go Pee.
3. 20 Questions shouted into your good ear.
4. Kick the Bucket.
5. Red Rover, Red Rover, the nurse says Bend Over.
6. Musical Recliners
7. Simon Says something I can't hear.
8. Pin the Toupee on the Bald Guy.

Signs Of Menopause

1. You sell your home heating system at a yard sale.
2. You have to write post-it notes with your kids' names on them.
3. You change your underwear after a sneeze.

Old Is When:

1. Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.
2. You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.
3. Getting a little action means you need fiber today.
4. Getting lucky means you find your car in the parking lot.
5. An all-nighter means not getting up to pee.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

I signed up for an exercise class and was told to wear loose-fitting clothing. If I HAD any loose-fitting clothing, I wouldn't have signed up in the first place.

Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells live forever.

Light travels faster than sound. This may be why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Signs You've Been Out Of College Too Long

1. Your potted plants are still alive.
 2. You keep more food than beer in your fridge.
 3. 6 am is when you get up, not go to sleep.
 4. You hear your favorite song on the elevator at work.
 5. Jeans and a sweater no longer qualify as "dressed up."
 6. You're the one calling the police because those darn kids next door don't know how to turn down the stereo.
 7. You no longer know what time Taco Bell closes.
 8. Older relatives feel comfortable telling suggestive jokes around you.
 9. Your car insurance goes down and your car payments go up.
 10. You feed your dog Science Diet instead of McDonalds.
 11. You no longer take naps from noon to 3 pm.
 12. "Dinner and a movie" are the WHOLE date, instead of the beginning of one.
 13. MTV News is no longer your primary source for information.
 14. A \$4 bottle of wine is no longer "pretty good stuff."
 15. You actually eat breakfast foods at breakfast time.
 16. Grocery lists are longer than macaroni & cheese, diet Pepsi & Ho-Ho's.
 17. Over 90% of the time you spend in front of a computer is for real work.
-

The Wind Beneath My.... Oh My !!

Ann M. Bassador

Some of us remember the windstorm of January 1993 when nearly 900,000 people in Washington lost their electricity. Or the blows in 1981 and 1995, etc. Every winter it seems the wind, that breath of Mother Nature that cools my house on a hot summer day or refreshes me in my garden as I wipe mud across my wet brow, becomes a fiendish, fierce foe frolicking savagely through my fir trees. This year I want to be ready, so I called a resident who works in emergency management and who, like me, writes for this newsletter. I asked her for ways to defend against damage from windstorms.

"If a windstorm is forecast in your area, Ann, stay tuned to your NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) Weather Radio," she said. My what?? I said....and she went on to explain that every home needs to have a weather radio, which is also an Emergency Alert System radio now that squawks and wails and warns us of any disaster or emergency. "It'll tell you when, where and how bad the weather will be. But you need to have emergency supplies like a regular radio with batteries and a flashlight," she continued. I was going to need a pen to take notes.

"Make sure you have first aid supplies, food and water, and blankets. Anchor outdoor objects such as garbage cans or decorations that can blow around, and if you have an electric garage door opener, locate the manual override. But try not to drive in heavy winds. And remember to turn off stove if you're cooking when the power goes out."

When I hung up from the call, I went to check my disaster supplies, wrote the Puget Sound Energy number on the side of my refrigerator and counted 237 candles in my kitchen drawer. I called my friend back and ordered a NOAA/Emergency Alert radio and pulled out my good old plug-in corded phone from a box in my attic. I never did like that newfangled 83-million-megahertz cordless thing anyway...it uses too much electricity !!



Discount On Radios in December

by D. Kilburn

After discussing the NOAA/Emergency Alert System radios with Ann M. Bassador (see her article this issue), I was able to get the go-ahead to take pre-paid orders for a Reecom R-1630 Radio. Radios like these should be in every home, and they make great Christmas presents. They retail for \$57 to \$69 on numerous web sites, but if you order through Jefferson County Emergency Management (via Daphne Kilburn), we can get them for Kala Point residents in December only for \$40. Orders need to be placed by Dec. 10 for Christmas delivery.

These radios alert you to all hazards and emergencies, can be programmed for local alerts, and have 30 hours of battery backup time. They also feature 50 miles reception range, easy programming with flashing icon assistance, loud audio dual tone alert (> 90dB loudness level), time function: built-in real time clock and auto-calendar / week day display, and digital volume: Sixteen (16) Adjustable Levels. They have numerous other features as well.

To place your order, send (or drop off) your name, address and phone number along with \$40 to: Daphne Kilburn, (Outreach Coordinator JCDEM) 50 Foxfield Dr., Port Townsend, WA by December 10th.

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Lecture Series, PT

Six speakers of national renown were chosen to lecture in Port Townsend this fall and winter in a new humanities series. Talks are scheduled at the Rose Theatre, at 1 PM, every second Sunday of each month through April, (except December).

The organizers, a group of local citizens including Rocky Friedman, Rick Kenney, Peter Simpson and Leslie Cox, hope this may become an annual contribution to the intellectual and imaginative life of Port Townsend.

The 2004-2005 series speakers include:

January 9-**Nancy Pearl**, former director of the Washington Center for the Book and Youth Services at Seattle Public Library, now writes, reviews books for local and national publications and speaks to library and community groups full time. She reviews books regularly on KUOW, a Seattle affiliate of National Public Radio, as well as Wisconsin and Tulsa, Okla., public radio stations. She is author of *Now Read This: A Guide to Mainstream Fiction 1978-1998* and *Now Read This: A Guide to Mainstream Fiction 1990-2001*.

She received her library degree from University of Michigan. She is a model for the popular Librarian Action Figure, sold worldwide.

Individual lecture tickets go on sale one week before the lecture, cash or check only, made payable to School of Athens, PT Extension.

For more information and links to the speakers see the web site: www.athens-pt.org.

Still Seeking Volunteers

The Port Townsend Victorian Festival is still seeking volunteers to fill several positions such as a couple of event chairpersons, docents for some of the heritage buildings on the tours and more. The Festival is March 17-20, 2005, and the organizing committee has been meeting monthly since last Spring to plan all the events.

You can find out about the Festival at a website www.victorianfestival.org which includes tours, teas, a Victorian Dinner (new this year), a fashion show, antique auction and more at venues all around Port Townsend. If you want to get involved, leave a message by calling 379-0668. The Victorian Festival is in its second year as a presentation of the Jefferson County Historical Society and in its 9th year overall in 2005.

Holiday Concert, PT

The Holiday concert for the Port Townsend Community Orchestra will be December 4, 7:30 p.m., at Chimacum High School. It will feature orchestra violinists Kristin Smith and Barbara Henry and cellist Kyle Campbell. The orchestra will play Handel's Concerto Grosso No. 8, and Prokofieff's Classical Symphony and his popular Peter and the Wolf, narrated by Jim Horne.

On February 5, 2005, violin soloist and former PTCO member Christopher Taber will again join the orchestra, playing Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 3. Mark your calendars now for this event.

These concerts are free of charge; however, donations are welcome at the door. The orchestra is supported by the generous contributions from its patrons and from local businesses. More information is included on the orchestra's website: www.olympus.net/community/ptorchestra.

To The Point Staff

Editing; Editorial Board, Judie Lewis & Richard Canaan Ad Sales; Lois Healy & Nancy Leeds, Distribution; John Childs, Bookkeeper; Pat Tobias, Proofing. And many others.

We Get Letters

“Letters to the editor” reflect the views of the person writing the letter and may or may not be shared by the publishers/staff of To The Point.

Dear Editor: My husband and I built our house from scratch 24 years ago. We have never met or talked to Jay Garthwaite, but we read both papers and seek information regarding KPOA. I have nothing against Dave Gooding but do not know what his ideas are regarding K.P. problems. Thinking the board was supposed to represent all the residents, I went to the October board meeting to ask one question regarding their action in filling the vacancy when Jack Dersham resigned. “If the board is interested in uniting the community, why were 140 households (at least 200 residents) that voted for Sylvia Bowman not honored?” These residents are engineers, accountants, clerks, bankers, business owners, policemen, teachers, nurses, etc., intelligent Kala Point residents.

One board member answered he voted against the Board action of filling the vacancy with someone who had not run for the office. Two board members did not answer in the confusion. None of the members who answered my question stuck to the point which was: “how could you ignore 140 households’ wishes if you are trying to unite the community and represent the residents?”

Dwight Oberholtzer wisely mentioned the problem of balancing personal private rights on your own property against social rules, regulations and actions by a few.

I submitted these comments to both KP newsletters. I hope more residents speak up and the board listens. Submitted by Fran Shelton

Editors Note: Thank you for your letter. Whereas there is no stated policy in the governing documents defining how a vacancy should be filled, it has been the tradition in this community to fill positions with someone who ran but was not selected in the previous election. Exactly why they chose to ignore this practice in this case remains a mystery. It does seem disrespectful to the electorate.

Dear Friends, If you have read the Notice from the Kala Point Utility Company (KPUC) regarding a proposed rate increase and are not concerned, then go no further and simply stop reading.

However if you are as irritated as I am, then collectively we need to make our inputs known to the Washington State Utilities & Transportation Commission. comments@wutc.wa.gov

There are several aspects to the rate increase that are not evident in the Notice.

First, the size of the problem. There are about 500 billable locations in Kala Point. About 70 locations are still without meters (1/7 or 14 %).

The percentage increase for those of us on meters is $(32.60-28.60)/28.60 = 14\%$ for just the privilege of using the services of KPUC. The usage costs for the first 10,000 gallons have gone up $(18-15)/15 = 20\%$; and likewise the over 10,000 gallon surcharge is up $(23-20)/20 = 15\%$

For those on a flat rate (70 locations) the increase is $(44.50-37.75)/37.75 = 17.8\%$.

So from a percentage increase this is significant for service that is already overpriced!

The excuse given for the rate increase is to cover the costs of meter installations (70 locations), some new service vehicles and the increased processing costs.

Think about it, neighbors, we are going to be paying for those meters and vehicles for the rest of our lives. We were not made privy to the proportions that each element contributed to the overall increase. So while it may cost more to process water, at some point in time the meters will be paid for and so will the vehicles. But the rate increase will still be in effect. Would a better approach have been to seek a rate increase just for the legitimate costs of processing water. The meters and vehicles could be covered as a surcharge, like the pump, where a finite life is assigned for recovery.

What we have here is a lack of oversight and we as captive customers should have a better understanding and “say so” in how increases are handled. Where there is lack of oversight, conditions are ripe for waste, fraud and abuse.

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Care for Aging & Alzheimers in Jefferson County

Sylvia Bowman

Independent living for the elderly or residential care for those with advancing memory loss? Fortunately, here in Jefferson County we have good options in choosing levels of care for aged parents or for our aging selves.

Quality care for those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia is available at the San Juan Villa which opened earlier this year - adjacent to the San Juan Condos. The facility has a sunny courtyard, a fireplace room, a TV room, and space for walking in security. It gives care to residents on six levels of care-need, from simple to complex needs. The staff is well-trained to support, not to challenge, the residents.

I often visit at San Juan Villa, being active in its family-friends-staff writing group. So I can surely say this place is fresh, clean, alert, and good-humored from the front desk through the kitchen, public rooms, bedrooms and baths and courtyards. Stop by any weekday for a tour if you might have interest in its care-giving services. Phone 344-3114 or visit www.acaringplace.net

For other Senior Information & Assistance (part of Olympic Area Agency on Aging), call 379-5064 in Port Hadlock or visit website www.o3a.org. They specialize in helping people stay independent insofar as is possible. You can get a benefits checkup to see what programs you or your relative may qualify for. They advise you on options for in-home care, discounts on utilities and prescriptions, transportation, and more.

In Jefferson County, 21% of the population is over age 65 - or was when the 2000 census came out. We are second only to San Juan County in percentage of elderly among Washington state counties. It's reassuring to know that services, advice, and a good care facility are at hand for our county and ourselves.

Just A Click Away

-Check Your Calendar

by Daphne Kilburn

www.gppt.org will take you to the *gatheringplace*, a "privately funded, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides community based and creative activities for people with developmental disabilities". According to their website this fantastic organization was formed in 1994 by Kala Point residents Linda and Bob Ferris. As it grew, the organization increased its emphasis on art as a means to "enhance creative expression, provide a potential means of personal income, and facilitate positive interaction within the community" for developmentally disabled.

Gatheringplace, housed at Point Hudson, operates Monday, Tuesday and Saturday serving over two dozen participants.

Every year they offer a beautiful calendar for sale as a way to support their programs. It makes a lovely Christmas gift, and you can order online through their website. You can also find the calendars at many Port Townsend retailers. The website gives you a preview of the amazing artwork featured in this year's calendar.

United Good Neighbors

United Good Neighbors is again receiving generous support from the Kala Point community, and on behalf of UGN, I thank you. As of the second week of November (the latest information available as I write), we have had 77 donors and reached about 65% of our goal of \$13,000. The campaign is not yet over, and I appeal to you to remember our neighbors for whom UGN is a community safety net. The money you share stays in the community to help people who need help.

If you have not yet given to UGN, please take the time now to make your donation. Checks may be sent to UGN of Jefferson County, PO Box 595, Port Townsend, WA 98368.

Thank you for your caring and generosity.
Jim Pate Kala Point UGN representative

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tial voting statistics from Ohio, you definitely need something with more muscle. Typically computers fall into two subsets: desktops and the more portable laptop variety. Laptops tend to be small, the screen is small and so are the keys. This may not be a good choice for a first computer

A basic desktop, aside from the case and power supply includes the motherboard, the hard drive, memory, CD-ROM, and floppy disk drive. In addition, there may be peripheral cards such as the video card, sound card, modem (assuming you connect to the internet via a phone line), and a Network Interface Card (NIC) if you connect via DSL or Cable. Many manufacturers integrate these peripheral cards (less the modem) on the motherboard (reduced cost). There is a caution about integrated features that I will discuss later.

The sizing of these components drive the cost factors is like the old Volkswagen Beetle versus the big Cadillac. Both are cars, but one costs more. Processor speed, memory capacity, hard drive size and extra goodies like DVD recorders/players add to the cost. Since I am not a MAC user I will only cover a Windows based machine.

For desktop systems the power supply should have a reserve power capacity for future add-on devices. Processors have increased dramatically in computing power and have shrunk in size. A Pentium IV 3.0 GigaHertz CPU draws enough current when doing number crunching to light a 75 watt bulb turned on inside your computer. So additional cooling fans may be in order. The faster processors require what is called a TAC (thermally advantaged chassis), so ask about cooling.

Motherboards should have a few additional open slots for future upgrades. But also make sure if the board has integrated devices such as sound and video that these can be defeated and peripheral cards substituted. If they can't be defeated – **don't buy it**. Should one of these integrated devices fail then you are stuck and have to purchase a whole new motherboard.

A new technology called hyper-threading enables processors to perform operations simulta-

neously literally doubling the processor's computational speed. However, the motherboard and memory must also be hyper-threading capable.

Memory and hard drive sizing are important especially with operating systems such as Windows XP. The minimum amount of memory should be 256 MB (megabytes). 512 MB is even better, especially if you have a lot of programs open simultaneously. A 40 GB (gigabyte) is a small hard drive by today's standards, but don't get anything smaller. Originally programmers were very efficient at writing code because large hard drives were not available. With that restriction lifted it is a like a catch 22 –programs have grown in size.

Processor speed is another example where programs are now being written to take advantage of the increased speed. Windows XP cannot run on any computer slower than 300 MHz. But the very high-end processors are overpriced. Today a machine with a 2.8 Giga-Hertz CPU is considered a minimum processor. Intel offers a less expensive processor called the Celeron but it is not compatible with hyper-threading. AMD, a competitor to Intel, offers similar processors.

CD-ROM and Floppy Disk Drives (FDD) are staples for data input and the Floppy Drive can also be an output device. These drives are almost commodity devices and inexpensive. Some manufacturers no longer include Floppy Disk Drives. If you plan no other method of externally archiving data then the addition of a FDD is worth the added cost. Many machines now come standard with what is called a CDRW that in addition to being a CD-ROM, can also write data from the computer to a CD Disk. This is useful when you want to send a large amount of photos to the grandkids. It is usually a small cost to upgrade to a CDRW (also called a burner since it actually burns the information on to the CD's via a small laser).

Modems may now be an option since many dial-up connections are being replaced with a broadband (Cable & DSL) connection. Typically network interface connections are included on the motherboard or can be added via a separate card. Peripheral devices include the keyboard and a

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mouse. Keyboard flavors include the standard QWERTY, the ergonomic (don't get one if you can't type) and wireless keyboards. Mice come in many varieties including the standard (these get dirty and become intermittent), trackball (no good if you lack eye hand co-ordination), optical (my choice) and wireless. (With the wireless, you can really say you have a mouse in your pocket.)

Monitors come in many varieties/sizes but don't get anything less than a 17". The small footprint, flat panel LCD screens are great but expensive. There is variation in costs of monitors. When you look at a monitor, it is in reality a series of dots (pixels) on the screen. The closer the spacing of the dots the better the picture quality. The more space between the dots, the less clarity. Typically the spacing for the less expensive is .28 mm dot pitch and for more expensive is .21 mm dot pitch.

If a computer has a sound card you will need a speaker system. Speakers may come as a package with the computer. Otherwise, you have to purchase a sound system (@\$30). You will need a printer. A good quality printer for basic letter printing is \$50 to \$100. But, if you will be printing photo quality prints then the cost jumps to about \$150. Trust me, once you get a computer, you will be inundated with photos from and of the grandkids.

For the PC, Operating Systems boil down to one: Microsoft Windows XP and that also comes in two flavors. The Home version is a good choice, but my preference is the Professional version.

Several reputable manufacturers offer really excellent systems at prices I can't believe. Dell is probably the best known and most popular. Others such as HP/Compaq and Gateway offer similar deals. What differentiates these is not so much the components (all are using about the same hardware), but the extras. Most come with some form of word processing software such as Word or Word Perfect and perks such as money management and other productivity software.

The other added incentives may involve free shipping, extended warranties, virus protection, in home service and, of course, the biggest is a substantial rebate program. Costco is offering some deals on system packages. There are dealers in Seattle such as CompUSA and Frye's and mail order firms like Tiger Direct that sell systems.

As a first time buyer, after purchase service may be key. Putting a computer on line is easy for those who have done it before. However, for a novice it can seem like climbing Mt. Everest. So having a good support organization behind you is key. That is where Dell and others really shine.

There are several system builders located in Port Townsend who can customize a machine for you. These custom builders may have difficulty in competing with Dell on a basic machine, but are very competitive on upgraded machines that can and will do the Ohio vote recount.

“How much will this cost me?” you ask. Basic configurations, now range from \$700 to \$1000. A machine with about 1/6 the capabilities, three years ago, may have cost close to \$3000.

Take your time and do some research by going to the Jefferson County Library. They have a great deal of information, and they also have computers where you can do research “online.” It is a balancing act buying the minimum but having a machine that can be upgraded to take advantage of the future technology and Internet features.

By the way, once you get hooked on email you will find the Internet is a powerful tool for finding information about your medications, the best pricing on items, travel arrangements and so on. Yes, Nordstroms' has a website as does Cabellas!

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Auto Home, Business Glass Repair/Replacement! Glass Doctor, we fix your panes. If it's glass, we can fix it. Insurance approved. Fast, friendly service, guaranteed! Call Glass Doctor, **385-5262**.

Bergstrom's Sewing Machine Center - We sell new & reconditioned sewing machines. Service for Singer, Pfaff, Elna & all others since 1968. 841 Ness Rd., Pt. Hadlock. **Call Steve, 385-5050**.

Handmade Gifts for Every Occasion - (baby, birthday, anniversary). We take home-made items on consignment and/or rent crafter spaces (by month). **Five Fingers Handcrafted Gifts, 911 Water St. PT. 385-0469**.

Shore Road Nursery - Country nursery owned by botanist David Allen. Specializing in native plants & select garden perennials, shrubs, trees. 616 Shore Road, PA (between PA & Sequim). Open Tue-Sat, 10-5. **360-457-1536**.

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Fade, Glare, Privacy & Heat Solution: 3M Window/ Skylight film blocks UV rays to protect your furnishings. Keep your drapes open—Let the Sun Shine in. Call Window Scapes Inc. **385-3810**

Elegance and Class - That lasts a lifetime. Bring the old world charm into your home. **Strictly Victorian, 1117 Water St., Port Townsend, WA.** (next to Swains) **385-9626**.

"B/S Directory" advertisers have KP references, but this is not a specific recommendation by To The Point /staff.

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“Letters” continued from page 7

Frankly I feel abused with such a huge increase. Paying for meters and vehicles, forever, sounds bogus to me. We have no way of knowing how well the KPUC is managed. As a private company, they probably feel it is none of our business. But a strong management approach certainly would minimize waste. A well managed company would have looked at some additional alternatives to cover the shortfall. For instance, future initial hookup fees could be increased to help reduce this burden and mitigate a disproportionate increase. What will happen the next time there is an oops?

Is there a sound basis for this increase or is it a “plug number” which is a surrogate for marginal management? For those of you who may be away for extended periods have you wondered how the KPUC is spending your \$28.60 soon to be \$32.60/month. Well it didn't go for meters or vehicles!

If you feel as I do, then I strongly encourage you to email the WUTC and voice an objection to the increase as it is currently proposed. You might also want to copy the KPOA administration so they know our concerns. I also encourage you to share this email with your neighbors so that we speak with one voice. If a majority of the Kala Point residents were to voice their objections to the WUTC, then the KPUC would be forced to find some less draconian approach to a rate increase.

Pete Juliano, 40 Cedarview Drive.

Dear Kala Point Residents,

I am writing this letter to say thanks to whomever wrote the letter on how service workers have been treated at Kala Point. I just finished a letter to the Hedlind family letting them know how much Mr. Hedlind meant to me and that he will be greatly missed. Just as Debbie is getting the not so nice comments and letters from some in Kala Point, I did too when I first started delivering the mail here. Mr. Hedlind is someone who helped me make it. He called me “Sunshine” and gave me a hug everyday. He was 96 when I met him and his family requested home delivery as he couldn't walk to

the mail box. He was a wonderful man.

I have gotten to know and care for many people at Kala Point, so when I hear comments or get notes, the good people I know in KP definitely out-weigh the negative. So, I just wanted to say thank you to Ann M. Bassador who wrote the article and say that it meant a lot to me.

I love what I do, and hope that you, as residents of Kala Point, know that I take great pride and care in delivering your mail. If you have any questions, comments, or complaints, either leave a note in your mail box or just stop and talk to me when you see me. I am willing to listen if you are willing to talk to me directly. Thanks a Lot, Shannon Pruitt, “Your Mail Gal.”

Funny Money

This holiday season as you go shopping and spending here are some fun money facts to consider: The term “greenback” came from non-interest-bearing notes called Demand Notes, issued by the U.S. in 1861. These notes, with their green backs, were used to finance the Civil War. There are 5 million households in the United States with net worth in excess of \$1 million. There are about 450 billionaires in the world. About 150 of these live in the United States. Martha Washington is the only woman whose portrait has ever appeared on a U.S. currency note. Her portrait was on the face of the \$1 silver certificate issues of 1886 and 1891, and on the back of the \$1 silver certificate of 1896. Every day the Bureau of Engraving and Printing produces about 38 million new banknotes with an average face value of \$541 million. 490 one-dollar-bills weigh one pound. A million one-dollar-bills would weigh 2,040 pounds. The projected Federal Budget Deficit for 2005 of \$521 billion is enough to build a stack of \$1 bills stretching 35,931 miles high.

Your 2005 Kala Point assessment now seems small, doesn't it? Only 58,800-and-some pennies

Happy Holidays.... and remember money doesn't always bring happiness: the guy with \$10 million is no happier than the guy with \$9 million.

I Take Issue With That...

By Editorial Staff

2005 BUDGET/ ASSESSMENT PACKAGE on KPOA Website (kalapoint.org) or Administration Office

Revenue & Expenses Account Detail, pages 3-6.

Compensation Detail by Employee, page 10 (hours, wage rate, benefits).

Reserve Balances: 12 Year Forecast, page 16.

Itemized List of Reserve Assets: \$ & Replacement Year, pages 11 & 20.

The above summarizes the key documents you may want to review prior to submitting your vote to approve/disapprove the 2005 budget package.

Budgeting & Assessments

Your KPOA assessment is going up again. It will always go up unless KPOA members take a good look at the budget proposals in **August** (or earlier) each year. That allows for research into comparable costs, questions to the board and administration at the two budget meetings for members, letters to the community or whatever it takes to trim out some of the padding.

At this point, a member dissatisfied with the assessment increase can only vote "No" at the December budget meeting, and that will not change the approval percentages. As it currently stands, more than half of the population of KP would have to vote NO on a budget to vote it down. This is a percentage that makes this very unlikely.

Of course, the budget is only a studied estimate of how actual costs and income will develop – so a little padding is prudent. However, KPOA's 30% increase in operating expenses over the past four years is out of proportion with the regional increase in cost of living or in the operating ex-

penses of governmentally-capped institutions. [Note: Operating expenses do not include outlays for capital items such as the new bridge, vehicles, etc.]

The table below shows the four-year increase with figures for odd years only.

KPOA	2001	2003	2005	% increase over 4 years
Reg ass.	\$249,780	\$285,417	\$326,260	30.6%
unit ass.	\$460	\$524	\$589	28.0%
Budgeted operating expenses	\$304,608	\$332,235	\$374,528	30%

If you go over the KPOA 2005 budget proposal, you will see that legal services are estimated to come in at \$12,000. That's an item where membership comments might have cut down the inclination to turn to our expensive lawyer for advice too often. Other questionable items are the high reserve allocation and the extraordinary deductible on Directors' and Officers' liability insurance: excessive increases in health insurance and wages for our employees.

Be alert next year. Both newsletters will be giving late-summer reminders to review the proposals for 2006, and we are counting on you to do it. In addition, we will be having a series of articles throughout the spring reviewing some of the above mentioned items. Meanwhile, be happy you didn't buy on Bell Hill in Sequim. They are redoing their roads and culverts next year so assessments for 2005 will jump by 325% for that year only!

Co. Library Open House

Mark December 16 to visit the County Library for the annual open-house (late afternoon). It is sponsored by the Friends organization.

After the open-house, 7:00 p.m., there is an Inquiring Mind program — "Thomas Jefferson: Visionary or Imperialist?"
