



Kala Point News & Views

October 2008

Formerly known as newSkoop

Serving our Community with Information

new kpoa president holds impressive meeting **“Atta Boy” for KPOA President Lane Stuart**

Two KPNV (Kala Point News & Views) editors attended the board meeting on September 9th and were impressed with the management of the meeting led by Lane Stuart.

Stuart’s meeting skills drew all the board members into the discussion which encouraged voicing varying opinions and involvement.

Stuart also proposed several measurable board goals as well as encouraging others for suggestions. Stuart approached all issues in an orderly and logical manner resulting in a meeting that covered a lot of territory while keeping the meeting moving as well as allowing time for discussion and member comments.

port townsend school bond issue

On November 4th, we will have the opportunity to vote on a bond issue similar to the one, which narrowly lost in May. The new proposal of over \$35.6 million is approximately \$1.75 million more than the prior issue. The requested increase is said to be due to an escalation in construction costs and fees of approximately 15% from now to the proposed spring, 2009 bid date. The proposed bond includes funding the construction of a new K-5 elementary school (\$34.6 million) on the existing Grant Street Elementary campus with the remaining \$1 million for health and safety improvements at the high school and middle school, an improved district-wide 911 communications system and upgrades in transportation.

Based on the prior bond proposal, the initial plan was to build the new school on the Grant Street playfield area and, after construction was completed, demolish the old school. The new proposal anticipates closing and demolishing the Grant Street School and temporarily moving all the K-2 students to Mountain View Elementary School. By doing that, it is felt that the construction time and cost could be reduced because the contractors could have access to the entire site. After the new school is opened, Mountain View would probably be closed as it is generally believed that the district should have only three schools.

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If approved, an estimate of an additional 52 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value during the first year has been stated. On a \$300,000 house, the additional annual tax would be approximately \$156.00. Declining Port Townsend school enrollment - a trend expected to continue at least until 2013-sets up an emotional conflict. People with school age children naturally seek the best physical facilities.

Many people of retirement age, especially those living on a fixed income in today's inflationary environment, feel that they've paid enough, are suspicious of government spending at every level, and are looking for fiscal restraint. Almost everyone would agree that educating our children is a top priority.

Before voting on November 4th, voters may want answers to the following questions:

1. Does a new school really have to cost that much?
2. Have all the options been discussed, even those perhaps not favored by the school staff?
3. Why the additional \$1.75 million at a time when the cost of commodities such as construction materials have fallen due to a decline in commercial construction activity and the contractors have clear access to the whole Grant School site?
4. Details of reduction in operating costs with a new school?
5. What happens to Mountain View?
6. Is it finally time to discuss the combining of Port Townsend & Chimacum school districts?

A community member currently managing schools construction with a statewide agency; reported that contrary to claims of some bond supporters, construction costs are actually now declining and many more trades are bidding school projects with the decline in other construction sectors. He reports that sub-contractor bid openings in recent months have experienced typically 3 times as many participants as last year, and that many bids are coming in under construction estimates established before the current slowdown.

new water company owner makes many improvements

Efficient, Sound Operations Benefit All Kala Point Residents
The new owners of the Kala Point Utility Company (KPUC) have made many improvements serving the interests of members with greatly improved efficiency and modernization. This is after decades of a customer-inefficient operation and a well-oiled cash cow for the Kala Point Developer Owner.

The new owner, Peninsula Water, headed by Sequim utility entrepreneur Eric Thomas, has, in recent months, dramatically reduced operating costs.

This was accomplished by laying off the long time manager, performing the monthly billing



System Owner Eric Thomas explaining the function of computer controller automating system operation.

service through his company at a cost of \$3,600 annually where previously the Kala Point Utility Company's accounting firm charged \$36,000 annually, and further reduced costs by eliminating the \$40,000 annual "consulting fee" paid to the Kala Point Developer Owner despite no demonstrated technical expertise or credentials. The result is an expense reduction of over \$100,000 annually, reducing the rate base, allowing for improvements to the water system without a rate increase.

Some of the improvements he has made is modernizing the waterworks and automating much of the operation. He immediately added a long-sought propane powered standby generator to assure water availability during sustained power outages.

Without the emergency generator, large portions of Kala Point at the higher elevations (top of KP Dr, Pinecrest, etc) would have only very limited water services and no fire flow during a power outage. The Developer Owner



Water System 100KW propane standby electric generator

repeatedly promised WA State Utility Regulators that they would install a generator, but never fulfilled that promise.

These improvements have been accomplished without any rate increases imposed on the 539 captive Kala Point owners comprising more than 95% of KPUC customers. KPUC is now one of five small area water systems operated by the family-owned Peninsula Water Co. here and in Sequim. The operations are self-capitalized through improvements in operating efficiency and economies of scale.

For those unfamiliar with KPUC history prior to the recent system sale: There were a long series of water service rate increases while bloated operating expenses, “consulting fees” and questionable asset purchases appeared to justify rate increases with the Washington Utility and Transportation Commission (WUTC). Despite member calls to intervene on behalf of KPOA members during this period, the KPOA board remained silent despite its fiduciary obligation to represent member interests.

Persons financially benefiting by KPOA non-engagement on behalf of owners included longtime Developer associates including board members. One board member who had been a longtime manager of the water company and Developer associate, was terminated by KPUC

at a time of financial problems which were claimed in support of requested rate increases. Following his abrupt termination, there was a note receivable in the amount of \$110,000 on the books of the water company according to KPUC financial records obtained from the WUTC; which regulates the local water utility. There have been no further rate increases filed or a public explanation of why the Developer Owner withdrew his rate increase request.

Frustrated with a total lack of KPOA member-interest representation by the Board, an alternative team of knowledgeable and interested Kala Point owners with utility financial and operational expertise organized a successful campaign outside KPOA with the State Utilities Commission back in December 2004, blocking what was then yet another double digit rate increase in a series of such increases. (See front page article dated Feb. 2005 which can be downloaded at www.ttpnewsletter.com/Newsletters/05_Feb.pdf).

This successful grass-roots campaign, described by the WUTC as “the most effective rate increase opposition effort they had ever seen against a privately held utility”, caused the Developer Owner of KPUC to withdraw the unwarranted rate increase request.

For managerial wages, salaries, benefits, and professional fees, the water company would have been allowed less than what was in the rate base prior to the rate increase request. It is likely that the new rates would have been less than the current rate. That could have explained why the rate increase was withdrawn and not resubmitted for the past 4 years.

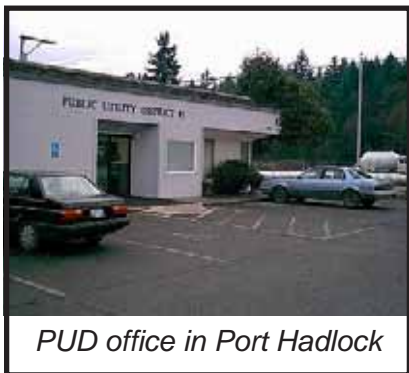
Under new management, the current rates allow for \$100,000 for improvement of the water system rather than questionable expenses including inefficiencies and disguised profit by the old management.

pud takeover of pse

Some Not So Random Facts And Thoughts

Proposition 1 states: “Shall Public Utility District No. 1 of Jefferson County construct or acquire electric facilities for the generation, transmission or distribution of electric power?”

Some proponents of the Proposition have interpreted it as merely authorizing the PUD to study the feasibility of taking over the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) system with respect to the potential benefit to the consumers. This is an erroneous interpretation of the Proposition. State law, governing elections on public power, basically states, “that voter approval authorizes the PUD to be in the electric business.”



PUD office in Port Hadlock

The PUD can take action without any further input from the electorate. It is the normal tendency for government agencies to expand their scope and authority when given the opportunity. I predict that the PUD will become our electric supplier if the Proposition is approved. The question is, will this be good or bad for the consumer? It’s a complex problem with insufficient hard information for the electorate to make a fully informed decision. But, considering that the PSE rates are higher than those of some 20 Washington State PUD’s, it is certainly a question, which should be investigated. Perhaps Proposition 1 should be rejected and a follow-on proposition be proposed which specifically limits the PUD’s authority to conducting a study. If the study indicates an

advantage to the consumer of a takeover of PSE, that action could subsequently be authorized by the electorate.

Usually, in a free market situation, private enterprise can out perform a government agency in providing satisfactory services and products at a lower price. Real or potential competition acts to establish performance levels and consumer cost. PSE does not operate under the restraints of competition but operates as a protected monopoly. The only restraints are those imposed by regulatory agencies. PSE has to be responsive to its investors. Apparently, PSE cannot provide competitive rates and still appease its investors. Is poor management or the avarice of its executives and investors to blame? PSE is currently requesting a rate increase even though its present rate is not competitive with PUD’s. What does the future hold if PSE continues to supply our electric power? Can we depend solely on a regulatory agency in Olympia, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, (UTC), to protect us? How often do they end up granting at least a part of a requested rate increase?



PSE office in Port Townsend

Puget Energy Inc, PSE’s parent company, is currently proposing a buyout by an Australian-Canadian consortium.

It contends this action is necessary to obtain access to capital required to accommodate customer growth and provide new energy sources. The result would be that our electric power will be provided by a foreign owned consortium subject to less oversight than currently is imposed on PSE. It will

result in a possible doubling of PSE's current debt of \$ 2.6 billion. PSE has, admittedly, a poor credit rating so acquisition of capital will not be cheap. Who ultimately pays for this debt load? The electric and gas customers of PSE through higher rates! Is this deal motivated in part by the fact it will result in large payments to PSE officers and a 25% increase in the value of stockholders holdings? The buyout proposal is opposed by both the Attorney General's Public Counsel Office and the UTC's staff on the basis it is not in the public interest. The Washington Attorney General says "the sale as proposed exposes PSE's customers to an undue level of financial risk by undertaking too much debt". I predict the UTC will eventually approve the buyout responsive to some negligible concessions by the consortium

The PUD would have to purchase the PSE infrastructure in order to become an electric provider. The cost of this acquisition is estimated to be between \$ 30 million and \$ 50 million. This debt, plus the cost of borrowing, would be borne by the 17,400 electric customers in Jefferson County. Using \$ 40 million as the principal of the required loan to acquire the PSE infrastructure, this would impose an average debt responsibility of \$ 2,300 on each customer, just for the principal not including the interest cost, an indeterminate amount. How will this increase the effective rate?

What is the condition of the PSE infrastructure? We know at Kala Point the underground cables are approaching their normal lifespan. Where else in Jefferson County are problems about to occur? With a smaller customer base the cost of any repairs could be significant for each customer and they would have to be paid through increased rates. What effect will be expected, just waiting to happen, repairs have on electrical rates?

Much has been made of the fact that under federal law PUD's are entitled to all the power that they need from the Bonneville Power Administration, (BPA), and some power is available at very low tier-one rates. BPA power is generated by the Columbia River, (hydroelectric), a nuclear plant and wind-farms. Some power would be available but a valid and unanswered question is what happens if the demand for BPA energy exceeds its "normal" low cost supply. BPA then has to buy energy from the wholesale market at higher prices. BPA no longer writes long term contracts because of the uncertainty of future power availability and cost. Power available to PUD's may not prove to be as cheap as touted by PUD proponents.

In summary, no conclusion or recommendation is given. A collection of facts has been presented in an attempt to provide better insight concerning the PSE/PUD issue; attention has been directed to several questions that need to be answered; speculation has been offered on what the future may hold; and a few comments have been added which perhaps just reflect the author's opinions. This is an important crossroads with respect to how electric power will be provided to Jefferson County in the future.



Many meetings are planned and much information has already been provided by the print medium concerning the PSE/PUD issue. You are urged to avail yourself of these sources of information in order that you can make an informed decision on 4 November, Election Day.

from the jefferson county administrator's desk:

This will be my last communication with you as the Interim County Administrator as it's anticipated the new County Administrator will be in place by mid-October.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you how much I've enjoyed working in Jefferson County, and being your neighbor, for these past few months. It's been a pleasure to meet many of you and I hope our paths cross again at some point.

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has hired Philip Morley from Edmonds as the new County Administrator. He was selected from a slate of 40 applicants and his most recent position was as Assistant City Manager of Maple Valley, a community of 20,000 southeast of Renton. Prior to that, he was Assistant General Manager of the Alderwood Water and Sewer District, serving a population of 225,000. He has a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Washington, is a Certified County Official and holds national certification by the American Institute of Certified Planners. Please join me in welcoming Philip Morley to Jefferson County.

On another note, you may recall back in April that Frank Gifford wrote about Jefferson County Public Works working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to develop a Corridor Plan. This is for SR 19/20 from SR 104 to the Port Townsend ferry dock. Its goal is to provide guidance to decision-makers for future improvements on the state routes.

The plan covers over 19 miles of SR 19 and SR 20 is being developed to identify ways to improve safety and reduce congestion. It will identify improvement opportunities and guide WSDOT investments in the corridor over a 20-year period. Routes are identified as Highways of Statewide Significance and provide a regional connection

between the Olympic Peninsula and Island County via the Port Townsend ferry.

The study will result in a prioritized list of short, mid and long term projects that can compete for state transportation funds. Study results will be documented in a final report at the conclusion of the Corridor Plan process.

In late August, WSDOT held a public meeting at Chimacum Creek Primary School in Port Hadlock. The summary from the meeting is located on WSDOT's Web site at www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/SR19/CorridorPlan/publicmeetings.htm.

The next Corridor Working Group meeting is scheduled for November 7th at the WSU Learning Center in Port Hadlock. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Corridor Plan as well as to give input on your views for the study.

For more information, on the Corridor Plan or the County's participation in it, please contact Josh Peters, Principal Transportation Planner, in Public Works at 385-9167 or jpeters@co.jefferson.wa.us.

-Denny Richards, Interim County Administrator

SR 19 - SR 20 Corridor Plan Project Facts

- The corridor study covers over 19 miles of SR 19 and SR 20 and will target congestion and safety issues.
- The study will identify improvement opportunities and guide WSDOT investments in the corridor over a 20-year period.
- This study will adopt the City of Port Townsend's Upper Sims Way project recommendations as the solution for SR 20 between Howard and Thomas Streets.



personal finance

How Safe is Your Brokerage Account?

By: Hank Krist

With the current turmoil in the securities markets,

you may have wondered about the safety of your brokerage account. Broker-dealers come under strict requirements and constant security from a number of regulatory bodies including the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Financial Industry Regulatory Agency (FINRA) at the national level, as well as state regulators.

SEC registered brokers are required to maintain adequate capital so that, if the firm fails, customers get back their cash and securities. Registered brokers must segregate customer funds and securities from the broker's own holdings, thus protecting customers from trading losses of the firm. In the event a firm fails, customer claims for funds and securities are given preference over any other claims on the company. Broker-dealers registered with the SEC are required by law to be members of the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (SIPC) which provides insurance for customer accounts.

The SIPC was created in 1970 by Congress to protect investor interests. It is not a government agency or a regulator but a nonprofit membership corporation funded by its member securities brokers. Nor is it an investor version of the FDIC which insures your bank account up to prescribed limits. If your broker fails, most, if not all, of your securities will be returned to you. After the broker's customer assets have been returned, SIPC steps in to replace securities and cash that are missing from your account.

SIPC covers missing assets up to a limit of \$500,000 per account type, of which \$100,000 may be claims for cash. In regard to money

market funds with shares valued at \$1.00, they are considered mutual funds and qualify for the full \$500,000 coverage limit. Each account that is a separate legal entity is treated on an individual basis i.e. your individual account, your trust, your IRA, your spouse's individual account, as well as a custodial account for a child.

There are, of course, some exceptions. SIPC doesn't compensate investors for declines in the value of their investments. Also, coverage excludes commodity futures contracts, foreign currency, precious metals, limited partnerships and fixed annuity contracts not registered with the SEC.

Due to space limitations, this article is meant to be only a brief summary of the protection provided by SIPC. Please contact your broker for a more complete explanation.



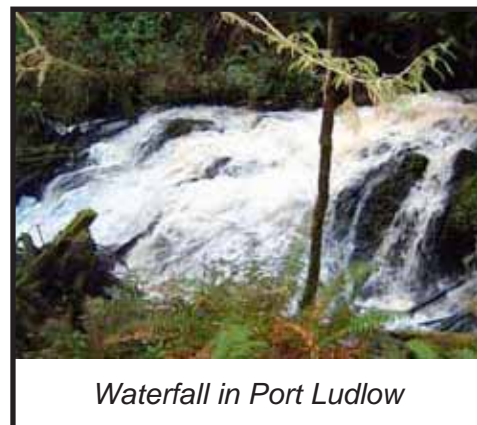
walking/hiking club

Get Your Name On The Hiking Email List!

If you would like to be put on the hiking email list where we send out announcements of the hiking schedule, contact Bill at 379-3808 or bkaune@cablespeed.com and Allen Vaa at allenvaa@hotmail.com. Remember, hikes are on Tuesday's at 9:00am.

For the rest of the hiking season, we are looking for hiking leaders to help lead the weekly hikes.

Please contact Allen Vaa at allenvaa@hotmail.com if you can volunteer as a hike leader and the dates that you would be available.



Waterfall in Port Ludlow

generics vs. brand-named drugs:

Is There a difference?

Several years ago a new Brand-name drug became available to treat “Over Active Bladder” (OVB) syndrome. My colleagues and I began to treat many patients that had urinary incontinence which is usually the end result of OVB. A large number of patients responded to the new drug and became free of or showed great improvement in their symptoms of urinary incontinence. The Brand-name drug called “Ditropan” became famous among our patients and across the nation. Many patients began to call Ditropan the “little blue miracle pill”. Several spinal and brain injured patients were tested in our laboratory with very sophisticated equipment that could actually show that involuntary bladder contractions diminished if the patients were taking Ditropan (generic name “Oxybutynin”).

Several years went by, and then almost overnight we began to receive phone calls and complaints that many of our patients on Ditropan were again experiencing symptoms of Urinary Incontinence. Not having a ready explanation for the increase of symptoms we elected to bring back those patients with the worse symptoms and retest their bladders. Much to our surprise the involuntary bladder contractions had returned. We were at a loss to explain what was happening. All patients confirmed they were taking their Ditropan as prescribed. Still not sure of the cause, one afternoon during a patient exam I asked the patient to remove her pill bottle from her purse in order to look first hand at the medication. To my surprise the pill bottle was labeled “Oxybutynin” (generic for Ditropan) but the pills were pink and had a different shape than the “little blue pill”.

To make a long story short Ditropan became available as a generic and the pharmacy and insurance companies were substituting the generic Oxybutynin for the Brand-named (Ditropan). With this revolution we notified all of our patients that were on generic Oxybutynin and placed them back on original brand of Ditropan. We retested their bladders and the symptoms of Urinary Incontinence were again under control.

During this time period physicians were mostly unaware when a Brand-name became available as a generic. Now we know that after an average of 17 years Brand-named pharmaceuticals will lose their patents and the drug companies can continue to make the drug as a



generic or another drug manufacturer can begin to make the drug as a therapeutic substitute or generic. The generic drugs are almost always cheaper for patients and even the manufacturing process is also usually cheaper.

Generic medications have been a boon to consumers around the world, allowing millions to buy lifesaving drugs for pennies a day. Some 65% of all prescriptions dispensed in the U.S. are for generics, though they account for only 20% of the dollars spent, according to the Generic Pharmaceutical Association. While there is little hard evidence of growing problems from generics, consumers and physicians are increasingly concerned as cost pressures push

more patients' away from Brand-name drugs. At the same time, the globalization of pharmaceutical manufacturing has revealed regulatory lapses (many of you will recall the horror stories about Heparin, a blood thinner, made in China).

By law, generics must have the same active ingredients and the same action as the Brand-name version. This allows them to piggyback on the original safety and efficacy trial. However the startling fact is, that the FDA allows generics to produce blood concentrations as much as 20% below or 25% above that of the original Brand-named drug and still be considered "bioequivalent". This probably explains what happened to our patients with OVB. They were simply not receiving bioequivalent or enough active drug.

The FDA is well aware of the forgoing problems and has developed a FDA rating system for all generic drugs. The generic are mainly divided into two categories - "A" drugs are considered bioequivalent to the Brand-named and "B" drugs have not been demonstrated to be bioequivalent by an in vitro test. The "B" drugs are generally older drugs that were approved by the FDA on the basis of chemistry, manufacturing controls and in vitro dissolution tests. The FDA claims that less than 3% of marketed generic drugs have a "B" rating.

So, do generics really work as well as the Brand-named drugs? There are many studies that have shown that generics are equivalent biologically. On the other hand some researchers and several physicians have noted differences for certain drugs (remember our Over Active Bladder patients). Further more, though the active ingredients are the same, the composition of the products (drugs) may differ. A generic tablet may be harder or softer, which could affect how quickly it dissolves and is absorbed. This becomes more important in "time

released "medications. In fact the FDA received a report in 2006 that when patients were switched from the Brand-named drug Wellbutrin XL 300 to the generic (Bupropion XL) many patients suffered side effects or had a relapse in relief of their depression. Analysis by ConsumerLab.com showed that the release of the active drug was much faster in the generic drug. Roughly 4 times more drug was released after the first 2 hours of intake. This is called "dose dumping" and could cause the patients to have seizures – a concern with the Brand-named drug as well.

Thus, the original question was, is there a difference between Brand-named drugs and generics. The answer is yes there can be. Consumers need to know that there can be important variations between generic and Brand-named drugs, and from one generic to another. Fortunately most generics meet the qualification as being bioequivalent and as a result the consumer can purchase cheaper medications.

Still, the patient must remain in the loop as the end users of each Brand-name or generic drug. The key point to remember: stay informed and be alert. If you are switched to a generic monitor your condition and symptoms. Notify your doctor and/or your pharmacist should your symptoms change or you develop new side effects. They should file a "Med-Watch Report" to the FDA, but in case they do not you should. To file a report call Med-Watch at 800 322-1088 for the form. Or download the form at www.fda/medwatch/how.htm.

BY: Ronald Tacker, PhD, MD*

**This is a complex and sometimes controversial subject, if you have questions please call me and I will do my best to assist your understanding of some of the issues.*

port ludlow garden club

What's Wrong With My Plant?

By Pattie Cole

On Wed. Oct. 8, 2008, David Deardorff will speak on "What's Wrong With My Plant? How



Botanist David Deardorff

to Recognize and Safely Treat P l a n t Problems." He will provide images and a step-by-step diagnostic method to give

the tools to answer that all important question and find what to do about it. You will learn how to select the right plant for the right place, improve growing conditions, attract beneficial insects, and the use of safe organic remedies.

David Deardorff, PhD, is a botanist who uses public speaking, writing, and photography to explain the science and beauty of the natural world. He is co-author, with Katherine Wadsworth, of the book "What's Wrong With My Plant?" which will be published this fall.



This is a brown bag luncheon. Doors open at 11:00 a.m. Beverage service and desserts will be furnished by PLGC. There will be a \$5 charge for non-members. Dues (\$20) for the

2008 gardening year may be paid at the October meeting or mailed to PLGC, POB 65235, Port Ludlow, WA 98365.

plant sale - october 4th

A Great Selection of Plants

By Sylvia Bowman

A great selection of plants will be for sale from 9:00 to 1:00, Saturday October 4th, at the Tri-Area Community Center. This is the Tri-Area Garden Club's annual fund-raiser, with proceeds going to scholarships, civic work and club activities.



Good prices, Boy Scouts

to carry your purchases, and healthy plants donated by Members and local nurseries: Secret Gardens, Four Corners, Far Reaches Farms, Henery's, Tru-Value, Naylor Creek and Dragonfly. Come and enjoy yourselves.

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The Village Barber- "...Because life's too short for a bad haircut!" 741 Ness' Corner Rd, Port Hadlock. Brad Garrison Gray & Mike Clark. Tues thru Fri-9-5, Sat-9-4. **Call 385-6865.**

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having fun in kala point

hiking club: Get on the email roster to receive hiking details
artist guild: Fall Art Show Oct. 12th. Do your Christmas Shopping Early!
fun n games: Oktoberfest at the clubhouse: Oct. 18th.

Kala Point News & Views

kala point artist guild

Fall Art Show

Christmas is coming!

Do your Christmas shopping early!



When: October 12, 2008

Where: Dream City Market & Café
23 Kala Square Place
Port Townsend

Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

We have over 20 artist's presenting their original art!

Ready to hang art in:

**Oils* Water Color* Pastels*
Acrylic* Photography***

**Other Beautiful works of art
in these categories:**

Fine Beaded Jewelry* Stain Art Glass*
Fused Art Glass* Two Fine Potters*
Homemade Chocolates* Garden Fairies*
Many more to be added to our Fall Show*

**Dream City Market and Café'
will be open just for us.**

You can purchase coffee, pastries, and cookies. So plan to stay awhile, talk awhile, get to know your local artist's. Imagine how art can elevate your mood!

Visit www.kpag.org for more information about each artist and view art from all our artists!

no emergency generator for admin building

The Right Decision Based On The Right Reasoning

An item of old business at the KPOA regular Board meeting of 9 September was to vote with respect to spending \$ 10,000 to provide the administration building with an emergency generator. It had been proposed by the Emergency Preparedness Committee, (EPC), to establish an Emergency Operations Center, (EOC), at the administration building. The generator would provide the necessary power to the EOC, especially to operate a communications system for the purpose of communicating outside and within the Kala Point Community. The EPC premise was there could be a catastrophic disaster which would isolate the Kala Point Community from sources of information and assistance from outside entities including Jefferson County and Washington State.

The EPC envisioned a community-wide network of trained Kala Point residents who would be activated when a disaster occurred. They would provide essential services including communications to and from block captains in each neighborhood, damage assessment from an established team and first aid. This is an excellent objective but the community has not shown significant interest to support such a plan. **For instance, every neighborhood does not have block captains** so dissemination of information from and to the EOC would not occur, at least not as planned.

The Board discussed the need for the emergency generator. The conclusion was reached that there was no clear understanding of the value of establishing an EOC or the need to provide communications capability. The Board

opposed spending \$ 10,000 for the emergency generator. During the discussion it was noted that \$ 20,000 had already been allocated to the EPC and it was questioned “what is there to show for that expenditure?” That is a pertinent question which should be answered for the community.

The EPC was authorized in January 1999. There is a comprehensive KPOA Administrative Policy and Procedure addressing the EPC. The community members who have worked on the EPC over the years are to be commended for their efforts in implementing their responsibilities. They have developed well thought out comprehensive plans. They have published a Kala Point Emergency Response Handbook which is potentially a valuable resource for each family in responding to emergency situations, but it needs to be read to be useful. But the best plans are necessarily weak in application without the support of the community to which it applies. The EPC is supposed to report the status of emergency preparedness to the Board each September. Many of the Board members did not seem well versed on EPC plans and activities.

The Kala Point emergency response plan relies on the preparation of each community member as the most important survival element. Community wide response, coordinated by the EOC, includes four areas of emergency service: First Aid, Damage Assessment and Safety, Emergency Communications and Pet Management. These services will be more difficult to coordinate effectively without a fully functional EOC but can be provided with proper preparations which do not rely on the EOC. It should be recognized that KPOA does not have the resources to stock an EOC or relief shelter which is an important element in reducing the

No Emergency Generator For Admin Building

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deleterious effects on residents after a disaster. Kala Point residents must recognize that they will be on their own with respect to sustaining themselves until outside assistance arrives on the scene.

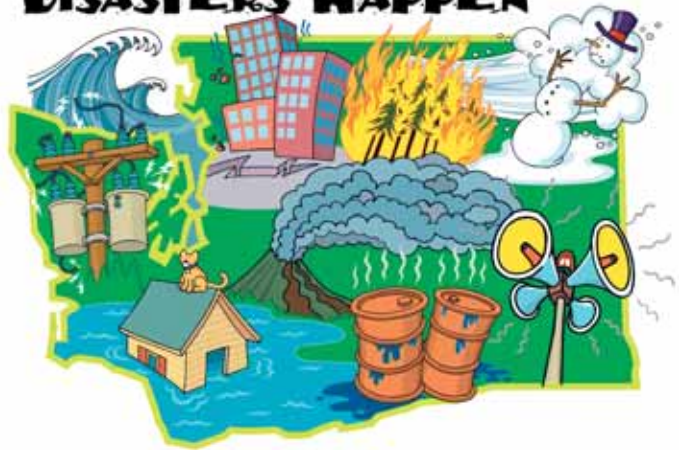
Perhaps the basic premise that the Kala Point Community will be cut off from outside assistance lacks some credibility with its members. Maybe that is why community support for emergency preparedness is lacking. There are three types of disaster threats which are most probable: a forest fire, a wind storm and an earthquake. A forest fire affecting Kala Point would not envelope the surrounding areas because of the vegetation pattern and terrain. It certainly would not disable East Jefferson Fire and Rescue from providing immediate aid. A wind storm would be more wide-spread and could cause loss of power, closure of roads and damage to structures. But it doesn't seem probable that Kala Point would be cut off from external assistance very long although County and State resources might be severely strained. A strong earthquake seems to be the only natural disaster which could isolate Kala Point for an extended period of time. A fully operating EOC and implementation of an effective emergency plan could certainly alleviate the effects of an earthquake but again it will be the preparedness of the members which will be most important.

While communications, damage assessment and coordination are niceties, which would prove their value during a disaster, the most important functions, which can best be handled only on a community wide basis, are advanced first aid and pet management. Perhaps emphasis in these two areas can best utilize limited resources. A concerted drive to increase first aid education in the community would pay

immediate dividends with respect to meeting daily incidences of injury or medical problems before professional aid can arrive. Further development of actions and facilities to identify pets and contain and feed them during an emergency is a service beneficial to the entire community and can be achieved with limited funds.

It is recommended that the Board adopt

DISASTERS HAPPEN



as one of its goals this year to become fully informed on emergency plans and status and act to support the strengthening of the community's preparedness through dissemination of information to the community and the judicious utilization of limited funds.

world's easiest questions?

- 1) How long did the Hundred Years' War last?
- 2) Which country makes Panama hats?
- 3) From which animal do we get cat gut?
- 4) In which month do Russians celebrate the October Revolution?

- 4) November
- 3) Sheep and Horses
- 2) Ecuador
- 1) 116 years

Answers: