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Service Agencies of the Island

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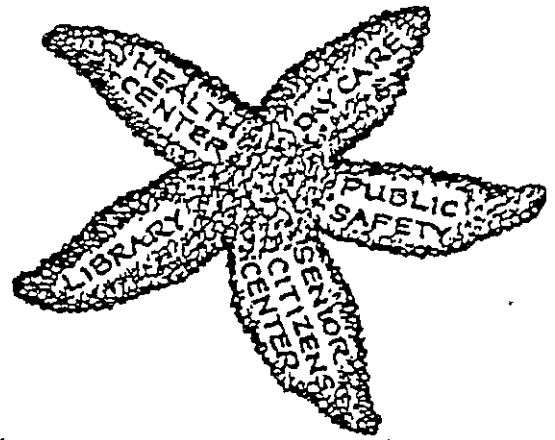
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Peaks Island STAR



Newsletter of the Island's Service Agencies & other Community News

February 2015

Volume 35

Issue 2

PEAKS ISLAND GIRL SCOUT TROOP 1977

It is Girl Scout Cookie time !!! The Peaks Island Girl Scouts --- Brownies and Juniors--- will begin taking Girl Scout Cookie orders in February. We will also be selling cookies beginning on Saturdays in early March at the Peaks Café and Hannigan's Market. Be on the look out in early March for signs announcing Girl Scout Cookie sales.

For more information contact: Diane Ricciotti 766-5183
Karen Peterson 766-2226

PEAKS ISLAND COUNCIL (PIC)

-Upcoming February Meetings to be Held at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center-

February 11, 2015 – This meeting will be held to continue discussion on the 2015 Budget.

February 25, 2015 – This will be a regular meeting of PIC with continued work on the 2015 Budget.

Regularly scheduled PIC meetings for 2015 will be held on the 4th Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

“Need Based” Tickets for Casco Bay Lines Ferry

The Peaks Island Council has allocated transportation money for ferry tickets for year round Peaks Island residents in “financial need” i.e. buying tickets creates a financial hardship for them.” The tickets should be used for emergency situations or unforeseen circumstances, that would justify receipt of a free ferry ticket. That decision will be made by the organizations listed below to the best of their judgement. **THESE TICKETS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED EQUITABLY TO INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.** The organizations that have “need based” tickets for distribution are: The Food Pantry, Peaks Island Children’s Workshop, The Health Center, and St. Christopher’s Church (Susan Hanley 332-2443).

SENIOR LUNCHEON NEWS

One cure for cabin fever is the **February Potluck Luncheon**. Come on out on Monday, the 9th to the Fay Garman House. Please bring a dish to share and join us at noon. All Seniors are welcome! If you don’t consider yourself a Senior, come anyway!!

PEAKS ISLAND TAX AND ENERGY ASSISTANCE(PITEA)

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

The temperature keeps moving up and down. After a couple of mild days we are jolted into reality when the temperature plummets to 5 degrees or so. It is wintertime in Maine. The cold weather brings fuel demands as well. We are using more fuel to keep our homes warm. Luckily fuel costs have gone down making it a little easier for us to pay our energy bills. However, those on fixed incomes are still having a more difficult time paying energy bills. PITEA would like to remind folks that we are here to assist with fuel costs so that our neighbors are staying warm. Applications for Energy Assistance are on the bulletin board at the Library. Please follow the instructions so that your application can be processed quickly. Once you are approved the Clergy will notify Plante or Peaks Island Fuel so that fuel will be delivered. Each applicant may receive up to \$300 of fuel.

If you have a neighbor who is struggling with energy costs, please urge them to apply for assistance. You may also phone Pastor Boyle, Pastor Tarbox or Minister Ruth Williamson and the Clergy will check on the family. We do not want to interfere but we want folks to know that we are here, we have funds available for approved applicants, and we are the source for assistance on the Island. The State has programs for Keep Maine Warm and we are on the Maine 211 list for assistance.

Right now our accounts can meet the demand for energy assistance. We have received some generous donations including \$1500 from Lionel Plante Associates, \$500 matching fund gift from Chevron, \$100 per month for the past few years from a wonderful summer family and more. However, we have many weeks to go before warmer weather returns so we will continue our Loaf and Ladle Fundraiser. On Sunday, February 15th, from 5-7 p.m. at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Hall we will be serving Sloppy Joes, Meat Chili, Vegetarian Chili, Chips, Cole Slaw, Desserts and more. The cost is \$7 per adult and \$2.50 per child. We hope to see you there. The members of our committee provide the food, paper goods, etc. so that the money we receive is deposited into the Energy Account. Good company, delicious food and good neighbors add up to a fun dinner.

We want to advertise our March event as well. We will be sponsoring an "After the Oscars" Party On Sunday, March 8th from 5-7 p.m. We will be serving finger foods such as chicken wings, chicken tenders, artichoke dip, spinach dip, stuffed mushrooms, ham on biscuits, beef on a skewer, desserts, and much, much more, Come dressed as your favorite Oscar winner, come dressed as your favorite movie star, and celebrate the newest Oscar winners and more. We will have "Swag." Jane Gerard and Mary Arnold will be chairing this exciting event with the help of the committee. Come and join in the frivolity. Bring your neighbors and friends and have a fun evening here on Peaks.

TAX ASSISTANCE

Since Portland will soon be mailing out the next property tax bills, we just wanted to remind you that our clergy, Pastor Beau Boyle, Pastor Angela Tarbox, or Retired Minister Ruth Williamson will assist you whether this is your first time applying or you have applied before. The procedure is easy, your anonymity is assured, and we are anxious to help islanders remain in their homes. Applications will be on the Library Bulletin Board on Feb. 8th. Taxes are due at the end of February.

We thank all of our very generous friends who have helped us to give tax assistance to friends and neighbors who are permanent residences of Peaks Island. We could not do this without you! If you would like to contribute to our 501c3, please mail your donation to Peaks Island Tax Assistance, PO Box 126, Peaks Island, Maine 04108.

Cynthia Pedlikin (766-0067) for The Peaks Island Tax Assistance Committee

Peaks Island Elementary School

January has been a month of exploring our island landmarks, experimenting with science and studying the phenomenon of snowflakes. To further the study of landmarks and stewardship we at PIES were recently awarded a grant for the identification of historic trees and the planting of new apple trees! Look for more information about this exciting endeavor in the months to come as the weather warms and the planting season begins.

Thanks to our PTO, and our Strings Teacher Ms. Ashley Terison, we invited the mid-coast group Castlebay who presented a performance of Irish tales and legends set to harp and violin. What a lovely afternoon it was.

Our students preformed a lively winter concert for our community on Thursday January 22, and are preparing to preform their play "McQuadle: A Dragon's Tale" next week on January 29th.

February is shaping up to be just as busy at PIES. We would like to extend a warm invitation to our Senior Citizens and of our community to join us for lunch on February 12th at 12:10. We will need to know the number of guests. Please call the school and let us know that you are planning to attend. 766-2528

Cost for the lunch is \$4.00 per adult.

The students have been working all year on a multidisciplinary arts, creative movement science and dance performance through a grant from the Peaks Island Fund. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us on Thursday, February 26th at 6:15pm for this original, creative, collaborative community event.

Peaks PTO have started a chess club. Please feel free to come to the school and join in the fun every Tuesday morning from 7:30-8:15.

Loretta Voyer Fund

The Loretta Voyer Fund (LVF), founded in 2000, continues as a living memorial to Loretta Voyer. The LVF's mission includes assisting those Peaks Islanders requiring chemotherapy and radiation treatment for cancer as well as those receiving treatment for other life limiting diseases. Circumstances can be subject to individual review.

We offer ferry tickets for a vehicle with passenger, and if a driver/car is needed, the Board Members will find a volunteer to help you. Our goal is to provide a quiet and less taxing boat ride during this stressful time.

We do hope islanders will avail themselves of this opportunity. Loretta would want anyone who found themselves in circumstances similar to her own to have this option. It can mitigate the actual medical experience as well as help family members.

We wish to thank the artisans of the December 2014 Loretta Voyer Holiday Craft Fair for their generous donation. Also thank you for all the donations from islanders and friends who helped support us this year.

The following members of the LVF Board may be contacted for more information, donations and/or tickets: Melissa Conrad, Jerry Garman, Kathy McCarthy, Jan Thomas or Suellen Roberts, (354 Seashore Avenue, 766-2161, sbwatersedge@earthlink.net). We wish to thank all who have supported Loretta's Fund and we look forward to the island's continued support.

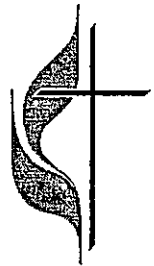
Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church

We are a Welcoming, Inclusive, and Reconciling Congregation

9 Church Ave., Peaks Island, ME 04108

Rev. Angela Tarbox, Pastor

207-766-5013; www.brackettmumc.org; brackettmumc@yahoo.com



Anyone is welcome to join any of our worship, fellowship, or mission opportunities.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10am. Followed by an informal time of food and fellowship in the church hall.

Adult Scripture Study Thursdays, 10-11:30am at the parsonage (9 Church Ave.).

No Bible Study on February 12 or 19.

Prayer Shawl Ministry Fridays 10:30am – 12:30pm at the parsonage (9 Church Ave.). No Prayer Shawl on February 13 or 20.

Peaks Island Food Pantry at Brackett Church Mondays, 3:30-5pm. If you would like to donate non-perishable food, there are drop-off locations at the Community Center and Brackett Church.

After School Bible School Wednesdays, 12:30-2:30pm. Children in grades K-5 are invited to join us for some fun, snacks, and games as we learn through the Bible how to recognize God in the world and to treat one another with love and compassion. No Bible School February 11 or 18.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN FEBRUARY:

Sunday, February 22, 10am: Worship on the first Sunday of Lent will be led by Rev. Priscilla Dreyman.

Please make her feel welcome to our Peaks Island community as she prepares us for this time of reflection and preparation.

Friday, February 27, 6:30pm: Family Movie Night. Join us to watch a family oriented movie in our newly renovated and cozy Church Family Room. Bring your snacks (we'll have the popcorn) and your family for a fun, free, community night at Brackett Church. This month, we'll be watching **Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief** (Rated PG). "Modern & mythical worlds collide in this thunderous fantasy-adventure.... Percy Jackson is no ordinary teenager... he's just learned he's the son of Poseidon and is accused of stealing Zeus' lightning bolt! With storm clouds brewing, Percy embarks on an incredible cross-country journey to prove his innocence." All children must be accompanied by an adult.

PEAKS ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAM (PEAT)

February 2015 Meeting and forum

Almost Everything You Need to Know About Air Sealing and Insulating the Building Envelope of Your Home. Presenters: Heather Thompson and Mark Pollard- 7 pm, Monday, February 9 th at the MacVane Community Center.

PEAT Board meeting will be at 6 pm; all are welcome to attend.

"LIKE" us on Facebook!

St. Christopher's Catholic Church

Rector: Father Michael Seavey at 773-7746

Sunday Mass is at 10 AM followed by fellowship in the Parish House.

All are welcome. Details for other Masses at <http://www.portlandcatholic.org/>

For questions concerning Baptism, Reconciliation & Marriage, please contact Father Mike.

Lent Begins with an Ecumenical Ash Wednesday service for all Islanders at 7 PM on February 18th, this year at St. Christopher's.

Share Scripture with Islanders from 9:30 to 11 AM each Thursday in the Parish House.

Cancer Support Group meets from 7 to 8 PM on Tuesday, February 17th in the Parish House.

AA meets Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 PM in the Parish House.

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American Legion Post 142 Ramp Drive

Our Peaks Island American Legion Post 142 is in the midst of a fundraising drive to install an accessibility ramp for those veterans and guests who need assistance.

We plan to install a galvanized steel ramp that will be placed at our back entrance and terminate in our parking area off Brackett Avenue. At this time we are hoping to complete the project this coming summer.

We have reached about half of our goal to fund this project and are absolutely thrilled by the generosity displayed by so many islanders and friends. As we move forward with our fund drive we encourage you our friends to continue showing that spirit and help us to improve our Post. We all want to maintain the sense of service to the community that is the essence of the American Legion. Thank you.

*Jamie Semon, Commander
PO Box 118*

*American Legion Post 142
Peaks Island, ME 04108*

February at the Peaks Island Branch Library

in the Community Building 766-5540 email peaks@portland.lib.me.us

Hours Open: Tues 2-8 Wed 10-4 Fri 10-2 Sat 8-12

Middle School Book Club will meet Tuesday, February 17, at 5:45pm. We are officially a year old. We celebrated with cupcakes and ice cream. It just so happens Patricia Erikson saw (or heard) our celebration and wrote about us. Check it out at www.peaksislandpress.com, thank you Patricia! We are now ready and eager for our second year. Once again we are reading a book that we've suggested for each other. It was fun last time, so we thought we would try it again. Join us for our next get together. You can sit and listen or join in the conversation. If you have a book you'd like to tell us about we'd love to hear from you. We welcome all 6th 7th or 8th graders!

First Tuesdays Book Discussion: meets at 7 pm in the Community Room. For the meeting on March 1, the book will be *Mr. Emerson's Wife* by Amy Belding Brown. On February 3, they will discuss *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff. Books are available through the library. All are welcome.

Young Children's Weekly Programs: Infants and Toddlers are welcome to join their friends from the Children's Workshop at the library for a program of nursery rhymes, songs, and board books on Wednesdays at 10:15. Story Time for Pre-Schoolers is on Fridays at 10:15. Island children, their guests, and island visitors are all welcome.

Taxes – 2015

Due to budget cuts at the Federal Level – the only forms that will be available at the library are Forms 1040, 1040A and 1040EZ. Instruction booklets will not be available at the library but you can order them sent to you, either by requesting them online or by calling 1-800-829-2676. You can also download them from the IRS web site.

The State of Maine no longer sends out tax forms. You can obtain a Maine tax form by requesting online, calling (207)-624-7894 or printing from the Maine.gov website.

If you do not have a computer or a printer, you can print forms at the library for 10 cents a page. We will be glad to help anyone get what they need. We also have ordered sample instruction booklets that you can use.

Maine no longer applies the Rent Rebate refund separately in the fall. This refund is now included in your income tax filing. It is one of the first questions on the form.

Volunteers from AARP will be at the Main Library to help patrons file their taxes (free of charge!) Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 AM to close – last appointment at 5:30 – starting February 3rd and going through April 15th. Call 207-699 4289 to make appointments. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Information and Research desk. We are happy to help!

Free Museum Pass

The Peaks Island Branch Library has a free pass available to the Portland Museum of Art that can be "checked out" at the library. The pass is good for a specific day and may be reserved ahead of time. It will admit 2 adults and up to 6 children. Questions? Come into the library or phone us, 5540.

Peaks Island Health Center

87 Central Avenue

Hours: Monday and Thursday: 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Kitty Gilbert, Family Nurse Practitioner, provides care for all ages.

Please call either **766-2929** or **874-2466** for an appointment.

As we head into a new year, we want to remind ALL Peaks Islanders, no matter where you receive your primary care, that **you may have blood drawn at the Health Center.** Please call the Health Center for an appointment, and bring (or have faxed) a written order from your primary care physician. The Health Center Fax is: **207-766-5073**

Because we care about your health and safety, we urge you to take advantage of the offer of a **home fire inspection** outlined elsewhere in the STAR. It's one thing to have working fire alarms in place. It's another to have a fireman run fire scenarios in your own home with family members present. This is truly an opportunity for all Peaks Islanders to prepare for this potential disaster.

And we would like to thank all of you who have sent checks in support of the Health Center's Annual Fund--income which is so essential to our ability to play our part in providing quality healthcare on the Island. If **your contribution to the Annual Fund** is still on your to-do list, please mail your check to the Peaks Island Health Center at P.O. Box 52; it will be most gratefully received.

Peaks Island Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

Our CERT Team needs more volunteers to serve Islanders and help the firefighters in case of a disaster or other emergency.

**For more information,
call Al Bleau at 766-0007 or 781-962-2662.**

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Peaks Home Fire Inspections

If you would like a free in-home fire inspection on Peaks Island, contact the fire station and ask to speak to the captain to schedule a time. Call (207) 874-8419, or stop by Peaks station. We will look at smoke detectors, CO detectors, talk about exits, and answer questions about what to do if there is a fire or emergency.

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES on PEAKS ISLAND
Sponsored by Portland Recreation and Facilities Management

To reserve space and equipment in the Community Building, you must contact Denise at least two days in advance. Contact Denise at DLM@portlandmaine.gov. Please plan ahead as Denise works part-time on the island – Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays. Please check bulletin board on Denise’s door for her schedule (as you enter the building). She’s not on PI on holidays.

Portland Flower Show (Thursday-Sunday, March 5-8): Please let Denise know if you would like her to buy discount tickets. Cost \$13 for adults/\$12 for seniors –all are \$15 at door.. Deadline to order is Friday, 2/27. Transportation not provided.

WEEKLY THURSDAY GET-TOGETHERS:
KNIT, CROCHET, CHAT (com. rm.)

Thursdays, February 5, 12, 19 and 26 10:45am-12:00pm
Join us as we continue knitting for charity (5th year!). All are welcome. Materials available; donations accepted.

WHAT IS PARASKAVEDEKATRIAPHOBIA?

Friday, February 13 stop by com. room from 10am - 12 pm
Share your favorite superstitions and learn new ones about tea and knitting. Learn other Greek vocabulary. BYO lunch if you’d like – hot tea and hot chocolate available.

BEACH PARTY – LET THE SUN SHINE IN!

Friday, February 20 stop by com. room from 10am - 12 pm
Don’t let the winter get you down. Play “Beach” BINGO, sing along to some old summer-time tunes &BYO picnic snacks. All are welcome (young children must be w/ adult).


AFTERNOON MOVIE: *SINGING IN THE RAIN*

Thursday, February 26 1:00 - 2:45pm (com. room)
Sit back and enjoy this light-hearted and happy musical, starring Gene Kelley and Debbie Reynolds. Sing and tap dance if you wish! Denise needs movie suggestions.

LAUGHTER, BRAIN TEASERS & PUZZLES

Friday, February 27 10:00am – 12:00 noon (com. rm)
Laughter is the best medicine! Try Laughter Yoga (the Yoga part is deep breathing and short breaths) and keep your mind sharp with fun brain teasers, puzzles and games

On-going exercise programs for Adults
FMI, please leave a message for Denise (766-2970)
Low-Impact Aerobics w/ Weights:
Mondays and Thursdays – 9:30 to 10:30 am (com. rm.)
Adult Basketball (\$2 pp/per night):
Tuesday evenings - 6:00 to 8:00 pm at PI School Gym

February Movies – Saturday Nights – FREE			
6PM 6	<i>Chicken Run</i> , 2000, G, 84 min	8PM 6	<i>A Mighty Wind</i> , 2003, PG-13, 91 min
13	<i>Paranorman</i> , 2012, PG, 92 min	13	<i>Apocalypse Now</i> , 1979, R, 120 min
20	<i>Back to the Future</i> , 1985, PG, 116 min	20	<i>The Reader</i> , 2009, R, 124 min
27	<i>Thunderbird</i> , 1968, G, 89 min	27	<i>Frost/Nixon</i> , 2009, R, 123 min
			
Saturday Night Movies are a program of the Friends of the Peaks Island Library and are shown on a large screen in the Community Room by volunteers. Children must be accompanied by adults.			

DEADLINE FOR NEXT MONTH’S STAR: Wednesday, February 25, by 6 pm.
If the library is closed when you come, you may put your article in the Book Return outside, or slip it under the door. Thank you to everyone who submits news from their organizations.