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Service Agencies of the Island

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WINTER EVENTS

There may be lots of snow, ice, slippery walking and driving these winter months on Peaks Island but there are also plenty of on-going activities and some new ones that you may not have heard about:

Casco Bay Island Transit District - Board Meeting Friday, Jan. 20th at 8:00 a.m. in Room 209, City Hall, Portland. This week there will be a discussion of possible changes and improvements in scheduling of both the regular boats and the car ferry. The public is invited to attend.

The Community Theatre on Peaks Island is planning a spring performance of "The Late Christopher Bean. Tryouts are Friday evening, January 20th, 7 - 9 p.m. and Saturday afternoon, January 21, 2 - 4p.m. For information call Alan Mills (766-2939 or contact Priscilla Hinkle.

Fingerprinting of Children -- All Ages
Place: Fire Barn - Public Safety Building
Time: Saturday, January 21st 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday, January 24th 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Parents must accompany children and take fingerprint record with them.
No record will be kept at Public Safety.
If you have any questions please call: Mrs. Marie Kilday, Peaks Island Parent Teacher Organization. (766-2252)

Annual Ground Hog Day Penny Auction -- Friday, February 3 at the School 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Donations of unwanted, clean usable items requested. Please drop off at school.

Peaks for Peace Discussion Group meets the second Wednesday evening of each month at the Peaks Island Library at 7:30. Anyone is welcome to come and participate.

Peaks Island Day Care Center is having a Pot Luck Supper, Friday evening, January 27th.
Come and bring your favorite dish and enjoy lots of good things at a very reasonable cost.

Society of Friends Pot Luck Supper on Sunday, February 12th at Betty Van Wyck's at 5:30.
Interested people, please call 766-2619 or 766-2567.

Veterinary Service -- Dr. Lynda Bond of 207 Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth is offering individual service - house calls on Peaks Island for small animals (See Page 4 for details)
PEAKS ISLAND CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER NEWS

The Center is offering a Playgroup, Wednesday mornings from 10:15 - 11:00 (promptly). This is a time for parents and children to come together and enjoy each others company. If you would like more information, call 766-2619.

On Thursday, February 2nd from 7 - 9 p.m., the Center will offer a group discussion open to all community members: "How to talk to kids so they will listen and feel good about themselves/How to elicit positive responses from young children". Ann Wagner, an island resident and Director of the University Day Care Center, will lead the discussion. Please call 766-2854 for more information.

The Children at the Center have really enjoyed observing our new pet chameleons. They can change color, shed their skins and eat live meal worms. Pretty interesting little creatures!

We welcome Zachary Graham, age 2½, as our newest addition to the preschool program at Peaks Island Child Development Center.

We are looking for a used guinea pig cage. If anyone has one laying around in the garage or attic, please consider donating it to the Day Care Center!

Don't forget the Pot Luck Supper on January 27th. See front page for details.

PEAKS ISLAND LIBRARY INVITES YOU IN!

This is the season for good books--the season to curl up in a chair with one! But first, if you know there is a snowstorm approaching, come into the library and stock up with an armful. We have some good new titles and we try to keep a constantly changing supply from the main library. Some of our new titles include:

Winter Wife  Jessica Auerbach
Infants and mothers  Brazelton
Story of Henri Todd  William F. Buckley
Rivers of fortune  Bill Caldwell
Spearfield's daughter  Jon Cleary
Mercy Short: a winter journal, North Boston  Farber
Stones of Ibarra  (Mexico. Fiction) Harriet Doerr
Star of Peace  (World War II Fiction) Jan de Hartog
Walk on a Winter Beach  Sand Johnson
Garden of malice  Susan Kenney
Union Street  Pat Barker
Success to the brave  (Sea story) Alexander Kent
On children and death  Elizabeth Kubler-Ross
Moreta, dargon lady of Pern  (Sci-Fi) Anne McCaffrey
One brief shining moment: remembering Kennedy  William Manchester
Mysteries of Winterthurn  Joyce Carol Oates
Badge of glory  (Crimean War Fiction) Douglas Reeman
The Ballad of John and Yoko  Rolling Stone
A Guide to Nature in Winter  Donald Stokes
Rainsong  Phyllis Whitney

A sincere "thank you" for contributions to our "copier" fund to:
Mrs. John P Gulliver  Peaks Island Lions Club
Elinor Clark - Moonshell Inn  Peaks Island Day Care
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilday  Lionel Plante Associates
McDermott's - Jane McDermott  Hillside Lumber
Ed Williams

We still have a long way to go. We are hoping our proposal for HCD funds for it will be approved but we will still need these funds for operational expenses, our matching
PEAKS ISLAND LIBRARY continued

contribution. Our old copier gets daily use by the public, but we would all welcome the improvements a new one would bring -- better paper, two-sides of the sheet copy, reducing and enlargement and many other useful features.

We are planning once-a-month Saturday morning movie programs for the children of the Island for the remainder of the winter. We call it Pop Corn and Movies" and it will, indeed, include films for children 5 to 12, popcorn and special activities. The next one will be on February 26, vacation week, from 10:30 until noon.

PEAKS ISLAND SCHOOL NOTES from Pat Whitney

The second quarter of the school year ends on January 27. There will be an Awards Assembly at 11 a.m. on that day. Report cards will be going out a week or so later. On January 20th there will be no school for the children but there will be inservice workshops for the teachers.

Registration for kindergarten for the next school year begins soon. Parents who have young children--a child must be 5 before October 15 to be eligible--may start coming in. They must bring the child's birth certificate (not hospital) and immunization record.

The next parent-teacher meeting will be held Monday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m. It will be held in the school library. Craig MacDonald, school social worker, will be here to speak to the parents.

Winter vacation is the week of February 18 - 26.

A REMINDER -- High snow banks and children playing on them! Motorists please take special care! And vacation week means that they are out and playing at all hours!

PUBLIC SAFETY REMINDER

Talking to the Public Safety people--they wanted, too, to remind people about driving too fast because of the high snowbanks and people have to walk in the streets, which are often slippery. Complaints have been made especially about the corners near the school but also on Island Avenue and, actually, on any street on the Island. Please use caution. Children may be sliding and older people walking!

SENIOR CITIZENS ITEMS

The Seniors will be making and mailing Valentines to the Day Care children and shut-ins. Their monthly meeting will be held the third Wednesday of February -- Feb. 15th at noon at the Senior Center.

CHURCH SCHEDULES

St. Christopher's Church Masses - Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. in the Hall Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Church

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church Sunday Service at 10:30 a.m.

Friends Service for Worship Sunday morning at Betty VanWyck's Home at 10:45

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PEAKS ISLAND STAR come this month from Maria Lombard, Ed Williams, and the Ingrahams in Michigan. Thank you again so much!
This past November the Casco Bay Island Transit District initiated a new ticket collection policy. The policy, simply stated said that all tickets were to be ripped with one half returned to the customer and one half kept by the crewman for reporting purposes. The only exception to this policy is if during bad weather the captain deems it would be unsafe to collect at the plank tickets can be collected while underway and this decision to be noted in the ships log.

For the most part people have been great by adhering to this procedure. Of course, as with anything new there have been a lot of questions about this ripping of tickets and getting back stubs. It's only normal for folks to question something new, and the many questions we get help us to refine our operation, which is good for all of us.

But alas, a new problem has developed of late. Scuttlebutt has it that some people have been taking a free ride on all of us with used tickets. I am told that this is being done by holding on to the torn portion of a used ticket tightly inside one's hand. The deckhand, not seeing the torn portion, tears the ticket from the persons hand. It is easy to see how this company, which is owned by you rate payers, could loose a great deal of money if this practice is allowed to continue. So folks, please be patient with us when the deckhand asks to inspect your ticket. Please do not take it personally or feel insulted. It may take a fraction of a second longer and be a little bother, but I'll feel better knowing that everyone is paying their fair share.... and I bet most of you will, too.

NEW SAFETY MEASURES AT PORTLAND PIER--

The Casco Bay Island Transit District has installed a new sandbox and gangplank at Portland Pier. These features were added in response to a concerned passenger, who had fallen and received a bad cut on her head while disembarking the car ferry Rebel in late December. The injured passenger asked if some type of handrail and foot tread could be installed to prevent this type of accident from happening again. The Transit District decided to go with the plank and sandbox temporarily as it would take more time to design and install a workable rail on the apron. The district is committed to having a better system in place by next winter for the ramps at both Portland Pier and Peaks Island.

To date, not many people have taken the option of using the plank to get off the Rebel. We would like to urge folks to use the plank, especially, when weather conditions are bad or the apron angle is steep. Thank you.

C.B.I.T.D.

Veterinary Services--continued

Dr. Bond tells us many things can be done at home. She generally comes to the island on weekends, but if necessary can come evenings. She practices at Forest Avenue Veterinary Hospital for surgery and at the Cape Elizabeth Veterinary Centre where she can be reached at Tel. No. 799-2188 for appointments.
FAMILY MEDICINE ASSOCIATES

All of us at Family Medicine extend to you our sincere wishes for a happy and healthy new year. We have all settled down after the hectic holidays into the normal business of living and a chance to assess our lives and goals. Good luck to all of those who have made great resolutions. If you fall by the wayside, remember you can always start again. Don't wait until next New Year's for the resolutions!

There has been much attention focused on injuries to children lately, which, with a few words of caution, might have been prevented. We tend sometimes to feel that once they are talking well, we can expect more of them in the way of judgment. We need to remind ourselves from time to time that they are not little adults, and their judgment is not as sophisticated as their conversation. Here are a few things which can be done to help.

Burns - This ranks very high on the list of childhood accidents, and with so many wood and coal stoves in use today, our toddlers (that name is so descriptive) are still a little unsteady on their feet, and it is so easy for them to lose their balance and fall against that hot stove. It's a good idea also to turn down the heat of the water which comes from the faucet, since very often it comes out scalding hot. Adults react more readily than young children in turning it off. Especially in the bath, make sure once a child is in the tub, that the hot water tap is turned off as tightly as you can get it, so that if your back is turned, those lightning-fast little fingers can't turn it on again. Speaking of baths, even a two-year old is too young to leave alone in the tub even for an instant.

Poisoning - Keep a small bottle of Ipecac at home in case you need to induce vomiting. This can be bought at any pharmacy without a prescription. However, always call the Poison Center number 871-2381 for instant information as to what to do, especially as to whether or not it is necessary or advisable to cause vomiting. Keep this number next to your phone as well as our own emergency 24-hour number 766-2929.

Miscellaneous - A few more hints which may be helpful are to have gates at the top and bottom of stairways, and the presence of the water around us is a constant reminder of the possibility of a tragic accident. Also, with the population on the island growing larger and more cars here, little ones have to be taught about crossing streets, and it wouldn't hurt for us to remember that kids are very unpredictable. We should never be in such a hurry on this little island that we can't watch our speed so we can stop as quickly as possible if necessary.

The list seems to be endless when taking precautions with children, and parents get tired of chasing toddlers around so it is easy to let down our guard. Remember, though, to enjoy them, and most of all don't be afraid to let another job slide to spend some extra time with them - they are little for a much shorter time than it seems now, and there is no greater investment than time and love.