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Service Agencies of the Island

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WHAT ARE WE DOING TO OUR YOUTH?

This past month there have been a rash of incidents involving 9, 10 and 11 year old children committing acts of vandalism against people and property.

Parents on this Island feel secure to allow their children greater freedoms and less restrictions due to the physical nature of the Island itself. Abduction and child abuse are remote possibilities, the water separates us from these realities. A parent on Peaks Island seems to have a very large extended family. It is second nature to watch out for all children; feed them lunch/dinner; and generally care for them as their own. A child can leave for school and not return until dark (it gets darker a lot later now).

A child with all that time on his/her hands gets bored; and hence, the freedom to act out their fantasies. Whether it be stealing a bike or defacing personal property. There seems to be a feeling that it is ok for the kids to do this.

Sadly, it doesn't end with these children. This lack of respect for others' property is carried through early adulthood. There are people who think nothing of driving over another's lawn; stealing a car or snowmobile; or worse yet, driving recklessly under the influence of drugs/alcohol and endangering human life.

There are many answers to our headline: parents' denial; parents' apathy; and parents' ignorance. We, as a family, on Peaks Island turn the other way and allow this destructive anti social behavior to continue.

It is time for guidance for our youth. The new school playground is a good start. Jane MacDermott President of the PTO, has worked very hard to acquire the $7500.00 grant from the City of Portland. The PTO is working just as hard to raise additional monies to build a good inviting place for our Island youth to play.

There is also a glaring need for youth programs on this Island. The City has failed us and we as a community have failed also. The City should have a good, qualified person involved with the Island recreation program. We have a good director for Senior Citizen activities, but there are others in need of direction on this Island. The City has met from time to time with various people - lots of talk on both sides but very little action.

It is time for a serious review of our Island needs. Time to set some goals. Time to make some commitments. It won't work with City money alone - there must be adult involvement. The kids on this Island deserve that much!

The Peaks Island Town Meeting Committee has a youth activities committee. It is somewhat inactive, and in need of revitalization. If you are interested call Tim Fitzgerald 766-5591 or leave your name/number with Louise Capizzo at the Library. YOU WON'T REGRET IT!
DAY CARE DOINGS:

Has spring finally arrived? Although the weather is still changeable the calendar tells us we're well into the season. Lots of spring projects are underway at the Day Care Center. In our quiet area we have a lovely spring mural made by the children with lots of original design colored flowers. We have also planted several flower boxes with marigolds and zinnias. On a recent walk we picked some forsythia and lilac branches to brighten up the room as well. Much to our surprise the lilac branch has actually blossomed! Even if it doesn't always look like spring outside, it definitely has arrived in the Center with all these nice additions.

Many art projects took place in celebration of the Easter/Passover holidays. Some children made baskets with colored paper. Others cut and colored or painted paper eggs. We also did a project where we hard boiled eggs and then painted on the shells. One very surprising event on this holiday was the mysterious appearance of an egg in Eeyore the Rabbit's cage! Perhaps we were visited by the Cadbury people?!

John Capizzo has returned from his two week vacation to Michigan. We are pleased to have him back. We would also like to thank Willow Bascon who did an excellent job filling in for John providing us with delicious meals.

Twice this past month we went over to the Peaks Island School for musical events. The first was a program put on by the fourth and fifth graders consisting of "rain songs" they had learned in their music classes. The other performance was by the Cape Elizabeth Middle School Band. Both programs were very enjoyable and a nice treat for the preschool group. Our thanks to the school for inviting us.

The Parenting Workshops are continuing on Thursday nights at 7 at the Moonshell Inn. Newcomers are still welcome. Upcoming fundraisers for the Day Care include a Pot Luck Supper in May, and a chemical free dance featuring a live band in June. More information on these events will be forthcoming as the time draws closer. Keep them in mind though as both promise to be lots of fun!

LIBRARY NEWS

A big thank you to everyone who came in to wish us well during our Open House. A good time was had by all. Beth Kilday was the winner of our National Library Week poster drawing. Many thanks to our Friends of the Peaks Island Library who help organize the Open House. Hardianne Green and Marie Kilday were on hand to help with refreshments and greet everyone. Also thank you to Cathie Ritz, Betty Kilday, Mary Lou Kelley for donations of cookies, dips, crackers, cheese, veggies and to John Capizzo for making a delicious carrot cake which was left in the refrigerator in all the rush. All of you made our Open House a big success.

On display in the back of the Library are a number of posters drawn by 4 & 5 graders from the Peaks Island School. The posters are a pictorial and written reviews of special challenge books. They were done as a cooperative project between the Peaks Island School and the Peaks Island Library.

The Library has been receiving small gifts of money to help re-enforce our paperback collection. Thank you.
A REMINDER FROM THE LIONS CLUB

Don't forget the Health Center - Lions Club Free Clinics Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Anyone needing transportation call Ruth Woodbury (76662545) - Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

BRACKETT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH EVENTS

Church Service - Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Phyllis Dodd, pastor

April 27 - 6:15 p.m.
Program about Camp Machuawana. Methodist summer camp for children - grade 3 and up slides and information Pot Luck Supper - Church Hall

May 11 - Program at the Church - Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
Pot Luck Supper at 6:15 p.m.

May 19 - Rev. Marilyn Robb, who is Director of the Portland Chapter of MADD will preach at morning service.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH HOURS

Rev. Joseph Lange, pastor
Beginning April 28

MASSES
Saturdays 7 p.m. instead of 4 p.m.
Sundays 9 a.m. instead of 10 a.m.

MEETING WITH SENATOR TOM ANDREWS

Sunday evening, April 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Room
Program entitled "Report from the State House" - an opportunity to discuss issues with your senator. All invited. Come and bring your neighbor.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Surviving the weeks of achievement testing and a good turnout of parents during Spring Conference week have given the students & staff at Peaks Island School an eagerness to enjoy a week's spring vacation and to return ready to tackle the remaining 8 weeks to summer. And a busy eight weeks it will be!

The last days of April will find the school busily preparing for the Month of May TV Turn-off. This year we have issued a challenge to teachers in mainland schools. Twenty have answered the call!!

To take our minds away from television, we will focus attention on a few projects: 1. Besides the challenge with mainland schools, we are preparing for a trip to the Boston Aquarium on May 14. Thanks to David Quimby and Co., we have an exciting salt water aquarium sparking our interest and expanding our knowledge of sea creatures. (By the way, we'd love to have you stop in and take a look.)
2. STAR Foundation has invited the school to participate in the Recycling Project. In informing the students of the project, important to everyone on the island, we hope they, in turn, can help promote its use. A poster "competition" will result in professionally printed official posters. The school will also join STAR in some planting projects this spring. We are delighted with this joint effort.

3. Already, several Peaks Islanders have agreed to participate in some fashion in our International Week. So many of you have lived in or travelled in foreign countries and have a rich experience we'd like to share. We are inviting you to share your time, your treasures, your experiences. For further information, please see Debi Vondras, stop a teacher on the boat or call Judy McDermott at 766-2528. Thanks!

4. P.T.O. Meeting, Wednesday, April 24, 7:00 PM
All friends of Peaks Island School welcome.

THE ISLANDS HEALTH CENTER

It is really spring in spite of the cold blasts which are making us feel as if we are still in the midst of winter. However, as we all know here in New England, warm weather will be upon us suddenly and it is a great time to shed a bit of the weight we convinced ourselves was our extra warm layer for protection against the cold.

Probably one of the most effective ways in which to lose some of the unwanted weight as well as being generally more beneficial to our health, is to cut back on the amount of fat we consume. Cooking with low fat dairy products is one of the best ways to make some impact; for example, low fat plain yogurt works well as a substitute for sour cream in cold dips or on baked potato (without the butter!). It can also be used to stretch mayonnaise in cole slaw, tuna and potato salads and dressings. Try one half yogurt and half mayonnaise. There are now many low fat cheeses on market shelves, and these work well in sauces, sandwiches, and casseroles as well as omelets. Incidentally, remember that the fat content of eggs is in the yolks, so desserts made with egg whites cut back substantially on fat consumption. Another little trick (if you feel you can't get by without a sweet after a meal) is to cut back one third on the amount of sugar which goes into your dessert.

On Saturday, May 4, the Peaks Island Lions Club will be sponsoring a Glaucoma and Eye Testing Clinic in cooperation with the Health Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to this free screening program.

Remember our telephone number is covered 24 hours a day for any emergency and there is a physician at the Health Center Monday through Friday.

Write this number near your phone 766-2929
Handmade sweaters will be for sale, made by Korean women. Saturday May 4, 9am to 2pm in the Community Room.

AMERICAN LEGION POST #142
Attention Korean and Vietnam veterans. Your local American Legion Post #142, (Randall-MacVane), needs you. Think about it, inquire, come and sign up. Rehabilitate the Post. Sponsor a ball club; service to your community and WW I veterans.

Post Adjutant "Skip" Baird
Finance Officer Steve Pedersen
Commander Peter Gomez

NEWS FROM STAR FOUNDATION

The STAR Foundation will be having a busy summer this year. We are preparing to invite you all to our Island Garden Parties, which will be happening on Sunday afternoons, beginning in July, and will feature contradances, bluegrass by the Munjoy Hillbillies, a concert by Jim Scott (nationally recorded with the Paul Winter Consort), a cabaret, a field day, and other bring-your-own-picnic type family events. We are trying to keep costs down, so that the ticket prices will be a mere $3.00 per adult, with children under twelve and volunteers/helpers getting in for free. Why are we telling you about this now? Because even though the pay off is three months away, we can use some help out at the Reservation now.

STAR is having work days out at the Battery Steele Reservation on the first two Saturdays in May (4th and 11th). We want to plant some alfalfa and buckwheat cover crops, clean up the trash left behind by the demolition derby parties, put up some signs, and otherwise reaffirm our commitment to protecting the area for the enjoyment of all Islanders now, and those that follow us through the eons of time. We'll get out there early, and I guess some people will be joining us and departing throughout the day. Bring a picnic! Bring a strong back!

Did you know that the road which goes between the greenhouses and the bunkers is private property? It is not a right of way. We are doing a bit of landscaping to deflect most traffic out of our serene Island nook. We aren't presently closing the road, but we don't want it to be considered a thorofare either, so we hope you understand. You probably wouldn't want people driving through your conservation area either, and this is yours to appreciate and enjoy. Please help us in our efforts to green up a healthy place.

In the last newsletter I said that STAR has never received federal or state or city funding. STAR never got cash (look at our books), but that statement is misleading because a lot of Islanders and others did receive wages which STAR directed from those sources (CETA, YETP, college work/study). For all of the jobs, STAR was required to hire a supervisor or pay partial wages, which means that it did cost the Foundation money to get those funds out into the community. We appreciate the work done through those programs (building of the community greenhouses, and garden beds; the nature trail and composting toilet, etc.) We feel those are worthwhile contributions to the property which we steward on behalf of the well-being of the whole Island. I hope this clarifies the situation, and I can only say that my vision of our financial picture is warped through reading the records of contributions from STAR members who have been so generously keeping the Foundation alive and kicking, and therefore able to apply for funded jobs. Without their help, all of us here with dreams and visions for the future would have to travel a bit further to find that food for the soul.
THANK YOU

To our many Island friends and organizations

I sincerely wish to thank you for the many prayers, cards, flowers, and gifts.

We, as Islanders, are often asked why we live on an Island.

At times like this, we know why---the close concern for one another becomes highly visible.

John (Red) Flynn