4-1992


Service Agencies of the Island

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A special Education Forum was held at the Community Center on Monday, March 2, at 7:30 pm. The Panelists were: Dr. Tom Edwards, Portland Supt. of Education; Nick Mavodones, Chairman of the Portland School Board; David Parker, a former school principal and current Peaks Island resident, presenting CBIAGC's education budget and proposals; and Janine Blatt, Director of the Peaks Island Child Development Center, presenting concerns about the education of Peaks children, should we separate from Portland.

Larry Walden, President of PINA, chaired the forum. He introduced the Peaks Island School teachers who were in attendance as well as the Asst Principal for Island Schools and the Directors of both Elementary and Secondary Education for Portland.

Nick Mavodones led off with a quick outline of the nine-member School Board and its duties, among which are: hiring and evaluating the Superintendent, appointing staff--both professional and non-professional, setting policy, adopting curriculum, ratifying all contracts, supervising and adopting the budget, and overseeing all the schools in its jurisdiction. There are at least three Board Meetings a month plus a number of sub-committee meetings; Nick spends at least 20 hours a week as Chairman; other members may give 10-15 hours. He mentioned the 1.6 million dollars lost in State aid to Portland this year and the extra headaches that the unfair State aid formula causes.

Dr. Edwards began by saying that, personally, he would like Peaks to stay as part of Portland, but that he would try to be objective in his comments. Although our kids generally go to King Middle and Portland High School, as Portland residents they have access to 18 different schools in the area for special needs. Good teachers like to come to the City of Portland and once there, they usually want to stay. The District offers workshops and has the capability of writing and attracting grants for special needs such as English as a second language. In response to a question regarding the effect of the current budget cuts on Peaks, he answered that the District is attempting to cut 15% overall. They will evaluate needs in each school, negotiate with the unions and then allocate teachers on an equitable basis.

In developing the school portion of the budget proposed for an independent Peaks Island, Dave Parker said they looked at Portland's school budget for Peaks as well as at Vinalhaven and Owl's Head and other similar systems to draw up a possible budget for Peaks. Recognizing that generally, Peaks parents are satisfied with the education their children are currently getting, he said that their idea was not to disturb the children in their current programs, if at all possible. Those favoring independence hope that the current P.I. School teachers would want to stay on, and that the same Portland Schools would accept our teenagers. Dave
mentioned that both Portland's and Deering's enrollments are currently down; Cape Eliz. could not take our kids but S. Portland could, with transportation negotiable. Westbrook would also take them but would want a 5-yr. contract. The proposed budget for an independent Peaks includes a contingency budget of $50,000 for special needs. Dave likened the proposals for schooling to moving into a new house: you don't really know what the costs will be until you're there.

Janine Blatt spoke as a parent of an eighth grader, long active and vocal in matters regarding her daughter's education. She outlined her concerns in a handout which was distributed at the meeting and which is included with the PINA minutes, on file at the Library. Briefly, she felt that without a capital budget, without knowing final figures on Peaks' share of City debt and assets, and without having resolved how we would pay for the treatment plant, it is hard to make meaningful budget decisions. We'd need a town structure first; it takes time, and costs money to start up a school. She asked, "Do you (parents) feel involved enough to take on the tasks necessary to make the transition?"

Following are some of the questions asked, and the responses:

**How would the school funding formula affect a community our size?**
Communities with high valuation get low subsidies; we'd get very little.

**Is three months (the projected time frame) enough time to set up a school?**
No, an application must be submitted to the State nine months prior to the opening of school.

**Portland is known to offer a high quality of education; is there any guarantee that if we secede, our children will get the same benefits?**
Dave: If the elementary teachers stay and Portland takes us, yes. We can hire a knowledgeable superintendent and we'll have a good program.

Comment from leader of Peaks parent-teacher organization: two of five elementary teachers have already stated they would not stay. Most would probably leave.

Comment from Nick M.: Although there is space in Portland right now, there is a "bulge" coming up at the elementary level and there is no guarantee that Portland would be able to take our students. It currently costs the City $2,000 more than the State-set cap to educate a student. Because it would not be fair for City taxpayers to subsidize tuition students, the City is trying to pursue this issue with the State. Nor is there any guarantee about contracting out to the City for our outside services; Portland's needs would come first.

The town of Freeport is currently spending $100,000 on "special needs" students and it's a State mandate. Does the State reimburse?

No, unless the child is in a foster home. The town is responsible.

There is $213,000 in the projected Peaks budget for tuition. To Portland officials: Would you take us for that?

We wouldn't turn you away as long as it didn't create a financial hardship for Portland taxpayers.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the value of talking together and sharing ideas and concerns in a forum such as this.

Please mark your calendars. A special meeting is being planned for Saturday afternoon, April 11, 1:00 pm., at the Community Center, to attempt to clarify the changing tax situation. And the regular meeting of the Neighborhood Association is scheduled for Monday evening, April 27, 7:30, at the Community Center. Details of each meeting will be posted at Feeney's.
The Island Health Center

The Island Health Center Hours for medical care are:

Mondays 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
Wednesdays 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Thursdays 12:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

All medical emergencies should call 911 before calling the health center.

Call 766-2929 for an appointment. Please leave a message on our answering machine. Thank you for your continuing support of the Peaks Island Health Center.

STAR OF THE SEA
THEATRE AND DANCE CO.

It's been a very busy month. An Irish show for St. Christopher's and Brackett Memorial Churches. Sincere thanks to the players and dancers for their time and talent. A good time was had by all. We took the Irish program of dancers to join our Star of Hope Studio 11 (St. Dominics) to perform for them, then over to St. Joseph's Manor to entertain the residents there. They really do appreciate our visits. Now we will be concentrating on our June recital, "Alice in Topsy Turvy Land". An exciting program in song and dance.

Our special "Front Line Dancers" are busy readying for the summer months ahead, for clubs, churches, nursing homes, and private entertainment and parties.

Aerobics every Monday and Thursday: 10 am and 6:15 pm.

The Star of the Sea Boutique will be open every weekend starting in April, with a weekend bake sale, pies, bread, cakes, and goodies. We are also looking for some new consignments, crafts, knitts, toys, gifts, and baked goods, to help us continue with our Theatre Projects. The children are working on their new play, "Shady Shadows". We have a lovely stage, but we do need the Community's support to continue with this non-profits company. Our services are to provide entertainment for the community, the children's theatre, nursing homes, and donations to the Maine Children's Cancer Research Program in Portland, and to help a child every month at St. Jude Children's Hospital Cancer Research in Memphis.

We are asking the Island community to support us in any way possible either by being a sponsor or by boutique sales, so we can continue with our programs.

HAPPY SPRING TO ALL
Doreen McCann
Senior Citizens

Spring has gotten off to a slow start --- except inside at the Senior Center. Be sure at least to enjoy the geraniums in the front window as you go by.

The March Luncheon of the Senior Citizens was a gala occasion, with the volunteers who deliver Meals-on-Wheels as honored guests: Bill Gustin, Faye Garman, Mardianne Green, Annie Romanyshyn, Elaine and Tom Quigg, Joan and Larry Blake, Rita and Paul Johnson.

Other senior volunteers honored were Sister Ann Augusta, Jan Sullivan, and Gretchen Hall. The occasion was dreamed up and carried through by yet another senior volunteer: Blanche Wilder. Fern Parker, in charge of Meals-on-Wheels on Peaks Island, introduced Mary Coutui, her new supervisor under the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging. Denise Macaronas of the Portland Department of Recreation contributed much to the occasion. Other guests included the Rev. Sally Poland and the Rev. Theodore Poland.

Carroll Mountfort is at Seaside Nursing and Retirement Home,
850 Baxter Boulevard
Portland, ME 04101
Tel. 774-7878

The Rev. Carl F. Hall would also appreciate an Easter greeting card. His address is Bennett Retirement Home
306 Windham Center Road
Windham, ME 04062

Word has come that City Councilors Esther Clenott and Peter O'Donnell, and Peaks Islanders Claire Fillietaz and Ronald Benner have been working with Augusta to insure that no Senior Citizen is put out of his home because he cannot pay his property tax.

Call 772-7772 (Better Health Care, Inc.) for a comprehensive guide to services for the elderly. You can see a copy at the Senior Center. We think it is the most practical guide we have seen yet for elderly in our area and for those concerned for older people.

Our April luncheon and business meeting is scheduled for Easter Monday, April 20. Keep in touch with the Senior Center for plans, as they may develop.

Now that spring is here, and it is easier for us to get out, we all would appreciate having the Senior Center open for dropping in more afternoons during each week. Do encourage the volunteers by coming in at least to say, "Hi" whenever the "open" sign is in the window. It is more than four volunteers, two of them over eighty, can manage to keep the Center open five afternoons a week. Even if you can help only occasionally, do give Gretchen Hall a ring at 766-3381.

Once more the school brightened our holiday with shamrocks for St. Patrick. Thanks, Kathy Newell.

Meals-on-Wheels are available now to any senior citizen usually at home on the island at noon during the week. Call the Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging at 775-6503, or speak with Fern at the Senior Center.
PORTLAND RECREATION ON PEAKS ISLAND

APRIL ACTIVITIES

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THE COMMUNITY ROOM, YOU MUST CONTACT DENISE AT LEAST TWO DAYS IN ADVANCE. DO NOT LEAVE A MESSAGE ON THE MACHINE. PLEASE CALL 874-8793 DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS.

ADULT ACTIVITIES: OPEN TO ALL ADULTS

Every Monday  Women's Volleyball  7-9 p.m. School gym  $2.00 drop-in fee
NOTE: This program ends on April 13

Every Tuesday  Men's Basketball  6:30-8:30 p.m. School gym  $2.00 drop-in fee
NOTE: This program ends on April 28. No program on April 21.

The following are FREE programs - Open to all!

APRIL 8 - Wednesday  Fun with Books!  1:00 p.m. Community Ctr.
Topic: Books by Maine authors  Moderator: Ruth Sargent

APRIL 14 - Tuesday  Meeting - Resource Exchange  10:30 a.m. Community Ctr.
I am looking for topics and speakers for Spring and Summer programs. If you would like to share your expertise, or if you know summer residents who may want to, please let me know.

APRIL 21 - Tuesday  Walk the Indian Trail  10:30-12:00 p.m
Meet tour guide Sam McCain at the Community Center. All are invited to explore the trail!

APRIL 21 - Tuesday  Travelogue-Your Favorite Slides  7:30 p.m. Community Ctr.
Presenters: All interested Peaks Island residents
Bring 5 of your favorite slides—all subjects welcomed. Share your adventures with your fellow islanders. Call Denise (2970) if you would like to participate.
Everyone welcome to submit slides and to join in the fun!

OFF-ISLAND ACTIVITIES: SENIOR ADULTS
(others welcome on a space available basis)

Pre-registration required for all off-island activities. Deadline is 2 days prior to event. Sign-up sheet at Sr. Center (Open M-F, 10:00-12:00 noon; call ahead if coming in the afternoon: 2545). For more information, call Denise at 2970. A minimum of 8 participants is required for all off-island activities.

APRIL 9 - Thursday  MOVIES: Fried Green Tomatoes  12:30 boat/4:30 return
Cost: $3.75

APRIL 16 - Thursday  SHOPPING in Falmouth  8:15 boat/12:00 return

APRIL 30 - Thursday  SMTC lunch  11:15 boat/2:00 return
If you would like to go to the Planetarium after lunch, please let Denise know by April 21.
Lunch = $3.95 - $5.95  Planetarium = $2.50, based on 14

YOUTH ACTIVITIES - Grades 1-5

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
Wednesdays - April 8, 15, 22, 29  2:45-4:00 p.m. Community Ctr.
See The Link for scheduled activities.
St. Christopher's Catholic Church Central Ave.  766-2585

Masses:  Weekend - Sat. 4 pm, Sun. 9 am - Parish Hall
         Weekday - Wed. 4pm & Thur. 7:30am - Convent
         Fri. 7pm & Sat. 9am - Rectory

Activities: Sundays - Coffee and cake in the Parish Hall after Mass
             Wednesdays - Bible Study, 9am, Senior Center
             CCD - K-5, 3pm, Pat Crowley-Rockwell's, Welch St.
             Beano - 7 pm in the Parish Hall
             Thursdays - NO PRAYER GROUP UNTIL 4/16 after that Prayer Group
             9:45 am at Marge Erico's. For prayers call 6-2844,
             2502, 2641 or St. Joseph's 2284
             CCD - Grades 6-8, 7pm, Parish Hall with Sr. Rosina
             Friday - Children's Choir (Gr 6-8), 3:45 pm, Pat C-R's

Parish Concerns: Contact Judy 2109, Sr. Rosina 2284, Fr. Grady 2585

Parish Council - First Sunday in April, 10:30 am at the Rectory

LENTEN SERVICES AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE
Fridays during Lent - Stations of the Cross & Mass at 7 pm in the Parish Hall
St. Joseph's Chapel will be open daily for all Christians who wish to make a visit, to pray, meditate or say the Stations.
SAT., 4/11 - 4 PM PALM PROCESSION TO CHURCH
PALM SUNDAY, 4/12 - 9 AM PALM PROCESSION TO CHURCH FROM PARISH HALL
WED., 4/15 - 7 PM MASS IN THE HALL
THURS., 4/16 - 7 PM MASS IN THE HALL
GOOD FRIDAY - CHURCH OPEN 11 AM - 7 PM, MASS & GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 PM
HOLY SATURDAY - 7 PM MASS IN THE CHURCH
EASTER SUNDAY - 9 AM MASS IN THE CHURCH

Future Dates:  Rummage Sale and Bake Sale, May 23, 9-1
Donations of good, saleable clothes and other items will be accepted
Wed. - Fri. of that week 9 am. - 12 Noon at the Parish Hall

FOR FURTHER NOTICES REGARDING OTHER EVENTS PLEASE CHECK THE WEEKLY BULLETIN

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NEWS FROM BRACKETT MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday Worship  -10a.m.
Sunday School  -10a.m.
Wednesday - Bible Study at the Sr. Citizens' Center
Choir Rehearsal  Sunday at 9:15a.m.

Holy Week Schedule
Maundy Thursday - We will gather for an Agape Meal 7p.m.
Good Friday - The Church will be open for prayer and meditation, 12-3
Easter Sunday - Sunrise Service at Whaleback, 5:30 a.m.
Service at Brackett Mem. Church with choral anthems, traditional hymns and sermon, 10a.m.

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THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME
LADIES AUXILIARY

BEEF STEW SUPPER, Saturday, April 4th
5:30pm- 7:00pm ADULTS- $4.00 &
Children under 12 $2.50
For the legion hall building fund.

*****ALL ARE WELCOME*****

Recent donations to the STAR were made by Saint Christophers Parish, Tim Friel, Kaye & Gene Taylor and Anon. I and II...Thank you very much.
**PORTLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**PROGRAMS:**
- After-school movies - Tues., 3:15
- Story time - Wed, 10:15

**HOURS:**
- Tues. 2-8
- Wed. 10-4
- Fri. 10-2
- Sat. 9-1

**NEW BOOKS**

**FICTION**
- Bradley, Mists of Avalon
- Ferrars, Danger From The Dead
- Gordimer, Conservationist
- Grisham, Pelican Brief
- Plain, Treasures

**NONFICTION**
- Armstrong, Awakening Your Child's Natural Genius
- Bateson, Composing A Life
- Buff, Birdfeeders Handbook
- Carter, Education of Little Tree

*Check the New Book List on the wall by the door in the library for the complete list of new additions.*

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**Westbrook Animal Hospital**
189 Pride Street
Westbrook, Maine 04092

- Timothy J. Friel, D.V. M.

Tel. (207) 797-4747

**Annual Island Veterinary Clinic**
Saturday, April 25

**COMMUNITY CENTER**

HEARTWORM TESTING and VACCINATIONS for Dogs and Cats.

**DOGS** 12 - 2 pm  **CATS** 2 - 4 pm  **Tel. (207) 797-4747**

* Due to a heavy workload, Mr. Friel's time for Island House Calls is very limited. He will try to continue to do calls Monday rights for those who are unable to get to town with their animals.*

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**Portland Public Schools**
PEAKS ISLAND SCHOOL
Portland, Maine 04108

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

April 13 - 17, 1992
8:00 - 12:00
1:00 - 3:00

Children entering school must be 5 years old on or before October 15th. Please bring with you:

1. birth certificate
2. immunization records.
FIREPROOFING with EDUCATION

The Maine Fire/Burn Prevention Early Childhood Curriculum will be presented by Jerry DiMillo, Public Education Officer, Portland Fire Department. This program is geared for parents and/or anyone with involvement with young children as a tool for fire prevention.

TUESDAY APRIL 14, 1992
6:30-8:30PM
Peaks Island Child Development Center
St. Christopher’s Parish Hall, Central Avenue

This is open to all interested adults...there is no fee involved...please call to register so we know how many to expect. Our entire staff recently attended this training and we highly recommend it.

We’d like to welcome Clarissa Pryor and Jackman Wood to our Preschool Program. We found our first pussywillows today...yes spring is really here!!

The Center is in need of substitute teachers to work on an occasional basis...if you have an interest or experience with young children please call Jon Kelso.

We’d like to thank all of you who helped to make the annual Spaghetti Dinner/Contra Dance a success...special thanks to Kenny Brown and David Berringer, chief chefs...to Ellen and the Sea Slugs for their time and great music...to local businesses who contributed to the efforts...and to everyone who came and had fun!

BOTTLE DRIVE continues at Feeney’s Market...when you return your empties you can designate your slip to the ChildCare Center Account...thanks to all who have been doing this...it helps us to raise $200-300/year.

PLAYGROUP continues on Wednesday mornings, 10:15-11AM. This is a time for parents/infants/toddlers to come and enjoy our playspace and the company of others.