

Time to Get Ready

gifts ~ events ~ food ~ ideas ~ books ~ clothing ~ donations ~ memories

KEY PENINSULA
NEWS
The voice of the Key Peninsula



Holiday Preparations

Holiday Preparations

“Holiday Preparations” is a special supplement to Key Peninsula News.

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For information:
Key Peninsula News
P.O. Box 3, Vaughn, WA 98394
Phone: (253) 884-4699
Email: news@keypennews.com

Holiday Preparations editor:

Colleen Slater

Executive editor:

Rodika Tollefson

Advertising: Karen Hale,

Charleen Day, September Hyde

Production & design:

September Hyde

Contributors: Karen Hale,

Mindi LaRose, Irene Torres,

Donna Smeal

Distribution supervisor:

Phil Bauer

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November & December

EVENTS

November

9 – Parents’ Night Out, K P Lutheran Church, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. 884-3312

10 – Holiday Bazaar, Longbranch Community Church, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. 884-1305

12 – Men’s Breakfast, Longbranch Community Church, speaker Glen Ehrhardt, 9 a.m. 884-3873

21 – Thanksgiving Eve service, K P Lutheran Church, 7 p.m.
– Lakebay Community Church, 6:30 p.m.

24 (9-5), 25 (11 – 4) – Winterfest, Peninsula High School, admission \$3, 530-4400

30 – Hanging of the Greens and Potluck, Longbranch Community Church, 6 p.m. 884-9339

December

1 (10 – 5), 2 (11 – 4) – Tide Fest, Gig Harbor High School, admission \$5, 530-1478

2 – Christmas Caroling, Tree Lighting and Santa, KC Corral, 4 p.m.

7, 8 – “A Christmas Carol,” K P Lutheran Church; 6:15 p.m. Friday, Dessert Play, Saturday Dinner play. 884-5615

9 – Key Singers Christmas Concert, 3 p.m., K P Lutheran Church, donation of items for food bank. 884-5615

14 – Parents’ Night Out – (see Nov 9)

15 – Kids ‘n’ Christmas, LIC. 884-9157

24 – Christmas Eve service, K P Lutheran Church. 884-3312

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Angel Guild offers holiday gift shopping

By Donna Smeall
Special to KP News

Just after Thanksgiving turkeys are celebrated with the abundance of food and good cheer to remind ourselves of our blessings, the modestly sized Angel Guild thrift shop trims its windows with various displays of favored Santa colors: red, green and white, while strains of "Silver Bells" sound from the CD boombox tucked behind the cashier's counter.

Various collectible plates frame windows for the passers-by "peek." Hopeful collectors may find what they are seeking here. Collectible gifts come at a premium, and volunteers strive to make holiday giving a genuine pleasure. Some collectibles include Norman Rockwell, Disney, and Donald Zolan plates, just a few of the hundreds of plates and music boxes received through a recent anonymous donation.

Other items sold include clothing for all ages, baby items, toys, books, shoes, and some furniture as well as household



Angel Guild volunteer Betty Barkubein shows off one of the collector's plates donated. She says approximately 500 plates were donated anonymously.

items of all types.

Pat Kuntzl, Key Pen resident, said of her experience visiting the Angel Guild, "My daughter-in-law brought her mother

to the store on Thursday." Her mother is from Virginia, just outside the Washington, D.C. area. The mother-in-law commented, "The store is very clean, well-organized, and not at all like what I thought a thrift store would be."

Donations of gently used items suitable for sale at the Guild may be dropped off at the rear of the K. C. Corral in Key Center. Donors may request donation slips (donor fills in donation value) for tax deduction. Items not selected for sales in the shop are sent to the Goodwill Thrift Store for repair and sales at its facility.

Santa's helpers, the Angel Guild volunteers, are often customers who stop by to see the shop and later come back to donate their time and services. Volunteers at the Angel Guild's thrift shop are needed year-round. Those interested in volunteering may call Bonnie

“

The store is very clean, well-organized, and not at all like what I thought a thrift store would be.

— Angel Guild visitor

”

Stinson at the shop - 884-9333- to arrange for an orientation and schedule.

Christmas gifts are true treasures at bargain hunter prices here. Stop in and check out all the sugar and spice wonders, plus the cool tools for little boys. Santa stops in to see all the wee ones during the holiday season.

The guild's thrift shop provides nonprofit organizations the opportunity to receive support for meeting funding needs. As an IRS mandated 501(c)(3) nonprofit, the Guild may not gift religious or political organizations or private individuals. An organization desiring funding may submit a request in writing 30 days prior to the date of their financial need. Local schools, sports teams, and art organizations are most often the recipients of these funds.

The thrift shop is open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The shop is closed Dec. 26. In the mid-1970s, three Key residents — Jean Brodsack, Judy Wilson, and Nate Knox — began collecting clothing for local families in need, and gave the Angel Guild its wings to spread the joy of quality living amongst Key Peninsula residents.

LL's Great gifts & clothing for the holiday season

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Design your own holiday packages

By Irene Torres, KP News

With a few simple touches, you can make holiday gift-wrapping special.

Collect assorted paper remnants, fancy yarns or ribbons, perhaps left over from previous wrapping projects. As you wrap your gift, decide on a theme. Use hot glue to add fabric remnants, faux fur, taffeta, feathers, or fuzzy wool.

Fabric remnants are excellent for wrapping larger gifts. Press out any creases first. Use hot glue to secure the folds. Holiday-printed tablecloths, tea towels, and even wallpaper can be used as gift-wrap.

Paint a plain or wooden belt buckle (gold, silver, or any color) and use it to fasten a single length of ribbon around a package wrapped in fabric.

Rows of sequins can be used as ribbon, and individual sequins hot-glued randomly will add sparkle to an otherwise plain package.

Don't be afraid to mix colors. Use rows of different colored ribbons to make a plaid pattern over a tissue-wrapped package, or apply them in parallel strips.

Gift baskets can be difficult to wrap. Use cellophane, which comes in clear, colored tints, or imprinted with any number of festive designs. Tie the package together with a long decorative ribbon or bow. Or use a sprig of holly or mistletoe for a special holiday touch.

Recycle last-year's Christmas cards into miniature, colorful gift boxes, or gift-certificate holders. See instructions at <http://crafts.kaboose.com/christmas-card-boxes.html>.

Creative accents, such as plain snowman shapes or monograms, can be added with double-face tape to garnish plain wrapped boxes. Paper snowflakes, in various sizes, are very easy to make. Snowflake shapes can be cut using scissors on folded paper. And the children love to help. Paper punches with

holiday designs are available at scrapbooking stores. Snowflakes can be punched out and glued onto gifts, ribbons and cards. Place them in rows or apply them randomly. You can use the punched-out negative as a band around gift boxes. Trim the edges with decorative scissors.

You can use the negative cutouts as stencils and spray-paint patterns directly on solid-color gift-wrap paper. Or use Christmas-themed rubber stamps to create your own custom design on paper or gift tags.

Gift tags can also be embellished with rub-on decal lettering, small beads, clip art, or even photos of the gift recipient. Retired Christmas tree ornaments also make fun gift toppings.

Letters and initials, shaped from various colored wire, or beaded wire, can be used to accent your gift.

When your gifts are wrapped, you can use these unique package wrapping ideas to grace a holiday table or as a mantel decoration.



Gift ideas from the heart

By Karen Hale, KP News

People who love to work with their hands end up having more hobbies than they have time for. What a great way to show you care by using that hobby to make a thoughtful gift for a family member or friend.

Crafters start thinking about the holidays in July, to set it all out in their mind. They lay out plans for which items will be made and in what order, to dedicate the most time to the most time-consuming.

Which recipes will be used this year? A favorite recipe book came from a friend who goes to Temple Beth El in Tacoma. The Jewish ladies there can really cook. Baskets of home-canned jams and jellies, salsa (a family favorite) with chips (bought) and trays of cookies and candies such as baklava, peanut brittle, and chocolate-glazed rum cake are a few gift items created from that book.

A friend's recipe for Kahlua tasted better than the store brand. However, because of aging required for most alcoholic products, it needs to be made a month in advance.

People love to receive sweaters, hats, scarves, blankets and other various crocheted, knitted and sewn items as gifts.

Home-made holiday decorations, such as crocheted Christmas trees and tree skirts for under the tree make good gifts. Knitted dolls that resemble the recipient thrill the little girls who get them.

A man who is good with router and skilsaw can build a bookshelf or other item he's honed his skills on.

People who love the holidays love it for the warm nature of giving. Some people like to give more of themselves, of the things they like to do. It's more personal than buying from a store. Gifts from the heart are remembered forever.



Photo by Karen Hale

A crocheted tree makes a pretty gift. Directions online at www.keypennews.com.

Kahlua

3 ¾ cups water
3 ¼ cups sugar
Boil 5-7 minutes
¼ cup water
¼ cup instant coffee

Bring water and coffee to a boil and remove from heat immediately.

Mix the two mixtures together and pour into a glass container, a gallon jar if you have one. Add a vanilla bean, split lengthwise. When mixture is cool, add a fifth of 100 proof vodka. Let age 4 weeks.



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Customize a gardener's gift basket



Photo by Colleen Slater

A hanging basket holds tools, seeds, and other gift items at Sunnycrest Nursery.

By Irene Torres, KP News

This year, consider giving a lasting Christmas gift.

Create a custom gift basket to suit the recipient's taste. Any gardener will cherish a basket brimming with the essentials needed to plant and tend a spring garden. Start with a sturdy single-handled woven basket or galvanized pail and add some shredded paper or cellofiller, so the contents fit snugly inside. Put in a gardening magazine or video, and go from there. Some ideas to include are soft kneepad cushions, cotton gloves, a trowel, shears, a hand cultivator, an apron or tool belt, a bandana, small watering can, and packets of wildflower seeds.

Be creative. A small wind chime adds whimsy to this practical basket. You might include a canvas tote with trail mix, almonds, a tin of mints, snack crackers, and individually wrapped candies. Add tea bags or flavored coffee packets, cookies, and apple cider, for relaxing after the gardening is done. Include gardener's soap and scented lotion to soothe the hands.

Use wide cellophane to wrap the basket. Or you may choose a garden-themed wrapping paper, or present your thoughtful gift without a wrap.

A bulb basket could include amaryllis, tulips, crocus, hyacinths, anemones, lilies, daffodils, irises, and bearded irises, packaged with a medium-sized bulb planter. Bulb-forcing instructions can be printed on a card to enclose in the basket.

A mushroom growing kit is another unique idea. Popular varieties are shiitake, oyster, portabella and white button mushrooms. Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center carries a compost mix for a successful mushroom crop.

Nature lovers will enjoy a bird feeder, a birdbath, a corn cob feeder, and a hummingbird or butterfly attraction.

For those not inclined to outdoor gardening, a white hydrangea in a red pot makes a bold table centerpiece. This is a beautiful alternative to the standard seasonal poinsettia.

A windowsill garden herb kit can make a memorable and lasting gift for the gourmand. Easy-to-grow choices are oregano, savory, chives, basil, lavender, parsley, sage, rosemary, mint and thyme. Carefully choose varieties that will not



grow too wide or tall.

For the outdoors, new landscape accents are now available, such as decorative garden stakes, statuary, sculptures, and wall fountains, as well as decorative solar-powered lanterns.

A mini-weather station with a digital panel read out will help the gardener predict snow, rain, frost, wind, and other weather changes. It can record minimum/maximum temperatures and humidity, with a clock to show the time and date. For the Key Peninsula gardener, a rain gauge would also be an appropriate gift.

Many of these items are available locally at Coast Hardware in Wauna, Capitol Lumber, and Sunnycrest Nursery in Key Center. Cost Less Prescriptions in Wauna carries a good selection of gift items, or order online. Check at Charboneau Construction and Supply in Minter for landscaping ideas. And the Angel Guild in the KC Corral in Key Center stocks an unusual array of items to make Christmas gift-shopping fun.



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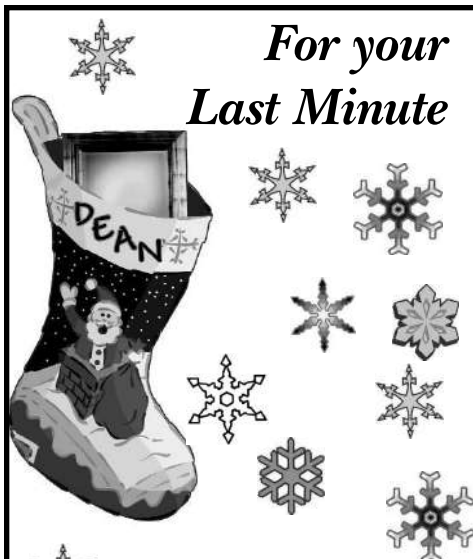
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Holiday giving and receiving

By Colleen Slater, KP News

Several organizations go into high gear as the holidays approach, with programs to help the less fortunate in our community.

The Children's Home Society's Holiday Helper program provides gifts for families who cannot afford their own. Individuals and organizations "adopt" a family or several families and purchase gifts for them, according to their requested needs and desires.

For example, A child is a 6-year-old girl who needs a winter coat, size 7, and would like a soccer ball. A donor takes tagged, unwrapped gifts to the office where they will be set aside for her. Donations of clothing and toys in general can also be made.

One full-time college student and single mom says, "It's a great program." Stressed as end-of-quarter finals neared, with no money for gifts for her 2-year-old, she was very grateful for the program that provided her with some needed items for her child.

Interested donors can call 884-5433

for more information.

The Key Peninsula firemen accept clean, gently used stuffed animals all year round. They like smaller ones "with character," says Chief Chuck West, to keep in their rigs for children who need a quick "friend." Larger stuffed pets are given to the Children's Home Society. Donations may be left at the Key Center station Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Community House food bank will provide special holiday food for over 100 families just before both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Although they don't call the turkey day one a "basket," they provide the basics of turkey, pumpkin pie fixings, canned milk, cranberries and stuffing mix if they have it.

Their Christmas basket will include all of those things, plus rolls, oranges or apples, and perhaps some extras provided by donations.

This year, Key Peninsula Veterans Institute is donating money for turkeys, but all of the other items, plus little extras, can be given to the food bank up



The Key Peninsula firemen accept clean, gently used stuffed animals all year round.

until two weeks before the designated holiday. Pans for cooking the turkey, ready-made pie crusts or pie crust mix are other welcome items.

Volunteers are always needed, says Hellen, board member, but they can use extra help the week before the boxes

are given out. Thanksgiving boxes often go to 110 families, and the Christmas baskets will be planned for about 120.

People on the peninsula in need of special holiday food supplies can sign up between Nov. 1 and 27 for Christmas baskets.

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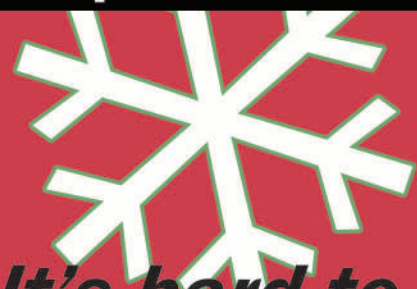
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