

Horseshoe Lake park open for extended hours

By Danna Webster, KP News

Horseshoe Lake Park and beach will be open every day this summer, thanks to the collaboration of Key Pen Parks with Kitsap County Parks. Horseshoe Lake is one of only a few fresh-water lakes with public access near the Key Peninsula.

The park is located on 94th Street about one mile north of SR-302 and offers an unguarded swimming area, playground, picnic tables, volleyball courts, ball fields and walking trails.

The Key Pen Parks board considers the Horseshoe Lake Park as a recreational asset for residents of the north Key Peninsula area. It has been in jeopardy of closure in recent years. According to Executive Director Scott Gallacher, Key Pen Parks began talking with Kitsap County in 2010 about the challenges of keeping the park open and began developing ways to assist.

Last year, the park was open with reduced hours. The agreement between the two park districts allows it to be open seven days a week from May 18 through Sept. 4 this year.

“We believe that residents of the Key Peninsula use that park. The public doesn’t see a boundary for parks. ... They want to have their parks acces-

sible,” Gallacher said.

A Key Pen parks press release noted that Kitsap County Parks Director Jim Dunwiddie is pleased with the arrangement to keep the park open throughout the season. Kitsap County’s efforts to secure volunteers to help the county open the park additional days did not come to fruition.

Key Pen Parks will maintain the park Monday through Thursday and Kitsap will provide maintenance on weekends and holidays. Gallacher estimates the cost for Key Pen at about \$6,000, which includes an additional staff person and necessary supplies for general maintenance, including garbage pickup and grounds cultivation. He anticipates an economic advantage for the Lake Kathryn center from visitors shopping for recreational and picnic supplies.

Dunwiddie and Gallacher hope to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship to achieve common objectives through shared maintenance responsibilities at the park without duplicative effort and expense. Gallacher and his parks board will evaluate the arrangement for this year and determine the course for 2013.

“I believe it will work out,” he said. “It is close and having a park in the north end of KP is important.”

KP Historical Society hosts classes and more

The KP Historical Society offers its next free class about the Penrose family at Prospect Point on June 14, 4-5 p.m. Open to all ages, the topic is transportation and a typical camp 100 years ago. Making clam chowder is included.

The main exhibit this year is about the Penrose family, who spent many summers on part of the area that is now Penrose State Park. A smaller exhibit on logging on the Key Peninsula gives a hint of the main display coming next year.

Tickets (\$50) for the July 7 boat cruises are available at the museum. The first boat leaves Longbranch dock at 2:30 p.m., returning at 5 p.m., with the second cruise of 6:30 to 9 p.m. Appetizers

and no-host bar on board.

A new project this year is visiting other historical museums in the general area. The next one is Anderson Island, scheduled for June 20.

The annual membership picnic will be on June 30 at Blue Willow Lavender Farm, historic home of the Babcock family.

Museum hours are Thursday and Saturday, 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. There is no entrance fee, but monetary donations are welcome. All board members and docents are volunteers.

Call 884-1400 for more information on the events; to learn about the museum, call 884-2511 or 884-5403.

KP seniors ‘SAIL’ in Key Center

A small group of Key Peninsula women recently “took over” Key Center, dancing along to music on the sidewalks as they made their way through “downtown.” The group was part of the Key Peninsula Community Services’ exercise class (joined impromptu by a firefighter).

The class uses the SAIL (Staying Active and Independent for Life) program, which includes a mix of aerobic, balance, flexibility and strength-training exercises, as well as education. The science-based program, which is geared toward fall prevention for seniors, requires medical permission and documentation.

Instructor Marilyn Perks said they were inspired by a YouTube clip that showed a man dancing on the streets of New York and getting strangers to join him.

“It just caught fire with our group. We laugh a lot and have fun in our three times a week SAIL class and have all become good friends, so we’re comfortable enjoying a little silliness together,” she said.

Their public outing in May coincid-



Photo by Jim Bellamy, for KP News

Left to right, JoAnn Stevens, Pat Sammeth, instructor Marilyn Perks and Marlene Tarver show off their moves on the Key Center sidewalk.

ed with the Older Americans Month, which had the theme “never too old to have fun.”

The SAIL class takes place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning year round and is free for anyone age 60 and up. The general public can also follow the SAIL method by checking out the signs at Volunteer Park, on the chain-link fence at the back of the baseball field.

For more information about the class, contact Perks at 884-5241.

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