SPRINGTIME - APRIL 2023

PENINSULA PRESS *a publication of Peninsula Services*

GREETINGS FROM THE CEO

Better Together

I wanted to take a few minutes of this newsletter to reflect on one year of First Friday lunches. It's hard to believe that a year has passed since I stepped into the CEO role of Peninsula Services. When I first assumed this new position, I identified the need to bring our staff and employees together intentionally. Many of us had spent two years during the covid lockdowns working separately spread throughout the county. Much of our work continued, and we continued to provide excellent service to our customers, but something was missing. As I toured many of our worksites and talked with individuals across the company, I often heard how people felt separated and lacked the connections we once shared between departments. One of the things that first came to mind for me was to begin to intentionally bring people together across departments in an informal way and allow time and context for people to be together and share the work they do, and build friendships. I've been inspired by how Werner's administrative staff have regularly planned lunches together.

I remember an old preacher I grew up with from my youth who always said, "Eating helps the meeting." Indeed, food has a way of bringing us together. I have enjoyed planning and providing one lunch a month for all our employees, and I'm grateful to every-one who has made the trek to Werner Road to join in the fun. I've seen friendships grow and communication increase across departmental lines. I have hoped that this tradition would express my thankfulness to each of you. Each of you is vital to the mission of Pen-insula Services, and together we accomplish so much more than we can do on our own. It seems to me that our human connections feel so much more vital after several years of being apart. I've heard it said that we often spend more awake hours with our work colleagues than with our families. If this is the case, I want to ensure our work culture promotes positivity, encouragement, and friendship.

Thank you for being so committed to Peninsula Services and each other as we pursue the mission of meaningful employment for people with disabilities. Thank you to all who have helped with First Friday Free Lunches, and Thank You to everyone who has attend-ed. I look forward to this tradition continuing to improve in the years ahead. Next month First Friday falls on Cinco de Mayo, and I've heard rumblings that tacos and all the trimmings are on the menu. See you next month! Until then, enjoy some pictures of some of our gatherings on the page!

Todd Faulkner, CEO

Editor's Note: With all of the ongoing disasters and serious issues going on in this world, please try to remember that HAPPINESS is an inside job. If you can't find happiness inside yourself, you'll never find it in the outside world, even in "your own backyard", as Dorothy put it. No matter where you move, what you do or what you acquire. Wherever you go, there YOU are. You might as well be happy!

Hope you can all make it next month

For the First Friday Free Lunch

May 5th – Cinqo de Mayo!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH!

We want to recognize great employees and these are extraordinary:

For January: Paul Foster, Grounds Maintenance Lead Worker, in case your missed the last newsletter. Well deserved, Paul!

For February: Aaron Messier of Whidbey Servmart. He has been with us since May of 2003! Coming up on the Big 2-0! Congrats, Aaron.

For March: Juliet Castillo, our Awesome Payroll Specialist who is working her tail off getting the ADP system up and running for us all! You Go Girl!

PENINSULA SERVICES - WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

Someone thought it would be a good idea, since I am now the "keeper of the history" of Peninsula Services, to put a bit about "The Old Days" in the newsletter for all you Youngins". This is just a starting point. I'll have a few tidbits in each edition. **Robert Bates**, out at Bangor, has 3 years on me, so maybe he can tell us next time what has changed at the Commissaries since he started. **Robin Meyer,** our Grounds Tech, began about a week after me. Gotcha, Robin. She could fill us in on the Grounds history, and maybe we can get **Kevin Kilbridge**, now on the Board, but our Business Manager starting back in the 1980's, to tell us about PS life before me. **We are LONGTERM!**

Peninsula Services began in 1971 as **Southwood,** a residential facility for people with challenges, where FHMC used to be. By 1978 we were at Werner, called **Peninsula Lodge**, but had expanded to have another part, called **PenLco**, a sheltered workshop that taught office skills, janitorial, lawn maintenance. ***Ah Ha!***

In 1985 PenLCo opened a print shop in Auto Center Way and had obtained contracts for Commissary shelf stocking, grounds maintenance jobs, repairing pallets and tools used in the shipyard, and making microfilm records for an aircraft company. We became **Peninsula Services in 1992.**

When I started in 1996, Voc Svcs was in offices on Wheaton Way, The Mental Health Dept. (now gone) had upstairs Werner for an Adult Day Treatment program in combo with KMH (serving 35-40 people a day), the Business Office was all crammed into what is now Todd's office (4 of us) and the rest of downstairs was storage that included a pool table, chalkboards and a piano. Werner was painted like redwood and the air conditioner leaked into the offices every summer. The Contract Services Dept. was on Pacific Ave, where the Gift Garden used to be. We were all spread out, even if we weren't as big a group. And we would soon move again. Along the way some of the projects included Auto Washing and Detailing, a Coffee Stand that was first called **Peninsula Perk**, then **GeDunk**, a thrift store called **Spun to Gold**, in on Bay St. in Port Orchard and of course more recently **Kitsap E-Z Earth** (a worm farm), **The Gift Garden** which became **The Gift Basket** and **All Shred** which is still going! Enough for now-out of space. There won't be a test, but we will continue next time and fill in some more**....and with some photos, too!**

Submitted by Andrea Johnston

The Kitsap Great Give is early this year! ***TODAY,*** **APRIL 11TH!**

It doesn't give me much time to notify you, but I hope you will spread the word! Please encourage your friends and family, if they want to participate, to give a thought to donating what they can - even a little - to Peninsula Services. If you are reading this you already know how important our mission is to the people we serve and our community! Jobs = Independence plus so much more!

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT!

Our Grounds Crew Rocks!!!

The perseverance of each team member determines a company's success. Our project's results are a great success for the company, and this is all because of your Grounds crews working together as a TEAM!

TEAMWORK from all angles from our Grounds crew is exceptional. **Amanda** received an urgent email on Friday at 10am from our GOV REP with a last minute request for VIP members visiting Monday at our Military Hotel at Bangor. Needing it cleaned up and finished with bark. So, she called our Grounds crew immediately (**Chris Bockus, Eli Taylor, Shawn Perrault, Marcus Olivas, and Tobi St. Louis**). Acting swiftly with their redirection, reloading from their current location, back to the shop to unload their equipment, to switch out to different tools, they got to the new site to take out all vegetation, storm debris, garbage, and prepped for bark in less than half the day! Meanwhile, **Robin** worked her magic and got our bark vendors to rearrange their schedule to do a special bark delivery over the weekend. By Monday morning before these VIP guests arrived, Mason took great pictures of the project to polish it off. We received "exceptional kudos" from our Gov Parrs and The Navy Command for getting this done at the drop of a dime.

Great Job - from both Supervisors and Office Tech to our leads and crew for their dedication, hard work and most importantly TEAM WORK to make this all happen perfectly, in such short notice. **Congratulations to this team for everything you did to make this project a success & happy customers.**

Submitted by Amanda Ferguson, Site Supervisor

Pictures by Mason Lee, Site Supervisor

Your HR Team

Follow Peninsula Services on Instagram: peninsula_services

Follow us on Twitter: PeninsulaServ1

Website: www.peninsulaservices.org

HR Phone: 360 479-6520 (Front Desk)

HELLO! Your HR Team: Daria, Rollande, Ella, and Nancy are busy making sure our fantastic hard working employees are well taken care of. Nancy joined us in December and Ella filled out the team in February. We are busy working on updating policy, forms, job announcements, CARF audit, and our social media presence.

DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A TWITTER AND INSTAGRAM ACCOUNT?

Follow us to learn about current job postings to share with people looking for a great job!

If you are the 25th person to follow us on Instagram you will win a *prize.

Winner announced in the next quarterly newsletter

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MONTHLY WEBINAR

Each month our employee assistance program provides a free webinar. For the month of April 2023 the webinar topic is "Making Time for Everything: Dual Careers and Family Life". Ways to better manage your household and make time for what matters most.. The realities of busy, working partners and making the most of the time and energy we have. Don't forget we have this great resource available to Peninsula Service staff.

User name is peninsulaservices

www.FirstChoiceEAP.com

Thank you. Your everyday work contributes to our mission.

SPRING SALAD

Spring...one of our favorite times of year!

This is the time for renewal, opening all the windows in the house and letting everything air out from the long closed up winter days. The birds are singing, the flowers are coming into bloom and the trees are sprouting their leaves to soak up the sunshine.

This salad is casual and lively, a great way to bring in the Spring...And one of the first things to appear in our gardens are the dandelions, which are a special ingredient in the salad.

Dandelion greens are full of nutrition and are very tasty. In the scheme of leafy greens, dandelions are up there with kale. Dandelions are known to be high in calcium, rich in iron and full of antioxidants. They are also detoxifying, full of minerals and trace elements as well as being high in protein, even more than spinach. You can use dandelion greens in many ways. I have seen recipes for sautéing them, using them in a pesto, tossing them in salads, soups and stews. They are not just a weed but a beneficial green to add to your green & healthy diet.

This salad is also a perfect way to add some of your favorite spring blossoms into a meal to celebrate the flowers of spring. They add wonderful fragrance and color. Other edible flowers include pansies, roses, honeysuckle, lavender....Google edible flowers and find all kinds of information about which ones to use and how to use them. The ingredients all come together with great flavor and just look so pretty!

Salad Ingredients
- spring mix salad
- dandelions
- handful wisteria flowers, pulled of their stems
- english cucumber, chopped
- sweet orange, peeled and chopped
- orange zest

Dressing (serves 2)
- 2 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon dijon mustard
- juice of 1/2 orange
- cracked pepper to taste

Preparation
1. Start with the dressing by combining all ingredients, except the oil, in a small bowl, mix well and then add in the olive oil. Mix again and let set.
2. For the salad ingredients, use as much as you like of each ingredient. Mix your greens, place on serving dish and top with cucumber, orange pieces, orange zest and flowers. Drizzle with dressing just before serving.

More Edible Flowers!

The ALL SHRED/LIONS SHRED DAY is Coming April 29th!

Enjoy a cup of coffee while you get your documents securely shredded.
Place: Olympic College Parking Lot 5
Hours: 10-2
Cost: Only $1 per pound, and it will help fund the programs of Peninsula Services and the Central Bremerton Lions Club.

Shredding confidential and personal documents is the best way to ensure your info stay safe, but here are other Tips for Preventing Identity Theft.

Identity thieves steal your personal information to commit fraud. They can damage your credit status and cost you time and money. Don't be a victim, follow these tips:

Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write it on your checks. Only give out your SSN when absolutely necessary. Just because a business asks for it doesn't mean you need to give it. When tax returns are requested black out social security numbers.

Protect your PIN numbers. Never write a PIN on a credit/debit card or on a slip of paper you keep in your wallet.

Watch out for "shoulder surfers". Shield the keypad when using pay phones and ATMs.

Collect mail promptly. Don't let it sit in your mailbox, especially on the street. And ask the post office to put your mail on hold when you are away from home for vacation.

Pay attention to your billing cycles. If bills or statements are late, contact the sender.

Check your receipts. Promptly compare receipts with account statements and be on watch for any unauthorized transactions.

Store personal information in a safe place at home and at work. Don't leave it lying around.

Don't give your personal information through the mail, over the phone or online.

Do Install firewalls and virus-detection software on your home computer.

Check your credit report yearly. Make sure no one has gotten access to your account.

AND OF COURSE, SHRED unwanted receipts, credit and insurance offers, account statements, expired cards, etc., so that dumpster divers won't find your personal information. ***ALL SHRED RULES!***

CARF IS COMING!!!

We have received notice that our Three Year Accreditation term is about up… time to renew! We are shooting for another 3 years, the longest CARF gives out, and is based on our preparation and completion of the standards. We are proud of our level of compliance and want all of you to be as well. We all play a part in the Big Picture that keep us moving forward as a premier provider of services for people with disabilities in Kitsap County. You will be seeing more about CARF in the coming months as we prepare.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW VOCATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER, DEB MCRAE

Hello Team,

My name is Deb McRae, and I'm the new Vocational Services Manager here at Peninsula Services. I'm looking forward to building relationships and serving our clients – I also look forward to learning how we work collaboratively to serve our community.

I'm confident we can all find creative ways to increase job starts, maintain employment in work of choice and ensure we are supporting our community members at meeting their goals.

I've taken this role because I enjoy seeing and feeling the excitement of some-one being accepted into a team and growing with the support of leadership and their community.

I hope to meet all of you in person soon. Before I came here, I was the program director at VMFH Wound Care and Hyperbaric Medicine at St Michael. My career in Healthcare started right here at Naval Hospital, Bremerton in 1985.

Outside work, I like being an adoptive parent to three kids, we love what the peninsula has to offer: camping, fishing, and being on the beach.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. I'm happy to share more about what I'll be doing here, and I'm excited to figure out how I can best support you.

Best,

Deb McRae
MAOL, MSHR, U.S. Navy Retired
Vocational Services Manager
Peninsula Services
deborahm@psvoc.org
www.peninsulaservices.org

FROM THE STANDARD

For those of you with 401-k's, the most asked question is "How do I access my account?"

We have the answer!

The Personal Savings Center at standard.com/login lets you manage your retirement plan account online. You can enroll, view your account balance, change your contributions, rebalance your investments, get help rolling over funds from another plan, make online transactions, check your investments, access helpful information and tools — and more!

To Access Online

* Visit standard.com/login and the Personal Savings Center. If you don't already have an account follow these instructions:
* Click Create an Account.
* Click on My Retirement Plan.
* Under I Have a Retirement Plan Through Work, select Create an Account.
* Fill in your personal information, then create a username and password.

You will receive an email from verify@standard.com to activate your online account. You will need to do the following within 24 hours:

* Log into your new account with your username and password.
* Read and agree to the Terms of Consent.
* Select how you'd like to receive verification codes. The will send you a six-digit code that you must enter on their website within 60 minutes of receiving it.
* If you are going to use the same device or computer again and prefer not to receive a code, select Trust this Browser.
* When prompted to connect your account, choose yes. Then select Retirement Account.
* Enter the requested information, then click Add Services.
* Choose Continue to My Home, then Go to My Account.

Need help? Call 800.858.5420.Follow the voice prompts to get your account information.

To Keep Your Account Secure

* Create an account on the Personal Savings Center and activate multifactor authentication (a second layer of security requiring a one-time PIN with your login). It will send a code to your text or email.
* Review your account information and activity at least monthly.
* Have up-to-date contact information on your account.
* Don't share your account username, password or security questions with others.
* Let us know as soon as possible if you notice or suspect your account is compromised, or if you see any unauthorized transaction or activity in your account.

DON'T WAIT FOR SOMEONE TO BRING YOU FLOWERS....

PLANT YOUR OWN GARDEN AND DECORATE YOUR OWN SOUL.

Luther Burbank

Servmart News

Things are ramping up at the Servmart stores in preparation for becoming GSA certified! This is a HUGE deal and we are proud of the team for taking on the challenge. What it will mean:

Being on a GSA Schedule contract allows direct access to the U.S. Federal Government, which allows us as contractors to sell to the state and local government entities as well as public schools.

It provides more access to opportunities that are only available to those who are on a GSA Schedule.

Government agencies often prefer to buy from the GSA Schedule program because the contractors are pre-vetted and are offering the best value.

Lastly, being on a GSA Schedule contract usually presents a long-term relationship with an increase in sales.

Ron Modkins, COO

FROM RICH MEULLER, WHIDBEY SERVMART MANAGER, AKA ST. PATRICK

Team Whidbey Servmart Welcomes a New Member

Our Servmart family is growing! The Whidbey Servmart would like to introduce our newest team member, Morgan English. Morgan, a former K-9 hospitality specialist, has started with us to be our new driver. She is getting specialized training from Chuck and is quickly learning the ropes. Please join us to welcome a new member to the Peninsula Services team. You will all have a chance to meet her in person when Team Whidbey comes to the Cinco De Mayo, First Friday Lunch.

Submitted by Rich Mueller

SHOP AT Peninsula Services Servmart

www.servmart.org

3515 Arsenal Way, Bremerton / 617 Industrial Ave, Oak Harbor

8:00 am - 4:00 pm Monday through Friday

Bremerton: (360) 377-3707 / **Whidbey:** (360) 240-8649

Check out some of our Featured and Sale Items:

Cubie White Marker Board (Ability One) **$122.47**

Lysol Disinfecting Wipes in Lemon, Lime Blossom Scent 80 / Pack **$6.50 / PK**

FLASHLITE S&W 4D BLACK (Ability One) **$16.03**

Instant Hand Sanitizer & Moisturizer with Aloe Vera 16.5OZ PUMP **$11.89**

FACEMASK FFP2 KN95

50/BX $30.95

Saint Patrick Gives Blood! You Can Too!

Sorry to those who are queasy from just looking at this picture, but if you are able, it only takes a few minutes of your time, and each pint you give can save up to 3 lives!

For those of us in Kitsap Co. looking to donate:
Bloodworks Northwest - Silverdale Donor Center
www.bloodworksnw.org
3230 NW Randall Way, Silverdale, WA 98383
(360) 308-7340

"Spring is made of solid, fourteen-karat gratitude, the reward for the long wait. Every religious tradition from the northern hemisphere honors some form of April Hallelujah, for this is the season of exquisite redemption: A slam-bang return to joy after a season of cold second thoughts."

— Barbara Kingsolver

Today By Billy Collins

If ever there were a spring day so perfect,
so uplifted by a warm intermittent breeze
that it made you want to throw
open all the windows in the house
and unlatch the door to the canary's cage,
to just rip the little door from its jamb,
a day when the cool brick paths
and the garden bursting with peonies
seemed so etched in sunlight
that you felt like taking
a hammer to the glass paperweight
on the living room end table,
releasing the inhabitants
from their snow-covered cottage
so they could walk out,
holding hands and squinting
into this larger dome of blue and white,
well, today is just that kind of day.

Art by **Amy Weber,** Bainbridge island, WA

APRIL DAYS

April 1st-Fool's Day
April 2-Palm Sunday
April 3-Find a Rainbow Day
April 4-International Carrot Day
April 5-Passover (starts at sundown)
April 6-Hostess Twinkie Day
April 7-Good Friday
April 8-Feng Shui Day
April 9-Easter Sunday
April 10-Hug Your Dog Day
April 11-Cheese Fondue Day
April 12-Hamster Day
April 13-Passover ends at nightfall
April 14-Donate a Book Day
April 15-Record Store Day
April 16-Save the Elephant Day
April 17-Go Fly a Kite Day
April 18-Autism Awareness Day
April 19-Garlic Day
April 20-Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day
April 21-Last day of Ramadan-started March 22
April 22-Earth Day
April 23-World Book Day
April 24-Pigs in a Blanket Day
April 25-World Penguin Day
April 26- Admin Pro Day
April 27-Take Your Kids to Work Day
April 28-Arbor Day
April 29-Indie Bookstore Day
April 30-Adopt A Shelter Pet Day

APRIL BIRTHSTONE: DIAMOND
APRIL FLOWER: DAISY OR SWEETPEA

SPRINGTIME BIRTHDAYS:
We wish a Happy Birthday and a wonderful year ahead to our employees celebrating birthdays in the Spring!
I was going to out you all, but was told not to. **But YOU know who you are!!!!**

OUR COMMISARIES SHINE!

From Ron Modkins, COO

Our recent visit from Ms. Lewis (Contracting Officer), Mr. Bunch and Mr. Whitaker (DECA Executives) went very, very well. They were impressed with both stores and appreciate the professional relationship we have with DECA at both stores, PSNS and Bangor.

They mentioned it reflects in both stores appearances. They could tell that we take pride in our store.

Mr. Bunch said that there are many stores in which DECA doesn't have a good relationship with their contractors, and their stores suffer. He told Ron Modkins, our COO, that he is very pleased with the work he is doing , and that Ron should be proud.

After the visit, both store Managers expressed how Happy they were with the visit. They expressed that they want to recognize a few members of both teams for the good work that had been done.

GREAT JOB, TEAMS!

BANGOR COMMISSARY NEWS:

2023 has started out to be a good year for Bangor Commissary. Our customers are coming back and sales are going up. We have been busy bees!

Along with the increase in business we have been preparing for a visit from very important DECA management. DECA is our customer, and we want to make them proud. DECA's Zone Manager, DECA's Area Director and the Head of Store Operations for DECA came to our store on April 5th. It was a very important visit.

I am very proud of my team. They stepped up where it counted. If they needed to work extra hours due to heavy loads or members out sick, they did it with no complaint. They made sure their products were rotated and their shelves looked orderly. We all take pride in our work and in our store.

On April 5th. I walked the store with DECA management from Bangor Commissary, and our DECA visitors. They were very pleased with our store and said we should be proud of the job we do. They were very complimentary on the relationship Peninsula Services has with DECA and said it showed in the pride of the work we do in our store.

I want to shout out to my team! THANK YOU ALL so much for all your hard work and dedication to make Bangor Commissary a place to be proud of and a place where customers feel welcome, cared for and want to shop.

From Robin Elkins, Bangor Commissary Supervisor

Spring is coming… Time for some cleaning.

Remove all the self-doubt, worry, jealousy, regret, anger, guilt, or any other negative emotions that are holding you back from your dream of a happy, fulfilled life.

AND FROM THE PSNS COMMISSARY

Since the last newsletter, we have been working hard to rearrange our back warehouse and prep it for an important visitor from DeCa. The team has worked relentlessly on organizing and working freight to clean up our back warehouse. I am proud of the team's efforts and teamwork.

The productivity has maintained a satisfactory level and continues to improve. With the right training and guidance, we will hopefully be able to smoothly transition into an even higher level of productivity.

Our quality of work has been praised by our Store Director Mike Jiminez at our last meeting. Our very own **Frank Rose** received Contractor of the Quarter with a certificate from DeCa. Within the last 3 quarters we have taken the honors of Contractor of the Quarter. I am proud of how our team has progressed immensely.

Great work team!

Diane Tuitasi, Site Supervisor

CONGRATULATIONS, FRANK!

PENINSULA SERVICES.....EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EMPLOYMENT

OUR MISSION:

To provide job training and community employment opportunities for adults with disabilities.

Peninsula Services is an EEO, ADA compliant agency following all directives and guidelines related to EOE/AA/M/F/Vet/ Disability hiring.

BOARD NEWS

The Board of Directors held their Annual Board meeting in March, in person and via Zoom. The slate of officers for the coming year was presented and will be voted on this month.

Sadly, long time member **Perry Ann Porter-Brown** felt it time to move on and has resigned. We wish her well and will miss her smile and enthusiasm.

If you know someone who has the desire, drive and talent to help govern Peninsula Services into the future as a member of the Board we encourage you to contact **Todd Faulkner** or **Holly James** at the Business Office number: 360.373.1446

MANY THANKS TO OUR ***SPECTACULAR*** BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

* *Holly James-Chairperson*
* *Tom Taylor-Vice Chair*
* *Walter Draper-Treasurer*
* *Phyllis Merhaut-Secretary*
* *Mary Coupland*
* *Gary Floring*
* *Sue Kela*
* *Kristi Keller*
* *Kevin Kilbridge*
* *Ed Munoz*
* *Jessica Prevost*
* *Gena Wales*

PENINSULA SERVICES

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www.peninsulaservices.org
www.allshred.com
www.servmart.org

For questions, comments and to submit your own news:
andreaj@peninsulaservices.org

Well, you've made it this far, so here is a little question for you. The first member of the **Grounds Crew** who gives the right answer to their supervisor to email or text me will get the much wished for **Day Off with Pay** coupon.

So, tell me, **what is one thing you can do that will get you 100% respect?**

Waiting to hear from you,

Andrea Johnston, editor

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