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Peninsula Light Company News

lights



Give the Gift of Warmth Through Project Help

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Did you know that PenLight has a program that can help families stay warm this winter? Project Help is a donation-based system that exists for our neighbors in Gig Harbor and the Key Peninsula. It operates annually from November through April to offset electric bills for income-qualifying families.



And the best part? PenLight matches each of your donations, dollar for dollar.

There are three ways to contribute:

- A one-time gift.
- A recurring monthly donation.
- Rounding up your bill each month to the nearest whole dollar.

Our Round Up campaign is a popular way to donate to Project Help, adding only about \$6 per year to your electric bill. Many members also add a recurring monthly donation or a one-time gift in addition to rounding up their monthly bill. Remember, no administrative costs are deducted and all contributions are tax-deductible. Every dollar goes to help our neighbors in need.

To learn more, call our Member Services Department at 253-857-5950 or visit www.penlight.org/project-help.

DON'T FORGET THOSE HIDDEN NUMBERS!

Every month, five randomly chosen account numbers are hidden in Lights. If you spot yours, call **253-857-5950** and receive a \$50 credit on your next bill.

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Peninsula Light Co.
The power to be...

To find the most up-to-date community calendar information, please visit the following resources:

- Gig Harbor Tourism and Communications Office – www.gigharborguide.com
- Pierce County Library System – www.piercecountylibrary.org/calendar
- Harbor History Museum – www.harborhistorymuseum.org/events
- PenMet Parks – www.penmetparks.org
- Key Pen Parks – www.keypenparks.com/events
- Downtown Waterfront Alliance – www.gigharborwaterfront.org/annual-events
- Harbor WildWatch – www.harborwildwatch.org
- Key Peninsula News – www.keypennews.com

Opt in for Outage Reporting by Text Message

Storm season is here and with it comes the chance of power outages. While PenLight's system reliability remains among the highest in the nation, falling trees and limbs during bad weather can cause an interruption in service.

If you haven't done so already, update your account to include your mobile phone and opt in to our Outage Text Reporting program. With just a one-word message, we'll know if your house goes dark.

Here's how to enroll:

- During regular business hours, call Member Services at 253-857-5950 to update your account.
- You can also update your account any time day or night online at www.penlight.org.
- From the main menu, select "Account & Member Services" and then select "Update Account." Have your account number handy. Your account will reflect your changes the next day.

- From your mobile phone, text "penlight" to 85700.
- You will get a response that asks you to confirm your service address.
- Follow the directions to confirm your address, and you will be enrolled for Outage Texting.

Once you're enrolled:

- Save 85700 in your cellphone contacts as "PenLight Outage Report System".
- If your power goes out, text the word "out" to 85700.
- You will receive a response that asks you to confirm your service location.
- Once you respond, your outage will be reported, and you should receive a confirmation reply.

You can opt out of the Outage Texting program at any time by sending the word "stop" to 85700.

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Board Candidate Applications Now Accepted

The Peninsula Light Co. Election Committee is accepting applications for Board of Director positions up for election in March 2019. Application forms are available at www.penlight.org/become-a-board-member.

All applicants must be members of Peninsula Light, in good standing, and permanent residents in PenLight's service area. When submitting your application, please ensure the envelope is marked "Attention: Election Committee." All applications must be received by noon on Friday, December 28, 2018.

Another way to run for the PenLight board is by petition, which requires about 1,000 signatures from members in good standing—3 percent of our approximately 32,000 members. Petition information is available by calling Britni Wickens at 253-857-1504 or via email at britni@penlight.org. 0400450128579



Be Safe During the Winter Holidays

Winter holidays are a time for families and friends to gather. But that also means a greater risk for fire. According to the National Fire Protection Association, more than a third of home decoration fires are started by candles, and 42 percent of decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source. Ensure a happy and fire-safe holiday season for you and your family by following a few simple tips.

Holiday Decorating

- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.



Holiday Entertaining

- Test your smoke alarms and tell guests about your home fire escape plan.
- Keep children and pets away from lit candles.
- Keep matches and lighters up high in a locked cabinet.
- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop.

Source: nfpa.org/education

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New Year's Resolution: Go Paperless

Here is a great—and easy—New Year's resolution: Go green by going paperless with your PenLight monthly bill. Switching to paperless billing not only reduces paper printing, but it also saves on mailing and delivery costs. Save time and avoid late fees with timely reminders that arrive immediately in your email inbox.

It's important to note that, as your member-owned electric cooperative, PenLight will never sell your information to third parties. However, with your permission, we will deliver your monthly issue of our award-winning Lights newsletter to your email inbox as well, saving you—and our trees—even more!

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Look Out for Scams

Recently, scammers targeted members of PenLight, threatening to disconnect electric service. Thanks to the due diligence of our membership and community, the scammers were unsuccessful.

Unfortunately, in today's world, scams are inevitable. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home. Here are a few tips to help you avoid falling victim to these types of scams.

- Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric company. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. If someone calls your home or cellphone demanding you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up and contact Peninsula Light immediately. Do not give them any personal information.
- Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our Member Services Department directly at **253-857-5950**.

