

Fall Back and Change your Smoke Alarm Batteries

Sunday, November 7 is the end of daylight savings time and it is also a good time to change your smoke alarm batteries and check any hard-wired detectors to verify they are in good working condition. It is good practice to change the batteries twice a year and if you have 10-year battery or hardwired alarms, take the opportunity to verify they are working.

According to the Orcas Island Fire & Rescue (OIFR), “roughly half of home fire deaths result from fires reported between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. when most people are asleep” and “the majority of fatal fires occur in homes without working smoke alarms.” To read more about the importance of changing smoke alarm batteries and more great information, visit orcasfire.org or call 360-376-2331.

Orcas Senior Center Companion Services

Among the Orcas Senior Center’s Companion Services, two programs stand out: Hearts and Hands and Buddy Check-In. While Buddy Check-In has grown and thrived during the pandemic, the Hearts and Hand home visit program has not. Hearts and Hands matches vetted and trained volunteers with seniors and people with disabilities for consistent, long-term companionship while monitoring physical and emotional well-being and it continues to make a difference for both volunteers and recipients:

“My volunteer’s friendship helps brighten the days of such relative loneliness.”

“Hearing the treasured stories of my care recipient’s experiences warms my heart and teaches me a lot about what’s really important in life.”

Now, with more and more people becoming vaccinated and COVID-safety protocols well-established, it seems an appropriate time to re-activate and re-energize Hearts and Hands. Volunteers who want to make a significant and meaningful contribution to improving the lives of their fellow islanders, and seniors or persons with disabilities who wish to benefit from the generosity of these caring volunteers, please contact Jim Glozier, Companion Services Coordinator, at 360-919-9318 or Jim@orcasseniors.org for more information. To read more about Orcas Senior Center's Companion Services program, go to orcasseniors.org.

Christmas Quilt Silent Auction at Orcas Senior Center

Lifelong islander, Betty Hall has generously donated a beautiful and festive quilt to Orcas Senior Center for a silent auction. The 42 ½ by 49 ½ inch quilt, adorned with a Christmas tree using what's called paper piecing, was expertly crafted both by hand and machine by Betty and the late Wanda Ryberg. So, stop on by Orcas Senior Center at 62 Henry Road, Monday through Friday, 9am to 3pm to admire this lovely quilt in person and place your winning bid by December 1 at 3pm.