

The Peninsula Pelican

The official letter of the Peninsula Beach Preservation Group

"Serving the Peninsula community since 1966"



President's Message:

Dear Peninsula Neighbors

Thanks to all of you who took the time to complete and return the survey. We received 167 responses. The results of the survey are published in this newsletter. Please look for the articles discussing the issues and next steps. All comments were greatly appreciated and will be posted on the web site. A special thanks to those board members who worked on the survey and helped with the tabulation – Randy Peck, Rick Turrentine, Peter Hogenson, Jo Anne Arthur, Christie Peck and Stevie Anderson.

A reminder, if you have not paid your dues for this year, please do so now. We encourage you all to join and support our efforts to maintain our quality of life on the peninsula. In addition, we encourage you to volunteer for one of our committees.

Our Neighborhood Meeting will be on Thursday, April 17th at ABYC. Mixer is

at 6:30 PM with the meeting beginning at 7:00 PM. This is a very important meeting about our efforts to underground the utilities here on the peninsula. I urge you all to attend.

Summer is just around the corner and we are looking forward to our summer concerts. Look for the schedule in the newsletter. T-shirts are in process and will be available at the Neighborhood Meeting. As you read the other committee reports, you'll get a complete update on how the Board is working on your behalf.

Please email me any comments, concerns or ideas at PBPGcontact@aol.com or drop a note in the suggestion box at the laundromat.

Jeanne Muench
President



Upcoming Events:

April 7 at 7:30PM

CERT

**First Responder Actions
Sailing Center**

April 17th

Peninsula

**Neighborhood Meeting
Alamitos Bay Yacht Club**

6:30PM Mixer

7:00PM Meeting Starts

June 8th

First Concert

4:30PM BBQ hot dogs

5:30PM Emperor Band

PBPG BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2008)

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PBPGcontact@aol.com

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A Note from Sharon Kemmer re: Santa Claus in town this past Christmas

Peninsula neighbors and friends come together every year to welcome Santa at the 62nd Place landing. Held on the first Wednesday in December, the annual PBPG event sees over 100 children lined up with parents, grandparents, and friends to watch Santa arrive by rescue boat at 6 pm. Children had a chance to talk with Santa and receive an instant picture and candy from the PBPG "elves". Union Bank of Naples welcomed all with hot cider, coffee, cookies and muffins. Carolers bid Santa goodbye -- donated by David and Tamara Gough. Many neighbors helped with the event: Bob Chrisman shared his patio and electricity; the Turrentines and Muenches were drafted to help with the lines; the Hogensons took pictures; and Joanne decorated the area. This was my first time coordinating efforts for the evening, and I was especially impressed with what a pleasant event it was -- great neighbors, great neighborhood. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. Of course, a special thanks goes to the real Santa who may send his helpers to the malls but who came himself to the Peninsula. You could tell he was the real Santa when you saw him with the children. Thanks, Santa. You may have noticed none of his candy canes were left as litter. Sharon Kemmer, PBPG Neighborhood Relations.

Update from the 3rd District Council Office from our Councilman Gary DeLong:

Port of Long Beach

In mid-February the Harbor Commissioners for the Port of Long Beach held an historic vote to implement a Clean Truck Program. This program will reduce the pollution associated with trucks servicing the Port by up to 80% over the next 5 years.

In my interactions with Peninsula residents, it is clear to me that the community's #1 priority for the Port of Long Beach is to reduce the pollution associated with port related operations. The Clean Truck Program mandates the reduction to begin on October 1, 2008, when all "pre-1989" trucks (the dirtiest) will be banned from the Port, and the rules will get tighter and tighter until no truck older than 2007 will be allowed to enter the Port.

Eastside Gateway

I am working with Senator Alan Lowenthal, CalTrans and City staff to improve the landscaping around 7th Street and Studebaker. I am optimistic that the City will receive approximately \$250,000 in State funding this Summer, and City staff is working on a federal grant for additional funding which will probably take

12 to 18 months. This gateway into east Long Beach has been an eyesore for many years, and I am optimistic that we will finally get it fixed.

Underground Utilities Project

The Council office has been participating in meetings with Linda McCullough and others regarding this effort. If Peninsula residents decide to move forward with the project, you can count on my full support to move the project along as quickly as possible.

\$120 Million Beach Improvement Bond

The City is currently considering a \$120 million bond. The primary reason for the bond is to obtain approximately \$60 million for the redevelopment of the Alamitos Bay Marina. This portion of the bond will be repaid with revenues generated by Marina operations.

The second priority is rebuilding the Belmont Plaza pool. The current pool has seismic issues that would cost millions of dollars to fix.

And finally, numerous other projects will be considered, along with extensive public input, to determine which projects should go forward. The remainder of the bond will be repaid with future Tidelands and Oil revenues.

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Ready to Move Forward on the Undergrounding of our Utilities?

Join other residents and property owners to find out the cost, timing, advantages and to get your questions answered at the Peninsula Beach Preservation Group Community Meeting!

Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 pm ~ Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

Presentation by the Underground Utility Committee and Dialog with City Engineer Mark Christoffels.

Help make a dramatic difference in the Aesthetics, Reliability, Safety, Property Value and Efficiency of your residence and your community!

Come and find out why a YES VOTE on the first Petition will not commit you to participate but will enable you to find out exactly what your property assessment would be if an Assessment District were formed.

Note from Rob Bellevue, PBPG Zoning Review Director:

Survey Results: Based on the clear results of our most recent survey of the peninsula, the PBPG will be taking the following positions on your behalf:

1. Oppose requests for variances that reduce required parking.
2. Oppose requests for variances to extend the height limit.
3. Oppose requests for variances in building setbacks.
4. Not ask for any significant changes to the current building code.

It is the City's job to enforce existing building codes. The PBPG is a volunteer group with no enforcement powers, but with influence as the peninsula's neighborhood representative. When made aware of code violations/unapproved work, we and ask them to follow up. If you are aware of a problem, please contact Rob Bellevue or any board member of the PBPG and we will follow up on any of your concerns.

Sea Dip: The city council has directed that the planning department to review the zoning in the area roughly bounded by 7th Street to the Orange County line, and Studebaker to PCH. City staff is seeking public input and to date have received very few written survey responses. If you would like to have **input into this important area, please go on line to www.longbeach.gov/plan, type Sea Dip into "search" on the top right, and fill out the online survey.** Paper copies are available at counsel member De Long's office or the planning department at city hall. **Please make your opinions heard. We were just informed that these surveys are due on or before 3/31/08.**

PENINSULA BEACH PRESERVATION GROUP – ANNUAL SURVEY for 2008

1. Speeding:

Most residents have stated that speeding remains a problem on the peninsula.

Do you want speed bumps to be added to Ocean Blvd? Votes: YES 40—25%; NO 122—75%

Do you want a permanent radar speed limit sign on Ocean Blvd
(similar to the one in Naples on 2nd Street) Votes: YES 79—49%; NO 82—51%

Do you want “25 MPH” written in large white letters on the street (Ocean Blvd.)
Votes: YES 107—69%; NO 49—31%

Do you want additional STOP signs on Ocean Blvd? (Mid-way before and after 62nd Place)
Votes: YES 34—22%; NO 121—78%

2. Impacted Parking

Would you support parking permits on a case-by-case basis for residents to park in front of their own drive way? (Note: based on the city’s determination of safety, permits may or may not be issued for specific drive way locations) Votes: YES 112—70%; NO 47—30%

Do you think those parking permits should require a garage inspection (i.e. confirm that the garage is open for vehicles, not storage in order for a permit to be issued.) Votes: YES 106—69%; NO 47—31%

If the city would allow, would you be interested in purchasing an annual overnight parking permit at the 72nd Place parking lot or the 55th Place (basin 7 boat owners) parking lot? Votes: YES 27—18%; NO 121—82%

3. Building Codes

The city relies on us to provide guidance regarding the building codes and to request changes if necessary.

Should we continue to oppose variances in parking requirements? Votes: YES 130—85%; NO 23—15%

Should we continue to oppose variances in building height? Votes: YES 135—84%; NO 25—16%

Should we continue to oppose variances in building setback? Votes: YES 133—84%; NO 25—16%

Are you satisfied with the current building codes? Votes: YES 103—72%; NO 41—28%

4. Security

Would you be interested in joining a group of residents to hire a private security service to patrol the peninsula as a whole? Votes: YES 42—28%; NO 106—72%

5. Breakwater

There has been discussion of modifying or removing the breakwater. Such action may leave homes on the peninsula unprotected from flooding.. PBPG has been opposed to modifying or removing the breakwater.

Do you support the PBPG position against modifying the breakwater? Votes: YES 141—86%; NO 23—14%

Do you support the PBPG position against removing the breakwater? Votes: YES 145—89%; NO 18—11%

WHAT IS THE PBPG POSITION ON THE BREAKWATER?

In our recent survey we asked you, our members, two questions the subject matter of which fall under my committee, The Peninsula Improvement Committee. Please review and refer to the survey results above in Section 5. Breakwater.

Some of you may remember Bobbie Poppler. I recall her vivid stories about the Peninsula before the breakwater was built. She described the beach as some 8 to 10 feet below the boardwalk and strewn with large rocks. My neighbor, Dottie Ricketts, once showed me a pre-breakwater newspaper picture of the house she lives in now when it used to be on the boardwalk. A wave is splashing up against the front door. Her parents then moved the house off of the boardwalk.

Understanding that “landscape” of our Peninsula ocean side beach as it existed before the Federal Government built the breakwater helps understand why we residents oppose its reconfiguration or removal. It also explains why I personally oppose the expenditure of tax payer’s dollars on (read our) studies regarding this.

Some suggest there would be less trash on our beach were the breakwater to be removed. Recognizing that the trash has to go somewhere I asked Mark Sandoval, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine, about that. His comment was that the City prefers the trash to wash up on the beach as it makes removal of the trash easier, faster and more effective.

The trash and water quality are the result of the discharge of waste from the cities up and along the Los Angeles River into that river. These cities recently lost their legal challenge against legislation which requires them to reduce that discharge to zero, incrementally over the next 10 years. That begins now and hopefully it will work!

For now the breakwater stays and so long as you continue to vote as you just have we as a Board of Directors will continue to oppose the reconfiguration or removal of the breakwater.

Rick Brizendine, Chair, Peninsula Improvement Committee

Peninsula Security Survey Results

Please refer to the survey responses shown on Page 3. Relative to these survey results the PBPG will take actions as follows:

Speeding

Based on the above we will pursue lane signage only. In addition, we can all improve driving safety by driving in the left lane as much as possible and driving slowly and alertly-without cell phone use.

Parking

We will discuss this with the City and report procedures in a future Pelican

Security

The PBPG will not pursue this but if those individuals that voted Yes would like to follow-up as a group, we will provide historical information of past services.

Current Security News

Crime Statistics for January:

Reporting District (RD) 610 – Peninsula 1 bike theft, 1 auto theft; RD 571 Belmont Shore adjacent to Peninsula – 3 auto burglaries; RD 622/623 Naples – 1 residential burg, 3 auto burg., 1 grand theft, 6 petty theft, 2 auto theft, 2 commercial burg., 2 aggravated assaults,

In addition, some people seemingly delivering flyers to homes are actually stealing mail and some of the petty thefts in Naples involve patio furniture left out
Peter Hogenson – PBPG Security Director



The Peninsula CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

The next meeting will be a presentation by Braden Phillips on First Responder Actions during a disaster. The meeting will start at 7:30PM, Monday, April 7th, and will be at the US Sailing Center at Ocean and 55th Place. All residents are encouraged to attend.

Our Tuesday night 7:30 radio net participation is increasing and will even more since all members of the PBPG Board have agreed to buy and use FRS radios.

In addition, PBPG has agreed to sponsor a CERT pancake breakfast during the summer with Fire Department participation and with emergency preparedness products displayed
Christie Peck – PBPG CERT Director
Peter Hogenson – Peninsula CERT



Check out our Website at
www.lbpeninsula.org

Find valuable information about our organization and links to other resources including city services, aerial maps, lists of donors, CERT information, photos of our events, past issues of the Peninsula Pelican newsletter and lots more!

Median Improvements: plants are being replaced and soil samples have been taken to try and determine why some of our palms have failed. In future newsletters a brief report will be made on median refurbishments by the City of Long Beach Parks Department. Ramon Arevalo from the City is helping get these items accomplished. Thank you Ramon!

How many of you have at the spur of the moment felt like a snack, or possibly a cold drink or a beer, or even a bottle of 2% milk. May we suggest **DECANTER BEVERAGES**, on 62nd Place just off of Ocean on the Bay side. There Bob Merlo is the proprietor and has had this shop for 37 years. Bob started in Long Beach when he used to surf off of Belmont Shore pier. He served in the Navy and fell in love with the Peninsula. He and his wife bought the shop around 1970. He recalls the day when there was a Texaco corner gas station, when Chrisman's restaurant was going, and also the 62nd café. There was also the Corner Grocery Store "Alamitos Bay Market" at 62nd and Ocean, Bill Wades Bar "The Anchorage" and before that "The Bay Tavern", and a gift shop. Over the years improvements in transportation have taken Peninsula residents directly into Long Beach, and slowly the businesses have moved away. Bob's store, however, is still active, and besides **snacks and drinks** he offers **Spirits and Wines**, and also sells

tickets for the **California Lottery** and the **Mega Lottery**. Bob is helped by Max who has been with Bob for the full 37 years, and by Steve, who lives here on the Peninsula. So stop by some time. You may just find what you are looking for. Bob's store phone is (562) 433-2351.





Peninsula Beach Preservation Group

the Peninsula - Long Beach, California

Report from the Task Force on Undergrounding Utilities



The Peninsula: Ready to Move Forward

A task group of Peninsula residents have been working for more than a year and a half to research the possibility for the Peninsula to underground its utilities. Across California and the country, communities are making the decision to improve aesthetics, reliability, safety and property values. In the process, they also get improved efficiency.

Undergrounding is a community decision. We each must agree to share the costs as everyone benefits from the improvement. The process is a three step one: 1) an expression of interest by 2/3 of the Peninsula 2) final formal costing and 3) based on the final costs a vote of yes or no on going forward.

Join the Community for a Presentation and Dialog

Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Alamitos Bay Yacht Club

Advantages of Undergrounding

- **Aesthetics:** Overhead lines can only be described as ugly. New lines and new equipment are added frequently compounding the problem.
- **Reliability:** Multiple studies have concluded that underground utilities are more reliable with as few as one-third the number of failures.
- **Safety:** Poles present hazards for motor vehicles and downed lines present electrical and fire hazards.
- **Property Values:** Nine of ten new subdivisions opt for undergrounding utilities even though they are initially more expensive. Developers have come to realize the significant value to prospective buyers.
- **Efficiency:** Underground utilities can use larger conductors resulting in less energy loss.



KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING !!!

The Peninsula's 2008 Summer Concert Series is quickly approaching. We have two fantastic new bands and four fantastic returning bands.

♪ Our first concert will be June 8th, and it will be a barbeque with our wonderful **Long Beach Fire Department**, Local 372. This special concert will start at 4:30 with the Firemen barbequing **Hot Dogs and Bratwurst**. The music will begin at 5:30 and go till 7:30. All other concerts will start at 5:30 to 7:30, and they all will be at the 72nd Place Park.



Peninsula 2008 Summer Concert Schedule:

- ▶ JUNE 8th Weenie Roast and concert with the Emperor (a great five piece band)
- ▶ JUNE 22nd Concert with The Elm Street Band
- ▶ JULY 6th Concert with Flight 6875
- ▶ JULY 20th Concert with RamFunkshus (five piece band with a fantastic singer)
- ▶ AUGUST 3rd Concert with Flight (this is not the same band as Flight 6875. We have had this band before!)
- ▶ AUGUST 24th Concert with Big Box of Men (everyone wanted this band back for this year!)

I would like to thank everyone who has sent in donations for our concerts. Without your support the Peninsula would not be able to have these special events. I hope you will continue to support this unique Summer tradition. To send donations mail to PBPG at PO Box 3535, Long Beach CA 90803

Thank You: Stevie Anderson, Concert Chairperson

PENINSULA T SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS ARE COMING TO TOWN

They will be on display and ready to sell in the coming **General Meeting on April 17th**. There will be a good selection of sizes ranging from grandkids to older adults.

T shirts have a wonderful beach area design, the artwork of **Jason Reavis**, a resident artist of the Peninsula.

