



President's Message

Hi Peninsula residents,

2021 has been a difficult year for so many. The global pandemic has taken a toll all over the world. We have all been affected by COVID, some more directly than others, and have made adjustments to maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Your PNA Board of Directors have done our best to keep public health and safety at the forefront of every action we take. Despite the challenges presented by the ever-changing virus we have been able to accomplish some rather significant achievements in 2021.

Reduced Congestion: One of the most notable of these actions reached fruition just as summer arrived. After several years of working with multiple City of Long Beach representatives and the District 3 City Councilwoman Susie Price and her staff, we appear to have reduced the worst of traffic congestion leaving our neighborhood. Following the reconfiguration of the Ocean Blvd. and 54th Place intersection, which happened just before the July 4th holiday, the traffic back-ups westbound have been greatly reduced. Even with the improvement to vehicular flow in the area the Peninsula Improvement Committee continues a dialog with the City discussing possible improvements to the intersection.

Summer Concerts: Another huge accomplishment was the ability to conduct our Summer Concert Series. An incredible amount of work goes on behind the scenes to bring these concerts to our community. Along with the regular logistics involved in a normal year, 2021 threw a few curveballs that were deftly handled by the Concert Committee. COVID restrictions made it impossible to present the concerts scheduled for June, but rather than cancel those shows we were able to reschedule them for mid-week in August and September. It was an absolute joy to share some food, drink, companionship, and amazing music with our neighbors this summer.

Membership Party: Even though we were unable to throw our regular normal Membership Drive Party

in 2021, our members really came through. The membership numbers were almost as high as the previous year. With the easing of restrictions on public gatherings the Membership Committee advocated for, and successfully arranged, a Resident Recognition Party in October. Great music, great food, and sharing time with friends and neighbors made for a most enjoyable day. Keep your eyes open, it looks like we might be able to hold our regular Membership Drive Party in 2022.

CERT: Regardless of the conditions presented (pandemic, extreme weather, natural disaster, etc.) our Security/Community Emergency Response Team/Community Watch team continued to operate throughout the year. The CERT Radio Network was on the air every Tuesday with the Block Captain Radio Check, as well as anytime there is a possible threat to public safety on The Peninsula. A perfect example happened on December 15 when a construction accident caused wires down across Ocean Blvd. preventing vehicle passage onto and off of the Peninsula. The Peninsula CERT Radio Net was up and running within minutes and the Block Captains Text Group was actively sharing information. Quick action by the utilities involved allowed for the opening of Ocean Blvd. approximately 2 hours after the incident.

Please remember that The Peninsula Neighborhood Association is an all volunteer organization, and that we are able to do what we do because of the incredible support of the Peninsula community. If you see any of the PNA Board members around the neighborhood please feel free to say hi or thank them for volunteering to help maintain and improve our quality of life here on The Peninsula. We are all hoping for a return to as much pre-COVID normalcy as possible in the new year. Please continue to take precautions to protect yourself and to be mindful of others. It has been my privilege to serve as PNA President this past year, and I am looking forward to continuing our work in 2022.

Thank you so much, -Dave Huff PNA President



Photography by Mark Brown © 2022

GBH Nest in the Coral Tree down at Alamitos Park



Photography by Mark Brown © 2022

GBH- Morning Glory

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)

WHAT IS PENINSULA CERT—AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE

The Peninsula Community Emergency Response Team is a Branch of Long Beach CERT whose purpose is to provide emergency services (first aid, search and rescue, first responder, fire suppression) to Peninsula residents during a disaster such as a major earthquake. Long Beach City has advised us that we could be without their emergency services as well as power, water, sewer and security for up to two weeks. The goal of Peninsula CERT is to train residents through classes, drills and meetings so that we (Peninsula) can survive until professional help arrives.

To facilitate the above, we have an organization ready to activate an existing Block Captain system (at least one BC for each block), a Command Center to manage emergency activity and a Radio Network for communication among the many pieces. In addition, we have a Medical Team of residents for minor treatment of injuries. Finally, we have a Logistics team working in advance of emergencies to locate and accumulate critical tools, equipment, water and power for use during rescue operations and in the days after the EQ.

We welcome more concerned residents to our Peninsula CERT. We will start classes and drills in the areas noted in the first paragraph as soon as Covid permits. Please contact Peter Hogenson at hogies31@verizon.net or 562-439-3361 to become a member.

- Peter Hogenson, Chair

Community Watch (CW)

Our Peninsula Community watch program goes hand in hand with Cert as we share the same block captains. Each block has at least one block captain to keep a stream of communication going, keeping all aware of what is happening crime wise on the Peninsula; specifically on your block. The goal of our Community Watch program is to keep our residents aware and provide training on how to keep our neighborhood a wonderful and safe place to call home. If you would like more information on community watch please contact Jana Meralc

Jmerical@yahoo.com

Bird vs. Man

The Great Blue Heron by Sharon Kemmer
PNA Secretary and Historian
Photography by Mark Brown

The Great Blue Heron is just so big that when it comes flying along, it looks like some prehistoric creature with its huge wings and steady, slow flight. Underestimate it at your peril; it can easily pull in its neck, extend its long legs and achieve flight speeds of 30 mph! The GBH is equally arresting as a still, solitary silhouette, hunting on the shoreline. Herons have been observed to drop insects and bits of bread on the water and wait for a fish to come up, before spearing the



fish with their long, pointy beak. Yet GBHs are shy birds, sensitive to the loud sounds of tree trimming, barking dogs, honking horns ... GBH prefer to hang out at the top of a 60' tall Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), or at an empty waters' edge. Cattails especially attract: when frightened, the GBH may stretch out their brown/tan necks and stick their beaks straight up, blending amazingly well with a group of cattails. The back bay, marshy areas of Alamitos Bay, is great for observing a number of water birds. Just consult the tide charts, as one can easily get stranded in a beached boat once the tide starts going out.

There is fossil evidence that herons have been around at least since the Miocene epoch but they have probably existed since the Cenozoic Age, 25 million years ago. Not actual dinosaurs, they are among the closest archosaurian relatives of dinosaurs. Surviving into the Age of Mammals (hint, we are mammals), herons ultimately pro-

Bird vs. Man continued

vide a litmus test of the water quality we all depend on as well as play a key role in the aquatic ecosystem throughout our watershed.

The Alamitos Bay Colony of Great Blue Heron has been here for centuries. Alamitos Bay was a natural estuary of the San Gabriel River with vast fresh and saline wetlands that supported abundant wildlife like sea otters, sea lions, Harbor Seals, whales, dolphins, sharks, vast amounts of fish and skies full of migratory and year-round birds. The Great Blue Herons once populated this area in the thousands but they were hunted almost to extinction by 1900, well before the development of the Peninsula and Alamitos Bay.

Development encroached on habitat and reduced the once abundant wildlife: [Naples, 1908-09; the jetty separating the San Gabriel River from the Bay, 1920s; Marine Stadium, 1932; the Alamitos Bay Marina Basins (with removal of the bridge to Seal Beach from the Peninsula), mid



-1950s-mid1960s]. The old Peninsula, a rugged outskirt of the sophisticated seaside resorts of downtown Long Beach, can still be seen in a few remaining 100-year old duck hunting shacks on 66th Place, the corner of 67th & Ocean, a set of four bungalows on Seaside Walk near 62nd Place originally built without indoor plumbing. Old timers who grew up on the Peninsula remember a time when, at low tide, one could walk across Alamitos Bay.

Stunningly, today many animals and birds still find Alamitos Bay and the Peninsula home. And those of us who live or recreate on the Peninsula get to see them in one of the few remain-

ing places where so many wild animals may be seen in their natural habitat. The GBH nest in the Coral Tree in the park in front of the ABYC is an easy place to observe the action of a busy GBH family in the nesting season from January to September.

However protecting and observing wildlife is more than just a pastime for the tree-huggers among us. Scientist have told us for decades that



an animal who destroys his own habitat flirts with extinction. Certainly anyone who has parked his car under an active GBH nest can testify that our coexistence with nature is not all sweetness and light. Yet it is in our own best interest to find a way in Long Beach to cherish our role as stewards of a great urban forest (some 93,000 trees) with seven miles of shoreline and the cleanest bay along the California coast. To this end, the 1918 Migratory Bird Protection Act & the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act seek to protect our imperiled bird populations which have continually declined, roughly 3 billion since 1970 alone. This Act & Treaty and the California Coastal Commission have sought to protect the plants and animals (1093 bird species) which all contribute to the health of our shared habitat. While there are those among us who would happily replace all the palm trees in Long Beach with plastic/metal cell towers shaped like palm trees, this is the proverbial cutting-off-ones-nose-to-spite-ones-face. In the short run this might give us decent cell-phone reception and save the paint on a few cars, but in the long run, it is seriously counter-productive in many ways.

Birds like the Great Blue Heron, the Osprey, the Brown Pelican, the Least Tern, are **Index Animals**;

Bird vs. Man continued

as they thrive so does the land and water thrive, the very shared environment that we all need to thrive. Since our 1918 Treaty with Canada, similar conventions have been incorporated between the US and Mexico, Japan, and Russia. These stipulate protections for the birds themselves and also for the habitats and environs necessary for the birds' survival. In January, 2021 the government finalized a rule to allow companies and individuals to kill migratory birds as long as they "didn't mean to". The oil industry has long asked for this policy



change. Locally we had our own problems: The City of Long Beach was seriously fined by the Coastal Commission for trimming a palm with an active GBH nest in 2020. Peninsula residents were horrified by pictures of a dead GBH fledgling. In January, 2022, the government restored the protection of migratory birds. Most protections are simple and inexpensive — covering oil pits, spacing power lines to avoid electrocuting raptors, trimming palms before January 1 and after September 30: only trimming when necessary for safety, and trimming palms below horizontal fronds (the dead fronds or "beards" on the palms) — with a map of active GBH nests and roosts to guide them. The Great Blue Heron is the Peninsula's "Spotted Owl". The Spotted Owl: To try to pick out one animal or one anything by itself, we find this one animal or one thing hitched to everything else in the Universe. Careful stewardship and conservation is about much more than the Great Blue Heron or the legendary Spotted Owl. Our family vacationed with the National Wildlife Federation Camp at West Washington University in Bellingham, Washington; we were greeted at the airport with protest signs:

SAVE THE SPOTTED OWL?

TRY WIPING YOUR A** WITH A SPOTTED OWL.

I later asked one of our guides if the logging industry was really cutting Old Growth Forest for toilet paper and plywood made in China? The answer was "Sadly, yes." Activists like the Sierra Club were using the Endangered Species Act and the endangered Spotted Owl to attempt to stop the cutting of Old Growth Forests in Washington. Yet the use of one animal is easily trivialized, hence the funny protest signs. The Spotted Owl is important as it is the epitome of an Index Animal; as goes the Spotted Owl, so goes the whole ecosystem... and a delicate system it is. Employment in the Pacific Northwest had largely been based on logging, and unemployment is certainly a more urgent issue than bird waste on a Peninsula car. However, Old Growth Forests are more than just old trees, and the GBH is more than a stunning bird. Complex symbiotic relationships have developed over centuries which makes these issues more than Man v. Bird. The GBH is an indicator of the health of the water and of the aquatic ecosystem throughout our watershed. We protect the whole interdependent ecosystem when we protect each part of our human habitat. The issue is really Man w/ Bird, not Man v. Bird.

And finally there is our emotional relationship with nature. To walk from the forest to the old growth forest is a stunning change: it is like going from a hot sunny walk in the forest into an air conditioned forest full of moisture and biodiversity. Both forests have trees, but there the similarity ends. The same is true with the Peninsula. I had an ocean view from my home in Belmont Shore; I had even seen a dolphin once when riding my bike along the bike trail. Yet when we moved to the Peninsula, it was another world entirely. We see osprey fishing in the early morning, squadrons of pelicans diving at sunset, cormorants drying their wings on buoys; we swim with seals and pelicans, and pods of dolphin regularly pass by. Further, there is the abundance of shorebirds: snowy egrets, peeps, sandpipers, and the Great Blue Heron, to name a few. To live where all of this is around us is an amazing experience right in the middle of an urban neighborhood, here on the amazing Long Beach Peninsula. To preserve all this we may need to be careful where we park or we may need to ask the City to follow the rules on tree trimming. Not too much to do in exchange for all that we get in return.

2022 Peninsula Membership Party



2022 Peninsula Membership Drive Kickoff Party is scheduled for February 26th scheduled from 1pm-4pm at the United States Sailing Center.

This is a great chance to have some free food (from Taco Shore food bus) and drinks, listen to some great music by local musicians Buzzy and Tricia, and mingle with residents. All are welcome (Renters and Homeowners). *See You There!!*

2022 Peninsula T-Shirts

Keep an eye out for our new 2022 Peninsula T-Shirts and other garments. The design was selected from a Peninsula Resident who submitted a winning design last year.

2022 PNA Community Meeting

Coming back this spring, the **PNA Community Meeting**. On Wednesday, April 20, 2022 we will be gathering together again at the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club to receive updates and ask questions of representatives from our city. We are expecting presentations from Long Beach Police East Division and City Council District 3.

Please remember to save the date:

Location: Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, 7201 Ocean Blvd.

Date: Wednesday, April 20, 2022

Time: 6:30 PM - Social | 7:00 PM - Meeting

We are looking forward to spending the evening with you!

Remember to place a Heart in your window.



Communications

Here are some links you will find helpful

www.lbpeninsula.org

Keep up to date with the latest news and events posted on our website.

lbpeninsulanews@gmail.com

Send us your comments and suggestions.

www.facebook.com/lbpeninsula

Follow us on Facebook

PNA Block Captain Blast (Text): We have initiated a "Text" Blast to alert designated Block Captains of an emergency or general alert when they occur. This has proven to be a very swift and effective way to get the word out. Case in point; On January 15th 2022 warning were sent out via NOAA & USGA about a Tsunami out of Tonga. Using our text alert protocol we were able to get the word out to the Block Captains and the general population on the Peninsula and about the tsunami. You can also email us at pnacert@gmail.com

PNA Email Blast: For general notification to all Peninsula residence who have signed up. These emails will keep you up to date with periodic announcements or notifications from the Peninsula Neighborhood Association (PNA). You also reply to us at lbpeninsulanews@gmail.com

No Cell Service: In the event of having no cell service, CERT Block Captains and members will communicate with the Command Center using FRS radios on a designated frequency as they survey their blocks.

Peninsula Radio Check weekly drill:

Every Tuesday night at 7:30pm our Block Captains perform a roll-call to maintain our communication skills in the event of an emergency.

Join the Mailing List for PNA email blasts

If you feel you are missing these updates please send a text message to 22828 and type the word "PNA" in the message box. You will get an automated response asking you to enter your email address. After that you will be included in all future email blasts.

Meet our Board Members

Here is your Peninsula Neighborhood Association
Board of Directors roster for 2022

President
Dave Huff

Vice President
Janet Roberts

Treasurer
Nicole Peoples

Secretary/Historian
Sharon Kemmer

Directors
Stevie Anderson
Merle Asper
Rob Bellevue
Mark Brown
Marc Coleman
Howard Hamlin
Peter Hogenson
Jana Mercial
Braden Phillips
Gary Schettino

PNA Annual Survey

If you prefer to complete the annual survey
online, just open your
camera on your phone
and hover over this QR
Code. Tap the yellow
forms link the QR
Code and fol-
low the online survey to complete.



Meet our Block Captains

Block	Block Captains
55th PL	Jerry Borisy
Balboa	Jerry Borisy
Laguna	Peter Hogenson
Dana	Tom Lane
56th PL	Lani Manzon
57th PL	Don and Cyndi Gottfeld
58th PL	Helen & Kevin Burdett, Ginny Dutile
59th PL	Open
60th PL	Open
61st PL	Antje Hunt, Anne Puckett, Leslie Patterson
Chrisman's	Steven Henry
62nd PL	Jana & Ron Mercial, Braden Phillips
63rd PL	Dave Huff, Stevie Anderson
64th PL	Jeff Green
65th PL	Mark Brown, Dave Ginsberg
66th PL	Linda Freitag
67th PL	Dave Black
68th PL	Tommy Carrico, Ale Henry-Mouzis
69th PL	Kristine Hale
70th-72nd	Open

Introduce yourself to them and ask them to add
your name to the Block notification email blast for
your block. If you don't know them ask a neighbor.

Save the Dates

Dates	Time	Meeting Type	Location
02/26/22 Saturday	1:30PM	Membership Party	United States Sailing Center
04/20/22 Wednesday	6:30pm	Community Meeting	ABYC Clubhouse
10/19/22 Wednesday	6:30pm	Community Meeting	ABYC Clubhouse
12/14/22 Wednesday	6:00pm	Santa on the Bay	62nd Place Landing

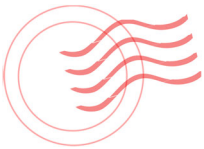
SUMMER CONCERTS — Check your email for dates when we get closer to the Concert season.

Stay Connected to Peninsula Neighborhood Association

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