



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# The Longbranch Improvement Club: Our First Hundred Years.

*Through thick and thin, we're still here, working to improve our community.*

The year 2020 was far from stellar and we shared in the challenges. Despite a few disappointments, we achieved great successes due to member dedication to volunteer service and the community where we live.

**Membership.** In 2020, nearly all meetings were via Zoom, ensuring operational continuity and limited social interaction. Membership dipped by 10% to 242 and volunteer service hours dropped 44% since most activities and events were cancelled to meet pandemic restrictions. A new category of Community Service – Helping Others – was added to encourage members to assist local nonprofit organizations.

We look forward to the return of in-person meetings as pandemic restrictions are lifted, and we can again welcome you to monthly meetings on the third Wednesday of the month beginning at 6:30 pm.

**Preservation.** During 2020, we completed an engineering evaluation of the clubhouse roof structural trusses and purlins. We were pleased to learn the roof can carry additional weight, allowing the addition of a frame structure and energy-efficient

insulation over the existing shake roof. As part of this project, the concrete buttresses were X-rayed to determine existence and size of steel rebar, and a professional lumber grader evaluated wood quality in the vintage hand-hewn framing elements. At year end, a project manager was engaged to oversee the entire project and an architect selected to design



the new roof. It may take years to finalize a design, obtain preservation approvals and select a contractor – all after we secure funding for such an ambitious undertaking. We are proud of and committed to our stewardship, preservation and renovation efforts, both short- and long-term.

Community rentals of the clubhouse for private events were very limited in 2020; however, we hosted a number of drive-through Covid testing events in our parking lot and saw increased public use of our trail system and grounds.

Lighting and irrigation were added around the new Longbranch sign and our main sign was completely refurbished.

**Community Events.** Perhaps the most significant impact from the pandemic was a year without social events. Popular club events, from “Sud-n-Spuds” to “Opening Day,” Memorial and Labor Day weekend dances and Fiber Arts, were put on hold. Thankfully, we were able to host drive-thru “Trunk-or-Treat” and “Kids-n-Christmas,” and our resourceful volunteers were able to put together a successful “Super Sale” for The Longbranch Foundation from sheer grit and determination.

Instead of the beloved usual Christmas events with swags, wreaths and two-story decorated tree, we created a new holiday tradition with Christmas lights on the clubhouse and around the sign that welcomes people to Longbranch. The community expressed their appreciation for this extra bit of cheer during the dark and strange winter.



**Celebrate our Centennial.** To commemorate the LIC’s 100-year anniversary in 2021, many events are planned. Scheduling will depend on evolving public health recommendations. As pandemic restrictions on gatherings are hopefully relaxed, we’ll publish the details here and on our website.

**Longbranch Marina.** Boating activity last year was a real bright spot. For the first time in a decade, all permanent moorage was filled. In an unexpected 25% increase from last year, we hosted 927 guest moorage visits. We upgraded public safety by replacing marina security cameras and emergency boarding ladders. The planning and permitting process is underway to add a pumpout



station, replace three finger piers, expand moorage slips and install a restroom.

The Marina is open to the public daily from 8 to 8 in summer and 10 to 5 in winter. Stop by and enjoy the view from our covered pavilion.

**Join us and become an Improver.** We invite every person living, visiting or doing business on the Key Peninsula to join the LIC and work with us to continue making our community a better place. Especially for this year, we sincerely thank our members and volunteers who worked hard under very trying circumstances to continue improving life for us all. **Thank you so much!**

[www.licweb.org](http://www.licweb.org) [www.thelongbranchfoundation.org](http://www.thelongbranchfoundation.org)