



# MEMBER NEWS

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

DECEMBER 2021

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING: DECEMBER 15, 2021 6:00PM – ZOOM DETAILS TO FOLLOW



## President's Message

Here comes winter and all the holidays have to offer. Despite the pandemic, we have a busy December on the KP and at the LIC.

My hope is that everyone had a relaxing, tasty and restful Thanksgiving. Our clan had not gotten together as an extended family for several years, and since everyone was vaccinated, we got together for one of the best Guenther Thanksgivings I can recall in recent memory. Hope yours was just as good.

December kicks off at the LIC with Deck the Halls, where volunteers decorate for Christmas. This begins Saturday morning December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Then that evening we have the Christmas boat parade, where many of our members will be lighting up their boats and cruising from Penrose Point State Park down through Pitt Passage and into Filucy Bay. It's one of my favorite KP holiday events.

There are a number of private events taking place at the clubhouse, so we are still staying busy and making some revenue. And speaking of revenue, the marina is almost at capacity with people paying year-round moorages. We also have Wave up and running so the Internet speeds are markedly better at the marina now as well.



## President's Message (cont'd)

December 10<sup>th</sup> marks the 100<sup>th</sup> year, to the day, that the Longbranch Improvement Club was incorporated. So, our monthly meeting this year will start early and commemorate this centennial occasion. On December 15<sup>th</sup> at our annual meeting, we will kick off at 4 PM at the Centennial Garden to the north of the LIC grounds for a Centennial Tree Planting. From there we'll head into the clubhouse for some socializing, some food that will be out at the tables and later kick off our meeting. (Note this is not a potluck and we'll ask that you wear your mask inside when not seated at your table.)

This year's holiday meeting will include a video from the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department talking about the vaccination process for kids 12 and under, and then we'll be joined live on Zoom by a doctor who can field any member questions. And remember, we kick things off with the outdoor tree planting at 4 PM on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

I hope to see all of you in December at one of these events – and happy holidays to everyone. If you need help or have a question, please reach out. It's what the LIC is all about.

Thanks for all you do.

Warmly,  
Kelly Guenther







On November 8th, the community celebrated the opening of the new Evergreen Elementary School at the Ribbon Cutting ceremony. During the ceremony, the Foundation dedicated the handmade quilt to the school community. There is a label on the back of the quilt with a dedication:



**The Longbranch Foundation Student Programs Committee dedicates this quilt to the students and staff of Evergreen Elementary on the opening of their new school in 2021.**

**The Foundation continues the work started in 1921 by The Longbranch Improvement Club to “encourage any activity for the betterment of schools”.**

It was an honor to participate in the school celebration and we look forward to continuing and building upon that relationship.

As we are now officially into the holiday season, with festive celebrations, warm pies, lighted boat parade and a distinct chill in the air, gathering with friends and family to delight in the season, it is also a good time to notice our home. The Key Peninsula is a wonder of natural beauty, and peaceful settings. An early morning sunrise or paddle along the edges of Filucy Bay remind me to savor what nature offers me, those precious gifts that are not bought, but simply available.

The Vision of the Foundation is “A Thriving and Sustainable South Key Community.” In order to obtain this lofty vision, we all must care for each other and the natural world around us.



Wishing you a joyous December and a peaceful New Year.

Michele Gorman, President  
michelegorm@gmail.com  
cell: (415) 606.3455



The Longbranch Foundation  
P. O. Box 111  
Lakebay, WA 98349



## Mentors needed for “Little Eagles” reading program

On Tuesdays, from 4 PM to 5 PM, mentors are needed to sit with first and second graders to listen to them read. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jenn Martin, martinjg@psd401.net.

Mentors are trained by Community in Schools and get further information at Evergreen specifically for the students there. There are directions every week,

and everything is provided that is needed to work with each child.

These youngsters are excited to make relationships with other adults and getting to know your students while helping them improve their reading skills is super rewarding!

Jan Prichard  
TLF Student Program Chair

## Evergreen Elementary’s Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Official ribbon cutters 😊



Polly, Michele G., Sheryl L., Carolyn W.



New library



## Food Market

A reminder, please continue to save your Food Market receipts for when we meet again.

**Support Longbranch Foundation.**

When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazonsmile**



## Activities

As we are writing this article, we are preparing for a Thanksgiving get together with family friends and are very thankful for our new community. We have only been here a little over two years and even with COVID restrictions have gotten to know many of the friendly faces on the Key Peninsula. We hope you were also able to gather with others to celebrate Thanksgiving this year!

December activities include Deck the Halls (decorating the LIC) on December 4th starting at 10AM, Kids & Christmas on Sunday December 12 from 1 – 3PM, and a Centennial-themed party at the December LIC Members meeting on December 15th.

## Building and Grounds

Some of the logs in the parking lot were stolen, but thanks to help from Dennis Dixon, Dave Deress, and David Shinnars, we have replaced all of them. Jimmy was also able to replace one using the tree that fell down on the LIC during one of the wind storms.

Ann wants to thank all the people who contributed plants for the Centennial Garden and many thanks to Susan Quigley and, especially, Barb Green for helping her plant them and clean up the garden in general.

Tom Tallman did a great job cleaning the gutters in time for a wedding rental on Saturday the 27th, which Kitty Voyce very efficiently managed.

Just a reminder that the building will be decorated on December 4th for Kids and Christmas and any help would be greatly appreciated.

Jim Sobieck and Ann Morris  
Buildings and Grounds

There are volunteer opportunities at all of these events, so let us know if you want to help.

If you are not already part of the Events Committee, consider coming to a meeting the first Wednesday of the month at 3PM at the LIC. This will be January 5 and February 2 in the next few months. We have a draft calendar of events for 2022 and welcome your involvement.

Thanks!

Allen & Marcel Ballinger  
allenandmarcel@hotmail.com



# Longbranch Improvement Club Lighted Boat Parade



**SATURDAY DEC. 4th**

Rinse and repeat from 2020! We are planning on the same lighted boat parade as last year. All participating (please participate) boats will meet at Penrose Saturday afternoon and raft up for cocktail hour. Then head out at 5pm from Penrose back to Filucy Bay via Pitt Passage. Past Driftwood Point and then past the Barb's and a quick spin around Filucy Bay to wave at the Tritt's and the Carr's. Let

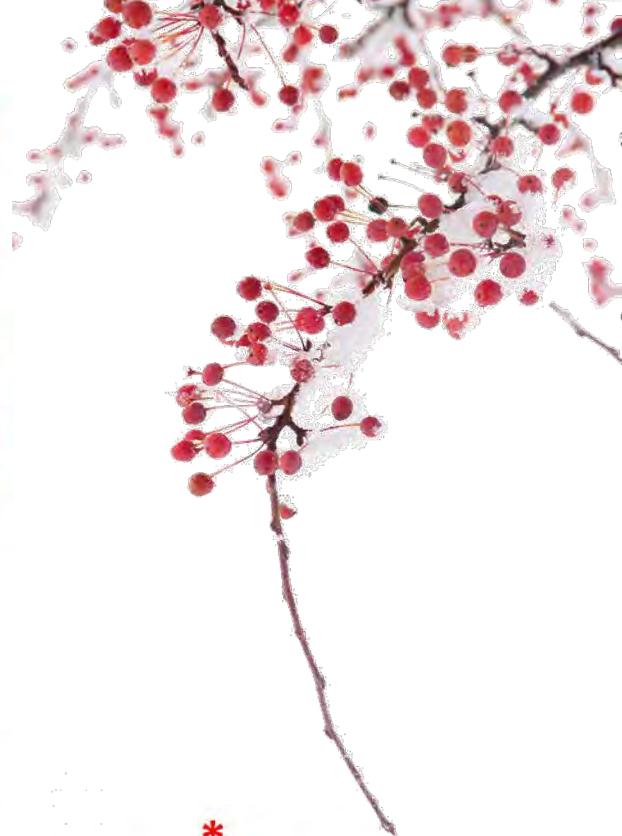


me know if you are having a viewing party and we can text you when we are on the way.

Kelly Hettinger  
253-220-7808



Holiday Harbinger at the Marina  
~Jan Brown



\*

**\*DECK THE HALLS!\***

Sat, Dec. 4th  
10 a.m. to ?

\*

Come help make the LIC shine with greens, lights, decorations, a very tall tree and lots of holiday cheer!

Come when you can.  
**Hot drinks and snacks provided!**

Some things you can bring if you have them:  
Gloves, Garden nippers, wire cutters, and cut greens for decorating would be especially appreciated! (Be sure to put your name on your tools.)

**COME JOIN  
THE FUN!!**



## LIC General Meeting November 17, 2021



The meeting was called to order by Kelly Guenther at 7:00 PM. The meeting was in person and on Zoom.

**Membership:** Please make sure to update your volunteer hours on the website or get to Nancy. Nancy Carr welcomed new members Chris & Lori Wright, Alex Oh and Samuel Hilbert on Zoom. Other new members this month are Chris and Laurie Wright and Leslie and Frank Angelacci.

**Secretary's Report:** Sheryl requested that the minutes of last month's membership meeting be approved as written and submitted in the newsletter. MSP

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim Hettinger reported that we were \$17,000 over the net income of budgeted \$1,300.

**Events:** Bob Green reported that the Trunk or Treat event went well, and many kids were served candy.

- Deck the Halls is planned for the first Saturday in December, the 4th, at 10 AM, to put all the Christmas decorations up. Please bring greens to put up. There will be hot drinks and snacks.
- KIDS N CHRISTMAS: December 12, 2021 from 1 pm to 3 PM. Santa will be distributing presents, and parents can take pictures of their kids.
- All events will need volunteers.
- Member meeting for December: We will be commemorating our Centennial with a raffle and prizes, games and a

period dress, from the 1920's. Food will be provided.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Jim Sobieck thanked David Starkweather for getting the stage lights activated. We still need volunteers to help with clean up. Katie Voyce is our new rental agent for the LIC hall.

**Centennial Garden:** No report

**Marina Chair:** No report

Wave Internet is finally installed at the Marina. Boat Parade is December 4th with boats meeting at Penrose Point by 5 PM, and then at dark, the lighted boats will parade down to the Marina.

**Preservation Grant Update:** We received a preservation grant for \$22,500, but we need to work on obtaining more to match the \$35,000 match.

**Vice-President:** David Zeigler discussed the events to celebrate the Centennial of the LIC. The actual incorporation of the LIC is December 10th. We will celebrate first with the planting of a Red Cedar at 4 PM on the 15th with the meeting at 6 PM. We have many more events planned throughout the year to commemorate our Centennial experience.



## LIC General Meeting November 17, 2021



**President:** Kelly announced that we would like to try to fill the gap that BLEND is leaving since they closed, and he is proposing every third Friday, a TGIF hosted here at the LIC in the foyer from 5 – 8 PM to create continuity for the community. Kelly is looking for feedback on this idea, and we are investigating a liquor license for those nights.

**Foundation report:** Michele Gorman reported about the Celebrate campaign and the mission and activities of the Foundation. She said she received a text from a scholarship recipient who is finishing community college and has been accepted at a four-year University to continue his education due to our help. We support students at Evergreen Elementary and KP Middle School with scholarships and funding for projects. We have created a mini-grant program at KPMS and have received the first requested mini-grant for a cooking program with students. Evergreen Elementary is looking for reading mentors for first graders, for an hour a week. Please contact Jan Prichard for the contact info.

Donations made to the Foundation can be specified by the donor for where they would like the donation to go. The first \$25 you donate will be matched.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next Member Meeting December 15, 2021 at the LIC at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl Low  
LIC Secretary





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