



MEMBER NEWS

FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2021

NEXT MEMBERS MEETING: SEPTEMBER 15, 2021 6:30PM – ZOOM DETAILS TO FOLLOW



President's Message

Alas, summer is coming to an end... but we did escape a long stretch of smoky days. And my fingers are crossed for an Indian summer.

You might recall the figures I brought up in our August membership meeting. According to the Pierce County Dept. of Health only 39% of the south half of the KP, including Anderson Island is vaccinated – and only 32% are vaccinated in the northern half.

So, I'm going to tell you the tale of two buddies. One is my very best friend of 36 years, and the other is our marina chair, Rick Harrison's, lifelong buddy. They both recently got COVID. My friend is 57 and vaccinated. Rick's is 50 and was not.

Andrew, my friend, came down with a mild cold, had to tell people he'd been around that he had tested positive for COVID and had a lonely 10 days to quarantine. He had no idea how he got it, figured it was the Delta variant, and was very surprised it was that contagious. Still, he felt well enough to take a solo road trip in his car during this time (and no, he probably shouldn't have).

Rick's buddy, the best man at his wedding, is in Good Sam right now as I'm writing this letter, possibly fighting for his life and needing constant oxygen. He and his wife took a road trip to Idaho; he came down with COVID and she has since tested negative. They have not ruled out putting him on a ventilator – and he's a healthy guy, been an essential worker, no problems otherwise.



President's Message (cont'd)

Moral of the story: vaccines work. Vaccines protect. If you haven't gotten yours, re-read the story above. The Pfizer vaccine is now fully FDA-approved, so it's had the same rigorous approvals the measles, mumps and rubella vaccines went through – the ones we all had to take to go to school in Washington State and elsewhere in the country.

If more people were vaccinated, we wouldn't have had to cancel the Labor Day Dance or have people being turned away for critical surgeries because the ICU's are packed with unvaccinated people fighting COVID. I'll also be surprised if a few farms don't pull out of the Farm Tour given the current rate of COVID diagnoses.

Want to get a vaccine but don't know where to go? Reach out to Nancy, myself or the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department. We'll make it easy for you.

Stepping off my soapbox now – but it's that important.

Yours,
Kelly Guenther



From the Sunshine Corner

Hello All,

Since my last report, I have mailed out two get-well cards and a pet sympathy card.

Cheril Allen
Sunshine Representative



"Light Tomorrow with Today!"

~ Elizabeth Barrett Browning



Hopefully, by now the wilting heat of summer is behind us as we head into Fall; my favorite season of the year. Rather than seeing winter looming on the horizon, I feel summer heat gently fade into crisp weather and begin to see the change in color all around. In this season we may awake to sun or rain, it's always a guess and isn't that the true beauty of it?

This is also the time when the school buses begin to rumble down our roads to pick up students as the school year begins. Drive by Evergreen Elementary and you will see eager young faces greet friends and school staff as they enter the beautiful new school building! As someone who spent 20 years working in a community center with two schools on campus, I confess that I never grow tired of the energy that kids bring to each day.

The Longbranch Foundation's mission is:

"To Inspire Collaboration and Generosity in Order to Promote Educational Opportunities..."

Student programs: Evergreen Elementary & KP Middle School

As the new school year begins, we have reached out to Bette McCord at Evergreen Elementary to let her know that we are here to support the Evergreen Community as they begin the year. We met with the KPMS counselors before the school year ended to discuss how the Foundation can support student programs and projects at the school. We will continue to move forward with that support, and we look forward to developing relationships with the KPMS teachers and students.

...to Maintain the Area's History...

LIC Cookbook:

We have a discussion meeting scheduled at the end of September that includes four LIC members (myself and Barb Floyd included) to discuss the possibility of reprinting the cookbook, along with a new supplement. This can only become a reality if we have additional support, so please reach out to me to volunteer.





...and to Improve the Natural Environment.”

I encourage you to celebrate the Fall season and take a stroll at the LIC through the beautifully tended “Larry’s Trails” and visit the new Centennial Garden.

If you have any questions about or input for The Longbranch Foundation please do not hesitate to talk with one of our Board members: Michele Gorman, Kelly Guenther, Jim Hettinger, Elizabeth (Beth) Porter, Sheryl Low, David Ziegler, Marsha Kremen, Randy Carr, Marcia Harris, Jan Prichard or Barbara Floyd. Contact information can be found on our web site: mytlf.org

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Food Market

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

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MARINE FLOATS



Activities

Many thanks to those who helped with the set-up, take-down, and manning of the shared LIC/Longbranch Foundation booth at the Arts Walk of August 4th.

As you probably already know, the LIC Labor Dance has been cancelled out of an abundance of caution and to support the safety of the community. We are still planning several events through the rest of the year and could use your help. If you are not already part of the Events Committee, consider coming to a meeting the first Thursday of the month at 10AM at the LIC (September 2 and October 7 in the next 2 months).



Fiber Arts, which is part of the Farm Tour, is still on for Saturday, October 2, from 10AM – 4PM. We will need many volunteers for set up, assisting vendors, traffic control, greeters, cashiers, take down, and clean up. Contact us if you are interested in helping.

Events this year will also include Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 29, from 6 – 8PM, and Kids & Christmas on Sunday, December 12, from 1 – 4PM.

Allen & Marcel Ballinger
allenandmarcel@hotmail.com



Building and Grounds

Thanks to all who helped with mowing and weeding on the 14th. We discovered a bee infestation in the front timbers of the building. We sprayed the timbers and believe the problem is resolved. If you see any bees, let us know.

High fives to Larry Silva and Gary Brownlee for helping Jim install the new front door. Great job!

Jim contacted a company to vacuum out the attic above the foyer and reinsulate the ducts. This should help with heating costs this winter.

In September we plan to continue work on the trails and the Centennial garden. Stay tuned.

Jim Sobieck and Ann Morris
Buildings and Grounds



Membership

We have quite a few new members:

Daniel Borg
Robb & Lisa Carter
Christina Clark
Julie Hanson & Bill Roedel
PJ Kezele
Tracey Perkosky
Jocelyn Poulin
Andy Rebsamen & Cathy Curtis
Mark & Linda Wilson



Welcome everyone, we now have 166 LIC memberships!

Jan Brown is helping with the LIC name tags so when you get your name tag at the meeting, please thank her. This is a great help. Thanks, Jan!!

Happy autumn and stay safe.

Nancy Carr
Membership Chair



LIC General Meeting August 18, 2021



The meeting was called to order by Kelly Guenther at 7PM. All were welcomed in person as well as the members attending through Zoom. Kelly shared his conversation with the Pierce County Health Department that the Key Peninsula has a vaccination rate of 39% in the south half. Thus we decided to cancel the Labor Day Dance. If you have friends who haven't gotten vaccinated, please encourage them to get vaccinated.

There are talks with the Health Department to try and offer vaccinations and shuttles at the LIC.

Nancy Carr welcomed new members Julie Hanson & Bill Roedel, Mark & Linda Wilson, Andy Rebsamen & Cathy Curtis, Daniel Borg and Tracey Perkosky from Key Pen Parks.

Secretary's Report: Marsha Kremen requested that the minutes of last month's membership meeting be approved as written and submitted. MSP

Treasurer's Report: Jim Hettinger presented the financials for the month of July. The net profit was \$15,000 over budget.

Events: Allen Marcel reported

- LABOR DAY DANCE: Cancelled due to Covid Restrictions.
- FIBER ARTS FAIR October 2, 2021. 10AM – 4PM at LIC. Nancy Chong will be the featured artist with her Hawaiian Quilts.

- TRUNK OR TREAT: October 30th, Evening at LIC in conjunction with Evergreen Elementary PTA. This event allows kids to go through a haunted house and visit the trunks of cars in the parking lot for their treats.
- KIDS N CHRISTMAS: December 12, 2021. We distribute gifts and have Santa here to take pictures with the kids.

All events will need volunteers.

For the December meeting we would like folks to dress up in costumes from 100 years ago to celebrate the Centennial.

Buildings and Grounds: We put a new front door in with volunteer help and the yard was also cleaned up with volunteer help. Jim needs a work crew to help remove items from the attic area so that we can clean up from rodents. There will be a memorial on August 29th at the LIC.

Centennial Garden: We are making a lot of great progress. We are starting to put in paths, and the garden will be open during daylight hours to come and sit and enjoy. We are ready to start preparing for next year with pea patches, lattice around garden and other plantings. David is gathering wood to build features for the garden. Fund raising activities are beginning, David is looking for help in this endeavor.

LIC General Meeting August 18, 2021



Marina Chair: Rick Harrison has some opening day merchandise available for sale. Thank you to the volunteers who help make things work at the Marina.

Pumpout Station Update: Brett Allen reported that the Department of Ecology approved the entire project. We should be able to start with permits next month and move forward on the Pumpout Station Design.

Preservation Grant Update: Marsha Kremen reported on the Preservation Project. Our architectural firm has billed us for the beginning of the project. We are moving forward with the project to insulate the roof. This will save money on heat usage and make the building much more efficient. Marsha stated she would like to put in a parking structure, with solar panels to provide energy for the whole neighborhood.

THE LONGBRANCH FOUNDATION:

The Foundation will start their Celebrate Campaign in letter form in October. Donations made to the Foundation can be specified by the donor for where they would like the donation to go.

Kelly thanked all for joining us for the meeting.
We will keep the hybrid meeting form for now.

Next Member Meeting September 15th, 2021
at the LIC at 7PM, networking starts at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Low
LIC Secretary



Answer key to the August Newsletter
LIC 100th Anniversary Word Find
By Polly Robinson
Historian

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