



The Pelican Brief

Serving [The Pelican Pointe Community](#)

December 2020

2020 Pelican Pointe Annual Meeting

Due to Covid-related restrictions this year's Annual Meeting of the Pelican Pointe Homeowners Association (HOA) Membership was held electronically via Zoom and conference call on Nov. 9, 2020. The Board provided the following highlights.

One of the notable aspects of our Annual Meeting was the final appearance of Marcia Helfant and Charlotte Robinson as members of your Board of Directors. Each devoted more hours than can be counted listening to you (through emails, phone calls and in person), attending meetings, considering challenging issues, and making tough decisions to ensure that Pelican Pointe remains the kind of community you cherish. We all owe them our gratitude and a great big thanks for their selfless service. Board also expressed "thanks to Danielle for her contribution to keep our community members informed and connected." (See notes from our new Board members on page 2).

2021 Board of Directors

Mary Gehris
Mike Heisler
Chuck Kreiman
Sheila Powell
Deborah Weed

Officer positions to be determined by Board at Dec. 14 meeting.

The Budget *The difficult budget decisions made by your Board as reflected in our 2021 Budget helped ensure broad participation at our virtual Annual Meeting and brought out many comments and concerns. Paper copies of the 2021 Budget were mailed to all homeowners prior to the Annual Meeting. The approved budget also will be posted eventually at www.pelicanpointe.net/financials. To recap, here are some highlights:*

- ◆ *Monthly Assessment: Increase of \$20 to \$295 for 2021. Homeowners who opted out of coupon books will not receive one. Everyone else will. If you are signed up for ACH or with CIT Bank, the increase will be automatic. Alert your bank if you use auto bill pay.*
- ◆ *Snow Removal: This is one of the significant and unpredictable parts of our Operating Budget; for 2021 the budget is \$100,000. This will need to cover all costs for the coming calendar year. Our decision reflects 2019 actual snow removal costs of just more than \$103,000, and 2020 snow costs were nearly \$80,000 just for January to April.*
- ◆ *Entry Improvements: The 2021 budget includes \$8,000 for plantings and completion of the entry area improvements that began in 2020.*
- ◆ *Social Activities: The budget cutback was a reluctant cost containment measure. Noting the community benefits of our traditional spring and fall events, we hope residents will step forward to work with the Social Committee to come up with a way to continue these events on a self-financing basis.*
- ◆ *Reserve Account: Allocation to reserves will increase to more than \$153,000 (from \$126,000 in 2020), with 2021 projects mostly limited to the second part of our two-year painting/repair project and the final phase of concrete work.*

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To be clear, in the Board's review of the budget, there was absolutely no discussion of a Special Assessment! For 2022 and beyond, we expect that our regular budget and monthly dues will adequately finance both a reasonable capital program along with appropriate increases in our Reserve Account balance.

Note on the Reserve Study: The 2016 Reserve Study provides a useful inventory of our physical infrastructure. It also provides an estimate of the timing for needed improvements based on conditions in 2016 and estimates of the remaining useful life of each item. The Board will continue to use the Reserve Study to guide plans for capital improvements. ###

Neighborhood Watch Update: On Oct. 21, 38 residents stopped by to get tamper-resistant screws installed on their vehicle license plates by Denver Police Department (DPD) Community Resource Officer Mike Borquez and Christie Mochoruk of DPD Neighborhood Watch Group. This was a free service, and if you are interested in obtaining these screws for your vehicle email pelicanpointenwg@gmail.com. ###

Two homeowners step up to serve three-year terms on Board of Directors

Deborah Weed: "I am excited to serve on our Pelican Pointe Board as I am 20-year resident, and I feel it is important to give back to our community. I hope to bring transparency and open communication to our residents. In addition, I have established the Neighborhood Watch Group and want to do all I can to help keep our community remain safe as we educate residents on tools and programs offered by our local District 3 DPD (as noted above, and see details in calendar listing*). I am proactive and am willing to roll up my sleeves to assist the Board with the needs of the property and committees that may need attention and help. I am excited to represent our community and work with our residents to continue to keep Pelican Pointe an enjoyable, friendly and safe neighborhood."



Mike Heisler: Mike and his wife Dorene moved to Denver in 1971, to Pelican Pointe in 2015.



They are parents to three and grandparents to five. Mike retired after 42 years as a Union bricklayer working on large commercial properties including the Colorado Convention Center and high-end homes in Cherry Hills and Castle Pines. After he retired from masonry he returned to the Convention Center as a security guard. During that time he says he met many interesting people from all over the world who were attending events. During that time, Mike also volunteered for special events at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. And, Mike and Dorene have been frequent volunteers supporting social activities at Pelican Pointe. "I would like to have a hand in keeping Pelican Pointe the great community we have found it to be." ###

Reporting Pelican Pointe property concerns

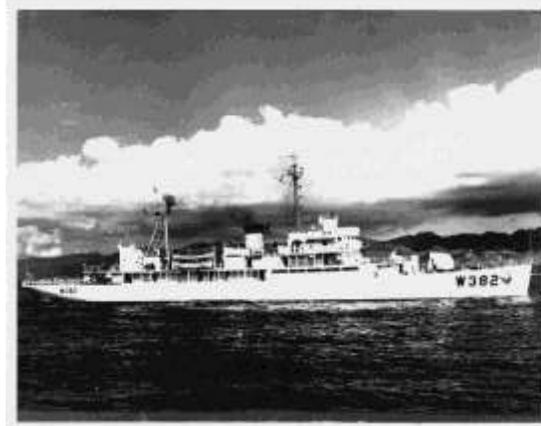
Contact Pelican Pointe Property Manager Mike Workman at mworkman@weststarmanagement.com or call 720-941-9200. Dial the same phone number for after-hours emergencies, press option 1 to reach an on-call manager who will return your call promptly. That's 720 not 303. ###

A Happy Christmas in the North Pacific, 1951

by Francisco A. Rios, Pelican Pointe Resident

In early December 1951, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Bering Strait, fresh out of dry dock and newly-painted, sailed out of her home port, Seattle, WA, heading east. The Bering Strait had a long voyage ahead of her, along the Great Circle Route, the flight path taken by commercial aircraft between the U.S. western coast and the Far East.

But the Bering Strait (photo) was not bound for the Orient. She is headed for a nautical station of only ten miles square in the northwest Pacific Ocean. She will sail 21 days in this square, acting as a beacon and weather station for the aircraft flying unseen overhead. In those days, satellites did not exist, so one of the jobs of the U.S. Coast Guard was to dot the north Pacific Ocean with "weather stations," some more fearful than others. Coast Guardsmen dreaded weather station Charlie, known for its rough seas, but they had no choice.



Well, we were out there one day, Christmas Day, 1951, and I was an apprentice radioman. Around midday, I heard the intercom announce "All free hands on deck! Aircraft approaching!" The main deck filled in no time, with all hands crowding the port side. We saw the plane, which the radar had spotted earlier, dipping its wings now in salute as it approached. It was an American aircraft, a U.S. Air Force B-19! What a beautiful sight it was, and we greeted it with cheers and waving arms. As the B-19 drew near to the Bering Strait, it dropped two large barrels. The plane saluted again, then made a graceful turn above us and disappeared in the clouds.

Now it was the job of the ship to retrieve those barrels, partly empty and still afloat, but for how long, we didn't know. The Bering Strait could not lower a life boat to retrieve the barrels, without endangering the boat and crew. Only skillful maneuvering on the bridge, and heavy nets dropped over the side brought the barrels aboard. The first barrel contained a small Christmas tree. Signed Christmas cards filled the second barrel. What delight those barrels gave us. That same afternoon, the captain directed all hands to distribute the Christmas cards for everyone's enjoyment. Then, every crew member aboard was to personally sign and thank by name the B-19's crew for flying so far out to us to brighten our Christmas Day. I gladly signed two or three Christmas cards, which would be collected with the others and mailed when we returned to Seattle. We wondered to whom we were indebted for the Christmas barrels, and what motivated such a generous act. The Captain learned the answer and passed it on to the crew as follows:

During World War II, the pilot of a U.S. Air Force aircraft flying over the European Atlantic Ocean, radioed an SOS: he had to "ditch" his disabled plane. A Coast Guard cutter on patrol answered the SOS and asked the pilot for his location. Then, having the plane's exact location, the cutter began an immediate rescue operation as follows. The cutter raced at full speed in a circular pattern of about 100 yards. Inside this circle, the water was smooth enough to give the aircraft space to ditch and to stay afloat for as long as three minutes. The aircraft and the cutter completed their joint maneuver perfectly: the aircraft put down in the circle as directed, and the cutter's rescue boats were at its side immediately. The Air Force pilot reported later "I didn't even get my feet wet." This was the pilot who, years later, dropped two barrels for the Cutter Bering on Christmas Day, 1951. For the rest of his U.S. Air Force career, this same pilot "bombed" Coast Guard cutters on the high seas at Christmas time in gratitude.

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Mark your calendar

Trash pickup Wednesday, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.

Recycle: Dec. 9, 23. Use purple carts – break down/flatten cardboard boxes, no waxed cardboard, no K-cups, no bubble wrap or packing peanuts, and no plastic bags. For the most accurate information, you can review the Waste Management's website drop down lists of items not accepted in several categories including take-out food containers.

Extra trash: Dec. 16. (Set out extra trash every eight weeks.)

Sign up to get trash-pickup email trash reminders. Note: The system recognizes our address as 8300 E. Fairmount Drive, that's E. even though we don't use E. in our address.

***Neighborhood Watch and Awareness Virtual Training**

Wednesday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to join this virtual informational training session presented by the Denver Police Department. Email your RSVP at D3Neighborhoodwatch@denvergov.org.

Hanukkah - Thursday, Dec. 10 through Friday, Dec.18

Pelican Pointe Homeowners Association Board Meeting

Monday, Dec. 14, 6 p.m.

Contact mworkman@weststarmanagement.com for instructions to join by calling in.

Pelican Pointe Book Group

Thursday, Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

The Pelican Point Book Group will meet via Zoom. To be included, email junemullins@comcast.net.

The book we're reading is [Love and Ruin](#) by Paula McLain. This is the story of the meeting and marriage of journalist and war correspondent Martha Gellhorn and Ernest Hemingway. Meeting during reporting on the Spanish Civil War, the two are drawn to each other, though Hemingway is still married to wife #2. Employing primary and secondary sources, including Gellhorn's letters, McClain describes Gellhorn's struggle, which asks, "Why must a woman decide between being a war correspondent and a wife..." The struggle is still relevant, and the book is a propulsive read. ###



Winter Solstice - Monday, Dec. 21

Christmas Day - Friday, Dec. 25

Kwanzaa - Saturday, Dec. 26

Boxing Day - Saturday, Dec. 26

2021 New Year's Day - Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

Submissions welcome for The Pelican Brief

Send your observations or questions for *The Pelican Brief* via email to daniellezieg@gmail.com.

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