

Peninsula News

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Serving our community since 1937

Sculpture dedicated to local pair

By Mary Scott
Peninsula News

RPV — Rancho Palos Verdes was formed in 1973 with the intention to preserve the gorgeous coastline so valued today. Residents continue to enjoy coastal views, natural open spaces, parks and trail systems thanks to the contribution and dedication of individuals decades ago.

Prior to the city's incorporation, Los Angeles County, who owned what is now RPV, had another plan for the coastline: 78 units per acre.

"What we ended up with was something very different," Mayor Tom Long said.

Many of those residents went

on to form and support the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy, which unveiled Friday a life-size bronze sculpture of a California brown pelican in honor of two passionate and major donors. The sculpture, "soaring" over a small park area of Terra-nea Resort, just off of Palos Verdes Drive South, was created for and installed in honor of Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg.

The Ginsburgs, who have made considerable donations to the conservancy throughout the years, contributed a significant amount of money to the conservancy's 2009 campaign to acquire Upper Filiorum for preservation. That acquisition, aided

by the city of RPV (owners of the property) and major state and federal grant funding, completed the city's 1,200-acre Palos Verdes Nature Preserve.

It was for this purpose that the conservancy was founded in 1988 by Dr. Bill Ailor. It was his vision, PVPLC President Ken Swenson said, to preserve the city's blocks of open space for the benefit of the community, for recreation, education, leadership and research.

"For all the things we're striving as an organization today," he said. "It will always be our mission to connect the community to

SCULPTURE B2



The Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy unveiled a life-size bronze sculpture of a California brown pelican Friday. The sculpture was created and installed in the honor of Dr. Allen and Charlotte Ginsburg, standing in front of the sculpture.

Max Baxter
Palos Verdes Peninsula
Land Conservancy

that land. We've been fortunate enough along the way to have people to share that vision with us."

The Ginsburgs share a great respect for nature and its preservation.

Charlotte, a former dancer, grew up by a lake on the edge of the woods.

"It was beautiful to live there. The front yard was a warm, sandy beach, and our backyard was hills with woods," she said. "But then, things changed."

Builders transformed her childhood sanctuary into a development of large mansions.

"The Palos Verdes Land Conservancy is a noble organization and its impact on the community is large," Charlotte Ginsburg said. "Every time you see a bird soaring or a tree standing proudly, it's thrilling to know that this land, on ocean's edge, will be unchanged and undeveloped for many generations — we hope forever."

The sculpture, created by artist David Clemons in Idaho, is a perfect representation of the work the conservancy does. The brown pelican was on the brink of extinction in the 1970s, nearly destroyed by human dumping of DDT in the ocean.

"But this pelican is now a symbol of hope and recovery because of environmental education and conscious change. ... The California brown pelican is back and vibrant and thriving," said Andrea Vona, the land conservancy's executive director. "And this is akin to the work the land conservancy is doing throughout the preserve, to conduct habitat restoration, to provide opportunities for our local flora and fauna to thrive in greater numbers."

Situated between a public trail access and parking, the sculpture and the pocket park create what Allen Ginsburg calls a "circle of contemplation."

Said the retired ophthalmologist, "People ... can come here and renew themselves."