

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter

Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



Pam Williams, Editor

Fall Edition 2015

The Prez Says....

I'll begin this letter with WOW! An amazing storm event in October and to say the least maybe we dodged a bullet. Of course you know we have been experiencing some normally high tides the last couple of weeks, but this last storm brought in some scary moments. All canals were over the bulkheads and all boat docks were under water. Some of the docks suffered more damage than others, but none escaped having water stand on top of them for several hours. All in all, we were very lucky. It could have been much worse. At the end of the Port Trinidad/Spanish Wells canal, I observed a paddle boat stranded up on the grass that I think belongs to someone on Spanish Wells. A kayak was observed on the property next to the pavilion. So, if you find you are missing a kayak, you might want to check at the pavilion. Please take notice of anything "stranded" on your property, as it likely belongs to someone in Bay Harbor.

Which brings to mind another topic. Whenever Bay Harbor experiences weather events or security events, it is nice knowing May Bonno and Bill Hand keep an email bank of residents of Bay Harbor to share information about such events.

Participating in the email bank is one of the most effective and quickest ways to receive important information.

It was pointed out to us that there are some fairly deep holes at the end of the boat launch toward the water. After having the problem reviewed by a contractor, due to cost and ability to use the launch without repair, it was decided to only mark where the holes are to alert boaters as to their location. So, please use caution when launching and loading your boat. Backing your boat trailer too far in might damage your trailer. **AGAIN, PLEASE MAKE NOTE OF THE MARKERS PRIOR TO LAUNCHING AND LOADING YOUR BOAT. BAY HARBOR ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE TO YOUR TRAILER OR BOAT. USE THE BOAT LAUNCH AT YOUR OWN RISK.** Be aware, the problem mainly exists during very low tides.

Thank each and every one of you for taking care of your property, including cleaning up after the rain from the storm. Credit should be given to all of you for making Bay Harbor a wonderful place to live.

**"IT'S A WONDERFUL DAY
IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!"**

.....Charles Winsor, President



**Bay Harbor Improvement Association
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July 2014 - June 2015

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UNDERWATER LIGHTS

Most of us love to fish after dark under the lights. In fact, in spite of all the many gallons of fuel that I have burned in the almost 30 years that I have been a part-time resident of Bay Harbor, my back yard is the only place I have consistently been able to catch fish.

Many residents on the bay and canals have installed powerful lights that are very effective in attracting baitfish and the trout that follow them. These lights however have a down side. If you happen to be on the wrong side of the light, you may find yourself unable to enjoy the pleasure of sitting on your deck or lawn experiencing the charms of a summer evening on the bay.

The average fishing rod and reel used to catch fish under the lights will enable you to cast a plug or a shrimp and popping cork about 40 yards. The light projected from the average fishing light is visible for many miles. No fisherman or woman I know has ever been able to cast that far. If your light is not directed downward at an angle to the water, it may very well be lighting someone's deck or even bedroom, several hundred yards away. The light may also be impeding the vision of a boater attempting to navigate the channel. Please think about this when using your lights. If you want to be a good neighbor, next time you turn on your fishing lights check to see what the impact is on your neighbors and their ability to enjoy the evening outdoors. You can probably make your neighbors happy by simply directing the light down on the water, and still attract the fish.

Bill Heitkamp

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(Neighbors helping neighbors)

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Tom Buttaccio
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Jimmy Choate
713-416-7660

Bay Harbor



Garden Club Meeting

It rained most of the weekend but the spirits knew to dry up the skies long enough for the members of the garden club to gather on Halloween morning! Some great holiday good was prepared including pumpkin sponge cake, pumpkin based dip and pumpkin themed deviled eggs.

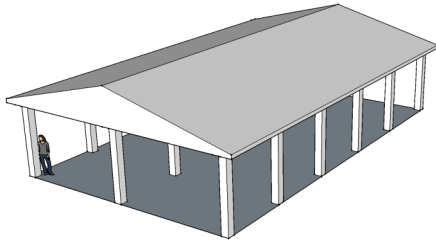
Becky Dundee and Elzbieta Lyons shared stories of the origins of Halloween and the use of pumpkins and other squash to celebrate the occasion. Recipes were shared and small pumpkins were provided to decorate in many ways possible other than carving. Check it out!

*Nothing
scary
here!*



*Stories of
Halloween
and pumpkins*

*... and no, Gail
was not falling
asleep!*



Pavilion Update

by Board Member Mark Bloom

Hopefully everyone has had a chance to admire our new Bay Harbor pavilion down at the marina! There are a few items left to complete such as painting, landscaping, etc. We think this will become a wonderful community meeting place where we will conduct our annual meeting, as well as gather together during our fishing tournament and other events. The pavilion was paid for by dues-paying members, so it seems only fair that its use is restricted to those who helped pay for it. A special thank you goes to B.H.I.A. members Andy Rolf and Willie Fernandez for the generous, unsolicited additional donations given.

Of course, anyone joining the Bay Harbor Improvement Association now or any time in the future may immediately access all community amenities such as the boat launching ramp, the fishing pier, the fish cleaning station, and our new pavilion! Low annual dues of \$150, as compared to association dues in other neighborhoods, not only covers building and maintaining amenities, but covers the costs of mowing and maintaining our common areas, our lighting and signage, food and drink at the annual meeting, and other community events. The Association also interacts with Galveston city officials concerning such issues as road maintenance, the ever-delayed sewer project, permitting, and beach cleaning/access, as well as with various environmental organizations and agencies concerning such issues as our island and channel. Join us if you are not already a member, as all in a small community need to work together to better our neighborhood for our short and long term enjoyment and benefit.

Several BHIA members worked very hard to make the pavilion a reality and deserve special recognition. First, member Doug Bailey should be credited for bringing the idea to the board with a plan of donated and lower cost materials and services that he and board member Jack Hopkins could access to make the construction possible to entertain and for supervising the building project.

Our President, Charlie Winsor, continues to provide excellent leadership for our community and had the not so pleasant job of dealing with the Galveston planning commission. The powers-that-be initially told us no, but with his continued efforts said yes. They initially added several requirements like bathrooms 16 feet above ground with a septic system, which Charlie was able to get dropped. That would have made the project impossible to undertake because of the cost of building and maintenance. With Charlie's persistence and very important help from board member and architect Phil Martin, who donated the architectural drawings for permitting and construction, we were able to navigate through multiple technical requirements and eventually convince city officials to let us build what you see now at the marina -- a pavilion similar to those of neighboring communities.

The landscaping requirement will be the last item to be completed, among the remaining pavilion projects, and member Chris Hauck is generously donating the plants and landscaping services of his landscaping company. Thank you to all who worked together to make this long desired community amenity a reality at last.

Once everything is completed, we look forward dedicating the new Pavilion with a fish fry with catch that will be provided by Board Member Bill Hand, so stayed tuned for the date!

AND THE RAINS CAME !!!!

Photos courtesy of Charlie Winsor



Bay Harbor Fall 2015 Fishing Report by Capt. Bill Hand

So far this has been a very good fall fishing season in West Bay. The rains we had earlier in the year have really helped the bait supply coming out of the marsh. The second round of rain we had from the remnants of hurricane Patricia should help to finish up what has already been a great season.



May Bonno had a g-r-e-a-t day!

There have been lots of nice fat football shaped Specks in the bay, which indicates they are getting plenty to eat. The fresh water inflow has helped the production of shrimp, menhaden, mullet and other bait fish they feed on. There have been some of the biggest Sand Trout (AKA Gulf Trout) I have seen in the past 30 years. You can catch all you want on soft plastic or live shrimp. If you want to make a meat haul, use some of the smaller ones for cut bait on a double bottom rig.

So far, we have not seen any Redfish in large numbers in the open bay feeding under birds. This could happen very soon, so don't go out without your binoculars. The best tactic when this happens is a soft plastic under a rattling cork where you can get some distance with your cast.

There is also a good crop of Ladyfish (AKA Poor Man's Tarpon), Gafftop and Blacktip Sharks if you are out for a little sport.

Be safe, as the weather cools, hypothermia is a real threat, so dress appropriately. It is always a lot colder on the water in an open boat that it is on land, so don't be fooled. Layer up and strip down as the sun comes up and warms the air.



Shereen & Jason's Blacktip Shark



Bill's Sunrise Redfish 27.5 inches !!!!

Hope to see you on the bay soon.

Tight lines!.....Capt. Bill

*Happy Birthday
to Bob Seay !*

September

*(and the first gathering
at the new pavilion!)*



*and
Happy Birthday
to May Bonno*

October

(At Blvd. Seafood)






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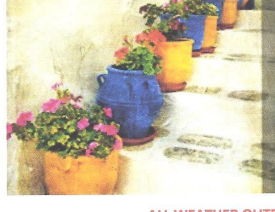
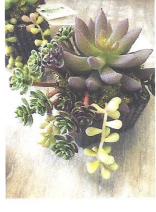
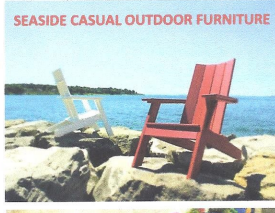
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Bay Harbor Improvement Association

Bay Harbor, Bahia Azul, Bahia Azul-Orner, BeeGee Bay

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Visit our website at www.bhiatx.org

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER

- 18 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
21 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
26 **Happy Thanksgiving!**



DECEMBER

- 05 **B.H.I.A. Board Meeting 10a home of Charlie Winsor**
05 **Bay Harbor Christmas Party sponsored by the Garden Club—Place TBA**
16 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
19 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club

- 25 **Merry Christmas!**



JANUARY

- 01 **Happy New Year!**



- 16 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
20 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion