

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter
Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



Pam Williams, Editor

Winter Edition 2017

The Prez Says....

Read the following story from the a Rockport, Texas newspaper. The story hits home due to the fact the individuals are suspected of having a stash house for stolen kayaks in Jamaica Beach. One day about two weeks ago a good neighbor across the canal from me texted asking if anyone was supposed to be at my house. It was a man walking around underneath the house talking on his phone. As my neighbor's son walked out on the deck the gentleman waved to him from my house. The son goes and tells his dad about the man at my house and the neighbor then walks out on his deck to see what was going on. The man never faced my neighbor again and quickly walked to a waiting truck in the front. The two drove off and were never seen again. I happen to have a kayak secured under my house. Then, the following news of the Statewide Kayak Theft ring appeared. I feel strongly my neighbor thwarted a theft which is why it's very important to get to know your neighbors as the best prevention of crimes is to be alert. The reason the suspected thief left the premises is because my neighbor was "seen" being observant.

My regular ChemLawn man and I talk about kayak fishing every time he comes to the house in Clear Lake to administer

the service. This morning he talked about buying an expensive Kayak from a guy and then heard about the theft ring. He contacted the Galveston Police and found the kayak to have been stolen. He returned the kayak to the police department immediately. He felt that maybe a kid had saved up to purchase it only to have it stolen. He did the right thing.

IF you have had a kayak stolen or know anyone who has had one stolen, contact the Galveston Police Department or the Rockport Police Department.

I will close by saying, **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS!**

Charlie Winsor, President
Bay Harbor Improvement Association

ROCKPORT, Texas- Rockport Investigators have uncovered a state wide theft ring after arresting two men as they were attempting to store stolen goods at a local storage facility. The arrests are welcome news by many law enforcement agencies across the coast.

According to the Rockport Police Department (RPD), Joshua James Gorley, 28, and Joseph Walter Howe, 27, are accused of burglary and theft after their arrest January 19.

Police say the day of the apprehension of the two suspects, an alert cashier working at a convenience store in the 100 block of W. Fuqua Street, called the police to report suspicious activity at an adjacent storage facility.

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Bay Harbor Annual Meeting

and

Fishing Tournament



June 9th and 10th

Bay Harbor Pavilion

The annual member meeting of the Bay Harbor Improvement Association will take place starting 4:30pm June 10th with the silent auction along with the annual fishing tournament that will start the evening of June 9 (see separate notice).

Share a great time hearing the latest news of the neighborhood and participate in the election of our new board members. A delicious dinner will be served, a silent auction will take place packed with a variety of goods and once again we'll rock with an entertaining band to listen and dance to.

Last year's event was such a success with the dedication of the new pavilion. The frivolity was only stopped by the darkness after sunset. This year we will have electricity in place.

The meeting is for members of the Bay Harbor Improvement Association but you can join that day. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet and visit with your neighbors and learn the latest island news.

Bring your favorite side dish or dessert!

Contact Gail at 409-737-1707 gschoate@sbcglobal.net
or May Bonno at 409-737-1085 maybonno@att.net

Donations are always needed for the auction!
Contributors receive a free ad in the Heron.

Contact Dana Kurtin danajokurtin@comcast.net



Bay Harbor Spring 2017 Fishing Report by Capt. Bill Hand

Based on the rain and mild weather we have had this winter, it looks like we are in for some good fishing this year. The water temperature is already 71 degrees. We have had some good low tides and some good high tides which mix the freshwater runoff from the rain in the marsh where all marine life gets its start. There is always a delicate balance of conditions in the marsh for maximum production of sea life.

I have been asked many times how to catch fish in West Bay, so I thought I would list a few things that have worked for me for about the past 50 years:



The water must be moving. Either a rising or falling tide. I always prefer a falling tide, but any water movement is a must. Many times, the fish will turn on whenever the tide starts to move. There are numerous cell phone apps with local tide information for our end of West Bay. I usually go by San Luis Pass or Alligator Point tide tables. Tide movement is probably the single most important thing about catching fish in West Bay.

Bait fish on the surface, sea gulls or pelicans diving is also a good sign that fish may be near. A good set of binoculars is a must, because without them, you will likely miss things that are happening around you.

While West Bay does not have a lot of structure, we do have shell reefs, reef balls and geo tubes. These structures generally hold bait fish. If you don't see bait working around them, move on to those that do. Sometimes the fish are located several feet away and not right up next to them. Again, look for the bait fish.

Live shrimp has always been the best bait, day in and day out. The problem is that it is expensive, hard to keep alive in hot weather and attracts a lot of trash fish and bait stealers. For folks who don't fish enough to use plastic baits, it works well and when fishing with kids almost always guarantees that they will catch something. Little kids just want to feel a pull on the line and most could care less about what kind of fish it is. My personal preference is a soft plastic like a New Penny Gulp under a popping cork. The cork attracts fish from several feet away and you can cover a lot of water. A very good tactic is to have someone fish with live shrimp and the others use plastic. The smell of the shrimp tends to keep fish in the area.

I hope these fishing tips help. It's always nice to catch a mess of fish, but fishing is way more than that to most people.

Tight Lines!
Capt. Bill

Sunrise
At
San Luis Pass

March 3





Bay Harbor Fishing Rodeo



JUNE 9th & 10th, 2017

Starts: 8:00 PM Friday June 9th

Ends: 1:30 PM Saturday June 10th

Registration: Must be registered by 8:00 p.m. Friday, June 9th.

You can register by contacting Tim Kurtin by phone (713) 254-8166 or email fishbaffin@comcast.net

Weigh-in: 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM Saturday at the fish cleaning table

Prizes will be awarded at our new pavilion, Bay Harbor marina: 1:30 – 2:30 PM Saturday

DIVISIONS and PRIZES

Adult (17 and Over) – Entry Fee \$25.00 Prizes for all divisions & Categories above based on fish length

Speckled Trout 1st Place = \$60 Cash
2nd Place = \$30 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise
3rd Place = \$20 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise

Redfish 1st Place = \$60 Cash
2nd Place = \$30 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise
3rd Place = \$20 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise

Flounder 1st Place = \$60 Cash
2nd Place = \$30 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise,
3rd Place = \$20 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise

Youth (Ages 11-16) – Entry Fee \$15.00

Speckled Trout 1st Place = 2 tickets to Schliterbahn (Child Entry)
2nd Place = 1 ticket to Schliterbahn (Child Entry)
3rd Place = \$20 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise

Redfish 1st Place = 2 tickets to Schliterbahn (Child Entry)
2nd Place = 1 ticket to Schliterbahn (Child Entry),
3rd Place = \$20 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise

Flounder 1st Place = 2 tickets to Schliterbahn (Child Entry),
2nd Place = 1 ticket to Schliterbahn (Child Entry),
3rd Place = \$20 credit for Bay Harbor Merchandise)

Small Fry (Ages 10 and under) – Entry Fee \$5.00

Also Prizes for the Biggest fish (\$20 Cash) 2nd biggest fish (\$15 Cash) 3rd biggest fish (\$10 Cash)

Special Category All Divisions: Most Unusual (Legal) Species (\$20 Cash)

Summary of current fishing regulations showing min and max sizes for common species:

Gafftop (14" min.)
Speckled Trout (15" – 25", 1 oversize)
Flounder (14" min.)
Shark (24" min.)

Redfish (20" to 28" – no tagged Redfish)
Sheepshead (14" min.)
Drum, black (14" – 30")

The Prez Says, con't. from page 1

The caller told police a pickup truck had driven onto the storage facility property at approximately 4 am, which the clerk thought was not normal activity. Police say officers made contact with Gorley and Howe and noted several kayaks and a "significant amount of fishing and kayak equipment" in the bed of the pickup. Officers who arrived were only able to cite the two men due to lack of any evidence of a more serious crime but contacted investigators immediately due to several recent burglaries. Officers had reason to believe the property discovered in the possession of the two men could be stolen property from a previous burglary, this according to investigators.

At approximately 7:49 am the same day, police received a call in regards to a theft and possible residential burglary. Investigators were able to connect the two men to the crime which lead to the issuing of arrest warrants. Police also acquired an evidentiary search warrant for the storage unit facility where the two men were contacted by police earlier that morning. At approximately 3 pm police returned back to the storage facility. Police say Gorley and Howe unexpectedly arrived a short time later where police, armed with warrants for their arrest, were waiting. Howe and Gorley were taken into custody and transported to the Aransas County Detention Center on charges of burglary of a habitation and theft. Investigators say that during the investigation information was received about possible locations where Gorley and Howe had stashed stolen goods. Investigators were able to identify several locations in Galveston, Texas City, and Jamaica Beach, as communities where suspected stash houses were located.

Law enforcement across the Texas Coast mobilized and located at least one, and possibly more, of these suspected stash houses. Law enforcement agencies in these locations confirmed that thousands of dollars of recovered stolen merchandise had been in their possession. These same law enforcement agencies confirmed that Howe and Gorley are suspects in numerous thefts and burglaries in their respective department's jurisdiction. The exact number and locations of stash houses are being withheld at this time, as well as a list of potential suspects across the state. In addition to these discoveries across the state, investigators located several thousand in property locally as well. Police say they are working to return the stolen property to its rightful owner and continue to investigate.

A Note from the bhiatx.org Webmaster:

Seeking Bay Harbor providers of services and products!

With bhiatx.org webmaster being a volunteer role, the bhiatx.org website had gone a couple years without updates. Upon taking on the task of volunteer webmaster for the association, the complexity of the task became evident, and the first priority became updating content on the site before adding new content.

The site has always offered affordable advertising space for ad copy, including complimentary space for ad copy to businesses donating items for our annual meeting silent auction. Please contact webmaster@bhiatx.org or Cathy Winsor at 281-995-8502, if interested in purchasing space for ad copy on the bhiatx.org website.

Now ready to add some new content to the site, in order to benefit Bay Harbor owners who are always looking for recommendations of local services and products, the BHIA board has authorized free listing of services and products that Bay Harbor owners might like to offer their Bay Harbor neighbors.

To have your service or product listed in the format below on the bhiatx.org website, simply email the following information to webmaster@bhiatx.org:

Service or Product Name/Description

Provider Name

Email Address

Phone

H.O.A. Anyone?

At a couple of recent BHIA board meetings a question was raised about whether we should consider an HOA. An HOA (Home Owners Association) is a legal entity governed by bylaws and deed restrictions to help protect and enhance the community that is covered by it.

The reason for considering an HOA is that from time to time there have been questions relating to our ability to maintain the appearance of our Bay Harbor neighborhood at the level that we would all desire. Bay Harbor Improvement Association, since it is a civic club, has limited authority that is pretty much limited to control of the boat basin and whatever property it owns outright. Even the status of this could possibly be jeopardized if at some time in the future the civic club were to fade out of existence for lack of interest. In Bay Harbor, payment of dues and adherence to what is commonly understood as community standards is completely voluntary for most. Standards have been stressed to varying degrees over time depending on the composition and energy level of the civic club board. We are not totally void of rules and guidelines however, since offsetting this somewhat is the fact that we happen to be within the city limits of Galveston and so are covered by the city's zoning laws. Anyone not familiar with these can find them on the City of Galveston's website. That address can be found at the end of this article

In contrast to the benefits of city zoning, there have been a number of issues having to do with the city such as sewer availability, street repairs, street lighting, etc., that could and probably should be better dealt with if an organization existed that could truly claim to represent the property owners of Bay Harbor. Actually, that entity commonly known as Bay Harbor is not one neighborhood but consists of at least four separate neighborhoods; Bay Harbor, which is composed of dry and beach lots, Bahia Azul, Bahia Azul Orner, and Bee Gee Bay, all of which have water front lots.

In order for these neighborhoods to come together and fund the necessary functions there needs to be an effective way to collect dues (i.e., require that property owners pay them) and develop enforceable community standards, an HOA would need to be established. Briefly, the process of creating one starts with registering a non-profit corporation or LLC that would draft and distribute a petition calling for the establishment of an HOA. This petition would be distributed to all property owners in the subdivisions and would need to be approved by the owners of at least 60% of the lots in them within a period of two years. If this threshold were reached, then final adoption would require approval of 75% of property owners over a specified period of time.

If established, an HOA could help our neighborhood by doing the following:

- improve property values
- aid in sale of property
- improve the image of Bay Harbor to neighboring communities and outsiders
- require mandatory payment of dues
- establish a budget and funding for the maintenance of community assets such as the boat basin, pavilion, entrance channels and common areas.
- provide the ability to officially "represent" Bay Harbor to the City of Galveston and other government bodies as well as in legal matters
- establish and enforce deed restrictions
- provide additional home owner services such as may be desired. Examples may include trash can storage, ditch mowing, etc.
- fund neighborhood improvement projects. The new pavilion is an example of this.
- houses kept up to standards if desired
- control of traffic, parking, trash and trailers
- deter nuisance activities (loud parties, etc.)
- deter overuse and abuse of rentals

To summarize, HOA's are commonly considered to help improve property values and general desirability of neighborhoods for the reasons cited. They increase community pride and promote the neighborhood's financial stability.

Over the next few months the board is going to be looking further into the possibility of initiating some of the steps laid out here. We will be trying to sort out all the issues and details and will be examining how an HOA would potentially impact all of the various aspects of life in Bay Harbor. Some of these issues are obvious and some are not and still others are extremely complex. Nevertheless, we feel that with some diligent effort we can sort this out and come to the members with a body of information with which to make an intelligent decision and whatever decision is made to move forward with confidence.



With the aid of a beautiful mild winter's day, the Bay Harbor Garden Club started the new year with a well attended meeting at the home of Pam Williams. The meeting began with a meet and greet session with Treasurer May

Bonno reminding all that dues for the year were due. The 14 participants (including 2 men!) were challenged to make container herb garden with the supplies placed in front of them...shallow dishes, soil, sand, moss, small rock, shell and butterfly decor, One member brought her own glass shell container. The results were all different and beautiful.

Discussion followed of suggestions for future meetings with most suggesting field trips to area nurseries and farmers markets. Stayed tuned for the announcement of our next meeting that will take place April 29.

Pam Williams, President



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1/8 page (2.75 x 5.5)	\$45.00	\$135.00

To place an ad, call or write Pam Williams or any BHIA board member.
 (713) 924-7647 or pwilliams0601@sbcglobal.net

Bay Harbor Classifieds

Rates: For a 2" wide, \$2.00 per line (minimum of 3 lines).

Bay Harbor Improvement Association

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

Route 4, Box 190 B26

Galveston, Texas 77554



Visit our **updated** website at www.bhiatx.org

Upcoming Events

APRIL

- 09 B.H.I.A. Board Meeting—Home of Danny Kurtin 3709 Tradewinds
- 15 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
- 16 **HAPPY EASTER !!**
- 19 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody Mansion
- 22 Galveston Art Walk
- 29 Bay Harbor Garden Club Meeting

MAY

- 14 **MOTHER'S DAY**
- 17 GAIN meeting 5:30am at Moody Mansion
- 20 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club
- 29 **MEMORIAL DAY**

JUNE

- 03 Galveston Art Walk
- 09-10 **B.H.I.A. ANNUAL MEETING AND FISH TOURNAMENT**
- 16 **FATHER'S DAY**
- 17 WGIPOA meeting 9am at Galveston Country Club Mansion
- 21 GAIN meeting 5:30pm at Moody
- 24 Bay Harbor Garden Club Meeting