

# The Heron

## Bay Harbor Newsletter

*Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision*



John Halsey, Editor

### *Spring Edition* February 2009

#### "PREZ SAYZ"

Hi Neighbor,

I want to compliment you on your jumping in; rolling up your sleeves and starting to get our community back together. I can already see a world of difference.

As a board, we are in the process of taking bids on the repairs at the marina, and other public areas. We have a small disaster fund to help cover that kind of expense, but if you would like to donate to the cause, we would appreciate it very much. Hopefully we can start that work in the very near future. You probably have noticed that the work on the fish-cleaning table has already begun. Tim Kurtin, of Kurtin Custom Homes, has donated the labor and materials for this project. If you see him around stop by and tell him "Thanks", or better yet maybe you could pass a little work his way. We are going back to "keyed locks" on the boat ramp and fishing pier gate. They will all be keyed alike. We hope to get them installed early in March. You can get your key and auto sticker from Gail Choate, when you pay your dues. If you have already paid them just stop by and pick yours up at 4016 Fourth Street. The City Of Galveston, The Texas Parks and Wildlife, And FEMA have teamed up to provide debris cleaning in the canals, and bay system. This is "free" to the residents. The work is supposed to start this week. I think we have filled out all the forms, dotted the I's, and crossed all the T's. I hope it all goes well.

#### Bay Harbor's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual St. Patty's Day Parade & Marinafest

March 14th, Saturday will be our 3rd "St. Patty's Day Parade". Decorate anything on wheels and join us for the parade starting from the boat docks at 3 p.m. and trolling down our Bay Harbor street's, ending up back at the boat docks.

We will commence the Tail Gater's ball in the marina after the parade. Bring a side dish like coleslaw, crackers, rolls, condiments for the oysters, desserts, etc. Call Gail Choate and let her know what you would like to contribute. Bring your own beverages or we will have cold beer available for a small donation

Boss Promo is making up one of their world famous gift baskets that will be raffled off.

Carl Finney will head up our 2nd annual sing-a-long at dusk with a marshmallow and s'mores roasting for all.

Patsy Gatlin

The board meetings are open to all BHIA members, if you are interested, we would love to see you there. It's not too early to start thinking about the annual meeting in June.

Until the next newsletter,

Your Prez,  
Carl Finney



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**BAY HARBOR**

**2009 ANNUAL MEETING**



**RED, WHITE AND BAR-B-QUE**



**JUNE 13, 2009 4PM till ??**

This year's meeting will be held at the marina and promises to be fun as well as informative! There will be food, fun and even a fireside sing-a-long afterwards. Learn what is happening in the community in our post-IKE transition. Randy Choate has volunteered to cook up some of his fabulous barbeque brisket and, as usual, any side dishes or desserts you can contribute will be most welcome as well.

Speaking of contributions, we will be having a silent auction again and would appreciate any donations to the cause. Just call Pat Gatlin or Cathy Francis with your item. Also, let them know if you know of any business that might like to get their name out there and donate to the benefit of our community.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this year!  
Pam Williams



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# Bay Harbor Habitat Restoration Project Report

## February 2009

### Agency Meeting:

A meeting was held January 21 with Rob Kite from Gagahan & Bryant; Kristopher Benson of NOAA; Dennis Rocha from the Texas General Land Office; and John Halsey, Bill Hand and Betsy Redfield from Bay Harbor to update the financial and engineering status of the Habitat Project. Rob reported that a Post-Storm Bathymetric Survey/Survey Field Work and Redesign of the Original Project should be done to assure Hurricane Ike had not caused significant changes in the original plans. Dennis reported that the withdrawal of Bay Harbor's funding was due to a general reallocation of all of the GLO's projects and funding. He strongly suggested that Bay Harbor reapply for increased funds for the May 2009 / November funding. With the engineering tasks and delayed funding the target for construction would be March 2010 with completion and planting in May/ June 2010. This delay is unfortunate, but it gives us time to gather more private funding and continue to seek funding from grants. The encouragement from the Texas General Land Office to increase our application to \$250,000 would cover the project's projected total cost of \$400,000.

### Applications:

Our application with FishAmerica Foundation was denied. Again, however, we were strongly encouraged to apply for funding through the Community-Based Marine and Anadromous Fish Habitat Restoration Grants to be announced in March and were provided a contact and assistance.

An application was submitted February 7<sup>th</sup> with the PADI Foundation in the amount of \$5,000. This foundation supports underwater science, environmental projects, and education.

We will apply for the 2009 cycle for the CEPR (Texas General Land Office) in March.

### Funding:

We are preparing a complete list of all donors, way back and to date, who have given to the Bay Harbor Restoration and to the Coastal Beach & Bay Foundation, in order to prepare the recognition tiles and appropriate thank-you notes. The fish cleaning table is being rebuilt (courtesy of Tim Kurtin) and the design will include the placement of the tiles. Remember, if you have made a donation totaling \$100 you will be recognized with a signature tile. We still need your financial support, so if you have given we thank you, if you can give more please do and if you have not, please try to help.

### **Debris Removal from the Canals**

We seem to be slowly getting ourselves back together post-Ike. Last weekend marked a significant step where the major debris was removed from the Bay Harbor canals, marina and channel to the bay. This program was organized by the City of Galveston's Department of Public Works using funds provided by FEMA. There was no direct out of pocket cost for any individual property owners.

We were able to participate and benefit from this program due to the alertness of Bill Hand, who brought this opportunity to the board's attention, and the swift action of the Bay Harbor Improvement Association in applying for this assistance prior to the January 31<sup>st</sup> deadline.

**John Halsey**

**News from the  
Bay Harbor Garden Club**  
Theron Moore

Howdy, Neighbors,  
You're invited to the first garden club meeting of the new year, Saturday morning, February 28th, at 10:00. It will be at the home of Ed and Pat Jackson, 3923 Fifth Street. We are fortunate to have two great experienced speakers who are experts on palm trees, Scott Shadle and Bruce Parsons. They have provided palms, and other trees, in our area, including fan palms, sabals, canary Island date palms, and especially the delicious fruit bearing medjool date palms. This is going to be informative, and fun.

We're happy also to have excellent new officers this year. Ed Jackson has agreed to be our new president, along with Elaine Hand as vice-president. Burnelle Schmitz will continue her faithful service as treasurer. And thanks to last year's officers, President Gail Finney, Vice-President Patsy Gatlin, and Burnelle.

A neighborhood always benefits from a community garden club, but now more so than ever following a devastating hurricane. We need to stick together, to learn, to help each other, and to have fun. Our area can appear better by the planting of new trees. It's an inexpensive way to help an area look like a million dollars. All realtors say that a neighborhood with lots of trees, shrubs, and other vegetation raises property values overall and for the individual homeowner.

We are now in our fifth year. You are invited, and needed. Remember, we meet on the fourth Saturday morning of even-numbered months, except December when we have a Christmas party. The Bay Harbor Garden Club is not affiliated with, but is a friend of and a supporter of, the Bay Harbor Improvement Association.

For more info call Ed and Pat Jackson at 409-737-9057, Elaine and Bill Hand at 409-737-9418 / 281-557-2316, or Burnelle Schmitz at 409-737-2403.



  
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**FIRST ANNUAL  
BAY HARBOR  
NEIGHBORHOOD FISHING RODEO  
MAY 22 & 23, 2009**

We have rescheduled our fishing rodeo, which we had to cancel last fall due to Ike, to be on Memorial day weekend. Sign up the whole family to participate. It should be fun for all ages. Circle the calendar. You won't want to miss it.

**FISHING RODEO TIMES**

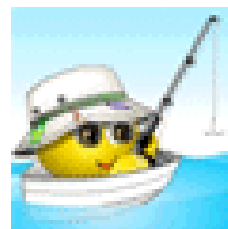
Starts at 8:00 PM Friday May 22, 2009

Ends at 2:00 PM Saturday May 23, 2009

Weigh-in 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM Saturday

Prizes awarded and tail gate party at the marina at 2:30 PM

Divisions, rules and regulations will be published in the May edition of the Heron.



**Bay Harbor Fishing Report**

The tides on West Bay have been extremely low, which is not unusual for this time of year. Normal tide ranges are low this time of year. Add strong north winds and it makes it difficult for water to run back into the bay. Because of this low water and the fear of running over debris left by Ike, I have not been on the water much in December and January.

Once we got some water back in the bay in early February I made several short trips when the weather permitted. While not revealing my "secret spot" I will tell you that I have been catching some nice Reds and a few very nice Flounder within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of our boat ramp. A couple of friends and I caught about 25 nice Sand Trout from a shell reef near Alligator Point earlier this week. The only reliable source for fresh dead shrimp has been Smitty's at the 71<sup>st</sup> street exit off I-45. The Rusty Hook is working hard to get their business back up and running. At press time, they did not have any ice and live and fresh dead shrimp have only been available occasionally over the past month. I checked the bait store at Sea Isle Marina the other day and it appeared that they were closed. I don't have any information on when they may be open, but I suspect they will be back in operation by this summer. My advice is to buy your bait and ice before you get to Bay Harbor to avoid a long drive back to town. Things should improve as the weather warms and the demand for bait goes up.

The water temperature in the bay at this writing was 64 degrees. A lot of "experts" claim that Specked Trout start to get real active at around 68 degrees. With the sun and warm weather we have been having lately, we should find those temperatures in the bay soon. Over the past few days with the higher tides, I have noticed some large Specks and Reds around my neighbors underwater light. There was a huge Black Drum swimming around my dock the other day, but he did not seem interested in the dead shrimp I dropped in front of his nose.

I have had several people ask if the fish in the bay are safe to eat after the storm. The only information that I can find about any warnings came from the Texas Department of Health Services. I have posted that report in a separate article.

Tight lines & be careful out there on the water.

Capt. Bill



ELLA BROWN-M<sup>CO</sup>COY

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**Galveston Community Recovery Committee  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
by Bill Hand**

The Galveston Community Recovery Plan has five focus groups. Those groups are Environmental, Transportation and Infrastructure, Economic Development, Housing and Community Character and Human Services.

I serve on the Infrastructure sub-committee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Focus Area. We have established a vision statement and defined some goals. From here, we will be identifying some specific projects to attain the goals. When the committee work is complete and approved by City Council, FEMA will help the City find funding sources. Our committee work should be complete by the second week of March 2009.

Below is the committee work completed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Focus Area as of 9 February 2009.

**Transportation and Infrastructure Vision Statement**

*Galveston is a diverse island paradise where history and the future meet as a model for resilient and sustainable coastal living.*

**Transportation and Infrastructure Goals**

1. Establish Galveston as a national model for disaster recovery and hazard mitigation.
2. Provide for continuity of community by reducing current and future consequences from all hazards.
3. Enhance and strengthen public and private infrastructure to ensure continuity of service and quick recovery from any disaster, significantly reducing the potential of future damage while protecting the tax base.
4. Island wide and regional multimodal transportation system that serves and connects all segments of the local and regional population and incorporates transit oriented design in all future development.
5. Enhance transportation system to provide reliable, efficient, well maintained, safe sustainable operations through benchmarks of excellence.

If you are interested in the GCRC and other topics involving the recovery, you can go to the following website for all the updates and lots of other information or you can call me at 713-824-1067.

Galveston Recovery website <http://www.recoverygalveston.com/>

**Fish Consumption Advisory for Galveston Bay**

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has issued an advisory warning people to limit their consumption of spotted seatrout and catfish from Galveston Bay. The advisory, which includes Chocolate Bay, East Bay, West Bay, Trinity Bay and contiguous waters, was issued after a two-year study showed elevated levels of dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, in the two fish.

(Continued on page 7 Fish Advisory)

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To place an ad, call or write John Halsey or any BHIA board member.  
(713) 443 6700 or [jthalsey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jthalsey@sbcglobal.net)

## Bay Harbor Classifieds

Rates: For a 2" wide, \$2.00 per line (minimum of 3 lines).  
Runs one time for these rates, and on the website for 1 month.

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**(Continued from page 6 Fish Advisory)** Other fish species such as red drum, black drum and flounder were sampled and are safe to eat.

Adults are advised to limit consumption of the two fish to no more than one 8-ounce meal a month. Women who are nursing, pregnant or who may become pregnant and children should not eat any catfish or spotted seatrout from these waters.

PCBs are industrial chemicals once used as coolants and lubricants in electrical transformers and capacitors. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned PCBs in 1979, but items containing PCBs did not have to be replaced. PCBs degrade slowly in the environment.

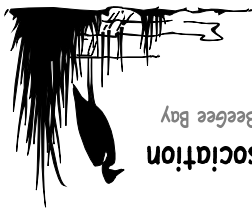
Dioxins are formed as unintentional by-products of many industrial and chemical production processes and incomplete combustion.

Long-term consumption of PCBs may cause cancer and reproductive, immune system, developmental and liver problems. Dioxins can cause skin rashes, liver damage, weight loss, reproductive damage and may increase the risk of cancer.

Spotted seatrout, also known as speckled trout, is a favorite among recreational anglers in coastal waters. The DSHS advisory does not prohibit catching or possessing either fish species. The contaminants do not pose a threat to other recreational uses of the bay such as swimming or other contact recreational activities.

No other advisories could be found following Ike. The above advisory was issued in July 2008 and has been in effect in parts of upper Galveston Bay since 1990.

Visit our website at [www.bhiatx.org](http://www.bhiatx.org)



Bay Harbor Improvement Association  
Bay Harbor, Bahia Azul, Bahia Azul-Orrer, Beegee Bay  
Route 4, Box 190 B26  
Galveston, Texas 77554

# Upcoming Events

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February 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

## February

**24** Mardi Gras day

**28** Bay Harbor Garden Club 10:00am at home of Ed and Pat Jackson  
3923 Fifth Street

March 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## March

**14** BHIA Monthly Meeting, 10:00 am

**14** 3rd Annual Bay Harbor St. Patty's Parade & Marinafest

April 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## April

**11** BHIA Monthly Meeting, 10:00 am

**12** Easter

**25** Bay Harbor Garden Club Meeting, 10:00am