

The Heron

Bay Harbor Newsletter

Bay Harbor - The Friendly Subdivision



2019 1st Edition

Pam Williams, Editor

Life's a rodeo and all you have to do is stay in the saddle !!

The front page of the Heron usually has a message from your Bay Harbor Improvement Association President, but due to this editor's PC crashing, his message being lost with it and the need to get this Heron out...you're getting a message from your editor! First, I want to apologize for the late Heron and you'll notice there is no Fall Heron in the website archives. I'll offer no excuses (since I don't have any good ones) but promise I'll work to get back to my quarterly routine!

A shout out to our Bay Harbor Improvement Association board for all of their concerns and work for our neighborhood. The board meets every other month to discuss and take action on such items as street repairs, drainage, property city code compliance, beaches and maintenance of our common area properties which include the boat basin, pavilion, pier, 2 canal end caps and entrance signs, BHIA board meeting notices are posted on the Bay Harbor website and in the calendar section of the Heron, and the public is invited to join us at any of our meetings. The group also plans socials for the community. A small fee of \$150 supports all of these activities and can be remitted to the secretary, Gail Choate (who just celebrated 25 years as secretary). The association Annual Meeting is set for June 8 so mark your calendars for a fun fishing tournament, good food, some music and games! Last year there were over 100 neighbors who attended!

Oh, what a wild winter we've had this year...30 degrees one day and 69 degrees a couple of days later. Spring is arriving soon which is a great time to evaluate your property and get rid of any unused items, mow grass, weed/plant/mulch gardens, and make sure you have no issues that would concern the city or your neighbors!

One of the advantages of being away from the crowds is our close access to nature and it's bounty. Just ask any of our fine fishermen and check out our 'Bird Island' from the pavilion and piers. It's mating season! One neighbor's home has also attracted a variety of raccoons and possums and others report rabbits crossing the roads so take caution when driving. There have also been recent reports of coyotes and rattlesnakes as well so use caution when you're out and about with your pets as well!

We've had a lot of cloudy days and rain but as someone once said, "A bad day in Galveston is better than a good day anywhere else."

Pam Williams
Heron Editor



**Bay Harbor Improvement Association
Board Members**

July 2017- June 2018

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WEST BAY WATER TESTING AT BAY HARBOR

A few months ago some Bay Harbor property owners, David and Margaret Labbe' and Tim and Dana Kurtin volunteered with The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) to be Water Monitors. GBF has a group of volunteers monitoring the water quality in the bay at more than 30 locations ranging from Morgans Point to a couple of locations west of San Luis Pass. The testing is divided into two basic types, general water quality that affects fish and and wildlife in the bay, and biological analysis. The water quality sampling involves tests for oxygen content, salinity, specific gravity, ph, water clarity, water color, water temperature, air temperature, general water and climate conditions at the time of sampling and involves specific sampling techniques and the use of various chemical reagents to obtain the sought after results.

Water sampling for biological content is aimed at determining the level of indicator bacteria that in turn tends to indicate the level of fecal matter in the bay and involves using sterile techniques to preserve the sample and avoid incidental contamination. Once a sample is taken in Bay Harbor it is placed in a special sealed, single use container containing a biological preservative which is then re-sealed and placed on ice. The sample must then be delivered for analysis to the GBF laboratory in League City within six hours.

To become water monitors the group was required to attend a half day training session with GBF instructors near Kemah. A second training session to become certified for biological sampling was conducted on sight at the Bay Harbor pavilion.

cont. on pg 4



David Labbe demonstrating his water testing kit.



Bay Harbor Marina

December 31, 2018, 5:51:53 PM

Capt'n Gare's Bay Harbor Fishin' Report

February 9th, 2019
Cold...Cold...Cold, Lowell George wails...freezin'... in my hotel room. Waiting for Columbus has to be one of rock's top 5 live albums ever produced. Double albums and double layers, long johns, fleece, wool socks in the house, you bet, put on some down when you go outside, dress for success. Definitely the coldest weather we've had this year. Not fit for man nor Yeti. Haven't seen either in a week. Three days earlier marsh water temperature was a hair away from 65°, current water temperature at Eagle Point, 52°. Over 12 degree water temperature drop will definitely change any pattern established pre-front. The past week, all though it was foggy, we were spoiled with afternoon warm ups in the 60's. Fishing since the first of the year has been fairly decent. Boat traffic has been non-existent since December. The flats have had significant afternoon warm up and the recent shad hatch had the red fish on the move and feeding mainly in the PM. Trout have been mostly pencils and undersized.

The juvenile fish population is off the charts. I have never caught as many undersized fish in my life. Red Fish saved the day multiple times and were



fairly consistent when the weather, wind, and fishing gods cooperate. The key to catching is pre and post cold front fishing. Wading is preferable but you can be successful from the boat with flexibility and timing. The day after a cold front is usually a high pressure, blue bird, honey do day. If you can get your work done that first

day after the front? The 2nd day can be your best bet to put a few fish in the box. Dropping barometer and subsiding winds along with warming temps can trigger a bite. Usually the later in the afternoon and closer to sunset you can fish really improves your chances. You need to fish areas with structure (drains, guts, reefs, mud & shell bottom, water movement (wind or tidal) and bait. Bait trumps everything this time of year. Even if you see one mullet jump you better shut it down and fish that area until it's to dark to see. West Bay can be absolute perfection and totally devoid of even a remote possibility of catching a fish. Beautiful crystal clear green water, no current or bait are definitely what you want to avoid.

Winter fishing in West bay is challenging to say the least. The reduction in boat traffic increases your chances of success substantially. Dress for success and be flexible, there will be windows of opportunity that appear without notice. I believe the phrase is "carpi diem". -gb-



STREETS AND TRAFFIC SIGN IMPROVEMENTS

David Labbe

Members of the Bay Harbor Improvement Association have had numerous conversations with employees of the Galveston city government regarding the condition of our Bay Harbor streets and drainage system. Some of the residents who have built new homes have learned (the hard way) that obtaining a driveway permit requires that they install culverts under the driveway where it crosses a ditch or where it crosses the line where the city may install a ditch in the future. The culvert is required to be a minimum of 18 inches inside diameter. The city requires that the homeowner purchase the culverts and have them delivered to the site. The city would then install them at a nominal price after it conducts a survey to determine the correct depth. According to the city, this is to insure that the entire length of our ditches are properly sloped to drain well. According to Kyle Hockersmith, Director of Public Works, as the city goes through Bay Harbor, as well as all other subdivisions on the west end of the island, it intends to maintain and or modify the ditches to conform to the original engineering plans.

In the past, individuals installed driveways without culverts or with culverts either the wrong size or that were installed improperly, thereby impeding drainage. As the city goes through the neighborhood setting the ditches at the proper grade it will require that all driveways have the proper culverts installed. According to Kyle Hockersmith, speaking at a recent WIGIPOA meeting, residents whose culverts do not meet these standards will receive a letter from the city requesting that they take the necessary measures to correct the problem.

Recently, thanks to the efforts of some of our BHIA board members, we have gotten the city to perform some badly needed work on our streets. Some of that involved re-paving the intersection at 5th St. and Galceran, re-paving the intersection of 4th St. at Galceran and installing an east to west culvert to alleviate flooding near that intersection. Don Gray spoke with Walter Hawkins from the City of Galveston on 2/12/19 and reminded him of his previous statement that the city would start re-paving Bay Harbor streets in the Spring of 2019. Don told him that he should direct his attention to the area around the Pavilion and mail boxes as well as 4th Street and Galceran Street. Not long ago, the city deposited and spread some reclaimed asphalt type material just south of the mailboxes to reduce some of the flooding in that area. That material was sub-standard and we were told that it would be replaced after the first of the year. Since then, additional material has been placed in the area from Galceran to the boat ramp area. This appears to be crushed limestone and seems to be functioning better but it still needs to be further graded to eliminate the low spots.

A couple of months ago a survey of our street signs was done by some of our residents and it was found that we were missing numerous signs including stop signs, speed limit signs, and dead end signs. This was sent to the city with a request that the missing signs be installed. Since then, the city has installed the missing signs. I believe that in total, 34 missing signs were identified and later installed.

WEST BAY WATER TESTING AT BAY HARBOR, con't. from pg 2

The samples are taken and the analyses are performed on the third Sunday of each month. Sampling activity began in November 2018. So far the samples have indicated that the water in the Bay Harbor area is in good shape. The laboratory biological results from the sampling return something called an MPN score. MPN is a technical term meaning Most Probable Number (equal to enterococci bacterial units/100ml) involving a complicated sequence of dilutions to determine bacterial content. Most of the recent data returned to us by the GBF laboratory from our sampling indicate a low MPN number in the range of 10-20 (although the January 2019 sample taken at extreme low tide returned a higher number) whereas an MPN score of less than 104 is considered safe for swimming by the EPA. As you can see, so far we have usually been far below that level.

Our sampling location is called West Bay at Bay Harbor. You can find information about the water monitoring project at Galveston Bay Foundation's website. So far all the samples have been taken from a single point on one of the canals in Bay Harbor.

Calling All Readers!

Bay Harbor is starting a book exchange. It's will be part of the Little Free Library Network, the world's largest book-sharing movement (littlefreelibrary.org). The Association has ordered a library box that will be placed at the pavilion after which the fun will begin. We'll start with a collection of books in our library, and anyone who would like to can borrow a book can take one. It's all on the honor system. You take a book. You share a book. That way our library stays full. There will be books for all age levels.

Before we can begin, it needs to be painted. We've ordered wooden cutouts for an ocean scene to decorate the outside. But we need your help! If you would like to volunteer your talents, please let me know. I'll prime and apply a base coat. Then we, as a group, can paint the cutouts that will then be attached to the outside.

Once the box is finished, it will be mounted at the pavilion and added to the world-wide Little Free Library map. We will be the eleventh library on the island. Anyone can borrow a book from any of the libraries and return it to any library on the map. That means the library will be open to visitors also.



This is the Little Library at Indian Beach



This is a picture of the library we've ordered:



These are the cutouts that needed to be painted:

If you would like to learn more about book-sharing, check out LittleFreeLibrary.org. They have information about other little libraries, videos about libraries on the world-wide map, and pictures of libraries that others have decorated.

As I get more information, I'll let you know!

T.Lynne Havel

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BAY HARBOR: THE WAY WEST GALVESTON USED TO BE By John Dundee

My wife and I smile to ourselves when we remember approaching the realtor who had our old camp (all the houses on West Galveston used to be called 'camps') listed for sale back in 1977. She wondered why a young couple would be interested in living "way out" in Bay Harbor?

After 40 years, we've finally answered that question.

Bay Harbor was the first subdivision on West Galveston Island and grew out of 1700 acres obtained by Earl Galceran in 1946. Harv Boughton, a writer for the old Houston Post was one of the first to build a camp here and in later years, became our neighbor. Harv said that Earl Galceran was "25 years ahead of his time" when he began selling lots in June of 1955 in what would become Bay Harbor. With the opening of the San Luis Pass bridge in 1966, came permanent development of West Galveston.

Somehow, amidst all that development, Bay Harbor has managed to retain much of its pioneer spirit. We are still somewhat rural, due to the large lots designed by Galceran. Even with the development of canals and the platting of Bahia Azul along Bay Harbor's bay frontage in 1970, Bay Harbor remains a small neighborhood of mostly outdoorsmen - those who want to feel close to the beauty of West Galveston Island.

Why would a young couple want to 'live way out there' in Bay Harbor? Perhaps because we, too were ahead of our time back in 1977. We wanted to feel close to the beauty of West Galveston Island... way out in Bay Harbor.



Garden Club



The annual Christmas party held in December at the home of Cathy Winsor was a great success with over 50 neighbors attending! Cathy outdid herself with all of the decorations and table settings. Many heavy hors d'oeuvres were served with the cutest of Christmas themes. The Chinese gift exchange was fun as well with many cute seaside items being passed around i.e. stolen!

Irene Burgess and May Bonno were unanimously "elected" to be Co-Presidents for 2019.



The first meeting of the new year was held in February at the home of Irene where 17 members learned from May about the 3 Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle). Reducing is cutting back on the amount of trash we make, reusing is finding a new way to use trash so that we don't have to throw it out, and recycling is using trash to remake new goods that can be sold again. Irene closed the meeting by announcing that she had extra material and would make shopping bags for a donation to the garden club. Everyone had fun choosing their favorite print. Stay tuned for the April meeting announcement about a field trip to Maas Nursery in Seabrook. Take a look! <http://maasnursery.com/>

Annual BHIA Meeting on June 8 Silent Auction Items Needed

The annual meeting has been scheduled for June 8th. Join your neighbors enjoying food and fun activities!

If you have any items that might sell at our BHIA silent auction, or can solicit or make any, please let Cathy Winsor know (cathyfwinsor@gmail.com or 281-995-8502) what you are able to contribute. In order to prepare silent auction bid sheets, please include a description of the item(s), and an approximate retail value of the item. Emailing or texting a picture would also be helpful. Your community thanks you!



Your board at work!



Burnelle L. Schmitz passed away peacefully on Wednesday, January 9, 2019. She lived in Bay Harbor for years until she moved close to her sister in New Orleans in 2018. She was quite the entrepreneur owning real estate, a night club called "Lucky Lady" in Houston and a landscaping business called "Burnelle's Landscaping" in Galveston. She was also a Galveston City Councilwoman. She was very beautiful and the life of the party. Online condolences may be offered at www.gardenofmemoriesmetairie.com.

We are also saddened by the passing of the mother of John Dundee, February 20. at UTMB. Joyce enjoyed a long career working with the Moodys. She had moved in with John and Becky for a while and loved Bay Harbor. She was a very caring person who also had a great sense of humor. Do read her obituary that can be viewed by copying the following link:
https://www.galvnews.com/obituaries/article_e69965ce-0e5a-54c6-9d72-cb7e8726d6ed.html.

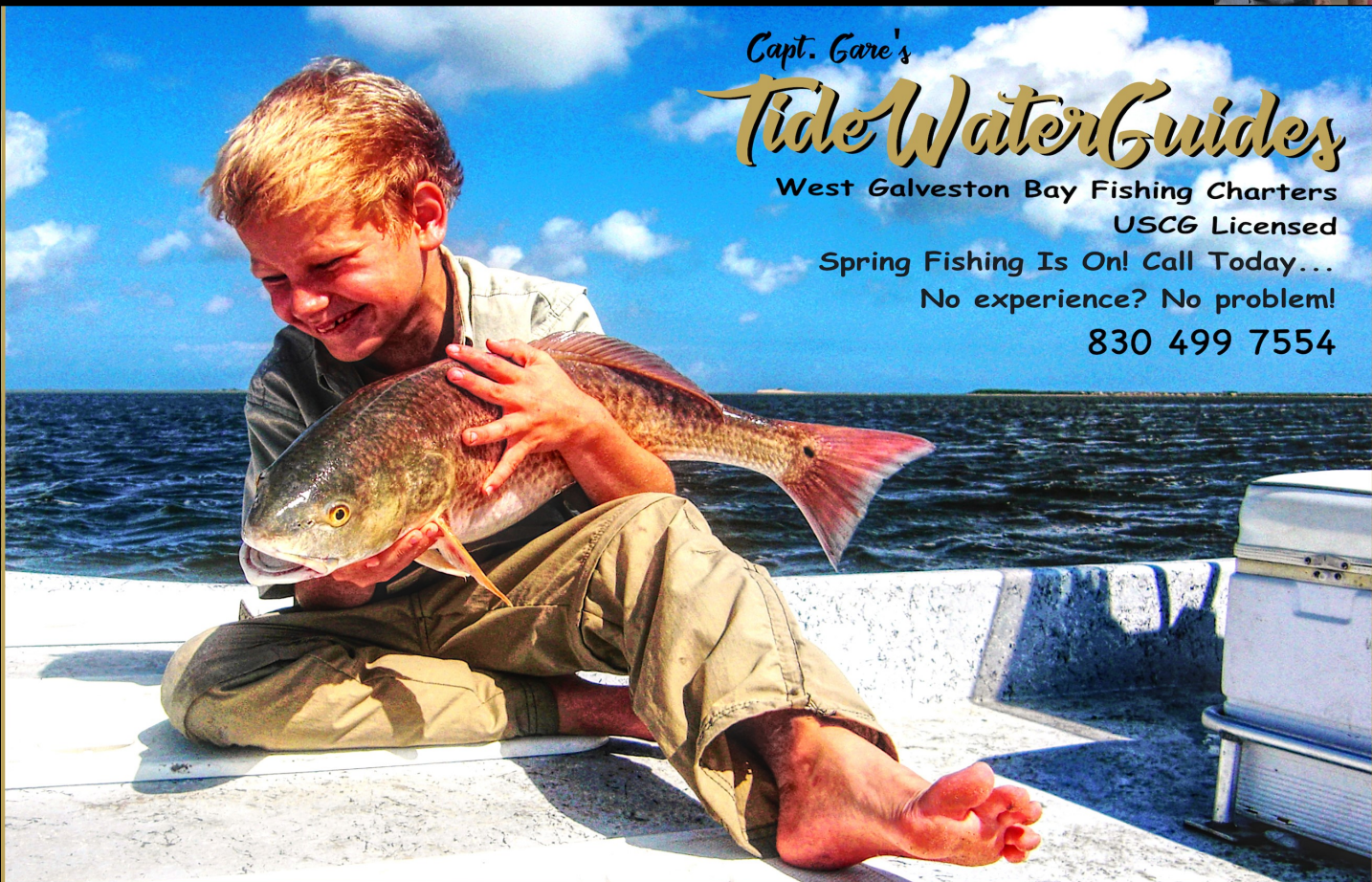


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To provide an article or place an ad, you can call or write Pam Williams, Editor of the Heron.

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



Upcoming Events

March

- 09 Galveston Art Walk 6-9p
- 12 Galveston Lofts Tour 9a-4p
- 16 WGIPOA meeting 9a at Galveston Country Club
- 16 Galveston Market Day 10a-4p 23rd/Market
- 16 Galveston Loftwalk 7-11p 2221 Market St.
- 20 GAIN meeting 5:30a at Moody Mansion

April

- 06 The Grand Kids Festival 10a-5p
- 11-14 Galveston FeatherFest
- 13 B.H.I.A. Board Meeting 10a 3814 Port Trinidad
- 14 Galveston Art Walk 6-9p
- 17 GAIN meeting 5:30p at Moody
- 20 WGIPOA meeting 9a at Galveston Country Club
- 27 Bay Harbor Garden Club Meeting
- 27 Galveston Art Walk 6-9p

May

- 11 Galveston Historic Homes Tour
- 12 Happy Mother's Day !!
- 15 GAIN meeting 5:30p at Moody
- 18 WGIPOA meeting 9a at Galveston Country Club
- 26-27 Memorial Day Weekend