

Save Our Beach Association

August 2010



Interested in Sand Castle Building Lessons?

Have you ever eyed those amazing sand castle/creations in Surfside and wished you could create something that spectacular? Well, I've been in contact with Lucinda Wierenga, who teaches Sand Castle building lessons in Padre Island. If you're interested, let me know and I'll see what arrangements can be worked out with her. Of course, it would be open to everyone and I think maybe some time in September or early October would be fun. Check out her website at SandyFeet.com!

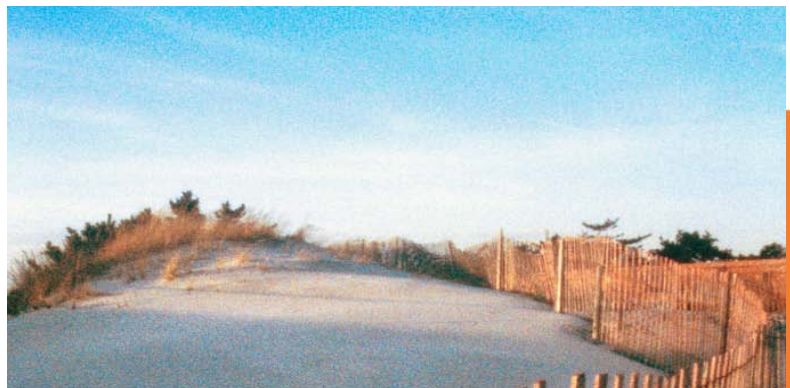
Labor Day Fundraiser – Saturday Sept 4th

Summer is almost over and that means it's time for our Labor Day Barbecue Fundraiser. We all moan and groan, complain about the heat, but when we get together, we always have a great time! Please let Ann Kelley know what you can help out with. Katherine Cane and family is graciously doing all the barbecuing. They will bring the pit to the corner to keep the meat warm and entice the customers with the heavenly smell. The Wilhelms' will bring the "Cabana Wagon" to sell t-shirts.

HELPERS!!!! This means YOU!! Be there at 9 am and after setting up, hope to be serving by 11:00. Hopefully we can be sold out and cleaned up by 3:00.

SOMETHING NEW THIS FUNDRAISER. Besides selling our delicious sandwiches, we would like to now take PRE ORDERS FOR WHOLE BRISKETS. This could be a great way of providing part of a meal for your friends and family that would be visiting on this weekend. (With all my company, I may need several). It will be cooked and wrapped in foil, and could also be frozen for your future use. We would need the \$30 money/check by Sept 1st. and you can drop it off at my house 306 Beach or mail it to me at Beverly Bisso, 3311 Flaming Candle, Spring, Texas 77388. 832-350-9040

Donations: Please do what you can to help. Christmas is just around the corner and our Dunes Project needs our help as much as ever.



***Soba Meeting
Tomorrow, Saturday***

2:00 Pirates Alley Café

*Surfside "Best Gulf Coast Town" Celebration
Sunday, August 15th Kitty's Purple Cow 2:00*

T-shirts will be available to purchase

Wear your SOBA gear!

**Letter from General Land Office regarding
last 2 structures on Beach Drive**

Sent: Fri, Aug 6, 2010 5:00 pm
Subject: Re: Last two houses on seaward side of Beach Drive

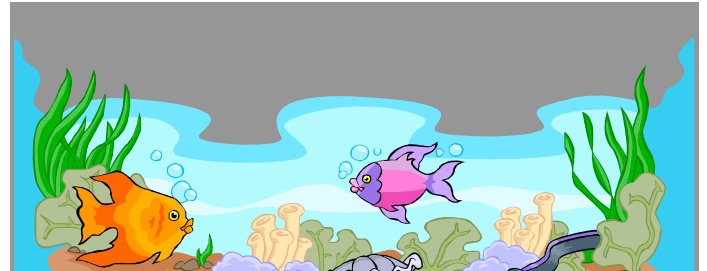
Mr. Bisso,

The GLO is continuing to monitor the status of the two structures that remain on the public beach. Both of the structures are subjects of a FEMA hazard mitigation grant program (HMGP) project undertaken by the Village of Surfside. The Village sought the HMGP as a means of providing a voluntary buyout opportunity for the owners of these structures, which would result in their removal from the public beach.

To date, the owner of the structure at 507 Beach Drive has rejected a buyout offer from the Village and therefore will no longer be eligible for the buyout program. Negotiations are ongoing with the owner of the structure at 411 Beach Drive. As of this week, the Village has indicated there is a high probability of reaching an agreement on a buyout. If a buyout agreement is reached, the structure will be removed from the beach prior to the nourishment project. If not, the structure will remain on the beach. The Village of Surfside has been advised by their legal counsel to refrain from condemnation proceedings against the owners of these structures pending the final adjudication of ongoing litigation.

The beach nourishment project design accommodates the two structures that remain on the beach by placing a 25 foot radius of no fill around each of the structures. The project design is 100 percent complete, and the request for competitive sealed proposals for construction of the project is currently posted on the Electronic State Business Daily. Competitive sealed proposals are due to the GLO on or before Aug. 19. Construction of the nourishment project is expected to begin after Oct. 1. I hope this information is helpful. Feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

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Seaweed, seaweedeverywhere.

The pelagic brown algae, *Sargassum natans*, are a regular visitor to the shores of the Texas Gulf coast. The floating seaweed is a habitat to numerous species of vertebrates and invertebrates, several of which are exclusive to the *Sargassum*. Many sports fisherman in the Gulf look for the "weed lines", as more often than not, dorado, triple-tail, and other game fish are associated with the seaweed.

Eventually the floating mats of seaweed make it to the coast. Here is where the controversy begins, especially in Texas. Much of the economy of coastal Texas depends on tourism, with visitors to the beach a primary draw. The beach is also the playground of locals as well. The naturalists among them will take kids and grandkids out to the water, between the shoreline and the first sandbar, pickle buckets in tow, drop a clump of *Sargassum* into the bucket, and spend the time discovering the numerous life forms hiding in the seaweed. Other tourists, and some locals, have different expectations of what the beach should be like. They see the seaweed as a nuisance, same as the litter and trash that washes up from the Gulf. This line of thinking has many supporters who feel it is their job to make sure that the tourists are not inconvenienced by something like seaweed.

Municipal and county beach maintenance managers, being political entities, often rely on the various Tourist and Visitors Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, and tradition, to shape their beach management plans. In most locals on the Texas coast, heavy machinery are used on a daily basis to scrape away all signs of seaweed on the beach. This practice does make the beach resemble somewhere else, maybe like beaches where seaweed is not an issue, making it look "resort-like". The problems as a result of these practices are several.

Thank you Melinda and Michael Wilhelm for your donation of flags to replace the ones for the front entrance. Check for evite in the future for the

"Flag Rehangng Social"

Thanks to all for your support...
Beverly Bisso

Remember....dont shoot the messenger



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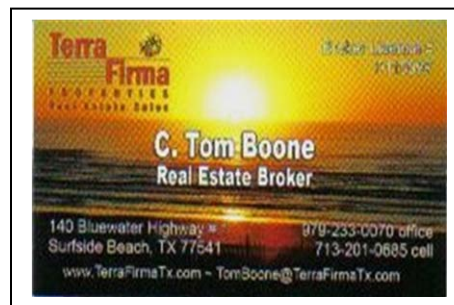


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First, sand is removed along with the seaweed by the heavy machinery. This may lead to beach erosion on beaches that are already seeing erosion rates of 3' to 10' per year, depending on location. Second, where will the seaweed-sand load be placed once it is removed? THE DUNES. Third, suppose that the beach is scraped at 7 AM, the beach is crowded with people by 10 AM, and the beach scrapers can't get to the beach for a second (or third) pass. The seaweed continues to wash in all day and night. Fourth, many species of shorebirds are found to be exploiting the washed up seaweed, as each clump contains food - shrimp, crabs, nudibranchs, etc., and many beach visitors want to see this type of interaction.

One important thing learned at these symposia was that Sargassum on the beach is but a part of the big picture of beach management, especially as the topic of beach erosion is brought to bear, ie no beach - no beach goes. Education is not only the beach going public, but of the decision makers and business community.



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