

NORTH BEACH NEWS

Monthly Newsletter of the Corpus Christi Beach Association

May 2011

CCBA



CORPUS CHRISTI BEACH
ASSOCIATION

Next meeting

Thursday

May 19, 2011

4:30 pm

Lanai Room at
The Breakers

Speaker:

City of Corpus Christi Water Department

discussing city's efforts
to maintain good water
quality on North Beach

Agenda:

Pledge of Allegiance
Speakers

Reading of Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Old/New Business

5:30 pm: Social Hour &
unofficial "After Hours"
meeting for latecomers

North Beach

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Local candidates running in the May 14 elections attended the April 21 CCBA meeting. From left: John Sloan, Roland Gaona, David Loeb, Bryan Menard, Nelda Martinez, Hector Salinas, Mark Scott, Jesse Noyola, Daniel Lucio and Joe Adame. Carolyn Moon also attended.

City candidates attend April CCBA meeting

North Beach residents vote at Kiwanis Park building May 14

Eleven candidates for City Council and Mayor attended the April 21 CCBA meeting to talk to North Beach residents about their goals for the city and explain why people should vote for them.

Two candidates running for mayor attended - incumbent Joe Adame and his opponent Carolyn Moon. All three District 2 Council candidates were present - incumbent John Marez, along with Daniel Lucio and John Sloan. All the At-Large Council candidates attended the meeting - incumbents Nelda Martinez and Mark Scott, along with challengers Roland Gaona, David Loeb, Bryan Menard, Jesse Noyola and Hector Salinas.

CCBA President Betty Black gave each candidate a set amount of time to talk. During the question-and-answer portion of the meeting, JoAnn Gilbertson and Donna Kinney asked the candidates to state their view of the proposed Las Brisas petroleum-coke plant that is proposed to be built in the port, about five miles west of North Beach. They echoed concerns other Corpus Christi residents have raised about pollutants and negative health effects the plant would bring, along with increased taxes brought by construction of a \$142 million water pipeline to supply enough water for the plant to operate.

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR:

Joe Adame - Stands by his position on Las Brisas: "If it's permissible, I'm for it." North

Beach has improved its curb appeal recently and as the economy improves we want to welcome new businesses. Recently approved the relighting of the Harbor Bridge with LED lights that can change color for special events. What makes a community special is its natural beauty and location, how we take care of it and how we treat each other.

Carolyn Moon - Was a contestant against Las Brisas in the TCEQ hearings, and is against the plant - "It will be bad to have four smokestacks next door to you." Disagrees with the decision to move public comment period during City Council meetings from noon to 4 pm, since "people who own the city should have their say" and most working people can get off only at noon. CCBA is an active group that says "we

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Social Hour Menu

Food by Sami Cameron
(\$5/person donation)

- Smoked Brisket
- Peach Barbecue Sauce
- Twice Baked Potato Casserole
- Sami's Baked Beans
- "Out of this World" Pepper & Onion Relish Spread
- Cherry Cobbler
- Wine and Tea



... Candidates

Continued from page 1

have a problem - let's get together and fix it" - each neighborhood in town needs to do that. The Smart Growth group she is a part of has helped pave the way for mixed-use development, which will help North Beach development. A lot of problems in the older parts of Corpus are due to outdated infrastructure which needs to be updated.

DISTRICT 2 (INCLUDES NORTH BEACH)

John Marez - About Las Brisas, he said, "Let the regulatory agencies do their job, then we'll sell them water at a premium." Is proud of Bond 2008 projects that were initiated during his term.

Daniel Lucio - Is against Las Brisas due to health and safety concerns for the community. He sees eye-to-eye with John Sloan on most issues and hopes to build a lasting relationship with everyone in the CCBA.

John Sloan - Is against Las Brisas and says that John Marez has not asked the right questions. It's not right that District 1 and 2 have aging infrastructure while the city is building new infrastructure to expand the city's south side.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL AT-LARGE

Nelda Martinez - Does not support Las Brisas - "it's bad for people, bad for the community." I want the city to grow but in the right way. Supported Topaz Energy.

Mark Scott - Has brought city staff together with people who are having problems. Development Services has become cheaper, better, faster. "Put me back in coach." [Did not comment on Las Brisas.]

Roland Gaona - Is against Las Brisas because of health and economic factors. Remembers coming to North Beach as a kid and wants to see an entertainment district revived here and other improvements.

David Loeb - Disagrees with the Council's decision to allow staff to negotiate a water contract for Las Brisas without coming back to the Council [sent via email]. Downtown, Uptown and North Beach need to work together. Fought for cottage development and bringing back the water taxi.

Bryan Menard - Against Las Brisas because it's "financing a handful of jobs on the backs of our children's future." A fiscal conservative, needs come before wants.

Jesse Noyola - Was District 3 rep 2001-2007. Wants the city to "aggressively bring jobs, give incentives and abatements." Does not want to raise taxes but have a zero-based budget where departments have to justify what they need. [Did not comment on Las Brisas.]

Hector Salinas - Is against Las Brisas - "No way." Wants Council to concentrate on the whole city, not just parts of it. Developing North Beach should be a high priority on every City Council's list. Tired of the city hiring consultants. Budget cuts need to be made from the top.

Official CCBA Minutes

The following minutes from the March 2011, CCBA meeting were read by CCBA Secretary JoAnn Gilbertson and approved during the April 21, 2011, meeting.

Corpus Christi Beach Association Meeting March 17, 2011

Meeting called to order at 4:30 pm by Pres. Betty Black. **Minutes** from January meeting read by Secretary JoAnn Gilbertson with Texas Department of Transportation and CCBA list of priorities included as attachments. Motion to approve minutes made by Howard Fleck; approved.

Treasurer's Report read by John Sloan.

Opening Balance: \$4,124.27. Income: \$140. Expenses: \$257.16. Ending Balance: \$4,007.11.

Betty Black suggests inviting candidates for Mayor and City Council At-Large and District 2 to the May meeting.

John Sloan makes motion to approve payment to reserve Dolphin Park for March 26 video shoot, if needed. Approved.


JoAnn Gilbertson gives update on Dolphin Park Pavilion project progress to include a video shoot on March 26 and a tour next week of the Lighthouse for the Blind.

Carrie Robertson makes motion to approve purchase of bollards to install new trash cans in the Burleson beach park area, up to \$200. Sami Cameron seconds, motion approved.

Speaker Cody Rice, Director of Volunteers and Education at Gulf Coast Humane Society, reports: We are a non-profit and governed by a volunteer board of directors. We were established in 1945 and have been in our new facility since 1998. It was built with a \$3 million donation from Tom & Cora Keeler. We are the largest no-kill shelter in Texas. The solution to the feral cat epidemic on Corpus Christi Beach is to Trap, Fix and Release. This will reduce the problem by 40 percent. One female cat can produce 425,000 kittens in her lifetime. Once a cat is fixed, it is given a tattoo on the inside of its thigh. On May 20, is the 13th Annual Tom Keeler Memorial Golf Tournament benefiting Gulf Coast Humane Society at Corpus Christi Country Club on Everhart. Registration at 10:30 am. Silent and live auctions open to the public start at 5:30 pm. For info, call Cody Rice at 361-225-0845.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.

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First Beach Sail brings activity to south end of beach



JoAnn Gilbertson built a custom made tiki hut for her booth at the Beach Sail, where she sold her hand-painted wooden furniture and CCBA Beachwalk T-shirts.

Corpus Christi Beach businesses hosted more than 40 vendors on May 7 at the "Beach Sail," a community garage sale held in parking lots on the south end of the beach.

The Beach Sail marked the grand opening of the new Surfside Trading Post next door to the Blue Marlin Saloon. Other organizers included Pier 99, Blackbeard's, Bay Stop and Dotz. A follow-up event is being planned for the fall to help promote the non-profit group, Friends of Corpus Christi Beach.

Beach Sail vendors sold trinkets, baked goods, furniture and windsurfing gear. CCBA members JoAnn Gilbertson and Carrie Robertson helped organize the event and had their own booths. JoAnn sold hand-painted furniture and CCBA's Beachwalk T-shirts. Proceeds from the T-shirts will help fund new landscaping projects on the beach.

Beachcomber Cottages featured in German exhibition

While Iris and Alfred Kolschen of Germany were vacationing on Corpus Christi Beach last year, they stopped to shoot a photo of the two side-by-side Beachcomber Cottages located at 4601 Gulfbreeze. They admired the cottages' design and vividly bright, tropical colors. In 2009, CCBA member JoAnn Gilbertson broke ground on Beachcomber Cottages, which was the first new development on CC Beach in 25 years.

Back home in Germany, the Kolschens' image was selected to be part of a photo exhibit called "Farben - Formen - Fantasien" (Color - Form - Fantasy).

Last month, the Kolschens returned to Corpus on vacation and stopped by to give Gilbertson a copy of the German newspaper where their photo had appeared.

"Every year the most beautiful photos are exhibited to the public, and this year our photo of your colourful houses was too," the couple wrote to Gilbertson in a note that accompanied a copy of the newspaper article.



A photo of Beachcomber Cottages taken by a German tourist visiting Corpus was included in an exhibition.

**TWO
MUCH
FUN!**

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Just Right...on the Water

North Beach Natives

Mother Nature alive on the beach

by Carrie Robertson

One of my favorite parts about walking on the beach is that you never know what you're going to find. The bay is full of surprises that are deposited on our shores after being blown in by the onshore winds.

Along with plenty of plastic and other marine debris come living organisms or remains of things that were once alive.

Small patches of *Sargassum* are often seen on North Beach. While floating on the surface, this leafy seaweed provides habitat for a whole community of diverse living organisms. Once on shore, it biodegrades and fertilizes the dune plants which, in turn, help protect the shoreline from destructive waves.

Several species of jellyfish frequent the waters of Corpus Christi Bay. Many species have little or no sting to humans. However, the stinging cells from any jellyfish can inflict pain if they make contact with your eyes, mucus membranes or other sensitive tissue.

The cannonball jellyfish, or cabbage head, resembles a softball and has a more solid structure than other jellies. It sometimes gives a mild sting, but brushing against this jelly generally goes unnoticed.

Another common jellyfish seen here on North Beach is the moon jelly, identified by a four-leaf clover pattern on its bell. The moon jelly is also usually harmless.

A dangerous jelly seen here is the Atlantic sea nettle, which can give a very bad sting. It is a beautiful jelly in the classic shape with long flowing white tentacles and a sun-like pattern on its white bell. Unlike the cabbage head, which has a distinct ball-like form, the sea nettle is very soft and lacks structure.

A rule of thumb I use: if I look up and down the shore and notice that everyone is out of the water, I grab a beach chair and read a book or just enjoy the view.



Sargassum - harmless to humans, good for environment



Cannonball or cabbage head jellyfish are usually harmless and often seen in large numbers.



(Above) Moon jellyfish are usually harmless and can be identified by the distinct four round spots, which are actually gonads or sexual organs.



(Left) Atlantic sea nettle, which inflicts a bad sting, has long flowing white tentacles.

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Aquarium's new Dorsey's Splash Park set to open soon

The Texas State Aquarium is aiming to have its new Dorsey's Splash Park - the first water play area of its kind to hit the Coastal Bend - ready for Memorial Day weekend. This zero-depth water play area features water cannons and interactive spray jets.

The state-of-the-art project was funded in part by a Pepsi Refresh Grant which the Aquarium received in 2010, similar to the Pepsi grant that TSA received for its Wetlands Walk, completed earlier this year.

Dorsey's Splash Park is replacing the former outdoor playground, located to the northeast of the building's main entrance.



Workers are finishing construction of a splash park being built at the Texas State Aquarium.



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Banners on the Lexington's ramp read 'Humongous.'

New campaign maximizes on Lexington's large size

Through billboards and banners, the USS Lexington Museum has been capitalizing on its size, choosing words for its advertising like Real Big Fun, Oversized Adventure, Enormous, Mammoth and Humongous. The Lex also is exhibiting a new "Big Gun" exhibit on its flight deck. Each gun weighs 60 tons and required a crew of 10 personnel to operate. Three 14-foot-tall interactive computer kiosks have been installed to create new virtual battle stations to help bridge the gap for the computer generation. The Lex's 30-foot mega screen is showing "Legends of Flight."

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Fajitaville Grille beachfront construction makes progress

CCBA members Lynn and Trish Frazier's new Fajitaville Grille restaurant has been under construction this spring, transforming a vacant beachfront field into a state-of-the-art three-story building designed by Luddeke Architecture of Corpus Christi.

Residents who regularly stroll on the Beachwalk past the restaurant located on Hotel Place have been able to watch the various phases of construction as the concrete footings, foundation and first floor were poured, then the metal second and third floor were added.

The Fraziers are hoping to open Fajitaville in July.



Architect's rendering of Fajitaville depicts three-story restaurant and Ferris wheel.



January 27



February 11



February 14



February 28



March 10



March 25



April 17



April 27



May 9

Bond projects, cameras, new master plan move forward Task Force Update

Carrie Robertson represented the CCBA at CC Beach Task Force meeting held on May 2 at the Aquarium. Topics of discussion included updates on Bond 2008 projects, parking issues and security cameras.

John Sendejar with the city's MIS Department said that security cameras had been installed along North Beach and that police monitor the cameras and can review the video tapes.

Billy Delgado with Engineering gave a Bond 2008 update, saying that construction of the gateway arch should start in July and that bids for the Beachwalk extension should go out in late May.

Bond 2012 projects were discussed, as well as a beach parking pass.



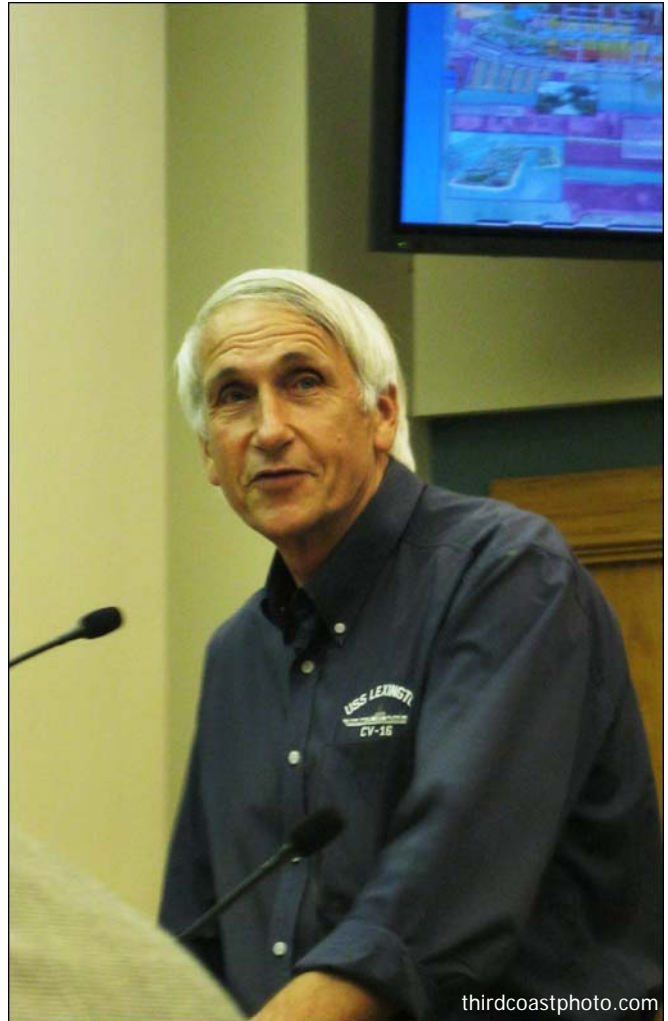
The city has installed four new security cameras along North Beach to help deter crime.



Just before Easter, a Parks employee moves large accumulations of sand from near the Beachwalk at Central Pavilion. The next cleaning will be in late June.



Corpus Christi Parking Control Supervisor Marc Denson told the Task Force on May 2 that the city is considering starting a beach parking pass system for North Beach, similar to the one on the Gulf beaches. Funds would go to help maintain and improve the beach.



Rocco Montesano, Executive Director of the USS Lexington Museum, was one of many who urged the Planning Commission to approve the new CC Beach Master Plan during a meeting at City Hall on April 27.



Blue Bay Construction is making progress with the new sidewalk project on Surfside paid for by Bond 2008. Construction on the entryway arch should begin in July.



PHOTO: Texas Highways

Old North Beach

This historical photo published in the book *Corpus Christi* by Bill Walraven was circulated via email to CCBA members recently. Roiann Selsor identified Paradise Pier in the foreground, which she and her husband Jim owned, and estimates the photo was taken in the early 1960s. The photo made Al Alvarado, who grew up in San Antonio, recall family vacations to North Beach in the 1960s, when he would float in an inner tube alongside his mom on the bay and fish from the pier with his dad.

MEMBERSHIP FORM ~ Join or renew your membership today

CORPUS CHRISTI BEACH ASSOCIATION

Mail form and check to: CCBA, PO Box 2361, Corpus Christi, TX 78403

Name: _____ Company: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Receive newsletter via (check one): _____ Email or _____ US Mail

Dues are \$20/year for an individual, family or a business. Dues paid now cover all of 2011.

Regular monthly meetings are held at 4:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month at The Breakers Condominium, Lanai Room, 4242 Gulfbreeze Blvd, Corpus Christi Beach

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