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The SeaBreeze

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Bayside

BRIEFS:



Another Attack on Dickinson Bayou

Regarding March/April burglaries/thefts:

Detectives have completed the investigation of a number of burglaries and thefts which occurred in the San Leon area during March and April. One adult, an 18-year old male, faces three counts of Burglary of a Motor Vehicle in connection with break-ins during April. Warrants have been issued, but he is not yet in custody. A second suspect, a juvenile, has been taken into custody in connection with a stolen vehicle, a felony theft, a break-in at a local convenience store, and car burglaries. Investigators are now focusing their efforts on a more recent rash of car burglaries in both San Leon and Bacliff. Thus far, detectives have received information identifying suspects, which are not the same as ones connected with burglaries earlier this year.

State of Texas v/s S.T.O.R.M.

The State of Texas has filed a lawsuit on behalf of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department against Sustainable Texas Oyster Resource Management, LLC. (aka STORM). The lawsuit also names each individual commissioner of the Chambers Liberty County Navigation District along with Tracy Woody and Ben Nelson of STORM. This lawsuit is to prevent these people from stealing 23,000 acres of Galveston Bay and its' bottoms from the State of Texas. You would think that these self-appointed Emperors of the east would realize they are fixing to get their asses kicked and should just let this illegal land grab go. But, just like big fish in a little pond who believe they are invincible they will probably continue to fight this losing battle. The Seabreeze News will continue to report on this lawsuit as it goes forward.

Sex Offenders Failed To Register

The Galveston County Sheriff's Warrant Division arrested two sex offenders for failing to notify authorities of their intent to change their place of residence. Jerry Epler, age 44, was arrested for failure to notify change of residence and register annually. The search for Epler has been on going since April. Deputies were able to locate an address during their investigation that led to Epler's arrest in Texas City. Mr. Epler apparently moved and fail to notify the Sheriff's Office. This was Epler's third offense for failing to register. Galveston County Warrant Division, US Marshals and Texas City Police assisted in the arrest. Jason Colby Ross, 39, was also arrested for failure to notify change of residence. Mr. Ross allegedly moved without first notifying authorities. He was jailed on \$25,000 bond.



Clean Harbor is a business which operates a small plant near Dickinson Bayou east of the Highway 146 bridge. This company has applied for a permit to release up to 350,000 gallons of treated toxic waste water into the bayou every day. Dickinson Bayou is already severely polluted. The bacteria levels are extremely high and the bayou is dead in some places and dying in others. Three sewage plants dump into it, along with agriculture pesticides and cattle and hog waste. In the third week of July a workshop was held at the Clear Falls School on Highway 96 in League City. The topic was the terrible condition of Dickinson Bayou and whether anything can be done to rejuvenate life again. The answer from the workshop was that the bayou is losing the battle to pollution and bacteria. There are signs up at the boat ramps stating do not swim in or eat fish from this water all the way past Interstate 45. With the sorry state of this bayou, Clean Harbor wants to take water that has been used to wash toxic catalysts, treat the water and then dump it into this already existing cesspool called Dickinson Bayou.



John Stockton's house on fire in San Leon.

Photo and caption by Steve Hoyland Sr.

We have spoken to an insider at the Clean Harbor facility who said, "The plant is not clean. They do most of the burning in the incinerators at nighttime so that people in the surrounding area cannot see the black smoke coming from the stacks." That person said there are leaks and spills on a regular basis and went on to say that when the EPA is going to make an inspection they get plenty of notice beforehand so they can clean up the plant before the EPA arrives. This person spoke to us for more than an hour about the problems around the plant, so we know they have internal problems that could result in toxic water going into the bayou. Fellow resident Terry Singeltary and I have been voicing our opinions on Dickinson Bayou for years. In order for the bayou to get better it must be dredged. With the bayou so shallow towards the bay, the bayou cannot get a good flush with the tide movement. Unlike most bayous, it gets shallower as it gets to the end instead of getting deeper. Dickinson Bayou around the 146 bridge is only 5 or 6 feet deep, with the bayou up towards Dickinson getting to more than 20 plus feet deep. This is the fault of the old H.L & P. plant. When they built the inlet/outlet canal for cooling, they purposely did not complete the dredging due to cost. The bayou was supposed to have been dredged to 20 foot deep all the way out to the Houston ship channel. But once they tied in the canal to the bayou in San Leon they never dredged another inch. This is like having your toilet flush with no place for it to go. Everything just sits in the bowl and floats. Terry and I spent money out of our own pockets to have independent laboratories send out technicians to test the water and the silt and mud in the bottom of the water. The results were horrible. We cannot allow any additional half-ass cleaned waste water to be dumped into this bayou ever again. It is time for all of us to take a stand. Clean Harbor wants to run a line across properties owned by two other people on the bayou. One of them, Captain Roy Robinson, owner of West End Marine, says that they are not going to be allowed to come across his property period. He said that he will fight them in court all the way to the bitter end. One thing that baffles me is the City of Texas City. Texas City was trying to put a sewer plant in that same location which would have dumped up to one million gallons of supposedly clean sewer water into the bayou and when the bayou was determined to be too contaminated the City of Texas City backed off. The city of Texas City annexed the property where Clean Harbor sits several years ago. With Texas City knowing the terrible state of that bayou which runs through their incorporated land why are they not opposing this permit? Why have we not heard a word out of Texas City? What is in this for them? All of this nasty water dumps into Galveston Bay around the beautiful islands the Galveston Bay Foundation built in Dickinson Bay. Why has the Galveston Bay Foundation stayed silent all of these years on the terrible condition of this bayou? They can read the numbers of the testing and know the travesty of Dickinson Bayou. Galveston Bay Foundation does wonderful things for our area. I believe they truly have our bay waters best interest in mind but it is amazing to me that they just let this bayou sit there and die a slow agonizing death.

We as individuals in this area must contact our government officials at the TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk, MC105, PO Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087 or go to www.tceq.state.tx.us/about/comments.html and fill out the form and submit our opposition to this Permit Amendment Request (be sure to include the Permit #WQ0004086000).

Please contact the Galveston Bay Foundation and ask them to support Dickinson Bayou by opposing this permit. The Galveston Bay Foundation, 17330 Highway 3, Webster, Texas 77598-4133, phone: (281) 332-3381, Email: info@galvbay.org.

Please also call the City of Texas City Mayor's office and ask him to oppose this permit: Mayor Matthew T. Doyle at (409) 643-5901.

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