

THE VILLAGES OF BAYPORT

BayPort Colony ~~~ Bayside ~~~ Island Walk ~~~ North Bay Village Condominiums
San Marino Condominiums ~~~ Colony Bay Condominiums ~~~ The Gallery

President's Message By Joel Cooper

Friends and Neighbors:

Your Board and Committee members are all in full swing since the election in March. It is gratifying to report a significant amount of community involvement in the form of active volunteers and members attending Board meetings.

You will see from Roger Urbanski's report on page 3, that we are moving forward with the plan to upgrade the entrance entry system. We also have Pete Billings, a volunteer, who has stepped up to take over the Neighborhood Watch program, which will now be Internet based, rather than the original "phone chain" notification method. There are basic limitations to the type and extend of security measures that can be taken in a community like ours.

A previous board officer, Tom Hyde established a short list of "programmatic" objectives:

- Efforts to establish a broader sense of "community" among all residents/neighbors.
- Courtesy to and from our gatekeepers by and among residents, employees and visitors.
- An articulated sense of neighborliness-community watch and watchfulness and recognition that what we do to protect our individual homes and families can affect our neighbors and our neighbors' neighbor.
- Improved liaison with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) based upon what they will appreciate most from us and what we can do to support their efforts first.
- Improvements to the policies and procedures by which our "gatekeepers" function.

Our goal through this upgrade, through Roger's "residence assurance" implementation plan and the revitalization of the Neighborhood Watch program along with support from all members is to make the neighborhood safer – and more attractive to incoming new neighbors.

We reported in the last issue, work has commenced with our Association attorneys to bring the community into compliance with the newly enacted MRTA (Marketable Record Title Act). What started out to be an inconvenient legal detail has turned out to be both an administrative challenge to process filings with the County Clerk and the State DCA Department of Community Affairs – and an expensive proposition... Due to the onerous regulations, this process has also generated very high legal, expenses, transcription and legal notification expenses. When finalized (probably not until next year's General Meeting) we will have exhausted much of the annual budgeted legal expense for this fiscal year. I'm afraid that this is yet another case of our government "helping" the citizens at any cost.

Many of you reported the problem with the overflow pipe system at the boat lift dam. With the lakes and canals filled with unseasonably heavy rain, the system was blocked. We brought in a repair company to both view the system with a video "scope" and to blast the pipes clean. I am sorry to report that part of the pipe blockage problem was caused by either vandalism – or an incredibly careless member or contractor who allowed material into the pipes. Dave Seigworth secured the grate and added another screen to prevent re-occurrence.

As always, you are welcome to attend the monthly Board meetings (posted on the bulletin boards at the entrances) on the third Tues. of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Island Walk Club House., or make suggestions to any of the Board or Committee Members.

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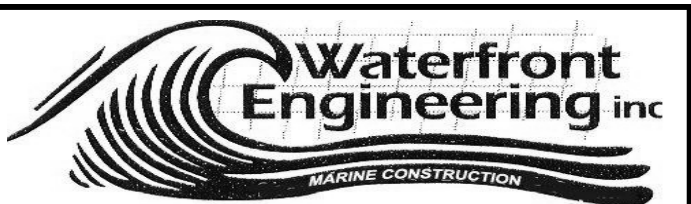
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Bay Port Neighborhood Watch Website

www.bayportwatch.org.

Interactive Bayport map, Subscribe to Alerts, Police Calls, security information

Bay Port Website

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New Website

Peter Billing

We have been hard at work creating a new and improved website for Neighborhood Watch. It is called www.bayportwatch.org.

Here are some of the new features:

Interactive Bayport Map

"A picture is worth a thousand words"

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) public database is queried, and the approximate location of calls to the Sheriff are mapped in an interactive google map of Bayport and surrounding areas. Distinct categories of call type (burglary, trespassing, etc.) are color coded, and clicking the map marker will bring up the call details.

Subscribe to Alerts and Watch Categories

All website content is categorized so that you can select just the information you are interested in. When you "subscribe" to a select category or set of categories, the information is automatically sent to you via email or RSS reader. For example, you could subscribe to categories "Alerts" and "Weekly Summaries", and the website will forward the information to your inbox without any additional effort on your part. You do not have to repeatedly visit the website to see if something happened,

Police Calls

A detailed report of each call to the Sheriff within Bayport is generated by the HCSO and posted on the website. All resident caller names and house addresses are removed for privacy.

Mugshots

When an outsider comes into Bayport and commits a crime, we have the ability to find their subsequent arrest record. If an arrest is made, even months or years later, the website will contain a detailed report of the arrest and the suspect's mugshot. The case number is included should you want to follow the status of the case. All suspects are, of course, presumed innocent.

Much More

If you see something suspicious, you can initiate a post for all to see. Most content on the website is open for comments. There is a lot of good information related to what Neighborhood Watch tries to achieve. The Sheriff contacts are listed, along with emergency and non-emergency phone numbers. There is a checklist of things to do prior to going out of town. This includes links to helpful online services, such as suspension of USPS mail.

Note that the secured Facebook group "Bayport Watch" will also be maintained. Secure links to website content will be sent to it automatically.

Privacy

All content is created from public information collected and disseminated by law enforcement authorities for the public good. No resident or individual names of person(s) who initiate a call to the Sheriff are reported. All addresses are converted to block numbers: individual addresses are not reported.

Our charter is to better inform Bayport residents about current HCSO activity in our area, provide a forum for the reporting of suspicious activity, and better coordinate all to reduce crime and the threat of crime and criminal activities.

Safety and Security

Roger R. Urbanski

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

At our meeting on May 24, 2011, the Board unanimously approved the purchase and installation of two bar code readers for our East and West gates. As of the date when this article was due to the printer, we have not established the time frame for installation of that equipment and the implementation of what I call "residency assurance" and the semi-permanent use of labels on every registered resident vehicle in our community.

The Board considered this proposal for more than a year prior to the vote on May 24th. We issued an extensive request for proposals to several vendors, but received limited responses. In the end, we chose a contractor, Accurate Electronics recommended even by their competitors who has done work on our gate system for a number of years.

The new resident vehicle control system will impact every resident and every vehicle registered with a required bar code label on the front windshield (recommended) that will automatically signal our gate controller will open the gate without use of a card or other signal device. Vehicles will need to **slow down** as they approach the gates-as always, but gate operations will be virtually instantaneous-and should be faster. As I've written several times previous, these devices should provide greater resident service by allowing faster resident entry than that for visitors. We intend that resident use of those gates designated comprise their preponderant use and we expect our gatekeepers to be able to devote more time and attention to visitors.

The use of a more modern, user friendly system of bar codes for entry is another step in building the integrity of our safety and security on a firm foundation. When we complete our resident assurance effort, we will have a more accurate "baseline" of resident vehicle data. In our assurance effort, we will be requesting email addresses-at your option- in order to more promptly alert residents to community activities and enhance our Neighborhood Watch capabilities via a Bayport resident "network".

This has been a difficult decision, but one that I and the Board believe are in our best interests. There will be many more details as we develop our implementation plan and you will receive these in the mail and at our gates soon. We hope that the "system" will be in-place early this summer and performing as planned within a similar time frame.



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