Community Leadership

Jay Eshbach - Citizen of the Year

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2019 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year: Jay Eshbach

A lifetime of paying it forward

‘He is just one of a kind’

BY CHRISTOPHER JAMES
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A person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, particularly by way of generous donations to a good cause, is branded a philanthropist. In Baytown, that philanthropist is Jay Eshbach.

His efforts for the last 40 years, which go far beyond donations, have helped save countless Baytown institutions, which is why he was chosen as the 2019 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year.

“Jay’s contributions and involvement in the community over the past 40 years have inspired many others to get involved in these and other organizations with their time and their money, which multiplied his efforts many fold,” Mike Wilson said.

Both Eshbach and his wife, Kay, continually come to the aid of organizations that aren’t just looking for a handout, but to those that are willing to help themselves.

“It’s just something we do, and it makes you feel good when you think you’re making a difference,” Eshbach said. “We love doing it and we have no plans in the future to do anything different.”

Eshbach was behind the effort in 2005-06 to save Bay Area Homeless Services, which continues its noble mission of giving second chances to folks down on their luck with a new start to rebuild their lives.

“He’s a tremendous community volunteer,” former Baytown Mayor Pete Alfaro said. “We’re very grateful for everything he’s done, not only for the homeless shelter but for the entire community.”

“He is just one of a kind,” he added.

A man named A.E. Scott first inspired Eshbach’s philanthropic motivations when he was in high school working at Scott’s furniture store in Port Arthur.

Scott gave him an incentive to go to college by giving him $100 a semester to help pay for expenses.

Jay Eshbach stand next to a 7-foot tall hand carved, solid wooden bird from Indonesia he loaned to the Art League of Baytown for the “Exhibit of Eclectic Art” in 2017. Eshbach was named the 2019 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year on Wednesday.
Because of Scott, Eshbach would go on to earn an associate degree from Lon Morris College and then a Bachelor of Business Administration from Stephen F. Austin State University.

“I will always remember that, and I am always indebted to him,” Eshbach said. “So when I got a job I started giving back like he had done for me 50 years ago.”

One of Eshbach’s first major donations came to the benefit of the YMCA building in 1986 when it was located at on Wye Drive.

“Merle Hunt, the YMCA director at the time, approached me and said they needed a children’s wing,” Eshbach said.

Eshbach anonymously donated $50,000 with the caveat that they had to match it through fundraising, which they did.

“One Saturday or Sunday they told us to come over to the new YMCA,” Eshbach recalls. “So we did and found a big plaque on the wall.”

Despite telling Hunt the donation was supposed to be anonymous, Hunt simply said: “it was, up until today.”

Eshbach’s career started in the grocery business as a manager for Kroger, and later as a controller for O’Brien Grocery stores that lead Eshbach and his family to move to Baytown in 1975.

He also lived in Crosby, where he served on the school board, before moving to Baytown a second time in 1983.

Before moving back, he helped organize the Baytown Crime Stoppers in 1981, where he would serve as the first treasurer of the organization.

While Eshbach once said he tries to limit his community involvement to one or two new projects a year, that number has only increased to three, four and even five since he’s been retired.

But before he chooses to help, Eshbach will ask himself “will it make a difference.”

“If it’s just a request for money to keep the doors open then we’re way past due of making a difference,” Eshbach said. “But for most of them, it makes a difference.”

Eshbach has assisted countless organizations ranging from the arts, civic and educational corners of Baytown.

Once such endeavor was aiding the Church Women United Homeless Service earlier this month.

Childcare Center, which provides income-based childcare to assist low-income families and Lee College students with their childcare needs.

When he visited the childcare center, its 15-year old playground was falling apart and was condemned by the City of Baytown.

Weeks later the childcare center had a brand new playground thanks to the philanthropist.

“Little things like that nobody ever sees or knows about, but it’s something that’s making a difference, which is why we do it,” Eshbach said.

While the list goes on and on, Eshbach more recently donated a challenge grant of $5,000 to the Baytown Symphony Orchestra since the organization is going through some hard financial times. But the donation spurred community involvement, and the orchestra raised over $17,000 allowing it to continue its 51st season.

The Eshbach family has also supported the arts through the Baytown Little Theater for over 30 years and has been known to give away tickets to shows to encourage local support.

“Jay and Kay do not seek publicity, although they deservedly get it anyway,” Wilson said. “They do these kinds of things from the goodness of their hearts. They are proud to share the gifts that God has given them and that they have earned through hard work for decades.”

“They just want to help people,” he added.

Eshbach and Kay have been married a little over 50 years and have two kids and five grandchildren.

For the last 10 years, the Eshbach family has attended Second Baptist Church.

In 2001, Eshbach was recognized as one of the top five financial planners in the United States by “Research Magazine,” which featured him on the cover.

When he retired in 2010, he sold his business, Eshbach Retirement Planning, with 814 clients and $107 million in assets.

His retirement would not only allow him to help others but gave him the means to live life to the fullest.

But more importantly to him, retirement allowed him to give back to the community he loves.

“We’ve been blessed in Baytown, and that’s why we do it,” he said.
2019 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year finalist: Nikki Rincon

Feeding hearts, souls through food ministry

BY MATT HOLLIS
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Nikki Rincon makes no bones about it – she credits the success of Hearts and Hands of Baytown to her faith in Jesus Christ.

“It is only by His strength, His ability, His grace, and His power that I stand before you today, that this ministry thrives today, that your hearts have been touched to sow into this ministry and that your hands and feet willing serve to share His love with our community,” Rincon said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the community alongside amazing people with the trust and guidance of Pastor Martinez is a dream come true.”

Rincon is the executive director of Hearts and Hands of Baytown, a ministry of Iglesia Cristo Viené, a church located near the pantry at 307 Cedar Bayou Road. Families in need of food can come in, register and based on the size of their family go shopping with a volunteer allowing them to choose freely for their family.

The ministry has experienced a lot of success, distributing 1,016,300 pounds to 16,600 families, which equals 59,142 individuals, in 2018 alone. Because of Rincon’s hard work and dedication to the ministry, despite battling health issues, she was nominated for Citizen of the Year.

Elizabeth Caballero with Be Well Baytown nominated Rincon, saying she truly loves the Baytown community and strives to serve everyone who comes across her path.

Caballero said Rincon goes above and beyond this by making new partnerships that help bring in additional programming to serve the community.

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Caballero said Rincon goes above and beyond this by making new partnerships that help bring in additional programming to serve the community.

“Due to her hard work, she has become the gold standard on how to run a food pantry with dignity and integrity,” Caballero said. “Others have followed suit by adopting her methodology increasing capacity to serve. Not only does she help those who come into her pantry, but she also seeks opportunities for her volunteers to ensure they have the resources they deserve. Because of her character, she has grown a strong network of volunteers who assist her with her mission to feed the Baytown community. Nikki is an incredible woman who puts others first and is a strong candidate for Citizen of the Year of Baytown.”

Hearts and Hands of Baytown played a huge role in helping families get fed in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. The summer before Harvey hit, Rincon said Hearts and Hands was going through a growth period.

“we had just entered into a service agreement with Be Well Baytown, and things were getting exciting as the Lord had opened a huge door of blessing to us,” she said. “Then, in late August of 2017 we all know what happened, and we all have our own stories of the loss we encountered, but I want to shout the praises of the Lord for His promises are yes and amen. He took what the enemy meant for harm and worked it for good.”

Rincon said they received more volunteers than they had ever seen.

“And they were so needed as we served up to six days a week through the end of October, in an emergency mode, up to 400 families a day,” Rincon said. “Resources never ran out, they were in fact overflowing.”

In the ministry’s first initiative with Be Well Baytown, over 800 families were served 35,000 pounds of food, and they also received much-needed household items at the Baytown Community Center.

Caballero said Rincon is passionate about her volunteers.

“You can see their growth in teamwork, leadership, and yes, healthier eating,” Caballero said. “The ripple effect is stunning to watch as they learn and teach others as they serve.”

Hundreds of volunteers serve alongside Rincon through the course of a year whether it is at her Client Choice Fresh Market, Food for Change Fresh Market, Mobile Food Fairs, Senior Programs or Food for Change Programs. Through each program, Rincon, together with her team, serve to provide an avenue for participants to make choices with confidence, while directing them towards self-sufficiency, offering dignity and respect in an industry where it is often lacking, avoiding food waste and providing the educational tools that will help them to elevate out of the poverty circle.

In the Fresh Market Food for Change Fresh Market section of the ministry, which is a Houston Food Bank initiative, the idea is to pair education with food for healthier outcomes. Program recipients receive 30 pounds of fresh produce, and 30 pounds of other food twice a month. Currently, there are two Lee College programs participating.

“So the idea is while a single mom is going to school, she might be also working,” Rincon said. “So, the burden of buying groceries is taken off of her, and maybe she can put that money toward something else.”

There is also a diabetes program with the Baytown Family YMCA. It is a year-long commitment where people come twice a month to get 30 pounds of fresh produce and four other healthy items. For those that need to learn recipes, there is the Nudges program, where they can learn how to cook from sheets to take home.

From milk to birthday cakes to frozen meats to canned good to hygiene items and even Star Wars toys, the pantry Rincon runs has almost everything for families in need.

“Whatever we get, we will have for them,” Rincon said. “It is organized, and people feel good when they come in. They might be down, but at least they will have a sense of self esteem here. It is a comfortable place, and there is no loss of dignity. We want the light and love of Jesus to shine through all we do.”

The Hearts and Hands of Baytown is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is also open the second Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more, call 832-597-8908.

Baytown Sun photo by Matt Hollis
The Dan Perez of today has been spending much of his life giving back to the boy he once was.

In doing so, he has given so much to Baytown’s youth and in doing so, sacrificed so much to make sure the city’s children could be fed and taken care of.

That’s just one of myriad reasons why Perez was a nominee for Citizen of the Year.

Perez has taken over his new location for D&D Grocery, 501 W. Main, after his previous store of two-plus decades burned down.

Perez, who began working in town back in 1982 following a move from Eagle Pass, started working a route for Coca-Cola and there he began servicing a grocery store, located on the corner of Carnegie and Lindbergh, near Robert E. Lee High School.

After it shut down shortly after Perez’s arrival, he decided he wanted to run it.

He also learned of the hardships many local youths were battling.

“I told my first wife and she was not very happy about it,” Perez said. “I got it going and started serving lunch – hamburgers, burritos, chips, soda: the basics. I told the kids if you ever want to steal from me, I’d rather have you ask me and I’ll give you the food, but don’t be stealing.”

So began C&D’s – named after himself and his first wife Carlen – before changing the name in recent years to honor his second wife, Dilia, of 20 years.

It didn’t matter what background a child came from, they were going to have Perez’s support.

“People,” said Dick Olin, who was the head coach when Perez began feeding the team. “Coaches from all over the country know of the burritos served from Dan’s store as does the Baytown community as a whole.

“Dan supported every organization that entered the doors at C&D and never turned anyone away.”

Perez learned a lot about the town’s need for community in this form.

“It opened their eyes,” he said. “No one had done anything like this. The coach said I should charge a $1 or $2. But I said, ‘You take charge of that.’”

Perez learned quickly as his good will evolved into Saturday breakfasts as well, that he himself was losing monies he could have invested into his business or his family.

“I did lose money,” Perez admitted. “I never took any long vacations … I didn’t want much. I just wanted to have a decent living, educate my kids and help my community.”

Last year, Perez’s health worsened and for the first time in three-plus decades, the store couldn’t help the football team. He hopes to help some this year.

It means the world to Perez to do for the young men of Baytown what his father didn’t do for him: Provide unconditional support.

“We did it for GCM baseball, but we have never done Sterling; they never contacted me,” he said. “If anyone from Sterling contacted me, I would have never turned them down.”

Perez aimed to get an education through sports and did so without his dad’s approval or support.

“He told me, ‘you have to get your own ride and if you come in late from practice there will be no supper for you,’” Perez said. “I didn’t get a scholarship and I had to quit school at a very young age.”

His father is still alive at 91, but the two have never spoken about Dan’s youth and if he the younger Perez could say anything about his father’s treatment and the path that led to his being in Baytown?

“I’d tell him thank you,” Perez said. “I’ve been through a lot, but life is pretty good. My goal was not to become a millionaire.”

Dan Perez of Baytown stands inside his D&D Grocery, located at 501 W. Main St.
In hopes of reaching the community at large, Eddie and Ramonia Williams opened The Marcelous-Williams Resource Center in Highlands in 2012. While their previous social work was centered on at-risk youth, ex-felons, and veterans under the nonprofit, Talent Yield Coalition, Eddie and Ramonia began the MWRC to encourage and empower those in need of social services.

After a conversation with their pastor of the United Methodist Church in Highlands, it was clear their church, as with any other, struggled to help its congregants, while also serving members of the community. Eddie and Ramonia realized there was a missing link between individuals and the social services needed to regain their lives. This ignited their mission.

The MWRC prides itself on being a “one-stop shop” in East Harris County and Chambers County for those who need a variety of social services, Ramonia says it’s important to “service the client on all avenues.” Whether it be a young mother needing food stamps, an elderly male trying to navigate the Medicare system, or an individual who needs help finding a job. The MWRC provides vital information, helps register clients, and tries to meet other needs along the way.

Eddie and Ramonia, alongside their 12 to 13 volunteers, active board members, and a supportive church family, thoughtfully mentor those in need. Clients are referred by members of the community. “When you have successes, word gets out,” Eddie says. They also receive referrals from Goose Creek CISD, and even through 211, after recently becoming a United Way Agency. They then begin the assessment process. Once they understand an individual’s needs, they create a “plan-of-action” to ultimately help the client not just survive but change their direction toward a stable future. This includes follow-up calls to all clients, making sure their situation is organized and they’re continuing the proposed plan.

Their highly individualized process helps restore the lives of those in need. A mother came to them looking for help after being a victim of abuse. MWRC helped get the woman and her son into a shelter. Eventually, they were able to work with the Baytown Housing Authority to find them permanent housing. Another individual came looking for assistance in renewing his CDL. While working with him, the MWRC realized the client hadn’t been able to receive his disability, which dated back to 2013. They were able to help him properly refile his claim and he received more than expected.

Eddie and Ramonia are prompt in stating their service is not only for the destitute. They want to help anyone that has a need. “Everybody needs help,” Eddie says. But Eddie and Ramonia can’t do it on their own. “We need more community workers,” Ramonia admits.

It’s not because they can’t handle their calling. “There are so many people that fall through the cracks,” Eddie says. And these are the individuals they especially want to reach.

Eddie and Ramonia do all their work pro bono. Most everyone involved is a volunteer. And yet in 2018 alone, because of their dedication and knowledge, the MWRC was able to help over 300 clients. They’re currently growing their website, and even want to create an app to make it easier for people in the region to find the services they need. Their center is what Eddie calls, “the bridge” between an individual’s needs and the services needed to empower their lives.

Eddie and Ramonia Williams opened The Marcelous-Williams Resource Center in Highlands in 2012. While their previous social work was centered on at-risk youth, ex-felons, and veterans under the nonprofit, Talent Yield Coalition, Eddie and Ramonia began the MWRC to encourage and empower those in need of social services.
2019 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year finalist: LaNelle McKay

Bigtime supporter of organizations ‘that make this community great’

BY GABY TORRES

It is no mystery why LaNelle McKay was nominated for citizen of the year. She has a heart of gold and excels in everything she does.

McKay, a local Realtor with Krisher-McKay, is fully committed to the Baytown community and many agree. She is a great supporter of everything and everyone in this community. She enjoys the feeling of getting to help others: “I believe there are organizations that make this community great and they deserve to be supported” McKay said.

That being her favorite part of community service the community has been good to her and she believes and feels the need to give back. McKay is a member and supporter of the Baytown Lions Club where she serves as the Eye Glass Chairman and Scholarship Chairman. She supports the Lee College Scholarship Program, the Baytown and Highlands Chambers of Commerce, the Baytown Symphony Orchestra, the United Way, Relay for Life, Rotary Club, Pilot Club, Goose Creek Education Foundation, Bay Area Homeless Shelter, the Highlands Little League and others.

Behind all this are some people who have inspired and made her the person she is today.

“My parents inspired me by their example of being kind, generous, and always helping others,” McKay said. Her parents are her greatest role models in community service she learned from them and now carries on their legacy.

Her dad was active on the Highlands Water board a volunteer fireman, a leader in our church, and a leader in our church’s state Synodical Committee. He also helped people with their income tax for a low cost. Her mother volunteered at the hospital and drove folks into Houston for treatments. They were always doing for others and visiting the sick and those in nursing homes” McKay said.

Although she is constantly on the move and works around the community she has one very important and simple goal for this new year. That is “to keep my husband and family happy and healthy and to be successful in my work so I can continue supporting all the great organizations in Baytown that serve the community to make Baytown the greatest place to live.”
Donna Mohlman didn’t retire from a career as an elementary teacher with the intention of taking it easy.
She simply caught her second wind.

Mohlman became an elementary teacher and librarian with the intention of helping develop young minds for success. She saw the power of reading through her own children and sought to do the same for countless number of Baytown children. It is a mission she has continued by volunteering for various organizations and working part-time at Lee College on special projects.

“Dr. Christina Ponce (former Lee College vice president) hired me to continue my literacy projects and expand them with the support from the college,” she said.

Mohlman’s body of work and unceasing dedication toward making Baytown a better place has earned her recognition among the finalists for Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year.

“My family is the reason I wake up in the morning,” Mohlman said. “Professionally and voluntarily, seeking the joy in kids’ faces when they have a book of their very own, that is one of the best things about my part-time job. I am able to do all the fun things when I was a librarian and I was teaching.”

Literacy is the common thread that links Mohlman as a young adult to an avid volunteer. She grew up in Aurora, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, until she was 18. She arrived in Texas through professional possibilities but began attending college on a part-time basis.

“My parents didn’t really stress education,” she said. “My father read three papers a day. They did give me a good education growing up and I went to a Catholic school. But education was really important to my grandfather I.V. Phelps. He was a chemist for Humble Oil.”

Mohlman recalled receiving 25 shares of stock from her grandfather and $3,000 for her education. She also received U.S. bonds from her uncle I.R. Phelps to help finance education.

“My grandkids had a special grandmother named Kitty Cherry who always bought them books,” Mohlman said. “She bought them books for every occasion. She also bought books for me and I was not a big reader at the time.

Mohlman saw the impact reading had on her children and found a career path. She went to San Jacinto North because it had childcare and finished up at the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

She also got a master’s degree at UHCL.

Following a career in the school system, Mohlman found more time to volunteer and took advantage of the opportunity. She worked at St. Joseph School and converted the library in one year from a card catalog to an automated scanner/bar codes library.

In her work with Academic Beginnings for Children, she, along with others, focused on identifying areas for the placement of children’s libraries.

Mohlman said ABC looked for places where transportation to the library was an issue of children might not have access to books.

“We call them book deserts,” she said.

On Monday, Mohlman delivered 230 books to the Academic Beginnings for Children 10 Free Little Libraries in Baytown for a total of 5,430 books in the community since March 2017.

The first free library was placed on a washateria with others to follow at apartments and businesses. She talked about the rewards, the stories from business owners who see the faces of the kids when they learn they can keep a book.

She keeps a record of those faces with pictures and videos, which she shares during board meetings and department meetings.

The success of the program has been enhanced with grants. To date, Mohlman has received $96,000 through grant requests. She wrote her first grant as a teacher at Highlands elementary, seeking funding for a program she had seen at a conference that cost $6,500.

“I didn’t have it in my budget,” she said. “I wrote a grant request with the Goose Creek Education Foundation and got $2,000. I needed $4,500 more and wrote a grant request to Target, which got $2,000. I then wrote a grant to Capstone, which allowed me to get the $2,500 I needed.”

Mohlman cheerfully recalls hitting 1,000 on her first three grant requests.

“You think, ‘Hot dog, I am a grant writer.’”

She didn’t keep that batting average, coming up short on her next requests. But she did keep at it and had her share of wins including a $10,000 grant for Delta Kappa Gamma.

“I write the story and give the evidence and research what the grant requires,” she said. Mohlman also credited her husband, David, for his help in proofing the request.

She is also an advocate for the Sterling Municipal Library, where she has served as a member of the board. She currently serves as on the board of the Friends of Sterling Municipal Library.

“We have one of the finest libraries in the area,” she said. “We have the best library especially for a town our size. We just have really fabulous resources.”

Mohlman is the mother of Debra and Darren Cherry and grandmother to Stephanie and Kacie Reynolds. She and her husband David will celebrate their 30-year anniversary this summer.

Mohlman also serves as a chair for the ABC, and Women United Steering Committee. She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, American Library Association, Texas Library Association, Texas Community College Teachers Association, NAMI, Kiwanis and the NAACP.

She is a tireless advocate for children, a dedicated wife, mother and grandmother, and a woman whose efforts make a city a successful community.
2019 Baytown Sun Citizen of the Year finalist: Karla Opryshek

Local Realtor has long record of serving Baytown community

BY GABY TORRES

The time for citizen of the year has come and Karla Opryshek has surely earned her position as a nominee for the award.

The community itself has so many positive things and Opryshek said that is what inspires her support for Baytown.

Her favorite part about community service is “all of it, seeing people smile, to see the positive impact that it’s making,” Opryshek said.

She has had some great role models in her life that showed her the pathway to community service. Her parents have played this main role where she now follows what they believed in.

Her dad used to help with health services he was a dentist and would give free dental work. Although he died when she was only 18 she learned much from him. Her mother, Carole Opryshek, who received the Sun Citizen of the Year award in 2000, showed her ways to work with your community and making it a better place.

Karla began working with her mother in 1974 and saw much of what she did in the Baytown area. She is a third-generation Realtor.

Opryshek was named Ambassador of the Year by the Baytown Chamber of Commerce in 2018 and 2019. She has served on the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors many times and has volunteered on the Golf tournament committee. She supports programs such as Public Safety & Crime Prevention, Partners In Education and Governmental Affairs.

She donates her time and money to The Lee College Foundation, The Blue Santa Program and The Rose. With all this, Karla’s goals for this year are to continually do more each year to help serve the community in one way or another.

Baytown Realtor Karla Opryshek began working with her mother, Carole, in 1974 and saw much of what she did in the Baytown area. She is a third-generation Realtor.

Baytown Junior Forum. She has served on the Board of Directors many times and has volunteered on the Golf tournament committee. She supports programs such as Public Safety & Crime Prevention, Partners In Education and Governmental Affairs.

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Volunteers critical part of health care team

BY ROD EVANS

Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital’s Volunteer Services Program is comprised of a diverse group of about 80 people who provide essential services, including helping visitors find their way around the hospital, working to make patients and visitors more comfortable and providing administrative support to various departments.

The volunteers run the gamut from young adults to college students to stay-at-home parents to professionals and retirees. Volunteering provides an opportunity to learn new skills, use existing skills in a different setting and meet new friends while providing important services to patients and their families.

“AAfter completing 30 years of service with the Shell Oil Company,” said Claudette Barnett, president of the volunteer services program, “I began volunteering at Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital and what a great journey it is. I always wanted to give back to our community and I want to bless others by continuing to serve as a volunteer for many years.”

Volunteer opportunities are based on the current needs of the hospital’s various departments and on the volunteer’s experience and time commitment. Opportunities include service at the hospital’s front desk and in department waiting areas. Volunteers also provide reading materials to patients and their family members, as well as blankets, coloring books for kids and other items to help make patients and visitors more comfortable. The hours are flexible, with evening and weekend shifts available in some departments.

The general volunteer commitment is a minimum of six months and a weekly three-hour shift. Applicants must complete a questionnaire and meet certain requirements, including being at least 16 years old and meeting Houston Methodist health and immunization standards.

“The on-boarding process requires roughly four visits to the hospital prior to a volunteer beginning their assignment,” said Julie DeTorre, volunteer services coordinator. “The process includes an interview and applicants must pass a drug screen and tuberculosis test, along with a background check. This is followed by volunteer orientation.”

Janice Hudman said she derives a great deal of joy and satisfaction as a long-time volunteer.

“Being a volunteer allows me to help people, which is very satisfying,” Hudman said. “Plus, you get to meet some really wonderful people.”

For more information and to apply to become a Houston Methodist Baytown Hospital volunteer, contact DeTorre at 281-420-7289, or jdetorre@houston-methodist.org.
LEADING MEDICINE IN BAYTOWN

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Visit [houstonmethodist.org/baytown](http://houstonmethodist.org/baytown) or call 281.428.2273 to find a physician or to learn more.
This year marks the 71st year of Service League of Baytown serving our community. Founded in 1948, the Service League of Baytown is an organization committed to fostering interest in the social, economic, educational, civic, and cultural conditions of the community.

The Service League’s primary service is vision and hearing screening for all kindergarten, first, third, fifth, and seventh graders in Goose Creek CISD, Barbers Hill ISD, St. Joseph, Chinquapin Preparatory School and Baytown Christian Academy. All members of the League are state-certified vision and hearing screeners. Members have performed 986 volunteer hours and 17,702 screenings this school year.

League members also volunteer once a month calling bingo and providing prizes of common household items to fixed income senior citizens at the J.D. Walker Community Center.

They serve as docents at the Baytown Historical Museum giving educational tours to all third-grade GCCISD students and host bi-annual birthday parties for students at Chinquapin Preparatory School, as well as an end-of-year graduation party.

Each Christmas the Service League adopts up to three needy families from our community and provides gifts, meals and items for the holiday.

The Service League’s primary source of funding for these community programs has been the annual Charity Ball, initiated in 1965. It is only through the support of the community that allows the League to continue serving and helping others, one hundred percent of funds raised and donated remain in the local community.

This year Service League of Baytown presents “Sing Along Under the Stars” with Pete’s Dueling Pianos, October 5, 2019 @ South Shore Harbor Resort & Conference Center.
The purpose of Pilot’s service focus is to promote awareness of brain-related disorders and to improve the lives of those affected -- through education, prevention programs, volunteer activities, financial support, and research.

The six general categories of brain disorders are:

- **Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI):** Head injuries caused by accidents.
- **Developmentally Disabled:** Congenital brain disorders such as learning disabilities and mental retardation.
- **Chemical Dependency:** Alcohol and drug-related illnesses, including Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, and infants born with an addition to drugs.
- **Diseases which cause dementia (loss of intellectual functions):** Alzheimer’s Disease, Multi-Infarct Dementia, Parkinson’s Disease, Huntington’s Disease, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease, Pick’s Disease, Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus.
- **Mental and Emotional Disorders:** Schizophrenia, chronic depression, and mental illnesses.
- **Other Brain Disorders:** Brain tumors, neuromuscular diseases, strokes, and disorders caused by over medication.
Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community’s business and professional men and women. The world’s Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, nonreligious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

The main objective of Rotary is service — in the community, in the workplace and throughout the world. Rotarians develop community service projects that address many of today’s most critical issues, such as children at risk, poverty and hunger, the environment, illiteracy, and violence. They also support programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers, and other professionals, and vocational and career development. The Rotary motto is “Service Above Self”.

Rotary, along with our partners, has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent worldwide since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. We are close to eradicating polio.

Only three countries remain endemic: Africa, India and Pakistan. Until we end polio forever, every child is at risk.

Rotary motto: Service above self

Five Avenues of Service

The Object of Rotary is to “encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.” Rotary is a service organization. Since 1910, the Rotary Motto has been “Service Above Self.”

Rotary strives to achieve its objective of “Service Above Self” through activities in four primary areas. These are often referred to as the Four Avenues of Service.

Club Service
This “Avenue” promotes the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service. It involves the activities necessary to make the Club function successfully and achieve its goals.

Vocational Service
This area represents the opportunity that each Rotarian has to represent the dignity and utility of one’s vocation as an opportunity to serve society. Rotarians promote and foster high ethical standards in business and professions and promote the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations.

Community Service
This “Avenue” relates to the activities that Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life in their community. Particular emphasis is given to helping children, needy families, the aged, the handicapped, and those most in need of assistance. Rotarians strive to promote the ideal of service in their personal, business, and community lives.

International Service
In this area, Rotarians strive for the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

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OF BAYTOWN

Rotary Shrimp & Catfish Festival Sat., May 11
Get your tickets now! Ask any Rotarian for tickets are call 281-422-8302.

visit: www.baytownrotaryfestival.com

Meal tickets are $10. Raffle tickets are $100 and include two meals. Serving time is 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. The live auction starts at 12:30 p.m.

A silent auction runs throughout the event. There will be fun and games for the children including a bounce house, petting zoo, balloon animals, face painting and free popcorn. Inside there will be live music and lots of delicious food.

This festival is the fundraiser that helps Rotary help many deserving charities throughout the year.

Location:
Houston Raceway Park
powered by Pennzoil
2525 FM 565,
Baytown TX 77523


Raffle grand prizes include your choice of a 2019 Toyota Highlander, courtesy of Community Toyota, or a 2019 Honda Ridgeline, courtesy of Community Honda.
Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Awards

The Rotary Club of Baytown’s lunch meetings are held every Wednesday at Faith Presbyterian Church, 3900 N. Main in Baytown.

Want to join Rotary? Ask any Rotarian.

Junior Forrest presenting to Madalye Bowerman who accepted the award for Mary Boudoin-Case who is not pictured.

Joel Melendez presented by his wife, Cherie Melendez.

Laurie Terry presented by David Bernard, shown with David Kadjar.

Rachelle Dodson presented by Sandy Delmonico, pictured with David Kadjar.

Kirk Lowe presented by Frank McCloskey.

Jim Gill presented by Don Coffey.

Erika Foster presented by Dr. Randy O'Brien, pictured with David Kadjar.

Laurie Terry receives her blue badge from President Elect Sheila Crawford.

Margie & Jim Zaruba salute the Rotary Club of Baytown.

The Zaruba and Pinney families would like to thank the community for their thoughts, prayers and support in the past year.

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Rotary

The Zaruba and Pinney families would like to thank the community for their thoughts, prayers and support in the past year.

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Rotary

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Baytown Rotarians presented Paul Harris Fellow Awards February 20 at Baytown Community Center.

The Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of $1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Rotary established the recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation’s only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships. Rotarians have a tradition of supporting the Foundation by honoring others. Many other notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows, including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, U.S. astronaut James Lovell, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, and polio vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

 Rotary Paul Harris Fellow Awards Recipients: (front row from left) Kirk Lowe, Jim Gill, Rachelle Dodson, Joel Melendez and Madalye Bowerman for Mary Boudoin-Case. Presenters: (back row from left) Frank McCloskey, Don Coffey, Sandy Delmonico, Cherie Melendez and Junior Forrest

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Superintendent
www.gcisd.net

Rotary

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We’re here to serve you

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10133 Interstate 10 East, Baytown, Texas 77521
We’re here to support our community
The Pilot Club of Baytown, Inc. is a non-profit service organization of about 60 members, with a goal for service to the community. Pilot Club of Baytown, chartered in 1949, is a Texas district club of Pilot International (PI), a worldwide service organization. PI was founded in Macon, Georgia, in 1921. Riverboat Pilots of the early 1900s are the inspiration for the name, as these pilots were admired for their ability to steer a “true course” through challenging conditions and obstacles. Celebrating 70 years of service, “Pilot’s 2019 Yellow Rose Gala in the Springtime” will be Tuesday, April 23, 6:30 p.m., at Sylvan Beach Pavilion in LaPorte. Reservations are available from any Pilot member. All proceeds go into community projects.

Pilot Clubs around the world promise to “DO MORE, CARE MORE, BE MORE” for those in need. Pilots continue with a primary focus on brain health and safety with such projects as Alzheimer’s, dementia, and traumatic brain injuries. Using puppets, Pilots also teach brain protection to children and the elderly through Pilot Brainminders® Programs. Pilot schedules programs in the high schools to teach students about consequences of drinking and driving with Sean Carter, “When Sean Speaks, Inc.” Sean, unable to walk or talk, gives personal experiences to students of the possible results of drinking and driving – talking with the voice of his computer.

In 1998, Pilot Club of Baytown organized the annual Baytown Walk to End Alzheimer’s, a satellite Walk for the Houston Alzheimer’s Association, raising over $659,000 since its inception. In 1982, this Club along with the Evening Baytown Pilot Club introduced the Lifeline Program, an emergency response system for homebound residents – the program is still active. Over $17,500 toward student scholarships and educational programs is awarded each year. Pilot sponsors a Patriotism Essay contest for 5th graders in the Baytown schools. Pilots support and participate in many other projects important to the community.

Texas Pilot Clubs across the State work together - Friendships have strengthened over the years by participating together in many challenging projects. The Baytown Club sponsored numerous Texas Pilot clubs still active – San Jacinto Pilot Club, Evening Baytown Pilot Club, West Chambers County Pilot Club, and Pilot Club of Odessa.

Baytown Pilot Club sponsored an Anchor Club in October 2018 with the IMPACT Early College High School. Seventeen students became charter members. Anchor Club is a youth service organization, with clubs around the world who give back to serve their communities.

For information about Pilot Club or for joining Pilot as a volunteer, call 281-424-7838, Like our Facebook Page or visit the Local Pilot: http://www.pilotclubofbaytown.org/ Texas District: http://www.pitexasdistrict.org/ Pilot International: http://www.pilotinternational.org/

Yellow Rose Gala Guest Speaker -Dr. Bernie Mulvaney Jr., GCCISD Athletic Director

Dr. Bernie Mulvaney Jr. was hired in in Goose Creek in 2013, with approximately 20 years of coaching and athletic experience. Mulvaney was previously head football coach and athletic coordinator for Aldine MacArthur High School, where he was honored for exemplary leadership. He was assistant football coach at Alief Taylor High School. He was honored for distinguished service by Texas high school athletic directors. Mulvaney earned his doctorate studying successful Title 1 principals and their leadership style. He teaches masters level courses at American College and undergraduate courses at Lee College. Bernie Mulvaney will entertain us with interesting personal stories and share the importance of brain safety, and concussion awareness in sports.
Pilot Club of Baytown (members pictured, from left seated) Evelyn Williams, Carla Start, Kathy Young, Helen Gerlich, Jeannine Harris, Janie Clements. (from left standing) Joy Warford, Tammy Phenieic, Caren Bailey, Gladys Pryor, Cindy Fehring, Glenda Mosley, Julie DeTorre, Delores Ellis, Jenice Coffey, Carolyn Parrish, Nancy Mann, Janet Hall, Lindzy Minx, Susan Passmore, Kerri Hurlbut, Rosa Cuellar, Judy Wheat, Debbie Bergeron, Gay Riggs, and Becky James.

“Each of Us is Unique - When We Get Together, the Picture is Complete.”

Pictured – Pilot Club of Baytown Executive Board – 2018-2019 - Judy Wheat, (Director), Susan Passmore (Past President) Cindy Fehring (President Elect), Gladys Pryor (President), Lindzy Minx (Director), Terry Presley (Corresponding Secretary), Helen Gerlich (Director). Clarissa Martinez (Vice President), Allene DonCarlos, (Treasurer). Not pictured Tammy Phenieic (Recording Secretary)
“Changing the World One Child and One Community At A Time.”

The Kiwanis Club of Baytown boasts a membership of over 60 members and has a substantial presence in the community of Baytown. The Kiwanis Club of Baytown embraces the Kiwanis mission of “Changing the World One Child and One Community At A Time.” The motto of Kiwanis is “Serving the Children of the World.”

Our club meets every Thursday from 11:30am - 1:00pm at Luna’s Restaurant, 730 W. Cedar Bayou Lynchburg Road, in Baytown. Meetings feature a buffet lunch at 11:30am, followed by business meeting at 12:10pm and guest speaker at 12:30pm.

We fulfill our mission and club motto through the sponsorship of five high school Key Clubs and one elementary K-Kids Club. We are also the partner of Alamo Elementary through the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Partners in Education program, having won the title of Partner of the Year twice in the past ten years.

We also support our mission through community service, fund raising, membership, spiritual development and other sponsored youth activities.

To learn more about Baytown Kiwanis and find out how you can join the fun and make a difference in our community, please email Club Secretary Al Richard at lsufan1@comcast.net. We look forward to hearing from you!

Visit: BaytownKiwanis.com
Linda Kelly, president-elect of Kiwanis receives a proclamation from Baytown Mayor Stephen DonCarlos proclaiming Oct. 26 “Apple Day” in Baytown.
STREETS
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30

Anomalies and confusion

When it comes to names, Baytown streets and roads have a number of anomalies.

One of them involves Barkuloo Road, or is it Barkaloo? Traveling north on that roadway from Massey Tompkins, street signs identify the path as Barkaloo. However, just past Crockett Elementary at the intersection with Redberry Hill, the spelling changes to Barkaloo. (It changes past the city limits. Baytown spells it one way and Harris County spells it another.)

Burnett Drive in Lakewood is named for David G. Burnet. However, the street is spelled with two Ts even though Burnet, sources say, pronounced his name with the double T. But even a one-time Wooster neighborhood institution, Burnett Elementary School (located a short distance to Deckerville Loop picks up Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road's northeast of the city. Cedar Bayou Road, Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road and Crosby-Cedar Bayou Road confuse some residents, mainly newcomers. It can be particularly confusing when maps tag it Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road and the street signs call it Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg. In traveling the route most signs identify the thoroughfare as Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg but some flip it the other way. At the intersection with Garth Road it is Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou, but where it crosses North Main it's Cedar Bayou-Lynchburg. One sign along the roadway is labeled Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou.

Morrell Avenue and Mur-"rill Avenue can create muddles, particularly since they are not that far from each other. Also causing problems are Mariam, Marian and Maryon. Then there is Jones Road in Highlands and Jones Road east of Kilgore Road in Baytown. Neither have anything to do with North or South Jones Street.

Most Baytonians know where Market Street is but how many know where, or even what, North Market Loop is/was? North Market Loop picks up Lynchburg-Cedar Bayou Road's path west of the Thompson Road intersection and travels a short distance to Dekker Drive.

Market Street and North Market Loop (which isn't a loop at all) were once connected. They were part of the old Market Street Road, which existed from the 1920s to the 1960s and served as Baytown's only direct eastern route to Houston. The coming of Decker Drive and Interstate 10 to the area in the late 1950s eliminated the Market Street Road as a major route west. Finally, is it Tri-City Beach Road or Tri-Cities Beach Road (maps say Tri-Cities) and why is Bookertee Street not simply Booker T. Street? Some mysteries are not meant to be solved.

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LIONS CLUB
www.baytownlions.org

About Lion’s Club International
The world’s largest service club association, Lions Clubs International has 1.4 million members in more than 46,000 clubs in approximately 210 countries and geographical areas. Lions are men and women who volunteer their time to humanitarian causes. Founded in 1917, our motto is “We Serve”.

Texas Lions Camp
Texas Lions Camp is a residential camping facility for children with physical disabilities, type 1 diabetes and cancer. The Camp is located on over 500 acres in the beautiful Texas Hill Country, and is designed to introduce the “Can Do” philosophy to children dealing with special medical conditions.

Children with special needs from all over the State of Texas are invited to attend one of 9 weeks, which we hope will become one of their life-long childhood memories. A week designed for fun, exploration and challenge.

Texas Lions Camp Mission
The primary purpose of the Camp is to provide, without charge, a camp for physically disabled, hearing/vision impaired, and diabetic children from the State of Texas, regardless of race, religion, or national origin. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere wherein campers will learn the “Can Do” philosophy and be allowed to achieve maximum personal growth and self-esteem.

The Texas Lions Camp is recognized as a non-profit corporation, under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. The Camp is accredited by the American Camping Association, and is licensed by the Texas Department of Health.

Texas Lions Camp History
The Texas Lions Camp was chartered in 1949 in response to the terrible polio epidemic that forever changed the lives of so many Texas children. Since that time, the Texas Lions Camp has dynamically changed to include children who have all manner and types of physical disabilities, diabetes and cancer.

Today, we are serving more children than at any other time in our history. Over 1,500 children per summer attend Texas Lions Camp.
Baytown Lions Club History

1928 — Today

The Tri-Cities Lions Club (The Baytown Lions Club, since the consolidation of the three cities — Goose Creek, Baytown, and Pelly) was organized on September 28, 1928 in a meeting at the old Grace Methodist Church. The new club was sponsored by the Houston Central Club.

W. R. Smith, later Superintendent of School, was named the first club president. E. W. Bruce, then Principal of Anson Jones School, was named secretary-treasurer.

The Charter was presented to the Club at a dinner meeting at the Humble Dormitory on October 23, 1928.

Forty-six men were listed as charter members. The first luncheon meetings were held in the dining room of Grace Methodist Church. Then, for a while, the meetings were held at the cafeteria of Robert E. Lee High School. In September 1931, the Club moved back to Grace Church, where it continued to meet until August 1, 1953. The Charter was presented to the Club at the Humble Dormitory on October 23, 1928.

The club has since met at Wyatt’s Cafeteria and is currently meeting at Golden Corral Restaurant.

The Baytown Lions Club began its civic work by helping with the annual Red Cross Roll Call in January of 1929.

Since then the club has been among the leaders in every drive to improve the community and to help the unfortunate and handicapped.

The Baytown Lions Club has also been very active in advancing the cause of Lionism in this area.

The Baytown Lions Club has sponsored sixteen new Lions Clubs.

Today the Baytown Lions have about 50 members, representative of Baytown’s small business community, large industrial complexes, professional occupations and employees from the school district, city & county public service employees, and many retirees. Lions meet at Golden Corral restaurant at noon on Tuesdays for lunch, fun and fellowship, and an interesting program. Baytown Lions have three evening banquets each year, to celebrate and have a good time. They have two major fundraising projects to support our charity programs. Our “Flags Across Baytown” is our signature fundraising project. Our volunteers put up about 800 American Flags all over Baytown on five major national holidays. Their other major fundraiser is a Fish Fry held in April/May each year, cooking and serving about 800 fish plate dinners.

Mission of Lions Clubs International

Lions Clubs International is dedicated to helping those less fortunate in their communities and around the world. Cutting across all national, racial and cultural boundaries, activities have included sight conservation and work with the visually impaired, youth programs including drug education and prevention and volunteer programs, diabetes detection and research and work for international cooperation and understanding.

Baytown Lions Club Mission

The Baytown Lions Club is dedicated to serving the less fortunate in our community through charitable programs focused primarily on the youth in the Baytown area.

We are committed to providing scholarships to graduating seniors in the local high schools each year to students in need of financial help to attend college.

We are committed to sponsoring children with disabilities to attend summer camp at the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville, Texas. We are committed to providing financial support for the camp through a portion of our membership dues and the purchase of lifetime memberships in honor or memory of our members. We support many other local and international charitable programs that are in keeping with the Lions Club International mission.

Flags Across Baytown

The club is currently displaying about 800 flags across Baytown. Approximately 16 Lions Club volunteers are actively involved in the flag program each holiday period. To volunteer or to join the Lions, call Dwayne Litteer at 832-556-8257.
The Optimist Club of Baytown

The Optimist movement began when the Optimist Club of Indianapolis, IN was formed in May 1916. A total of 11 clubs held a convention in Louisville, KY and formed Optimist International on June 19, 1919. The Baytown Optimist Club was chartered in April, 1954.

The Optimist’s Creed

Promise yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.
To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.
To make all your friends feel that there is something in them.
To look at the sunny side of everything and make your optimism come true.
To think only of the best, to work only for the best and to expect only the best.
To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.
To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.
To wear a cheerful countenance at all times and give every living creature you meet a smile.
To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.
To be too large for worry, too noble for anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Optimist Projects “Friends of Youth”

Youth Football
Christmas Party with the Lions Club
Welcome Stranger Program
Thanksgiving Feed
Working with Habitat for Humanity
Helping with Poinsetta Sales
International Junior Golf Championships

Working with students from Mary Institute & St. Louis Country Day School on Spring Break
Working with Keep Baytown Beautiful
Oratorical Essay Contest
Trash Off

Past District Governors

1976-1977
Lester M. Alford
1977-1978
Allen Johnson - Distinguished Governor
1998-1999
Billy Higginbothum
2001-2002
Vernon Hayes
2003-2004
Stan White

Past Intl. Vice President

1981-1982
Allen Johnson

Over 40 Years’ Service

Buddy Dean

Over 30 Years’ Service

Pi-Yi Mayo
Stan White

Dedicated Optimist Member

WILMA HAYES

SHERRY & STAN WHITE

BAYTOWN TROPHY-N-ENGRAVING
Serving the Baytown Area Since 1983

SHERRY WHITE & STAN WHITE

DEDICATED Optimist Members

MEMBER SINCE -1992
Past President
First Lady President of Club
Past SETX District Chairman

MEMBER SINCE -1984
Past President
Past SETX District Chairman
Past SETX Lt. Governor
Past SETX Governor

610 William Avenue  Baytown, Texas 77520
Phone/Fax: 281-422-6968
optimist club of baytown

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The value of volunteerism taught by youth

Mary Institute and St. Louis County Day School (MICDS) students helped Baytown Optimist Club and Habitat for Humanity for a week this summer. They have done this for 17 years under the leadership of Josh Smith, Athletic Director for the non-denomination K-12 Missouri school. The students helped clean out debris behind the Optimist Club House and assisted Habitat for Humanity. They actually get two weeks’ Spring break and the school sends students to Baytown for one of those two weeks.

Pictured in the group photo starting at left on first row: Meaghan Cannon, Mimi Brown, Estefanithie Estrada, Kendall Rozen, Sophia Puertas, Morgan Sutton, Izzy Kimbrough, Olivia Ferguson, Naomi Ferguson, Lily Dooley, Ria Patil, Lauren Ferguson, Annie Knapp, Lucy Zhao. 2nd row: Nick Clifford, Matthew Curtis, Josh Sutton, Patrick O’Brien, Christian LeNoir, Alex Fey, Megan Smith, Gabby Carmichael, Rishi Bhattacharya, Nate Smith, Jala Muhammad, Jessica Brooks, Addie Jung, Bess Lehman, Mereya Riopedre, Sophia Taylor. 3rd row: Alexander Huber, Charles Huber, Charlie B Southern, Samantha White, Tomaso Maiccio, Josh Smith, Santi Gonzalez, Eshaan Tibrewata, Cam Craig, Jackson Fox, Chris Fox, Greg Hunton, Erica Moore

photo by Shannon McBay
THE BAYTOWN SUN

The streets of Baytown are as much a feature of the city as its buildings and landscape. But, to most, Garth, Decker and Defee are simply the mean thoroughfares down which we must all go. However, knowing the stories behind the names of Baytown’s streets can be the key to becoming “street wise” about the city’s past. At the same time some names and practices can lead residents scratching their heads in confusion.

The pioneers

Like all cities Baytown has named its streets for many prominent business, government and social leaders. Though relatively young as a municipality, the Baytown area was home to some of Texas’ greatest names. Sam Houston, David G. Burnet, Ashbel Smith and Lorenzo De Zavala all lived here at some point in their lives. Many local streets and geographic areas are named for them. There are also many streets in the city named for lesser-known pioneers who were important to the development of the area.

Ashbel Street is named for Smith and Evergreen Road is named for his plantation, Evergreen. Known as “The Father of Texas Medicine” and “The Father of the University of Texas,” Smith was an incredibly versatile man who made valuable contributions to the Lone Star State in matters of politics, medicine, diplomacy, agriculture, ranching, warfare, finance, transportation, and immigration.

Schilling Avenue honors Bavarian Doctor Nicholas Schilling who arrived here in the 1870s. Prior to Schilling, Ashbel Smith was the sparsely populated area’s primary physician. But in the years before Smith’s death in 1886, he practiced little medicine leaving Schilling the only doctor for miles.

David G. Burnet, the first president of the Republic of Texas, lived in what is now the Lake-wood Subdivision. Then, Lake-wood was known as Oakland, the name of Burnet’s home, which overlooked the bay, which is also named for him. One of the key streets that run through Burnet’s old homestead is named for him as well.

Singleton Road is named for James Walker Singleton who came here in 1828 and was a veteran of the Texas Revolution.

Both Scott and William streets were designated in honor of William Scott. Scott (for whom Scott Bay is also named) came here in the early 1820s and had a home roughly where the Exxon docks are located.

Harvey Whiting was also a pioneer whose first and last names appear on local street signs. Whiting was a local physician and rancher who arrived in 1833. He is best known as the doctor who tended to wounded Texan and Mexican soldiers after the Battle of San Jacinto. His home stood somewhere between where Sterling Library and Sultis Memorial Stadium now sit.

Wooster Street, which runs through the old community of the same name, was tagged in honor of Quincey Wooster who founded the village. The schoolhouse he designed was used into the 1970s and now sits in Republic of Texas Plaza on North Main Street.

Wooster’s son-in-law, W.A. Schreckengast also has a street in the Wooster area named for him, sort of. Schreck Avenue bears a shortened version of his name.

Airhart Drive is designated for a pioneering family that operated a dairy in the area. Busch Road honors the family that came here from Germany in the 1840s and ran a store at what was called Busch’s Landing. The landing was near Durrain Ferry, which carried travelers across Goose Creek. A street in West Baytown still bears that operation’s title. Ilfrey Street honors Edward Ilfrey who established a ferry across Cedar Bayou. Ilfrey operated a store and a post office on the Baytown side of the shore as well.

Sjolander (pronounced SHOW-lan-der) Road is named for Swedish-American poet John Peter Sjolander. Known as the “Sage of Cedar Bayou,” Sjolander came to the area in 1871 and worked in a brickyard.

As a farmer on the banks of Cedar Bayou, Sjolander created poems, which appeared in publications throughout the country. The only volume of his work in book form is Salt of the Earth and Sea (1928). Some of his descendants still reside in the area.

Massey Tompkins Road is named for a pair of old Cedar Bayou families. Massey Street was also designated in tribute to one of them.

Pruett Street honors an old Baytown family that has contributed much to the city’s progress. Price Pruett, who built a home near the famed old Texas Avenue oak tree, helped Ross S. Sterling organize the streets in Goose Creek. Son and grandson, both named Rolland, were very active in city politics. Price Street were named for their father and grandfather as well.

Oil and business

Oil gave birth to Baytown and so it is fitting that some of its street names have connections to black gold. Others are named for popular and pioneering businessmen.

Republic, Gulf, Humble and Atlantic streets in Goose Creek were all named for oil companies.

The founder of one of those companies, Humble Oil which is now ExxonMobil, was Ross Shaw Sterling. It is fitting that Sterling, who also helped to lay out the early portions of Baytown, is the namesake of Sterling Avenue.

Sterling was also president of the Dayton-Goose Creek Railway Company. As owner of both the Houston Post and the Houston Dispatch he merged the two papers into what eventually became the Houston Post. As chairman of the Texas Highway Commission in 1930 Sterling was instrumental in highway development, including formation of a 100-foot right-of-way. Sterling also served one term as governor from 1930 to 1932. He lived across the channel in Morgan’s Point in a small-scale replica of the White House.

Gaillard Street is named for John Gaillard. It was on his property that oil was discovered in the early 1900s.

Nazo Street was named for Underwood Nazro, former vice president of Gulf Oil.

Hugh Echols Blvd. is named for the man who was president of Citizens Bank (now Amegy Bank) for many years. Pearce Street honors four brothers — Louis, J.E., Lafayette and Oscar Pearce — who located their Texas Iron Works on Goose Creek.

Aron Street was named for pioneer Goose Creek businessman Sol Aron.

Several streets bear the name of local land developers: Defee for W.E. Defee and Savell Street for Dan Savell.

The names of several Baytown streets can be traced back to members of the Defee family. Murill, James and Jack Defee were the children of the developer and their first names appear on three Goose Creek Streets that run parallel to one another.

Garth Road gets its moniker from Highlands developer J.W. Garth. Marion Street is named for the daughter of developer B.B. Williams.

Brickyards played an important role in the early economic life of the area and several streets remember former yard owners: William Faye (Fayle Street), John Kilgore (Kilgore Road) and Fred Gillette (Gillette Drive).

Public Servants

A number of the streets in Baytown were named for those who served the area in government.

Several former Tri-city mayors are honored on street signs including Pelly’s Eddie Cleveland (Cleveland Street) and C.Q. “Kid” Alexander (Alexander Drive) of Goose Creek. Cleveland was the first mayor of the new, consolidated Baytown.

Fortinberry Street remembers former Goose Creek Mayor C.H. Fortinberry who operated a drug store on Main Street. Oliver pays homage to one-time Pelly Mayor C.H. Olive. Emmett Hutto Boulevard is named for the man who twice served the city as mayor, first from 1978 to 1983 and again from 1985 to 1992.

Myers Street is named for former Goose Creek City Manager Chris Myers. His wife, Roselie, a former reporter for the Baytown Sun, has Rosilee Street named for her.

Former city manager and finance director J.B. Lefevre is the namesake of Lefevre Road while Mary Elizabeth Wilbanks Avenue honors the former Baytown city councilwoman and chairman of the Houston-Galveston Area Council. Gentry Drive is named for the longtime superintendent of Goose Creek CISD schools, George Gentry.

Consolidation brings changes

Until 1948 when they consolidated, Baytown was once three separate cities. Each of these independent municipalities had their own methods for naming streets that can still be seen today.

While Pelly and Goose Creek tended to name their streets for people, Baytown bucked the pattern. Streets to the south of what is now West Main and Market Streets in Baytown were named for states while those to the north were named for fruits and trees. After consolidation, about 70 streets underwent name changes. East and West Main in Goose Creek became Sterling Ave. while North and South Goose Creek were changed to North and South Main. What was once the Pelly-Baytown Road became West Main. What is now Harbor Street in West Baytown was Main Street.

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West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc. will hold its annual fundraising Gala on Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 6:00 P.M.-10:00 P.M., at Barbers Hill High School, Mont Belvieu TX.

The theme of this year’s Gala is “Meet Me at the Sock Hop on the Hill”.

For more information contact W.C.C.P.C. at P.O. Box 1032, Mont Belvieu, TX 77580, Email wccpilotclub@gmail.com or to purchase tickets contact any West Chambers County Pilot Club member or call 832-597-0390

Our mission is to influence positive change in our community. To do this, we come together in friendship and give people an outlet for service. We focus on preparing youth and young adults for service, encouraging brain safety and health, and supporting those who care for others. Our club also works with other groups in our community on a variety of projects.

Our annual gala is our major fundraiser to support our service projects throughout the year.

Some of our local projects that have been funded with your past generous support include:

- Purchase of wheelchair-accessible playground equipment at the Mont Belvieu City Park
- Purchase of handicapped-accessible swings for local schools
- Present “Brainminders” safety program in our local schools
- Donate bicycle safety helmets at community events throughout the year
- Sponsor the Anchor Club of Barbers Hill High School
- Sponsored Swim Angelfish “Swim Lessons” for special needs/autism individuals (provided at Eagle Pointe Recreation Center in Mont Belvieu)
- Donated to Sam & Carmen Goss Memorial Branch Library for Children’s Literacy Workstations
- Provide scholarships for adult students with mild to moderate cognitive delays in the “Rising Stars Art Program” through the Baytown Art League

Please consider helping us this year in one or more of the following ways:

Your generosity and support throughout the years have enabled us to provide many services to our community and individuals. Thank you so much for your support.

Marla VanPelt
President, West Chambers County Pilot Club, Inc.
Email: wccpilotclub@gmail.com for more information.

West Chambers County Pilot Club is a non-profit service organization serving the Mont Belvieu and Chambers County area 501(c)(3).
In 2017, our Baytown area employees volunteered more than 30,000 hours. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers, our Baytown area employees and retirees contributed more than $430,000 in Volunteer Involvement Program grants to local organizations in 2017. Whether we are helping the community rebuild and recover from Hurricane Harvey, or assisting United Way partner agencies during Days of Caring, giving back to our community is a core value.

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