



## **A – Z Handbook for New & Current Owners** **Pirates Property Owners Association – PiratesPOA.com**

### **About Us – *Did You Know?***

The Pirates Property Owners Association (PPOA) incorporates some 1,700 homes in the Pirates community on the West End of Galveston Island, TX: **Pirates Beach Sections 2 - 13, Pirates Beach West** and **Pirates Landing Townhomes** on the beach side of FM 3005 between 12 Mile and 13 Mile roads; **Pirates Beach Section 1** between FM 3005 and Stewart Road; and **Pirates Cove, The Enclave of Pirates Cove, Laffites Cove** and **The Villas** on the Galveston Bay side of Stewart Road between 11 Mile and 13 Mile roads.

Our neighborhoods of full-time and part-time residents are known for their paradise-like rest and relaxation atmosphere. In addition to the beach and bay, we are surrounded by the Artist Boat Coastal Heritage Preserve, Galveston Island State Park and Laffites Cove Nature Preserve, all of which are among the Island's most beautiful natural resources.



PPOA is managed by CKM Property Management ([CKMPropertyManagement.com](http://CKMPropertyManagement.com); **281.255.3055**) and governed by a Board of Directors of 14 elected representatives from each neighborhood. Monthly board meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. and homeowners are always encouraged to attend. The Annual Meeting is held in June. Board meeting agendas, minutes and financials are posted on the PPOA website ([PiratesPOA.com](http://PiratesPOA.com)).

### **About You – *How & Why We Need to Communicate***

#### ***Please Do These 2 Simple Things Now:***

1. Email the following contact information to CKM Property Management at [CKM1@CKM1.com](mailto:CKM1@CKM1.com):
  - Property Owner Name(s)
  - Property Address in the Pirates Community
  - Primary Mailing Address for Property Owner\*
  - Best Telephone Contact Numbers (the more included the better)
  - Email Address(es)

\* Most PPOA owners' primary residences are not in Galveston. If your primary residence changes, please notify CKM of the updated mailing address.

2. Register and enter your contact information on the PPOA website, [PiratesPOA.com](http://PiratesPOA.com), so you will receive important, timely homeowner information and alerts that affect your property. The “Register” button is on the top menu bar of the home page.

Find all of this and more on the website:



- Neighborhood Security Information
- Deed Restrictions by Section
- Architectural Review Committee Documents
- Pirates Property Owners Directory
- Pirates Community Property Section Maps
- PPOA Family and Social Event Information
- Direct Links to Homeowner and Galveston Resources
- Weather and Storm Information

### ***Look for PPOA Direct Emails:***

Emails are distributed from the Board to property owners who are registered on the PPOA website. Be sure to add [webmaster@piratespoa.com](mailto:webmaster@piratespoa.com) and [noreply@ppoamembersonly.com](mailto:noreply@ppoamembersonly.com) to your email contacts to ensure that PPOA emails are delivered to your inbox. Being listed in the Neighborhood Directory also will let you stay in touch with your neighbors and let them stay in touch with you!

### ***Receive City of Galveston Emergency Messages Directly to Your Phone:***

The City of Galveston has a communications program that provides important alerts directly to your phone during a variety of situations. Property owners have found it helpful. Registration for the Emergency Notification System is here: [Galvestontx.gov/196/Emergency-Notification-System](http://Galvestontx.gov/196/Emergency-Notification-System).

## **Annual Maintenance Fee**

Annual maintenance fees are due July 1. You will receive your maintenance fee by US Postal Mail at your permanent mailing address.

## **Architectural Changes & Deed Restrictions**

### ***What to Know & Do Before Work Begins***

When you consider any repairs or improvements to the exterior of your property, such as painting, fencing, adding a pool or playground equipment, and making minor or major repairs, you must complete an Architectural Review Committee (ARC) application BEFORE starting any work.

Select the ARC application on the PPOA website ([PiratesPOA.com](http://PiratesPOA.com)) that is appropriate to your project type and scope, and email it and all supporting documents to the CKM Property Management Architectural Department at [PPOAARC@ckm1.com](mailto:PPOAARC@ckm1.com).

### ***A Deposit May Be Required***

Deposits are part of most ARC applications; amounts vary depending on the scope of work.

### ***Make Sure Your Application Complies:***

- With all Deed Restriction requirements of your specific section; and
- With all additional ARC Policies and Guidelines that are filed as Dedicatory Documents. These documents are as valid as the original Deed Restrictions and provide specific requirements where Deed Restrictions are more general.

### ***When & How Long?***

- ARC applications may be submitted at any time.
- The Committee will review each application and deliver a written decision within 45 days; however, most decisions are made more quickly.
- Routine inspections are made throughout the month.
- Violators will be issued a Cease-and-Desist Order and must submit an ARC application before work can proceed. Fines may be assessed.

### ***Questions?***

Don't hesitate to ask! Call CKM at **281.255.3055** and ask for the PPOA ARC Representative, or email [PPOAARC@ckm1.com](mailto:PPOAARC@ckm1.com).

### ***Where are the Deed Restrictions, Dedicatory Documents and Guidelines?***

PPOA Deed Restrictions and Dedicatory Documents are under the Architectural Info & Dedicatory Documents section of the website. Guidelines are listed at the very bottom of the page, and include policies for fencing, signs, flagpoles, bulkhead repairs, lighting and other topics.

### ***Each PPOA Section Has Its Own Deed Restrictions***

Each section of PPOA is governed by specific Deed Restrictions which provide rules and regulations to protect the value of our neighborhoods. The most common Deed Restrictions are:

- Build within all building setback lines
- Keep yard and flower beds well maintained
- Boat trailers must be stored completely under your house
- Maintain the required number of trees on your lot
- Maintain the attractiveness of your house by painting and controlling rust
- No commercial activity is allowed in the PPOA community
- Obtain ARC approval before starting any building project

To help maintain compliance with the PPOA Deed Restrictions, neighborhood inspections are done routinely. Property owners may report a Deed Restriction violation via email to CKM: [PPOAARC@ckm1.com](mailto:PPOAARC@ckm1.com).

### ***Not Sure Which PPOA Section Your Property Is In?***

- See the property section map on the PPOA website;
- Look at the survey of your home and in the Deed Restrictions you received when you purchased your property; or
- Check the Galveston Central Appraisal District website ([GalvestonCAD.org](http://GalvestonCAD.org)), scroll to the bottom, and click on "Property Search" in the lower left corner.

## Beaches & Dunes

### *Promote Clean Beaches!*



Galveston has a **Leave No Trace Ordinance** to promote clean beaches. Canopies, tents, umbrellas, beach chairs and other gear left on the beach overnight will be removed and discarded by the City.

The following are NOT allowed on Island beaches:

- Glass containers
- Alcohol
- Overnight camping (between 12 midnight and 5 a.m.)
- Bonfires and campfires, unless wholly contained in a grill, hibachi or other stove device and charcoal, butane or other flammable petroleum product is used as a fuel
- Fireworks
- Vehicles (except City vehicles and golf carts with a City handicapped placard)
- Dogs that are not on a leash

### *Protect Our Dunes!*

**Sand dunes are protected by state law.** As our first line of defense against coastal storm and beach erosion, dunes help absorb the impact of storm surge and high waves and help prevent flooding of inland areas and damage to structures. **It is against the law to walk on the dunes, let your children play on them, drive ATVs on them or remove any vegetation from them. Also, snakes live in dunes and can be dangerous.**



## Donation Campaigns – *Please Be Generous!*



PPOA maintenance fees are nominal and provide funding for basic services managed by CKM. In order to provide additional services and benefits, we have 3 voluntary PPOA donation campaigns each year and hope you will consider participating. Campaign details will be emailed, posted on the PPOA website and sent by postal mail. You can **donate online** at any time on the PPOA website ([PiratesPOA.com](http://PiratesPOA.com)) at the link in the left column of the home page.

### ***Our 3 Community Initiatives:***

- **Beautification & Landscaping (Common Areas & Neighborhood Entrances)**
- **July 4<sup>th</sup> Professional Fireworks Show & Live Music Simulcast**
- **PPOA Community Daily Deputy Security Patrols**



## **Emergency Contacts**

PPOA properties are in the City of Galveston (COG), and we rely on the City to provide security and emergency services as our first line of protection.

***Call the City of Galveston first if you see a security or safety threat!***

**EMS, Fire, Police: 911**

**Galveston Police Department (Non-emergency): 409.765.3702**

As a second line of protection for security, the PPOA contracts with the Galveston County Sheriff Department to provide daily security patrols, typically in the evening hours.

**Always call the COG police** before contacting the PPOA Deputy Patrol!

The Deputies answer their PPOA cell phone only when they are on duty patrolling our neighborhoods. To call them, log onto the PPOA website here for their cell number: <https://www.ppoamemberonly.com/contactsecurity/>.

*See Security sections for more related information.*

## **Fireworks**

### ***Must Know!***

Fireworks launched by individuals anywhere on Galveston Island, including on the beach, **are prohibited by law**. Violators may be ticketed by COG police and fireworks confiscated.

### ***Must See!***

Your family will love PPOA's spectacular July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks Show presented by professional pyrotechnics, complete with a live music simulcast. This is not a budgeted PPOA expense and is made possible only by volunteer donations from property owners and local business sponsors. **Please consider making a contribution!**

## Galveston City Resources – *Helpful Links & Numbers*

City of Galveston New Residents Guide for Utilities, Hurricane Preparation & More: [Galvestontx.gov/348/New-Residents-Guide](http://Galvestontx.gov/348/New-Residents-Guide).

City of Galveston Emergency Messages Sent Directly to Your Phone: Galveston Emergency Notification System Registration – [Galvestontx.gov/196/Emergency-Notification-System](http://Galvestontx.gov/196/Emergency-Notification-System).

City of Galveston Permits (Building, Mechanical, Electrical): <https://www.galvestontx.gov/601/Planning-Development-Division> or **409.797.3660**.

City of Galveston Public Works Emergency Line: **409.797.3971**.

City of Galveston Codes and Ordinances: [Galvestontx.gov/447/Code-Enforcement](http://Galvestontx.gov/447/Code-Enforcement).

City of Galveston Police Department Animal Control: **409.765.3702**.

## Golf Cart Registration – *Know the Rules*

Golf carts require a permit from the City of Galveston, and you **MUST** be a licensed driver to operate one. Per COG regulations, underage drivers are not allowed and are subject to ticketing.



Please note:

- The Golf Cart Ordinance distinguishes where golf carts can be driven and what safety features are required in eastern and western portions of the Island.
- Driving on any PPOA beach **is prohibited** unless a City handicapped placard is displayed.
- Driving on roads where the speed limit is more than 35 miles per hour is prohibited, including on FM 3005. Driving on Stewart Road is permitted until the speed limit increases, about 100 feet east of 11 Mile Road.

Golf cart permits may be obtained at the Galveston Police Dept., 601 54th St., 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday. The registration form is here: <https://forms.galvestontx.gov/Forms/GolfCart>. Each registered golf cart will be issued a permit decal that must be clearly displayed on the cart's right front panel (driver's side). PPOA neighborhood carts will be issued a red decal.

Cart safety requirements, permit cost and FAQs are here: [Galvestontx.gov/faq.aspx?qid=173](http://Galvestontx.gov/faq.aspx?qid=173).

## Grills & Outdoor Cooking

**Grilling on the deck of your home is a fire hazard and against City ordinances.** Help us all stay safe and grill on the ground level!

## Hurricane Preparedness

The Atlantic hurricane season is June through November, with peak season from mid-August to late October. Make sure you and your family are prepared.

- See the City of Galveston Hurricane Preparedness webpage ([Galvestontx.gov/491/Hurricane-Preparedness](http://Galvestontx.gov/491/Hurricane-Preparedness)) for ways to get ready for a storm, gather emergency supplies, pack “go” bags, plan evacuation and more.
- Hurricane alerts and info also can be found on the PPOA website.

## Laffites Cove Nature Preserve – *A “Must See” for Everyone!*



The Laffites Cove Nature Preserve on the eastern edge of Laffites Cove is a nature enthusiast’s paradise, with both historical and environmental significance.

Parts of the preserve are open to the public, and include a maze of trails, a boardwalk, ponds, marshes and wetlands, and a host of birds and other coastal wildlife. The area is quite popular with birders during spring migration. Take a look here:

[LaffitesCoveNatureSociety.org](http://LaffitesCoveNatureSociety.org).

## Laffites Cove Nature Society (LCNS)

The Laffites Cove Nature Society (LCNS) manages the canals and preserve areas located within Laffites Cove. The canals and preserves are protected under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permit.

Laffites Cove property owners are automatically members of the Nature Society, and help maintain the protected areas through annual assessments, per Laffites Cove Property Owners Association (LCPOA) Deed Restrictions. For more about the Society and the history of the preserve look here: [LaffitesCoveNatureSociety.org](http://LaffitesCoveNatureSociety.org).



## Laffites Cove Property Owners Association (LCPOA)

Property owners in Pirates Cove, Section 6 are members of the Laffites Cove POA. The maintenance fee collected from LCPOA property owners is used specifically for landscaping within Laffites Cove, as stated in the Deed Restrictions. More information about LCPOA is on their website: [LaffitesCovePOA.com](http://LaffitesCovePOA.com).

## **Mail – *How It Works in the Pirates Communities***

If you want to receive mail while at your PPOA property, you need to obtain a Post Office Box. Cluster box units are located throughout PPOA neighborhoods. To obtain a box, visit a Galveston Post Office branch office at 5826 Broadway or 601 Tremont. More information is here:

<https://www.usps.com/manage/po-boxes.htm>.

### ***Some People Have 2 Addresses***

In some PPOA neighborhoods, the mailing address for your P.O. box is different from your street address. This can be confusing, so be aware that some friends and neighbors have 2 addresses.

### ***Mailed Package Deliveries***

Cluster box units have a Parcel Locker for large packages. Options for postal package deliveries is online at the bottom of this page: <https://www.usps.com/manage/welcome.htm>.

## **Mosquito Control**

Galveston County is responsible for mosquito spraying.

They can be reached at **1.800.842.5622**.

More info and the spray schedule are here: [Galvestoncountytx.gov/cs/mc/Pages/default.aspx](http://Galvestoncountytx.gov/cs/mc/Pages/default.aspx).

## **Outdoor Lighting – *Home & Boat Dock Fishing Lights***

The PPOA uses the City of Galveston Ordinance for Outdoor Lighting to determine when outdoor lighting is a nuisance. The ordinance prohibits lighting to be cast on abutting properties and applies to both home lighting and boat dock fishing lights.

Upon complaint from a neighboring property owner, the PPOA will ask the owner of the light to point it down, purchase a shield, or lower the light's illumination to comply with the City ordinance.

If there is no correction of the issue within 30 days, the City will be notified, and the City will pursue compliance. The specific City ordinance and foot candle requirements are on the PPOA website under Deed Restrictions and Dedicatory Documents/Guidelines/Lighting Policy.

## **Palm Tree Trimming – *Inspections Annually in the Spring***



Inspections for dead palm tree fronds that need to be removed will be done every year in the Spring. Deed restriction violation notices will be sent to owners as needed asking for compliance. The goal is to require property owners to trim their palm trees no more than once per year.



## Parking – Boats, Trailers & Beach Access

**Boats and boat trailers** must be parked under the property owner's house.

To comply with the Texas Open Beaches Act, public parking is allowed on PPOA community streets that have **access to the beach**.

## “Party House” – How to Report A Loud Party at a PPOA Home

Parties are not against the law as long as the law is not being broken, which involves activities such as loud noise after 10 p.m., public intoxication, or minors drinking alcohol.

To report a loud party at a PPOA property:

- First call the Galveston Police Department (Non-emergency): **409.765.3702**.
- Then call the PPOA Sheriff Deputy Security Patrol. Deputies can proactively approach a loud party and ask for voluntary cooperation. If cars are blocking the street, the Deputies have jurisdiction to tow to clear the street. To call the Deputies, log onto the PPOA website here for their cell number: <https://www.ppoamembersonly.com/contactsecurity/>.

## Pets – Need to Know!



The City of Galveston Leash Ordinance calls for dogs to be **on a leash at all times** unless at a designated dog park. Leashes cannot be longer than 6 feet.

Per our Deed Restrictions, no more than 2 dogs and/or 2 cats are allowed per home.

The City of Galveston Animal Excrement Ordinance states: “Owners of animals must pick up all of their animals' excrement that is secreted off their property.” Please be pet friendly and pick up after your four-legged family members in the neighborhood and on the beach.

Dog bites should be reported to the City Animal Control at **409-765-3702**.

## Renting Your House

If you plan to use your home as a short-term or vacation rental, call CKM for the latest PPOA rental regulations. Some PPOA sections prohibit short-term rentals less than 90 consecutive days.

### ***Galveston Association of Vacation Rental Managers (GARM)***

A number of PPOA homeowners who rent their house hire a property management company that is a member of the Galveston Association of Vacation Rental Managers (GARM):

[Garmgalveston.com](http://Garmgalveston.com). GARM helps rental property owners uphold “good neighbor” policies and adhere to city, county and state laws and ordinances. Problems at GARM rental properties can be reported to the GARM hotline at **409-682-3603**.

## ***Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT)***

All short-term rental property owners must register with the Galveston Island Park Board of Trustees and pay Hotel Occupancy Tax. Property owners are responsible for collecting and remitting these local taxes which support beach cleaning, beach patrol and tourism initiatives.

### ***Wonder if your rental house or a neighbor's is registered?***

Check [Galvestonparkboard.org/174/Short-Term-Rentals](http://Galvestonparkboard.org/174/Short-Term-Rentals) or call **409.797.5132**.

## **Security Cameras**



PPOA's Security Program includes a multi-camera Flock ALPR surveillance system.

The 21 cameras installed at every PPOA community entrance take photos of automobiles and their license plates only. Plates that are stolen, or identified with a stolen car, are reported by the system automatically to the Galveston County Sheriff Department Automobile Crimes Task Force.

The cameras record only – they are **not** monitored live 24/7 by a security officer. Information captured by the cameras can only be reviewed by law enforcement personnel.

## **Security Services – *First & Second Lines of Protection***

### **First Line of Protection**

PPOA properties are in the City of Galveston, and we rely on the City to provide security and emergency services as our first line of protection. **Call the City of Galveston first** if you see a security or safety threat!

**EMS, Fire, Police: 911**

**Galveston Police Department (Non-emergency): 409.765.3702**

### **Second Line of Protection**

**Galveston County Sheriff Department Deputies** patrol PPOA neighborhoods **daily**, mainly in the evening hours, in both marked and unmarked cars.

**To reach them**, log onto the PPOA website here for their cell number:

<https://www.ppoamembersonly.com/contactsecurity/>.

The deputies are **not on duty 24/7**; if they are not on duty, your call will not be answered. They have property owners' names and numbers and are able to call if there is a serious issue.

## Security – *What YOU Can Do to Help Keep Our Community Safe*

- Install a **security camera system**; popular products include the ARLO and Ring systems.
- Install **outdoor lights** around your home that comply with the City Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and do not encroach on neighboring properties. A link to the ordinance is on the PPOA website under Dedicatory Documents/Guidelines/Lighting Policy.
- Install a **home alarm system**.
- Keep your **vehicle doors locked** and **garage closed**.
- **Get to know your neighbors**, exchange contact info and look out for each other.
- Post a **City of Galveston Power of Attorney Form** to give GPD officers permission to



arrest and subsequently file charges on your behalf against any persons found illegally trespassing or committing other crimes on the listed property without you being present.

The Power of Attorney Form also allows GPD to act on behalf of the property owner for any court proceedings stemming from arrests made from the aforementioned offense. A notarized form must be filed with the City.

Info on how to obtain a form is here:

<https://www.galvestontx.gov/746/Power-of-Attorney>. A yellow sign will be mailed to you that should be placed on one of your pilings, visible to the street.

- In addition, display a **No Trespassing Sign** on your property so an officer can make an arrest for trespassing. Per the Texas Criminal Trespass Code, a No Trespassing Sign must be posted on your property and clearly visible from the street in order for a law enforcement officer to arrest a trespasser.

Required sign language, size, placement location and other details are in the Signage Policy on the PPOA website under Dedicatory Documents/Guidelines/Signage Policy.



## Social Events

### *Easter Egg Hunt*

The annual Easter Egg Hunt is egg-zactly what your kids and grandkids will want to do the Saturday afternoon before Easter! This free delightful event makes picture-perfect moments for children of all ages and their guests. The hunt has areas designated by age groups and includes a visit with the Easter Bunny. Bring your basket!

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade



A fantastical parade of festooned walkers, wagons, bicycles and golf carts make Independence Day in the PPOA community unlike no other! After making its way down Stewart Road, this unforgettable family jamboree finishes with an after-party of prizes, hot dogs and watermelon. The event is free for participants and parade-watchers, though advance registration is required to be in the parade.

## July 4<sup>th</sup> Professional Fireworks Show

Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> with this not-to-be-missed spectacular fireworks extravaganza, complete with a musical simulcast! Professional pyrotechnic engineers launch a dazzling skyward display that can be seen from many locations around the PPOA community. This annual project is funded by volunteer donations from generous property owners and local businesses.



## Laffites Cove & PPOA Poker Run “Fun” Raiser

Meet your neighbors and enjoy their hospitality at this fun annual progressive-style social! Visit event host homes via golf cart, car or other transport of choice, and finish with a Party on the Patio at the Country Club for prizes, an auction and more! This event is usually held in the spring, and a registration fee is required to participate. Proceeds go to PPOA and LCPOA beautification funds.

*More information about these social activities is on the PPOA website prior to each event.*

## Trash Pickup Schedule & Roll Back Service

**Monday** is our trash collection day. Please follow these City of Galveston regulations:

- All trash belongs in City garbage carts; do not place overflow trash bags on the ground next to the cart; do not overfill carts and make sure they close.
- **Per City Ordinance, property owners cannot leave garbage carts at the curb except the evening before collection day and on collection day. Carts can be placed on the curb after 5 p.m. Sunday and must be rolled back under the residence by 10 p.m. Monday.**
- Deed restriction violation inspectors monitor for garbage carts left at the curb throughout the week. Property Owners will receive a notice that they are in violation of the City Ordinance and will be provided a copy of the ordinance along with the contact information for **PPOA’s Bin Roll Out – Roll Back Service**. The notice will also inform the property owner that if the situation continues, the PPOA will notify the City.



- Contact CKM if you would like to enroll in the PPOA Bin Roll Out – Roll Back Service. If you already use a roll back service, please make sure they know that **carts must be in on Monday to comply with the ordinance.**
- To request another cart or for more info, go to: [Galvestontx.gov/395/Sanitation](http://Galvestontx.gov/395/Sanitation).
- **Bulk trash**, which includes heavy items such as appliances, furniture or large piles of palm fronds and brush, also is picked up **on our regularly scheduled trash day**. Simply set your bulk trash curbside next to your garbage cart, and a litter truck will pick it up. Any appliance that has freon must have the freon removed and be red-tagged by a certified technician before the sanitation crew can remove it.
- Please note that the dumpsters located within the Pirates Landing Townhomes property **are for the private use of Pirates Landing residents only**. Please be a good neighbor and do not use the dumpsters to dispose of your garbage, including bulk trash, unless you are a Pirates Landing resident.
- For more City sanitation services info, call the Public Works Department: **409.797.3630**.
- Report trash violations to the City of Galveston City Marshal's office at **409.797.3660**.



## Vacant Lot Mowing Program

Property owners who have a vacant lot must maintain the grass to be compliant with City of Galveston codes and PPOA Deed Restrictions. PPOA offers a vacant lot mowing program where the property owner voluntarily enrolls and pays a set annual fee to the Association. Lots enrolled are maintained by a contractor chosen by the PPOA. Laffites Cove and Villas residents may choose a different contractor provided by the Laffites Cove POA. The program operates on a calendar year basis. Contact CKM or the LCPOA for details.

## Vote in Galveston – *Why it Matters*

Please consider registering at least one member of your household to vote in Galveston. The PPOA community depends upon vital City services such as police, fire, trash, street maintenance and flood mitigation. Your local vote will help ensure that:

- Appropriate City resources are allocated to the West End;
- City laws and regulations take into account the unique needs of the West End; and
- Your voice is heard in the election of Mayor and District 6 City Council member.



Voter registration information and an application form are here: [Galvestoncountytexas.gov/to/Pages/VoterRegistrationInformation.aspx](http://Galvestoncountytexas.gov/to/Pages/VoterRegistrationInformation.aspx).

## West Galveston Island Property Owners Association (WGIPOA)

WGIPOA ([WGIPOA.com/tx](http://WGIPOA.com/tx)) promotes the general welfare of the property owners of West Galveston Island by furthering their interest in preserving and protecting Gulf and Bay shorelines. WGIPOA membership includes 31 property owner associations, comprising some 8,800 West End property owners. WGIPOA is a volunteer organization and your participation is welcome. WGIPOA meets the third Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. Property owners are encouraged to attend.

## Wildlife – *What You Might See & Who to Call*

Many kinds of wildlife are part of Galveston's natural ecosystem, and a variety can be seen in PPOA neighborhoods, including alligators, birds, coyote hybrids/red wolves, sea turtles and snakes. If you encounter a nuisance or injured animal, please call the Galveston Police Department Animal Control at **409.765.3702**.

The City has developed a resource webpage that includes tips on interacting with Island wildlife: <https://www.galvestontx.gov/1131/Wildlife-Resources>.

**Alligators** may be seen in PPOA canals and even on the beach. For safety info: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/species/alligator/safety/index.phtml>.

Galveston is home to more than **300 species of birds**, many of which are shown here: <https://www.galveston.com/whattodo/outdoorfun/birding/bird-species-galveston/>.

**Coyote Hybrids/Red Wolves** sometimes prowl our neighborhoods. Pet owners please be aware.



The **endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtle** can be found on the Island during nesting season, April 1 – July 15. The turtles can be up to 2 feet long and weigh as much as 100 pounds. Female turtles swim ashore and lay their eggs on the beach in areas fortified by seaweed for camouflage. Turtle patrols are seen regularly on PPOA beaches. **To report a nesting or stranded turtle, call 866-887-8535.**

**Snakes** are often seen in beach dunes and our canals. Important FAQs about snakes is here: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/preparation-and-survival/snakes>.

## You & the PPOA Community – *Still Have a Question?*

If you have **any question** that is not answered in this Reference Guide, **contact the PPOA Webmaster** and he will direct your question to the appropriate person. A "Contact PPOA" link is in the left column on the website homepage: [PiratesPOA.com](http://PiratesPOA.com).

***Welcome to Our Community!***