



Golden Beach Newsletter December 2021

Holiday Display

Golden Beach has a beautiful installation in the Monty Andrews Arboretum holiday display at West Blalock Park. The park is lit nightly from 6-10 pm. This year Venice set a new record, with 103 trees decorated for the holidays. Don't miss it!



A pair of teenage sweethearts enjoy a Golden Beach sunset from the bench

Thank you to the Golden Beach team who created and installed a lovely and dynamic holiday display. Words or photos cannot do it justice.



Thank you to Golden Beach volunteers

Anyone with a home at the beach knows the work is never done. Our beach access is much the same: the work to keep it welcoming and functioning is never done. Thankfully, the spirit of 'volunteerism' is alive and well in Golden Beach. On a recent sunset visit to our beach benches, a volunteer was found quietly repairing a broken drinking fountain. Maintaining a nice drinking fountain for members visiting the beach is a small thing, but representative of the all the work anonymous volunteers do to create a great quality of life for everyone lucky enough to live in Golden Beach.

Thank you to all those who volunteer their time and effort! You know who you are. Whether you are part of the Golden Beach Elite Refuse Team (GBERT), the work party who spread new shell topping on the parking lot, the brothers who repaired the plumbing at the front entrance, the guy who quietly empties the sand catchment at our beach shower, the person behind organizing our mailings, the neighbor who waters the Bird of Paradise, someone who picks up a piece of litter from the beach, offer a friendly welcome to a new neighbor, or do any of the other countless acts that make Golden Beach what it is – thank you!

Welcome to our new Board members With 115 ballots cast, Golden Beach Associates is pleased to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors. Joining the Board beginning in 2022 and extending through 2024 will be Norb Geiss, Sandi Knepp, and Rick Tuss. Welcome!

Thank you to our departing Board members and Officer Golden Beach Associates thanks several departing Board members. Thank you to Dick Eberhart, Beth Hall, Margot Urmano and Nancy Chase for all your service to the Golden Beach community! We deeply appreciate your time and efforts.

Golden Beach Access Survey Results

A survey on Private Access and Property Values in Golden Beach was mailed to all GBAI members along with the annual election ballot in November. Below are responses as of our Annual Meeting on December 13, 2021.

120 GBAI members responded to the survey.

79% of respondents believe *“increasing trespass and public use of the Golden Beach private access property is an issue that impacts the value of our properties, and that Golden Beach Associates should take measures to ensure that our private property remains private.”*

11% of respondents believe *“increasing trespassing and public use of the Golden Beach private access property is not an issue and no action needs be taken.”*

3% of respondents *“don’t have an opinion one way or the other.”*

7% of respondents did not check any box. However, their comments are included.

Private Access and Property Values in Golden Beach

Venice has grown greatly over the past few years, and continues to grow. Along with that growth, Golden Beach has experienced an increase in trespasser traffic through our private beach access property – a problem which will also continue to grow.

We have installed improved signage informing visitors that access is private, but unfortunately that has had only a minimal effect in limiting trespassers. Therefore, the Board is now considering the option of installing fencing and gates to better secure the property and preclude increased trespasser traffic.

Trespass is an issue because exclusive use of our private access to the beach is both a desirable feature and a valuable asset to all property owners in the Golden Beach subdivision. The increase in unauthorized public use of our private property diminishes the value of this feature and, therefore, diminishes property values in Golden Beach.

In order to protect property values in Golden Beach, we need to secure our beach access property with appropriate fencing and gates so that only Golden Beach property owners will have access through the property to the beach. Completing the existing fencing and installing gates would preserve exclusive use of our beach access for Golden Beach property owners.

This is not a vote – it is a request for your opinion and thoughts on the issue.

I believe the increasing trespass and public use of the Golden Beach private beach access property is an issue that impacts the value of our properties, and that Golden Beach Associates should take measures to ensure that our private property remains private.

I believe that increasing trespass and public use of the Golden Beach private beach access property is not an issue and no action needs be taken.

I don't have an opinion one way or the other.

Your thoughts, comments, and suggestions are welcome!

Survey sent to all GBAI members along with the annual election ballot mailing in November 2021.

Member comments are below. Some comments have been edited for brevity or to remove personally identifying information, without changing their basic message. Member comments did not focus exclusively on the question of property values. Rather, they ranged across a variety of issues, notably including

- the desire to maintain privacy,
- a need for safety,
- hope of finding a solution balancing simplicity / aesthetics / security, and
- the importance of communication during the decision-making process.

COMMENTS THAT ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN:

I believe it is an issue that is evolving as it goes with more people trying to use our access. I'm not overly excited about a fence and gate, but I don't know of another option.

Would like to see a pedestrian gate with locking (keypad) mechanism – keep it simple.

Not sure I am in favor of any gate across the front parking lot. Perhaps a gate where Bird of Paradise is located?

Whatever measures must be effective or they will continue to be ignored.

We need to take this very seriously. We chose Golden Beach to have access, and not have a public beach.

Both foot and car traffic should be blocked and only accessible to deeded property owners and their guests. Locked entry mechanism should be of heavy-duty commercial quality.

I wish I could come up with some brilliant alternative, but sadly no. I don't feel we have any other choice at this point but to pursue the fence / gate option.

The beach access should be gated. It is an important asset for our community and adds significantly to property values.

In today's world with so many people ignoring laws and carrying guns – don't know how we could prevent (trespassing).

We don't really know the best 'how' to address the issue but do agree that if this continues to grow as an issue that we need to do something.

We would like to see a fence that is tasteful and at the same time effective. Please communicate as the process of decision-making moves along.

Seems as if this problem has been a problem for the board for many years. Having a solution like gates etc may help. But won't you then also have to figure out how to get residents through the gates? Just not sure of all the logistics. Trust the board to make good decisions for us all!

I've seen access through the south parking area at Beachcomber in addition to GB access.

This is a great idea!

Implement via progressive steps of 'security', escalating only if the previous level doesn't work to limit trespassing by cars and pedestrians.

Phase 1: Swing-up gate with RFID at entrance + unlocked pedestrian gate at Bird of Paradise.

Phase 2: Complete vinyl fencing, add sliding car gate, add unlocked pedestrian gate at front.

Phase 3: As above, but with locking pedestrian gate at front.

We don't want to carry keys with us at every visit, though. Want to know the alternatives.

I do want our beach to remain private, but I'm concerned about the cost of what it would take to keep the entrance closed to the public.

While we haven't had many issues over the year, there are people within Golden Beach (my son included) that can't physically walk that far. It can be disappointing when the spots are full and some cars don't belong. I'd be in favor of a gate for vehicles.

Venice and the surrounding area is growing. This trespassing will get worse. Parking will be worse.

We would support more fencing and unlocked walk gate where the planter is currently located.

We think we should take some extra steps to make trespassing difficult but not at the expense of the area.

We'll support any bond issue necessary.

Maybe a gate system that just employs an arm that retracts with a plastic card similar to StoneyBrooke on Center Road. It's basic and somewhat inexpensive.

Our concern is for physical safety (i.e. avoidance of any confrontations) and a more crowded beach.

We support the idea of a gate and fencing and are willing to pay an increase in dues or assessment to cover the expense.

Private beach access is one of the most attractive features of living in Golden Beach. We are in favor of taking whatever actions are necessary to ensure that only residents, and guests of residents, have access to Golden Beach.

Thank you.

I believe that “parking trespassing” is an issue during peak holiday weeks and season weekends. Limiting unauthorized drive-in to the access will send a message to all trespassers. Also, do not want to lose the Gulf view coming down Spadaro!

I believe increasing trespass is a concern, but am also concerned about whether the suggested solution is the best.

A gate with a card reader or code sounds good. Also, the benches on the beach attract trespassers.

Appreciate the opportunity to comment. Public use of our beach access is a serious problem!

We think fencing and a gate would be a great asset.

If any GBAI board members or residents think that the so-called ‘private’ access is actually in any way ‘private’, then they are completely delusional. Leaving that easement wide open is ridiculous.

Long overdue.

Unsure if this is an issue but it can’t hurt.

I believe the increasing trespass and public use of Golden Beach access is an issue, and one that needs attention. Smaller progressive steps need to be taken until the problem is corrected.

Please also provide a boardwalk out towards the beach. Sand makes it difficult to bring carts etc out to beach. Consider a restroom as well.

Saw a verbal interaction between members and two trespassers come close to violence. Don’t need or want that kind of stress at our beach access.

We totally agree about public use of our beach, but for family, only one parking pass is not sufficient.

We aren’t exactly sure about what should be done, but we are definitely concerned.

I think we should limit guest passes ... also, they should be for guests who are visiting for a short time, not months!

It depends on the cost.

How much would it cost? Do we have the money?

Important to learn about options at a future board meeting that all could attend – if they so choose – before the board makes decisions on implementation of any next steps.

COMMENTS THAT ACTION NEED NOT BE TAKEN:

Trespassing has not affected us yet!

We feel it will detract from the openness and beauty of the area – it will make it less attractive for neighbors and harder to use. It's not a big enough problem to waste money.

Venice is quaint – keep it that way.

Please do not spend any more time considering additional fencing and/or gate.

I go to the beach easement 3 or 6 times per week and there are no mass of people trespassing ... let the easement be.

This has been an ongoing issue over the years and has not lowered our property values.

I don't approve of installing fencing and gates. I think it would be too confusing for the property owners.

I would prefer that we hire an agency to patrol during periods of unacceptable activity.

After 37 years here, I say leave it alone.

The charm of Golden Beach is that we are not a gated community.

What is increased trespass? 50%, 100%, 200%? None of the statements are quantified, just subjective.

Semi-issue. No gate, fencing?

GB emails going into your Spam/Junk folder? GBAI *manually* sends out emails, a batch at a time. To help guide GB emails to your inbox, add 2 emails to all your computer address books and contacts (Gmail webmail, Apple mail, Contacts, Outlook, Thunderbird, etc). Add: news@goldenbeachassociates.com and contact@goldenbeachassociates.com

Contacting Golden Beach Associates -- 2 easy ways!

If you need to contact Golden Beach Associates with a problem, a question, or a suggestion there are two quick and easy ways:

Email: contact@goldenbeachassociates.com

OR

Use the *Contact Us* page on the Golden Beach website:

<https://www.goldenbeachassociates.com/>

