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**Seahorse Key Lighthouse relit on Friday - July 5;  
Key is open today - July 6  
*Golf Cart Parade was big on July 4***

## **Story and Video**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © July 5, 2019 at 3:29 p.m.**

**Updated July 6, 2019 at 7:39 a.m.**

**CEDAR KEY** – A celebration of the relighting of the lamp in the lighthouse on Seahorse Key, which is a few miles offshore from Cedar Key and is only accessible by boat, was set for Friday (July 5).

Today (July 6), Seahorse Key is available for members of the public to visit.

Cedar Key interests are promoted the event with a person reenacting as one of the assistant lighthouse keepers, and a couple of musical performers were set to be in downtown Historic Cedar Key that night.



**Carol McQueen dons period clothing to portray Catharine Dorgan Hobday, the Assistant Lighthouse Keeper on Seahorse Key from 1872 until Hobday's death in 1879. She is scheduled to act in this part from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Seahorse Key on Saturday (July 6).**

*Photo Provided*

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<https://youtu.be/1FBsNxpuVxI>

**In this five-minute video, many of the golf carts in the parade on Cedar Key on The Fourth of July are seen. Among the carts and riders seen here is Carol McQueen portraying Catharine Dorgan Hobday, the Assistant Lighthouse Keeper on Seahorse Key from 1872 until Hobday's death in 1879. Some of the golf carts are Independence Day themed. Some of them are lighthouse themed. The range of decorating talent is full spectrum, with all of them being at the higher end of the fun and beauty scale.**

*Video By Jeff M. Hardison © July 5, 2019*

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**A little more than a minute into the video, the golf cart with actress performing as the historic lighthouse assistant keeper (Carol McQueen) is seen.**

*Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © July 5, 2019*

Carol McQueen, a retired director of the Levy County Tourist Development Council, is portraying a noteworthy female of local history.

She was among the people who participated in the Cedar Key Golf Cart Parade on the Fourth of July.

Tonight (Friday, July 5) the lighthouse is scheduled to once again be lit on Seahorse Key, as Cedar Key city officials, the University of Florida, the Cedar Key Historical Society Museum and the United States National Wildlife Services join forces to celebrate this historic event.

From 7 to 9 p.m. tonight, Carol McQueen is scheduled to portray Catharine Hobday, the only female assistant keeper of the lighthouse Seahorse Key.

Everyone is invited to visit the Cedar Historical Society Museum to hear about her

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remarkable life.

At 8 p.m. tonight in the museum on Second Street, there is a scheduled unveiling of a new addition to the museum. The original Lighthouse Bible, in which Mrs. Hobday's burial on Seahorse Key was inscribed by her son and Lighthouse Keeper Andrew Hobday is scheduled to be unveiled.

Meanwhile, everyone is invited to enjoy an evening immersed in the fantastic history of Cedar Key along with complimentary wine, beer, cheese, coffee, tea and goodies.

Unique entertainment in an intimate setting is set to be in the office of Norm D. Fugate, 497 Second Street. The entertainment group known as Lucky Mud is scheduled to perform there.

Reggie Stacy, a well-known local singer, is scheduled to perform at the 1842 Daily Grind and Mercantile, located at 598 Second St. between 7 and 9 p.m.

The lighting is slated for 9:30 p.m. tonight (July 5), and will be visible from the beachfront area near First and G Street.

**On Saturday (July 6), during the day from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., Seahorse Key Lighthouse will be open to the public.**

**Also, there is a big day on Saturday (July 6) out on Seahorse Key. It is free and open to the public to visit the Lighthouse.**

Everyone is invited to meet Lighthouse Keeper Catharine Dorgan Hobday from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday. Boat rides go out from Cedar Key to Seahorse Key (3 miles). Those rides are available for a fee on Dock Street, near the beach that is next to the City Park.

Seahorse Key, including the lighthouse, became part of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1929. The University of Florida has leased 3.2 acres of the wildlife refuge, including the lighthouse, for use as a marine laboratory since 1952. The lighthouse is used as a dormitory for students.

A relatively concise but thorough report, which includes the names of all of the lighthouse keepers and assistants from 1854 to 1914-plus can be found by visiting a website by clicking [HERE](#).