

# OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE WEST

December 2004

## Officers 2004

### President:

Karen Nady  
621-0286

### Vice President

TBA

### Secretary:

Lorraine Bacon  
621-3265

### Treasurer:

Glenn Robinson  
626-2345

### Mailing Address:

Olde Towne Daphne  
West Association Inc.  
P.O. Box 506  
Daphne, AL 36526

### Annual Dues:

Sponsoring Family or  
Business:  
\$100.00  
Regular Family:  
\$25.00

Newsletter Published  
Every Other Month at  
Daphne, AL  
Comments are  
welcome. Email:  
[otdwa@aol.com](mailto:otdwa@aol.com)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

The highly controversial Bayside Academy parking lot, proposed for construction off Belrose Avenue, has recently galvanized residents to address (safety, traffic, cultural and environmental) concerns about how residents are notified of pending projects.

Currently, projects are listed in the legal notices of the *Bulletin* newspaper, adjoining property owners are notified in writing and signs may be posted in some cases. It is not clear how residents can learn about projects being iterated for future site review meetings. However, when a project comes to site review it may be the first time planning commission members see the project. One week later the project is presented at the evening planning commission for a vote. Projects not involving rezoning, annexation or ordinance changes do not go to Council for a public hearing or vote.

Rezoning, vacation of streets, variances, changing height limits, and annexation for new developments impacts the quality of our lives. These alterations to the Comprehensive Plan are frequently requested and OTDWA is looking for ways to keep our community informed regarding projects being considered including: How can the public notification and input process be improved? Communication between the City and the community on new projects is critical. Come to our meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> to share your ideas about how residents should be informed in the planning process.

### December 6<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting: Second Reading

Lot 2 of Westbrook Commercial Park (off Van Buren and Hwy 98) is currently B-2 (general business) in an area with a mix of professional offices, restaurants and residential. The request is to change to R-4 Multi-family. At the Sept 30<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting discussions included: Traffic concerns (high density single and multi-story family residential projects are usually away from major arteries) and height restrictions with the potential project being 6 stories (approx. 70 ft in an area with a 35 ft. height limit). The rezoning request will be voted on without information regarding future construction plans. (Copies of application for zoning amendment, adjoining property owners and sketch is available in the 11/15/04 council packet and a copy of the summarization of the minutes of the September 30<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting is available in the 10/18/04 council packet in the Library.)

### December 7<sup>th</sup> General Meeting: Open Mike Night

Members will be the speakers for "Open Mike Night," the last general meeting of the year. This is a chance for conversation about issues facing our city. Mark your calendar, come and participate. Bring your questions, offer suggestions for future OTDWA projects, and make your concerns known. As always the Mayor and Council have been invited to attend.

## From the President

This month I step down as President of OTDWA. However, unlike former OTDWA presidents Lon Johnston and Cathy Barnette who have gone on to serve as City Council members, I plan to retire to a nice quiet Board position. Membership. Serving as President has allowed me to meet many Daphne residents and I hope to bring them to OTDWA as new members. I also plan to do a bit of gardening on the McMillan Bluff when the project gets underway. And I will, of course, still attend City Council meetings....This will not be a quiet retirement!

Each President of OTDWA has brought his or her perspective and passion to our organization. This month we will elect a new president and I look forward to new leadership, new projects and new ways to continue to learn about and improve our community. I believe OTDWA is a wonderful organization and I look forward to remaining on the Board and serving with our new officers.

Kären

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## City of Daphne Boards/Committees

Mayor Small and City Council members serve on the following Committees and Boards. Meeting dates and times can be found on the City of Daphne web-site Daphne [www.daphneal.com](http://www.daphneal.com) (click on Government) or by calling City Hall 621-9000. All meetings are open to the public.

### **Finance**

Ron Scott  
Regina Landry  
Bailey Yelding

### **Buildings and Property**

John Lake  
Gus Palumbo

### **Planning/ Zoning/Code Enforcement**

Cathy Barnette  
Mayor Small

### **Public Safety/Ordinance Committee**

Greg Burnam  
Regina Landry  
Gus Palumbo

### **Public Works/Solid Waste Management**

Bailey Yelding  
Cathy Barnette  
John Lake

### **Board of Zoning Adjustments Rep:**

Mayor Small

### **Downtown Redevelopment Authority Reps:**

Mayor Small and Cathy Barnette

### **Industrial Development Board Reps:**

Bailey Yelding, Ron Scott and Mayor Small

### **Library Board Reps:**

John Lake and Gus Palumbo

### **Planning Commission Rep:**

Cathy Barnette

### **Recreation Board Rep:**

Greg Burnam

### **Utility Board Reps:**

Ron Scott and Mayor Small

**Olde Towne Daphne West Association**

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**Email: [otdwa@aol.com](mailto:otdwa@aol.com)**

Website: [www.hometown.aol.com/otdwa](http://www.hometown.aol.com/otdwa)

**AGENDA**

December 7, 2004

General Membership Meeting

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes- General Meeting, October 5, 2004

Treasurer's Report- Glenn Robinson

Committee Reports:

Village Point Update- Al Guarisco

McMillan Bluff Project/ Pending Lawsuit- Kären Nady

Council Report- Cathy Barnette

Finance- Louie Nady

Utility Report- Lon Johnston

Old Business

Community Spirit Award 2004

New Business

Election of 2005 OTDWA Board and Committees

Announcements

**PROGRAM**

Members will be the speakers at the last general meeting of the year for "Open Mike Night." Ask questions, offer suggestions for future OTDWA projects, make your concerns about issues facing our community known.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS

Hardly a day goes by without a decision being made that has a direct impact on our quality of life in Daphne. The local newspapers do their best to cover and report on the affairs of the city that affect us; but Olde Towne Daphne West Association (OTDWA) offers you an alternative for keeping abreast of current affairs.

### THE MISSION OF OTDWA

*We recognize that Daphne, Alabama is one of the faster growing communities in the United States. Our mission is to aggressively support the community in the management of this growth to insure the preservation of quality of life and maintenance of property values. We will accomplish this through active involvement in the political process and through cooperation with other community organizations. Focus is on business and residential zoning, ordinances, drainage and erosion control, and public safety.*

### WATCH DOG

The OTDWA is a non-profit organization that depends entirely on its membership for financial and vocal input. You are crucial to our ability to be effective. Let us know your thoughts.

#### What we do:

- ◆ Board representatives attend Daphne City Council, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning and Appeals meetings.
- ◆ Telephone polls of your opinion on pressing issues to be presented to the city government.
- ◆ General membership meetings with civic leaders speaking on timely issues.
- ◆ Five scheduled newsletters per year with updates on current and pending issues. Special editions are published as necessary.

**If you haven't taken the time to renew your membership, please do it now! Bring your check to the December 7th meeting or mail it to the Treasurer. OTDWA does not share its membership list.**

### I CARE ABOUT DAPHNE'S FUTURE! SIGN ME UP AS A MEMBER.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\$100.00 Sponsor \_\_\_\$25.00 Regular

Mail to: Glenn Robinson, OTDWA, P.O. Box 506, Daphne, AL 36526

- I want to help out! Give me a call.
- I have enclosed a note about something I think is important to Daphne.
- I have enclosed the name and address of someone to contact for membership.

## Membership: 2005

If you paid your dues in October or November your membership is up to date for 2005 and the box marked below is marked paid. Thank you! If you haven't updated your membership, please consider doing so today! A form is provided on page 4. ALSO, an email contact will help us keep you informed about important issues or rally the troops when needed.

**ACTIVE (dues paid)**

**INACTIVE (dues not paid)**

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### 2005 Budget

Early in 2004, it was generally thought that the City's finances would be sound for several years. However, financial projections done mid-year by OTDWA, and shared with the City's finance committee, projected that the City's finances going forward would be tight and budget shortfalls would potentially be faced within 2 years. It now appears that while this analysis was essentially correct, significant financial pressures are already being faced in the 2005 budget, rather than in a couple of years as projected. The new City Council is addressing these budget constraints.

### Efficiency and the Environment

The City of Daphne is currently investigating the use of a paperless council packet which will streamline efficiency and reduce the amount of paper usage. Once it is up and running, this system will allow residents to better research previous council packets and provide for a usable cataloging system on the web. Concurrently, there is a movement afoot for residents to provide the City with their email address for action alerts and notification. Let your councilperson know if you want to be part of this list.

Online Resources:

**City of Daphne** [www.daphneal.com](http://www.daphneal.com) : Council agenda, scheduled meetings, forms

**Baldwin County** [www.co.baldwin.al.us](http://www.co.baldwin.al.us): Search property appraisals, taxes, car tag/ title information and forms.

### OTDWA in 2004

OTDWA can be proud of our two major projects this year: Working in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, we hosted our second Candidate Forum at the Civic Center. The addition of a pamphlet, with the candidate's written responses to questions, made this year's event an even more valuable service for our community. And, mid year we provided the City finance committee with an update of our 2002 financial analysis of the City and continue to be available to work with that committee.

This spring we asked for a bridge on the S curve at Captain O'Neal for foot traffic. Public Works has budgeted funds for construction in the future. We also continue to work with the City on the McMillan project, including a suggestion that a sign reading "Open to Pedestrian Traffic" be installed.

### December 20<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting Public Hearings

- (1) Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance/Village Overlay District and Multi Use District and Amendment to Establishment of Districts/Multi Use. This amends Ordinance #2002-22 adopted September 3, 2002 (Use permits, plan content, permits, parking, landscaping standards, off street parking, landscape requirements, buffer zones, etc.
- (2) Amendment to the Land Use Ordinance/ Municipal Information Signs. This amends the Land Use Ordinance section 33.9 to allow the City to operate as the franchisee for municipal information signs.

(Copies of these ordinances are available in the 11/15/04 council packet in the Library)

## 2004/2005 Calendar of Meetings and Events

**December 2-5<sup>th</sup>**—Christmas by the Bay- Civic Center. Call 928-4585 for information

**December 5<sup>th</sup>**—Daphne Christmas Parade, 3:00, Main Street

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**—Council Meeting, OTDWA presents Community Spirit Award to City of Daphne employees for their efforts to help our community after Hurricane Ivan

**December 7<sup>th</sup>**—General Meeting: Open Mike Night

## 2005 Events

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**—Pet Licenses due, forms and information available on City website.

**January 11<sup>th</sup>**—**OTDWA General Membership Meeting.** Topic to be announced at December 7th meeting.

Future General Meetings: March 1st, May 3rd, August 3rd, October 4th and December 6th.

OTDWA meetings are held from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Daphne Public Library.

Daphne City Council Meetings are held the first and third Mondays of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber. The meetings are open and public participation is encouraged. A complete set of the council agenda and information packet is available in the Library on the Friday afternoon preceding each Council meeting. Official council minutes must be viewed in the City Clerk's office. Copies of the 2004 Daphne City budget and the Comprehensive plan from 2000 to 2020 are also available.

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