



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2007

Officers 2007

President (interim)

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621-0286

Vice President

Franklin Lamb
626-3993

Treasurer:

Lon Johnston
621-1863

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Membership:

Ernest Berger
Governmental

Affairs:

Cathy Barnette
SEEDS:

Fran and DonTerry
Finance:

Louie Nady

Utility Board:

Lon Johnston

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Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1022
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Annual Dues:

Business: \$100.00
Family: \$25.00

Newsletter is Published
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are
welcome. Email:
[ContactUs@oldetowne
daphne.org](mailto:ContactUs@oldetowne
daphne.org)

PLANNING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

OTDA welcomes Ms. Adrienne Jones to the City of Daphne. Ms. Jones serves as a planner for the City and is working with the Planning Commission to prioritize community needs and conduct proactive planning. Councilwoman Cathy Barnette chairs this new subcommittee which meets the first Wednesday of each month in the Council Chambers at 8:00 am. OTDA commends Mr. Eady, his staff and the Planning Commission for undertaking this task.

During the February Planning Commission meeting, the issue of public notification and participation surfaced once again. Under the current procedural rules, public participation is allowed only for subdivisions of land, zoning amendments and preliminary/final plat review. Although the chairman may allow public participation, it is not a citizen's right. OTDA requests the Daphne Planning Commission restructure their bylaws to allow individuals the opportunity to speak before the Planning Commission approves or denies a project. Also, we recommend the bylaws be modified to require the Planning Department to notify adjacent property owners for any land use modification.

At the February 26th Council Meeting, the Planning Commission requested that the City of Daphne conduct a hydraulic study of the Lake Forest Watershed. As large parcels of land continue to be developed upstream, the downstream effects must be understood. OTDA understands that City finances are limited, but we encourage this study to be funded.

MARCH 6TH (TUESDAY) GENERAL MEETING:

CATHY BARNETTE, DISTRICT 2 COUNCILMEMBER

Join us as Cathy Barnette, District 2 Councilwoman provides her annual update to OTDA. Ms. Barnette will provide us with a list of City and Council accomplishments this past year, as well as future plans and potential hurdles. This is a chance for conversation about issues facing our community.

Please try to attend this informative meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Daphne Public Library. Come a few minutes early for coffee and dessert!

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Join Mayor Small for coffee and conversation on Thursday, March 29th. City Hall is open during renovations and parking is available on the south side and in back of City Hall. This is a popular event!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Because our community is located in a hurricane prone area, OTDA has been an advocate for reviewing and upgrading building codes to insure safe and insurable homes and businesses in Daphne. OTDA has hosted meetings with Congressman Jo Bonner, Senator Bradley Byrne, City of Daphne Building Inspector, Richard Merchant and Daphne resident Carl Schneider, an insurance broker and member of the Alabama Insurance Task Force. Each brought a piece of the insurance puzzle to the table for discussion and each stressed the importance of residents to support the International Building Code and to retrofit your home.

The City of Daphne is planning to make changes to our existing building codes. Two public hearings have been held and additional discussions are expected. The City will review the State Legislature's pending decision on adopting state wide building codes. OTDA encourages the City to continue to seek comments from residents and representatives from the insurance, real estate and building communities.

Wind coverage is an issue in Gulf Coast states and many Daphne residents are losing their coverage. I suggest reading the OTDA November 2006 newsletter comments on page 3, available on our web-site, regarding proposed code changes in Daphne. The Council is expected vote on a new City ordinance by early May and their decision will impact the insurability of homes and businesses in Daphne!

Kären

PROPOSED BALDWIN COUNTY STORMWATER UTILITY

In a recent presentation to the City Council, David Yeager, Director of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP), made the comment "Everyone lives downstream from someone." Currently, development is approved community by community and permit by permit basis and there is no cohesive plan for runoff management.

The goal of the new utility will be to help local communities manage flooding and water quality problems related to urban stormwater in a regional effort. The City Council unanimously supported a resolution encouraging the Baldwin County Legislative Delegation (e.g. Senator Bradley Byrne, Representative Randy Davis and Representative Steve McMillan) to pass enabling legislation to establish the Baldwin County Stormwater Consortium. Residents are also encouraged to contact our state elected officials to indicate your support of this legislation. Visit the MBNEP web-site, www.mobilebaynep.com, and click on BCSC Feasibility Assessment for a copy of the PDF.

COOKING OIL TO BIO-DIESEL

Did you know that Daphne Utilities makes more than 700 gallons of bio-diesel a month from cooking oil? The bio-diesel is used to power generating equipment at sewer pumping stations, our Daphne Recycling trucks and a portion of the utility service fleet.

Be part of community efforts to recycle cooking oil and help keep the sewer system healthy, reduce sewer spills and create a cleaner burning fuel. Pick up or drop off oil recycling containers at the following places: Daphne Utilities, the Winn Dixie and Wall-Mart in Daphne. For additional drop-off sites and details about the program contact the Utility Department at 626-2628 or check their web-site: www.daphneutilities.com

DAPHNE DOG PARK

Public Works will be installing a chain link fence to define a 250 feet by 250 feet area at the Trione Sports complex. Two gates will be constructed for pet security when entering and leaving the park. A watering station will be available and complimentary bags for pet waste will be provided by several local pet stores. This is possibly the first dog park in Lower Alabama! Kudos to the Daphne Recreation Board for promoting this effort.

DAPHNE CITY BUDGET UPDATE

Louie Nady, OTDA Finance Chairman, prepared an analysis of the current City of Daphne budget for the City's Finance Committee. His budget projection tables and comments were provided to the Mayor and the Council in September 2006 prior to the adoption of the 2007 budget and are posted on the ODTA web-site under Finance.

When the budget analysis was prepared in September 2006, the City finances looked sound based on the initially prepared 2007 base budget that was being considered at that time. However, since then the City has amended the 2007 budget and increased spending (personnel, capital, etc.) while the income so far has been coming in slightly below projections. The net result is that instead of having a budget surplus and adding to the City's reserve as originally projected, the City will now operate with a \$1.2 MM deficit for 2007 and dip into the City's reserve funds.

In addition, the City is contemplating adjusting Police and Fire employee salaries to keep them in line with rising salaries in surrounding communities, which could add significantly to the total personnel costs of the City by 2008. The proposed solution would raise the personnel costs for the City to almost 60% of expected total income by 2008, a percentage that will be difficult for the City to sustain long term!

In the projections done in September 2006, the problem of rising personnel costs as a percentage of total income was pointed out as something that would need to be addressed by the City at some point. However, the 60% figure was not expected to be reached until 2010. Since it might be reached by 2008, this problem should start to be addressed by the City in the coming months. One proposal that has been discussed is raising the City's sales tax by ½%, although this has not received much support to date by most of the council members.

PLANNING AND WALKABLE COMMUNITIES

In January, the Cities of Daphne and Foley and The Baldwin County Trailblazers hosted an evening with planner Dan Burden to discuss 'Walkable Communities'. Mr. Burden stressed the need to plan, design, construct and maintain walkable communities to provide social interaction and physical fitness, leading to healthy lives of residents. Creative solutions were offered to enhance our communities, correct traffic issues, improve landscape and provide welcoming atmosphere in our communities.

The Baldwin County Trailblazers have done a great job connecting Eastern Shore communities by finding grant monies and developing walking trails. Working with the City and the Daphne Beautification Committee, the Lake Forest Improvement Committee has taken the ideas of Mr. Burden to develop a walking/bike trail through Lake Forest. The Daphne Beautification Committee is developing long range plans to enhance our landscape and community.

Now is a critical time for the City to develop and implement long range plans for future traffic flow and to connect our neighborhoods throughout the city. A city plan that addresses traffic management (traffic calming devices, reduced speed limits) will need to be addressed for the ongoing efforts to be complete. To learn more about these concepts go to the website: www.walkable.org

USE THE WEB-SITE!

OTDA strives to serve our community and our web-site: www.OldetowneDaphne.org is a valuable tool toward that goal. Our newsletter is quarterly, but our web-site changes constantly and we include information that just won't fit on the printed page. **We have added useful links to make our web-site a local resource.** Visit the site often and stay informed!

COMMUNITY EVENTS FOR THE FAMILY

10,000 Candy Eggs...

The Daphne Easter Egg Hunt returns to Lott Park on Saturday, March 31st. This popular event is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Daphne-Spanish Fort, City of Daphne, Baldwin County Commission, local business and individuals. Prizes, entertainment, pony rides, a petting zoo, games, art projects and more will be provided. Children from toddlers to age 10 can participate in the egg hunt by age categories. The first group, toddlers, will start at just after noon and the event ends at 3:00 p.m. Parking will be available adjacent to the park and at Civic Center with BRATS busses running from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact 621-3703 for information.

SEEDS' Fundraiser: 2007 Classic Rock 5K and Fun Run on March 3rd

Olde Towne Daphne will be the site of a 5K race starting at 8:00 a.m. near the Library and a 1 mile Fun Run starting at 9:00 a.m. in front of Centennial Park. The races finish at the Library with a big Post-Race Party — complete with an awards ceremony featuring Rock and Roll Hall of Fame merchandise for top runners, a live classic rock band, grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, soft beverages, door prizes and activities for kids. The event promises to provide a fun family morning through 11 a.m. Parking will be available in the Daphne Civic Center complex area and, where allowed, in Olde Daphne near Centennial Park. Shuttle service will be provided between the two locations. One dollar of each SEEDS' Classic Rock race registration collected through the 2007 School Program will be donated to the participating student's school. **All other proceeds will fund SEEDS' 2007 Classroom Enrichment Grant Program!** Since 2005 over \$19,000 has been invested in innovative classroom projects in the five Daphne public schools and at Christ the King School as a result of community fund-raisers by SEEDS.

OLDE TOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS

Jubilee Courtyard: This pocket park on Main Street may take on a new use. The Downtown Redevelopment Authority, Beautification Committee and City of Daphne are working together to define the use of this park. Neighbor and caterer, Will Hughes, has proposed installing umbrellas to encourage dining al fresco in the park!

Park policies will be developed to include merchant responsibilities and community use. The Courtyard will remain a City Park!

Bayside Academy: Plans have been approved for a 2 story classroom to be built at Bayside Academy. To maintain a residential atmosphere in Olde Towne, it remains important for the school and neighborhood to work closely together. We are still expecting a tour of the campus for OTDA members and neighbors.

Olde Towne Redevelopment: The renovation of City Hall is underway! The Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) is working tirelessly to promote Olde Towne and it's unique characteristics. Efforts underway include the development of an Architectural Review Committee for the downtown district and a downtown destination guide. DRA is also working to develop a downtown streetscape with underground utilities. Contact Becky Hayes at the City of Daphne for meeting information, 621-9000.

Attention Walkers: A beautiful stand of crepe myrtles were recently installed to highlight the small, natural park on Deer and Holt. Try out the new sidewalks and visit the park, then stroll down McMillan to the beach, walk along the waters edge and use the new stairs on Dryer. Our Bay Trail links for walking are being connected and it's great!

THE MISSION OF OTDA

We recognize that our community, Daphne, is the largest city in Baldwin County and among the fastest growing in the State of Alabama. Our Mission is to support our community and local & county government in the intelligent and balanced planning and management of its growth. Our focus is on preserving our unique quality of life while enhancing both public safety, residential & commercial property values and city services.

WHO WE ARE: Olde Towne Daphne Association is a non-profit corporation. Our members include residents, businesses, private schools and non-profit organizations who primarily reside in Olde Towne Daphne. Membership is open to anyone residing in Daphne, Alabama. The leadership and staff of OTDA are volunteers supporting our community.....our home.

MEMBERSHIP 2007

If you haven't paid your membership dues this year, or simply want to support OTDA with a donation, please consider doing so today! A form is provided below. ALSO, an e-mail contact will help us keep you informed about important issues or rally the troops when needed. We have noted your membership/e-mail status below!

ACTIVE (dues paid)

INACTIVE (dues not paid)

E-mail (need address)

OTDA BOARD POSITIONS AND ELECTIONS

The 2007 OTDA Officers and Board members will be elected during the March 6th general meeting. Join us to thank those who will serve on the board and **take a moment to consider how you can help** your community and share information.

Olde Towne Daphne Association is seeking a secretary as well as member to attend Recreation Committee meetings.

If you haven't taken the time to renew your membership, please do it now! Mail your check to the Treasurer. OTDA 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 Business ___\$25.00 Family
___\$10.00 Student ___\$50.00 Non-Profit ___\$250.00 Sponsor

Mail to: Lon Johnston, OTDA, P.O. Box 1022 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.

2007 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 3rd (Saturday) *SEEDS' Classic Rock and Fun Run*. Contact SEEDS at 656-SEED (656-7333) or seedsindaphne@aol.com for more information on this fun event.

March 6th (Tuesday) *OTDA General Meeting*. Councilwoman Cathy Barnette will speak about issues facing the City and take questions. Daphne Public Library at 7:00 p.m. Come a few minutes early for coffee and dessert!

March 17th (Saturday) *Friends of the Library Book sale*, Daphne Public Library. Purchase gently used books and support our library! For information call: 621-2818

March 29th (Thursday) *Coffee with the Mayor*. Join Mayor Small for coffee at City Hall, 8:30 a.m.

March 31st (Saturday) *Daphne Easter Egg Hunt* at Lott Park on Main Street. The event starts at noon for toddlers and ends at 3:30. Parking available adjacent to the park and at Civic Center with a BRATS bus running from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

April 21st (Saturday) *Earth Fest!* Exhibits, music, raptors, an electronics amnesty drop off and a juried art show are part of the events scheduled. Contact the Alabama Coastal Foundation at 990-6002 or check their website at www.joinacf.org.

May 1st (Tuesday) *OTDA General Meeting*. Homeowners Insurance for Wind Damage. Daphne Public Library at 7:00 p.m. Note this date is subject to change.

May 18th and 19th (Friday and Saturday) *Zydeco Music and Crawfish Boil/Community Day and First Annual Flounder Parade!* Come enjoy food and music. Children will have the opportunity to dress in a "water critter" costume for the parade. Admission is free! Join your friends and neighbors at the Civic Center Complex from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Call 626-5300 for information or visit www.gulfcoastzydecomusicfestival.com.

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P.O. Box 1022

Daphne, AL 36526

www.OldeTowneDaphne.org

ContactUs@OldeTowneDaphne.org