



# OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2008

## Officers 2008

### President

Kären Nady  
621-0286

### Vice President

Frieda Romanchuck  
447-0240

### Treasurer:

Lon Johnston  
621-1863

### Committees:

#### *Historic Preservation:*

Ernest Berger

#### *Govt. Affairs:*

Cathy Barnette

#### *SEEDS:*

Fran and DonTerry

#### *Finance:*

Louie Nady

#### *Utility Board:*

Lon Johnston

#### *Beautification:*

Frieda Romanchuk

#### *Press Liaison*

Tomasina Werner

### Mailing Address:

Olde Towne Daphne  
Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1022  
Daphne, AL 36526

### Annual Dues:

Business: \$100.00

Family: \$25.00

Newsletter is Published  
Quarterly. Comments  
are welcome. Email:  
[ContactUs@oldetowne  
daphne.org](mailto:ContactUs@oldetowne<br/>daphne.org)

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION PART 1: BRAINSTORMING FOR OLDE TOWNE, MARCH 12<sup>TH</sup>

OTDA will host a community meeting about Olde Towne on Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. in the Council Chambers. Starke Irvine, head of the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA), will speak about DRA plans for Olde Towne. The Downtown Redevelopment Authority has been working tirelessly to improve our streetscape: lighting, trees, walkability, the fountain at City Hall, buried utilities, etc.

Did you know that the Bay Rivers Art Guild (BRAG) has applied for grant funds to convert and use the Nicholson Center as a fine arts center providing exhibitions and education for all ages? Did you know that Lott Park is proposed as a Tennis Center? Did you know a new restaurant and retail center are proposed?

After we hear from Mr. Irvine, OTDA will host a community conversation brainstorming ideas to expand DRA's efforts into our residential neighborhoods. Are you passionate about walking trails, parks or green space, old camellias, traffic, bay access or historic preservation? If so, this evening is for you.

Please take part in the process of progress! The ideas generated through this community brainstorming will become part of a plan for Olde Towne, our hometown. We look forward to hearing from you, your neighborhood or homeowners association.

## OLDE TOWNE FIRE STATION

Fire Station #1, located on Sixth Street behind City Hall, is not used for fire or emergency response in Olde Towne as most residents in council districts 1 and 2 have assumed! Olde Towne emergency services are currently provided by Fire Station #2, north of "Malfunction Junction".

After a Council discussion to fully staff fire station #1 and provide the necessary fire trucks and building improvements another situation arose. It was discovered that in order to adequately staff trucks in fire emergencies throughout the City the proposed 6 new firefighters would need to be assigned to active stations in other sections of Daphne. The Council voted on February 18<sup>th</sup> to hire 6 firefighters to address this situation.

Mayor Small has since vetoed the hiring of these 6 firefighters. On March 3<sup>rd</sup> the Council voted not to override his veto. This leaves our community without additional firefighters and Olde Towne without an active fire station. If this is a concern for you, please let Mayor Small, Council President Greg Burnam and the other members of the council aware of your thoughts and suggestions.

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As an Olde Towne Daphne resident, I was surprised to learn that my local fire station is not manned. This is not a criticism of the service provided by the members of the Daphne Fire Department or our Volunteer Firefighters; but, Olde Towne has the largest concentration of older homes in our community and many older residents. It is vital that our neighborhoods be provided the same level of service as the rest of Daphne.

OTDA's mission statement includes the goal of supporting 'intelligent and balanced planning and management for growth'. Has the City been actively and accurately planning for our basic services as we rapidly grow? What have the City's projections been for basic fire and police protection? What are the projections for the future? The City continues to annex to the east adding more residents and the resulting need for more services. It is critical that comprehensive planning for basic services be done in the City as it continues to grow. Budget funds are limited, but public safety must be considered as a top priority.

I encourage Olde Towne residents particularly, but all residents of Daphne, to ask the City of Daphne to expedite the planning and budgeting necessary to fully man Station #1 and provide adequate manpower our fire trucks throughout the City.

I look forward to seeing you at the March community conversation and I encourage you to share your ideas for our community.

Kären

## **'LEND A HAND' IN OUR COMMUNITY**

Daphne Utilities invites you to 'Lend A Hand' as it partners with Ecumenical Ministries to assist members of our community in need to pay their utility bills. Ecumenical Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational, United Way social service. They will determine eligibility for assistance based on special need or hardship. Daphne Utilities will make the final decision.

If you are interested in participating in the program, by rounding up the cents on your monthly utility bill to the next whole dollar, simply check the box and sign the form on the back of your utility bill and return it to the Utility Department. You may also elect to give more. For additional information contact Daphne Utilities at 626-2828 or check their web-site [www.daphneutilities.com](http://www.daphneutilities.com)

## **COMMUNITY CONVERSATION PART 2: HONING OUR PLAN FOR OLDE TOWNE, MAY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

Part 2 of our community conversation will kickoff with local residents who are active in restoration and renovation of older homes in Olde Towne. These "experts in their field" will inform us on how to work with an older and/or non-conforming home to preserve the ambiance of Olde Towne while updating for today's use.

We will also share our results from our first brainstorming session and will invite members of Trailblazers, SEEDS, the Daphne Beautification Committee, the Museum Board, Bay Rivers Art Guild (BRAG) and the City Council to listen and share their ideas for our Olde Towne plan.

## 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 2008

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)

### USE THE WEB-SITE!

OTDA serves our community by posting valuable information on our web-site: [www.OldeTowneDaphne.org](http://www.OldeTowneDaphne.org). Our newsletter is quarterly, but our web-site changes constantly and we include information that just won't fit on the printed page. The web will be our way of keeping you informed between meetings. **We have added useful links to make our web-site a local resource.** Don't forget to email us at [ContactUS@OldeTowneDaphne.org](mailto:ContactUS@OldeTowneDaphne.org) with your local news. To receive urgent community e-mail alerts, please send us your email address. Visit the site often and stay informed!

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.

## 2008 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** (Wednesday) *OTDA General Meeting. Starke Irvine, Downtown Redevelopment Authority* to speak about plans for Olde Towne! Come learn about the future of our downtown area and share your thoughts.

**Note: New Meeting Time is 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.** Come a few minutes early for dessert and conversation! For details check the web or contact Kären Nady 621-0286.

**March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** (Friday and Saturday) The annual *Baldwin County Master Gardener's Native Plant Sale*. This event provides local gardeners with a source for hard to find native plants and benefits the Master Gardener's scholarship programs. Across from Weeks Bay Reserve, from 9:00a.m to 4:00 p.m. both days.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) *Annual Easter Egg Hunt* in Lott Park with 10,000 eggs! Join the fun from noon to 3:00 p.m.. Contact the Recreation Department for details.

**March 27<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) *Coffee with the Mayor*. This popular event is held the last Thursday of every other month at 8:30 a.m. Contact City Hall for speaker and venue as City Hall is under construction!

**May 13<sup>th</sup> OTDA** (Tuesday) *General Meeting*: Honing our plan for Olde Towne. 6:30 p.m, Council Chambers.

**The Last Saturday of every Month:** Pet Adoptions at the Daphne Animal Shelter from 8:00 to noon.

**Use the Web!** OTDA strives to serve our community and our web-site: [www.oldetownedaphne.org](http://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. You may also sign up for e-mail alerts at [ContactUs@oldetownedaphne.org](mailto:ContactUs@oldetownedaphne.org) and we will keep you informed about urgent community issues

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 council packets and agenda are posted on the city website at [www.daphneal.com](http://www.daphneal.com)., under the city council section. You can also view the comprehensive plan and land use ordinance by clicking on community development. Copies of the 2007 Daphne City budget and the comprehensive plan from 2000 to 2020 are available in the Library. Worksessions are scheduled on the Thursday before the second Council meeting each month.

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