



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

MAY 2007

Officers 2007

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

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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
daphne.org)

MAY 8TH (TUESDAY) GENERAL MEETING:

DAPHNE SEARCH AND RESCUE SQUAD (DSAR)

Hurricane season starts next month and to help us focus on weather and storm safety we have invited Mr. Ronny Champion, Squad Leader, of the Daphne Search and Rescue Squad to be our speaker. This volunteer organization has served our community for 31 years and includes volunteer firemen, full time police officers and individuals specializing in disaster recovery and control. Their mission is to respond to and resolve all water or land emergencies regardless of the difficulty of the location. They average more than 100 calls for assistance a year. The DSAR has also been instrumental in the formation of the Baldwin County Search and Rescue Organization.

Mr. Champion will present the squad's plans for a proposed new facility to serve as a command post, provide shelter for 200 emergency personnel during crisis situations such as a hurricane, to store equipment and to disseminate emergency preparedness information. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about emergency plans currently in place in our community, weather radios, shelter information, etc.

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.

CERT TRAINING

The City of Daphne Fire Department can offer Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training to interested neighborhood groups, property owner associations, churches, scouting organizations, clubs, etc. Local emergency personnel will train community members in basic response skills. If a disastrous event occurs that overwhelms or delays the city's professional response teams, CERT members can assist. For information contact the Daphne Fire Marshall, Chip Martin at 621-2815.

AN INVITATION FROM THE MAYOR

On Thursday, May 17th, in honor of National Police Week, a memorial service will be held to remember two Daphne officers who died this past year. Our City of Daphne Chaplain, Grant Barber, will preside and the community is invited to attend. The service will be held at the Recreation Department at 8:30 a.m.

Check the city calendar for when the popular Coffee with the Mayor series resume! Future topics will be internet safety and Baldwin County Bi-centennial plans.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to congratulate the City of Daphne Building Inspector Mr. Richard Merchant and the city council for preparing an ordinance to adopt the 2006 International Building Codes (IBC). This is an important step toward maintaining an insurable community and protecting Daphne's residents. I also commend them for putting our community on the cutting edge in planning for the future.

As we approach hurricane season, please take time to check your supplies! Plan how you will protect windows and property, make an evacuation plan, and purchase a weather radio. Consider some of the simple steps that you can take to retrofit your home, such as installing hurricane ties. Are your trees in good condition? Many residents have pine trees damaged by beetles.

We look forward to seeing you at the May meeting and I encourage you, your neighborhood or homeowners association to consider the CERT program. Be prepared and enjoy the summer!

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

MEET OUR 2007 OTDA BOARD

We would like to congratulate our new board, thank them for serving and provide a little information about how they serve our community. **President:** Kären Nady. Kären also coordinates the OTDA newsletter. **Vice President:** Frieda Romanchuck. Frieda current serves on the Daphne Beautification Committee and served on the Daphne Sign Ordinance Committee. **Treasurer:** Lon Johnston. Lon currently serves as one of the 5 members of the Daphne Utility Board and was formerly a District 2 Councilman. **Governmental Affairs:** Cathy Barnette. Cathy is the District 2 Councilwoman and serves on the OTDA Board as a non-voting member. **Historic Preservation:** Ernest Berger. Ernie has brought his enthusiasm for history to this new position on the board. **SEEDS:** Don Terry. Don also serves as a member of the Daphne Planning Commission. **Finance:** Louie Nady. Louie attends Finance committee meetings and prepares an analysis of the city budget for OTDA and the Finance committee. **Press Liaison:** Tomasina Werner. Tomasina brings her boundless energy to the board as our newest member. Expect to read more about OTDA in the future!

DAPHNE TO EXPAND ITS BORDERS? PROPOSED ANNEXATION TO HIGHWAY 181

At the April 16th council meeting the council passed "A Resolution for the Public Health and Good Require the Annexation of property located from the Daphne City Limits out to Property West of Hwy 181." (*Source: Daphne Council Packet, April 16, 2007*). The City of Daphne recently held 3 public meetings regarding this proposed annexation of Belforest into our city. Critics of the annexation cite inadequate information regarding Daphne's ability to provide services (fire, police, trash/garbage, sewer). City officials have yet to provide the community with the anticipated cost of this measure. Additional concerns include private property rights and changes to their quality of life. Proponents of the annexation cite land use management as a reason for proceeding, as well as embracing the history of Belforest into Daphne.

OLDE TOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS

May Day Park: Improvements continue as Riviera Utilities installs underground power lines. Bids have gone out for the construction of permanent bathrooms. They will be installed on the south side of the park near the playground equipment and the parking lot. Water fountains will be included and the design will be consistent with structures at Village Point and Centennial Park. Landscaping with Leyland cypress and shrubs is planned for the south side of the park to screen the view of adjoining private property. Specialized lighting is planned that will not impact neighboring property.

Centennial Park: New playground equipment has been installed in the park. The 'boundless' equipment allows ALL children to participate in the enjoyment of a playground setting! This is a terrific child friendly addition to Olde Towne.

Proposed park in Olde Towne: The old Riviera Utilities substation behind Daphne Utilities, on the corner of Guarisco and Mancini streets, has been removed and plans are underway to create a small park with parking for use by visitors to Olde Towne.

HISTORIC BALDWIN COUNTY

Baldwin County will celebrate its bi-centennial on December 21, 2009. There will be many events held throughout the county to celebrate this historic occasion. The City of Daphne has a rich history and the bi-centennial gives us the opportunity to preserve and enhance our historic neighborhoods and gardens. Bi-centennial projects OTDA proposes are:

1. A campaign to register private homes, businesses and sites of interest over 50 years old as historic sites. Part of Daphne's charm is the mix of cottages and old homes, especially in Olde Towne and along the bay. A Baldwin County Historic Building Marker enhances real estate values and visibly shows our historical base...our roots.
2. OTDA supports the idea of developing an architectural review committee for the Olde Towne Overlay District to enhance and preserve the ambiance of our older neighborhoods and gardens.
3. Support the creation of a county wide/web based directory of living history re-enactors to be made available to our library and schools.
4. Sponsor a 2009 living history event on the Bayside Academy campus to bring 17th to 19th century re-enactors to Daphne for a weekend event focusing on our unique history.

Daphne's representative on the bi-centennial steering committee is Jane Robbins, Assistant to the Mayor of Daphne. She can be reached at 621-9000. Ernest Berger, OTDA historic preservation chairman also attends meetings.

Show Community Pride with a Historic Marker: Applications for a Baldwin County Historical Marker are available in the Commissioner's Office of the Satellite Courthouse in Fairhope. The application includes a packet of information regarding appropriate fencing, building materials, landscaping and a guideline about alterations that are acceptable. There is a \$100 fee to apply and the awards are given twice a year. Get in the spirit of honoring the past, as we grow in the future!

FUTURE SPEAKERS

OTDA is planning future speakers and would like your input. Listed are suggestions to date. *Recreation Board:* An evening to learn about the programs, facilities and Trione recreation complex. *Walkability:* A presentation by Victoria Phelps to give an overview of walkability (concentrating on Lake Forest), linking our community, and correcting traffic issues. *Native Plants:* OTDA favorites Fred and Maureen Nation for another discussion on native plants and the best plant choices for eastern shore gardens.

DAPHNE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE (DBC) UPDATE

Sign Ordinance/Billboards

In the midst of a lawsuit by Lamar Advertising, the City of Daphne is considering changes to the current Sign Ordinance. Potential modifications under consideration include increasing the height of signs on Hwy 98, as well as the approval of digital signs. This topic may be included on the agenda for the next work session on Thursday, May 10th in the Council chambers at 6:30 p.m. Check the City calendar for details.

The City of Birmingham is currently considering a moratorium of digital signs to allow time to study concerns related to large digital signs, including the bright light and the potential distraction of drivers. A federal government study on the impact of these signs on drivers and public safety should be out next year.

In a related issue, State Sen. Hank Erwin has introduced SB 52 to permit the reconstruction of nonconforming billboards that have been destroyed by "acts of God." This is the same bill as SB197 which was defeated last year. Both bills provide a method for replacement of billboards or outdoor advertising signs, destroyed by a weather event or act of God, with the same size, color, etc. The bill quotes 3 sections of Alabama code, 2 of which refer to "just compensation". It is not clear how just compensation is determined and whether compensation would be an issue in Daphne. Daphne does not allow new billboards and if more than 50% of a sign is destroyed it can not be rebuilt. Would compensation be mandatory? How will this affect our scenic roads? SB 197 can be read on the OTDA web-site.

Scenic Alabama, a non profit organization, has been following billboard issues. Their mission is to preserve the scenic character of Alabama's communities and roadways, to end billboard blight and sign clutter and to promote scenic tourism and community pride. The Scenic Alabama position paper on billboards is available at www.scenic.org.

Community Projects

Alligator Alley: The Butterfly Garden project in D'Olive Park is in high gear again. The DBC should have a conceptual drawing this month for the parking area. Plans include an open fence, irrigation, trees, bushes, and plants. A new sidewalk will connect the parking area to the existing trail and the boardwalk entrance. A fence will also be installed along the walkway to address safety concerns between the parking area and the trail. Fred Nation and Selena Vaughn will catalogue existing trees and plants, as well as plan native plants for under the loblolly pines on the hillside. Eagle Scout candidate, Robert Colville, has proposed to plan, implement, and irrigate a butterfly garden in the section between I-10 East and the Exit 35 ramp to Daphne.

Tree Grant: The Trailblazer's received a tree grant for the walkway area north of the interstate up to the end of the Causeway. Pines will be planted in the area.

Substation Landscaping: After receiving a request to provide irrigation and landscaping (from the DBC budget) to improve the appearance of the new Riviera Substation on Johnston Rd., the DBC has asked the Planning Director and Planning Commission to require landscaping for utility substations and transformer boxes in neighborhoods. The Mayor and Council were copied on this request.

Welcome to Daphne Signs: Signs will be ordered, similar to those on Hwy 98 north and Scenic Hwy 98 south, for entries to Daphne. They will be placed on the southern entrance to Daphne on Hwy 98, and the I-10/Hwy 181 entrance to Daphne and one reserved for future use on Baldwin Co 64 when annexation is determined.

Beautification Awards: Watch for the announcement of awards in the coming months, as the DBC honors businesses in our community for their landscaping efforts!

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)

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. The web will be our way of keeping you informed over the summer months. **We have added useful links to make our web-site a local resource.** 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.

2007 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

May 8th (Tuesday) *OTDA General Meeting.* Ron Champion, Daphne Search and Rescue Squad will speak about plans for a new facility. Daphne Public Library at 7:00 p.m. Come a few minutes early for coffee and dessert!

May 10th (Thursday) *Council Worksession.* Topics to be discussed include changes to our current sign ordinance. Daphne City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

May 17th (Thursday) *Memorial Service for Daphne Police Officers.* Daphne Recreation Department at 8:30 a.m. The community is invited to attend. For information call: 621-9000.

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.

May 31st and June 7th (Thursday) *Art in the Park* from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lott Park. This event provides activities including face painting, train rides, games and refreshments.

June 13th, 20th and 27th (Wednesday) *Wet N 'Wild Wednesdays* from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lott Park. This event, free of charge, provides slip n' slides, wading pools and water slides for kids ages 2-12.

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, under the city council section. You can also view the comprehensive plan and land use ordinance by clicking on community development. Official council minutes must be viewed in the City Clerk's office. Copies of the 2006 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.

OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1022

Daphne, AL 36526

www.OldeTowneDaphne.org

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