



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

MAY 2006

Officers 2006

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Kären Nady
621-0286

Vice President

Franklin Lamb
626-3993

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Glenn Robinson
626-2345

Committees:

Membership:
Ernest Berger
*Governmental
Affairs:*

Cathy Barnette
SEEDS:

Fran and Donald
Terry

Finance:

Louie Nady
Utility Board:
Lon Johnston

Mailing Address:

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

Annual Dues:

Business: \$100.00
Family: \$25.00

Newsletter is Pub-
lished Quarterly.
Comments are
welcome. Email:
[ContactUs@oldetowne
daphne.org](mailto:ContactUs@oldetowne
daphne.org)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS: CONDO UPDATE

The moratorium on requests for high rise construction was extended to June 7, 2006 by City Council on April 3, 2006. The Council also returned the Residential High Rise (RHR) zone ordinance back to the Planning Commission for further discussion, which may include adding additional parcels to the zone. There is still time to complete a height survey. They are available on our web-site: www.OldeTowneDaphne.org, at the Daphne Library or by contacting Councilwoman Cathy Barnette. Results of the survey to date are also on our web-site.

MAY 2ND GENERAL MEETING: CARL SCHNEIDER ON HURRICANE INSURANCE

Join us with Carl Schneider as we conclude our 3 part series on hurricane insurance and the impact of hurricanes on our communities and our pocketbooks. Carl, a member of the Hurricane Task Force for Alabama Independent Insurance Agency Associations, will speak about "*Catastrophe and Insurance: Availability and Affordability of Property Insurance.*" He will share with us the concerns of both coastal residents and the insurance industry regarding the ability to provide affordable hurricane insurance coverage for coastal residents in the future.

Carl is a Daphne resident and principle agent with the Carl Schneider Agency in Mobile. His presentation will include the new hurricane insurance zone maps which place Daphne in the same insurance zone as Gulf Shores and Orange Beach. He will also discuss international building codes, retrofitting and potential new construction requirements for the future. Carl will take questions at the conclusion of the presentation.

Don't miss this meeting, especially if you live south of I-10! The 2006 Hurricane season is just one month away. Rates continue to climb and policy cancellations continue. The meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Daphne City Council Chambers.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Join Mayor Small for coffee, doughnuts and informal conversation at City Hall this spring to attend what we hope will become a tradition! We will post the dates on the OTDA web-site when they become available. In the meantime, contact Shannon Spivey at mayorassist@bellsouth.net with your topic ideas.

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. Visit the site often and stay informed!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A vibrant community can only be maintained with a strong focus on planning. Our community faces a number of challenges as we grow: Resolving high rise development, planning annexation and development to the east, planning streets and roads for moving traffic in the future, adopting a sign ordinance that enhances our scenic community, ensuring that our schools serve our community, providing adequate hurricane shelters, maintaining green space, preserving our waterfront and developing our downtown.

We all want the best for our community and we all need to take time to take time to provide input and be part of the planning process to make a difference. Take a moment and ask what you can do for our community. Be informed and be involved! Kären

OLDE TOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS

Old County Road Update: Site preparation for a project(s) on the cleared property located on Olde County Road, between Dryer and College Ave remains stopped. The first request for subdivision into three lots was denied late last year. In February, the Planning Commission reviewed a revised request to reconfigure the property into two parcels. Neither subdivision request conforms to the current land use ordinance. The proposed project is expected to be presented to the Building and Zoning Adjustments Committee, but no date has been set. (Contact the Planning Department for further information.)

Captain O'Neal Drive Update: A request to slightly reconfigure the Via Dolorosa project, by asking to acquire land from an adjoining property owner (and include a landscaping requirement and restrictions to their property) has failed. The subdivision remains approved for 7 lots and with the original configuration. Clearing of the property has been started.

Beach Access: Dryer Avenue and walking trails in Olde Towne

The Dryer Avenue Beach access is in need of refurbishment and is next on OTDA's list as part of the "Bay Trail" envisioned for Olde Towne. Bayside Academy has developed a new land use plan, and as sidewalks and a bridge on the S-curve are planned for Captain O'Neal Drive, it is time to develop plans for walking trails and plan the connectivity within the area. Please take time to complete the beach access survey on page 3 and let us, and your city leaders, know how you feel the neighborhood would be best served.

Bayfront Park Marina

OTDA member Philip Speir approached the Buildings and Properties Committee about the possibility of pursuing the development of a marina in Daphne. The Buildings and Properties committee asked Mr. Speir to identify several citizens to look into the marina feasibility. The committee will be reporting their findings to the Buildings and Properties committee.

McMILLAN BLUFF UPDATE

The McMillan Bluff planting project was completed on March 24th! We had 16 enthusiastic OTDA volunteers donate 90 hours of their time to the project. There are a few hard to find plants we would like to add to the project; but, in the meantime we can now sit back and enjoy the sunsets.

Plant labels have been ordered and will be added to the project in early May. The plant list has been posted on our web-site along with photos, descriptions of natural habitat, size and growth habits.

Please take a moment to complete, and return, our survey on page 3 or download it from our web-site.

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

Please take the time to answer the questions below. You may add additional pages as necessary.



Olde Towne Daphne Association (OTDA) recognizes both the enormous stresses placed on our coastal ecosystem through the continued transformation of land to adapt to suburban/urban needs and the need to preserve public access to the beach for future generations.



The McMillan Bluff project is the first step of what OTDA has called "The Bay Trail", incorporating the few remaining public beach accesses in Olde Towne for walking and enjoying the sunset.

- The project goals are to: (1) Replant the bluff with native plants for erosion control and improve water quality;
- (2) Provide natural cover for small wildlife and to attract birds and butterflies;
- (3) Be respectful of the old/historic aspects of the neighborhood by planting traditional, native and "pass along" plants on the walking street;
- (4) Encourage community stewardship of the access and public education through a "grass roots effort" and
- (5) Provide a respite in the neighborhood for local residents and walkers.

McMillan Public Beach Access

1. Have you used the McMillan Public Beach access? YES NO
Before the Project? YES NO After the project? YES NO
2. How often do you use the access and in what capacity? (e.g, morning walks, sunsets, walk dog, etc.)
3. Do you feel that our goals for the project were successful? *Provide comments* YES NO
4. The project was made possible by the joint efforts of the City of Daphne, OTDA and a grant from the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP). Are you aware of the MBNEP and its programs?
 YES NO

Future Bay Trail Projects: Dryer Avenue

This 50' wide public access is located on the south side of Bayside Academy, located by the Battle of Mobile Bay historic marker. Harry and Mary Toulmin, long time advocates for the access, asked OTDA to become advocates for ensuring that it remain open to the public. This public beach access is not in good repair. The beach has been altered significantly with rip-rap and the path needs to be refurbished.

1. Are you aware of the Dryer Avenue Public Beach Access? YES NO
2. How have you used the access and in what capacity? (e.g, morning walks, sunsets, walk dog, etc.)
3. What improvements should be made to the access?
4. Do you know of any other public access points to the bay in Daphne other than Village Point/Bayfront Parks, May Day Park, Belrose Avenue, Dryer Avenue and McMillan Avenues? If so, list them:
5. Are you aware of OTDA? Would you like to become a member?

Please return this survey to OTDA, P.O. Box 1022, Daphne, AL 36526. You may also download copies from the OTDA website at www.OldeTowneDaphne.org and email us your responses at ContactUs@OldeTowneDaphne.org.

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.

OTDA IN ACTION: Volunteer staff is actively involved in the local governmental process. Here's what we do...

- ◆ We attend meetings of the Daphne City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning & Adjustments, Utility Board, Finance Committee, SEEDS and Village Point Foundation.
- ◆ We alert our membership to Daphne government meetings that involve important focus issues such as requests for zoning variances, traffic & safety, public land, etc. You will receive advanced notice of meetings that warrant your time and participation.
- ◆ OTDA conducts its own telephone polls and circulates citizen petitions on pressing issues to be acted on by our city council.

OTDA LEADS IN ISSUE RESOLUTION: OTDA believes in issue resolution through fact gathering, thoughtful analysis, proactive planning, member involvement and public communications. OTDA supports mediation as a successful method of issue resolution, however, OTDA will support legal action to address an issue as a final option.

OTDA SUPPORTS DAPHNE: We support Daphne in other ways beyond public safety, intelligent land usage and managed growth.

- ◆ OTDA sponsors special forums inviting our county, state and federal representatives to address issues impacting our members.
- ◆ OTDA cooperates with other community organizations in supporting special cultural and community events.

OTDA IS VITAL, CURRENT AND GROWING...JUST LIKE OUR HOMETOWN, DAPHNE:

- ◆ OTDA publishes member newsletters and also utilizes Email to distribute them to our members in a timely and cost efficient manner.

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: Glenn Robinson, 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.

CHANGES TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE/BILLBOARDS IN DAPHNE AND ALABAMA

On April 7th, the Planning Commission voted 6-1 to exclude digital signs from the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance. The Sign Ordinance has been sent to the City Council and will be discussed at a Public Hearing during the Council Meeting on May 15th at 6:30p.m.

Controversy over a replacement billboard in Daphne continues, as does the threat of litigation regarding it. A copy of the current Sign Ordinance can be found in the Comprehensive plan in the Library and the proposed changes to the sign ordinance are posted on our OTDA web-site: See Sign Ordinance/SB197-Pending billboard legislation.

In a related issue, SB197, which would have provided a method for replacement of billboards or outdoor advertising signs destroyed by a weather event or act of God, is on hold in the state legislature pending further discussion. When SB197 was proposed, the law stated that signs needed to meet local law; however, the Senator proposing the law intended that to mean *building and structure standards*, not zoning laws! A number of business leaders and cities in Alabama opposed this bill. Many cities, especially those in tourism dependent areas, including Baldwin County, are trying to prevent or limit the size of billboards. How will this affect our scenic roads? Check our web-site and www.scenicAlabama.blogspot.com to read about SB197.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS: REVISITING THE NEED FOR CAREFUL MANAGEMENT: THE OLDE TOWNE DISTRICT AND OUR SCHOOLS.

The Olde Towne Overlay District boundary is marked by two schools: Daphne North and Daphne South. Both schools are currently the subject of continued discussion in our community. The Downtown Redevelopment Board, City Council, SEEDS, parents and School Board have discussed traffic, busing, school budgetary concerns, school size and future architecture and aesthetics of downtown. Construction plans are being made and information has not been fully shared with our community. Communication between our community and our school board is essential so that we may remain a vibrant community that serves both our students and our local residents. For information regarding the community/school dialogue to date please go to OldeTowneDaphne.org and click on SEEDS. Their memos and letters to the editor, Council and School Board eloquently illustrate how important the schools issues are to everyone in our community.

Beautification:

The Beautification committee has been very active, including new members and new projects. Updates around town will include: A butterfly garden for an area near "alligator alley", and landscaping in Lott Park to be partially refurbished and then redesigned when new playing fields are built behind Wal-Mart. Continuing work on the neighborhood park on Deer Ave is partially planted and trails marked. In the future, the City will purchase a uniform style of benches for use throughout the city.

The most visible change will be the removal of the Crepe myrtles on Hwy 98. They have reached a size that is considered unsafe by ALDOT if struck by a vehicle. They will be removed and replanted in several projects in Lake Forest.

MEMBERSHIP: 2006

If you haven't paid your membership dues this year, please consider doing so today! A form is provided on page 4. ALSO, an e-mail address 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 (have address)
 E-mail (need address)

2006 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

April 30th-(Sunday) **Jazz in the Plaza** from 5-9 p.m. at the Daphne Civic Complex Plaza. For more information contact Robyn Andrews at 621-3703 or recpro@bellsouth.net.

May 2nd- (Tuesday) **General Meeting:** Carl Schneider: "*Catastrophe and Insurance: Availability and Affordability of Property Insurance.*" Information about hurricane zones, construction requirements of the future and insurance industry concerns. He will take questions at the conclusion of the presentation. Check the OTDA website for details. Council Chambers, 7:00 p.m.

May 19th to 21st **Gulf Coast Zydeco Music and Crawfish Festival:** Live music, crawfish and dancing at the Civic Center. Contact the Daphne Civic Center for additional information at 626-5300 or www.gulfcoastzydecomusicfestival.com.

August 4th -(Friday) **The Taste of the Eastern Shore** at the Daphne Civic Center. Proceeds benefit Daphne High School sports and organizations. For more information contact the Daphne Civic Center at 626-5300.

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 agenda, comprehensive plan and Land Use Ordinance are posted on the city website at www.daphneal.com. Just click on legislative news. 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 available in the Library.

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