



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

November 2006

Officers 2006

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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 Quarterly.
Comments are welcome. Email:
ContactUs@oldetowne-daphne.org

November 14th General Meeting: Rob McElroy, Manager, Daphne Utilities

One of the 4 goals in the Mission Statement of the Utility Board includes the statement that it is committed to: "Supporting the growth of the Daphne Community by providing environmentally sound and cost effective utility services to the City & developing area."

Join us as Rob McElroy, General Manager of Daphne Utilities discusses how the department achieves these goals including the innovative 'Grease to Bio-diesel' program, future plans, budget, services and challenges.

Most residents use the services of the department daily without understanding how this separate City entity functions. Are there areas Daphne Utilities does not serve in our community? What are septic vs. sewer requirements? Are we on target for sewerage our community? Are our gas rates competitive? Which City vehicles run on bio-diesel? How can bio-solids be used by the home gardener? Mr. McElroy will take questions following his presentation. This is your opportunity to have your utility questions answered.

OTDA Board member Lon Johnston serves on the Utility Board of Directors will be available at the meeting to answer questions related to the functions of the Utility Board. Please try to attend this informative meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Be a Bay Buddy!

The Bay Buddy program is taught in elementary schools to help students and their families become aware of our impact on our beautiful bay. Simple habits, such as the proper disposal of cooking fats, oils and grease are taught with the goal of creating environmentally sensitive and responsible adults. Utilities, schools and environmental organizations are partners in this project. You can be part of the project as well by becoming a volunteer. Contact the Alabama Coastal Foundation at www.joinacf.org or call 990-6002 for information or to become a volunteer!

This Gulf Coast program was started by an employee of Daphne Utilities and is now available throughout Alabama's coastal area!

Daphne City Budget 2006-2007

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 Council in September prior to the adoption of the 2007 budget and are now posted on the OTDA web-site under Finance.

From the President

This is our last newsletter for 2006! I have been thinking about events in our community in the past year and wondering about the future. I still believe that with the city's rapid growth the need for long range planning remains our top issue and will remain our focus in 2007.

OTDA is in the process of developing an Advisory Board for additional citizen input. We are also discussing adding polls to our web-site. We continue to strive to be a source of information for our community. I encourage you to check our web-site for updates and information. We will continue to e-mail you with important issues.

I hope to see you at our next meeting and enjoy the holidays!

Kären

DAPHNE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE (DBC)

Christmas Decorations: The Daphne Beautification Committee continues to develop innovative ways to beautify our city. Recently, the DBC has been planning our Christmas lights. This year's street decorations will illuminate Main Street from the Scenic 98/Hwy98 junction to Johnson Avenue. City Hall decorations will be ready for the 46th Annual Christmas Parade and Tree lighting on November 30th! Be sure to admire the decorations at Centennial Park, the Civic Center and the Overlook!

Arbor Day Committee: A tree planting ceremony at Daphne High School is planned to kick off Daphne's annual Arbor Day celebration. After determining what trees will be available for 2007, a brochure is being produced describing each type of tree, and how to properly plant, water, mulch, etc.

I-10 Buffer/Dead Pines: DBC has been involved in seeking removal of dead pines along the I-10 border of Eastern Shore Park. Discussions included DOT, Scenic Alabama, Public Works, Aranov, and Councilman Palumbo, District 7. Aranov, the property developers, will be responsible for determining the reason for the trees dying and their removal.

City Walks

Alligator Alley: The Trailblazers received a \$500 grant from Alabama Power for 25 native trees to be planted to provide shade along the Alligator Alley portion of the trail. Alabama DOT is scheduled to donate seeds and provide the planting for the DBC's Monarch Butterfly project in the same area.

Trails in Lake Forest: Public Works will create a walking trail through Lake Forest that will tie in with the Trailblazer's trail. The project was requested by a Lake Forest committee and backed by the DBC. The project will be completed in stages.

7th Annual Community Spirit Award

OTDA recognizes groups, businesses or individuals for this annual award. This year we have chosen the Daphne Utility Department for its innovative bio-diesel program. Using scavenged parts, the department constructed the small bio-diesel plant and produces almost 500 gallons of fuel a month used by the department fleet. The award will be presented to Mr. Rob McElroy, General Manager of Daphne Utilities, at the December 4th City Council meeting.

Community Developments

International Building Code Resolution and Ordinance 2006-94

OTDA hosted a series of speakers regarding hurricane insurance, its availability, affordability and the necessity of having strong building codes in place as our community grows.

Our community has been spared serious damage in recent hurricane seasons, but the potential for wind damage is indisputable, as was demonstrated in Pensacola with Hurricane Ivan and the resulting blue tarp roofs! Our speakers, including members of the Alabama Hurricane Insurance Issues Task Force, unanimously agreed that better roof systems (higher wind ratings) and impervious roof underlays would greatly improve homeowners' chances for reducing wind damage.

Requiring high standard roofing systems in new homes and encouraging residents to upgrade their roof systems or installing hurricane ties, when appropriate, would be responsible and reasonable actions by the City. Costs to the homebuyer for a higher rated roof is probably much less than the deductible on an insurance claim!

The proposed Ordinance is a modified version of the 2006 International Building Code, the International Residential Code and related codes.

Several developers and builders have spoken about the burden of increased costs for new codes and a number of modifications to the existing 2006 International Building Codes have been proposed for single family homes. At the moment, the city seems ready to accept them all.

The proposed modifications are: Eliminating wind-borne debris resistant glass, structural engineer design requirements and high wind shingles to withstand 110 mph winds (although, the current 4 nail per shingle requirement is proposed to be raised to 6 nails).

Eliminating the high cost wind-borne debris resistant glass requirement and the engineer design requirements for single family homes seems reasonable. However, in light of the information OTDA has received from its various speakers during the past year, dropping the high wind resistance roofing requirement may not be the right thing to do for Daphne, especially since it is not a particularly high cost item. There should also be discussion about including the new impervious underlay systems to replace traditional roofing felt.

It will be important for residents to take the time to inform themselves about the IBC codes and determine if they are comfortable with all of the proposed compromises. Then, they need to let the city know how they feel during the public hearing on December 4th at the regularly scheduled council meeting.

Copies of the ordinance are available in the November 6th Council packet (on the city website, www.daphneal.org, and in the Library). The 2006 International Building Codes will be available (15 days before the public hearing) for the public to review in the Office of the City Clerk. **Please plan to attend this meeting and let the Council know your thoughts on this important issue.**

Mamma Mia!

Local businesses, schools, civic organizations and neighborhoods have recruited their most enthusiastic chefs to compete in the second annual Mamma Mia Cook-Off on Saturday evening, November 11th. To date, 20 Teams have entered to vie for *Il Primo Premio*!! OTDA's 'Team Alloro' was the proud First Place winner in our category last year! We will be back this year with 'Risotto con Fagioli Rossi'. Join us in the fun at this festive food event!

Proceeds will benefit SEEDS' educational initiatives such as the Teacher Mini-grant Program and the development of The Lyceum, SEEDS' long-term signature project to establish a state-of-the-art community learning center in Daphne. Tickets are available at several local merchants. Contact SEEDS at 656-SEED (656-7333).

Olde Towne Neighborhood Developments

Attention Walkers! The Daphne Public Works Department has three great projects under way in Olde Towne enhancing our neighborhood assets and making our neighborhoods even more delightful for pedestrians.

- **Sidewalks:** The sidewalk project, creating a loop connecting Main Street, Deer Avenue, Captain O'Neal and Lea Avenue, is almost complete. The final touch will be a wooden boardwalk over the roots of a venerable oak on Captain O'Neal. The wooden pedestrian Bridge at the S-curve and the small wood boardwalk planned to preserve the root structure of the tree helps retain the relaxed feeling of the neighborhood!
- **Dryer Avenue Public Beach Access:** This project is now complete! The path has been graded and re-graveled, a new bridge constructed and a pair of benches installed on the stairs to the beach. **OTDA is accepting donations to install a small plaque on a bench in honor of Harry and Mary Toulmin, long term neighborhood advocates for this beach access.**
- **May Day Park:** A meandering, raised board walk is under construction for pedestrian access to the pier. It will be wheelchair and stroller friendly and eliminate the need to walk on the road! Other proposed refurbishments of May Day Park were included in our December 2005 newsletter and are available on our web-site.

Try out the new sidewalks and visit the small, natural park on Deer and Holt, stroll down McMillan to the beach and walk along the waters edge and use the new stairs on Dryer. Our Bay Trail is almost complete and it's exciting!

Architecture and Olde Towne:

The planned renovation of City Hall will be a significant change in the character of Olde Towne and the Downtown Redevelopment Authority is considering developing an Architectural Review Committee for the downtown district. The Authority is currently researching requirements in other communities. Also, a liaison will be created between Downtown Redevelopment Authority and the Daphne Beautification Committee to share plans.

Flags in Olde Towne?

Are you proud of living in Olde Towne? Would you be interested in flying an Olde Towne flag on your business or house? OTDA is considering developing a flag to show our community spirit. Let us know your thoughts on this potential project by emailing us at ContactUs@oldetownedaphne.org.

Bayside Academy Tour

The 2nd Annual OTDA-Santa America-Bayside Academy get together will be scheduled for a mid week evening this winter. Bayside Academy Headmaster Tom Johnson will arrange a special tour of the campus, for OTDA members and neighbors. This will also be an opportunity to meet the Bayside Academy Board and learn about development plans for the future. A local Santa may be available to fire up his grill for a delicious dinner after the tour. Please call Ernest Berger, Santa America, at 626-6609 for details. Time and date will be posted on the OTDA web-site when confirmed.

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!

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 2006-2007

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. Dues paid in November and December 2006 includes your 2007 membership! 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 (have address)
 E-mail (need address)

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.

OTDA Board Positions and Elections

Olde Towne Daphne Association is seeking a member to attend Recreation Committee meetings. A new OTDA Board position, Historic Preservation, has been created to help foster retaining the best of our community's past. Ernie Berger will be serving in that position. Board elections will be early next year at the first General Meeting.

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.

2006 Calendar of Meetings and Events

November 11th (Saturday) **SEEDS Mamma Mia Cook-off** from 6:00-9:00 p.m. on the grounds of Hutchinson, Moore and Rauch Engineering on Main Street. For information contact SEEDS at 656-SEED (656-7333).

November 14th (Tuesday) **General Meeting:** Rob McElroy, General Manager, Daphne Utilities will speak about the grease to diesel program and an overview of the department at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Check the OTDA web-site for details. Also, **Free Flu shots**, by the Baldwin County Health Dept., will be given from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center.

November 30th (Thursday) **The 46th annual Daphne Christmas Parade** will roll down Main Street at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Tree Lighting at 7:15 at City Hall. This family event features Christmas carols, refreshments, carriage rides and a visit from Santa and will end at 8:30 p.m.

December 1st-3rd (Friday to Sunday) **Christmas By the Bay** a three day holiday arts and crafts event to benefit the Baldwin County Humane Society at the Daphne Civic Center.

December 4th (Monday) **Public Hearing for International Building Codes.** Council chambers during regular Council meeting, 6:30 p.m.

December 5th (Tuesday) **OTDA Board Meeting.** Daphne Library. 7:00 p.m.

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. Official council minutes must be viewed in the City Clerk's office. Copies of the current Daphne City budget and the Comprehensive plan from 2000 to 2020 are available in the Library, as well as council packets and agendas.

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