



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

MAY 2008

Officers 2008

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Kären Nady
621-0286

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447-0240

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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)

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION PART 2: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION FOR OLDE TOWNE, MAY 13TH

On Tuesday, May 13th, OTDA will host a second community meeting in a series designed to seek input from residents about ways to enhance our community. The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Representatives from the Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA), Daphne Beautification Committee, Village Point and OTDA will each spend a few minutes discussing their groups proposals for small projects in Olde Towne. We will prioritize these projects and work to make them happen!

Although this meeting will primarily focus on Olde Towne, all residents are invited to attend and to continue to add their thoughts to our growing list of ideas for all of Daphne (*see pages 3 and 4 for input to date*). This is a year long project that will put your suggestions into the start of a community based plan.

Please join us and be part of the conversation. Olde Towne is our hometown. Take part in the process of progress!

2008 CANDIDATE FORUM

The Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce and OTDA will join together again to co-host the 2008 Candidate Forum at the Daphne Civic Center on Tuesday, August 5th. This popular forum is a way for Daphne citizens to listen to the mayoral and council candidates and spend an evening getting to know the future representatives who will be working for our community. As in years past, we will provide a packet with candidate responses to a series of questions asked in advance. A moderator will take written questions from the audience. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the program will start promptly at 7:00. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!

OTDA BUDGET ANALYSIS

OTDA Finance Chair, Louie Nady, has completed his annual financial analysis of the city budget. After providing copies to the Finance Committee, Mayor and Council, it will be available to the public by accessing the Olde Towne Daphne Website at www.oldetownedaphne.org.

DAPHNE FLOUNDER PARADE, MAY 17, 2008

Do you want to be in a parade? You, your family, your neighbors...everyone is invited to participate in the parade on Community Day. Dress up as a princess or a flounder...this is your opportunity to take part in the spirit of the day. Walkers start at City Hall and conclude at the Civic Center. Don't want to walk the entire parade? Arrange to start at another staging area along the way. Contact Katy Ebbitt, Flounder Parade Chairman at 625-1274 or the Daphne Civic Center at 626-5300.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

OTDA has been an advocate for developing a "Bay Trail" to link our bay access points and for creating a plan for connectivity within the neighborhood. This beach trail would link the Belrose, Dryer, MayDay and McMillan public accesses. Our goal is to insure that residents can continue to enjoy the beauty of Mobile Bay. Secondly, we hope to improve Daphne's "Bay Trail" by making these remaining neighborhood assets safe, attractive and easy to use.

The McMillan Bluff project focused on native and olde style plants to honor the heritage and charm of Olde Daphne. The Dryer access has been repaired, the path leveled and stairs constructed to the beach. Both of these public accesses provide a view of the bay and beautiful sunsets. I hope we can continue to move the "Bay Trail" forward expanding our efforts to Belrose Avenue as well as identifying points of access that may have been neglected. Residents have asked for cohesive, smart planning, connectivity and walkability. Join in the effort to promote the Bay Trail!

Can you believe OTDA is celebrating 10 years of community service? I am proud of our accomplishments knowing that we have enhanced our community. Thank you to all involved!

Kären

GARDENING IN OLDE TOWNE

OTDA has invited the Daphne Beautification Committee to join us on Friday, May 16th at 8:30 a.m. for a work party in the garden of the McMillan Bluff public access. We will review our plant scheme and plan for the future. Bring your gloves and a trowel or small clippers and join the fun. Light refreshments will be provided. Call Kären Nady 621-0286 for details! See you on the bluff!

DAPHNE FIRE PROTECTION

The City of Daphne Fire Department did not receive the SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response) grant funds that would have been used to increase the number of trained, front-line firefighters in our community.

After considerable debate at the May 5th Council meeting regarding the ability to pay for additional fire fighters, the Council approved the hiring, training and equipping of 3 firefighters. This is the first step in a much needed process to plan for providing safe fire services in our community.

It is not clear what planning the City has done to project funding for basic fire and police protection needed as the city grows. An additional fire station is needed as the City continues to annex to the east. All active stations currently send trucks to emergencies with 2 firefighters, when 4 is considered the minimum acceptable standard. The volunteer fire department needs additional members.

Fire Station #1 in Olde Towne remains unmanned and does not respond to fire or emergency calls in Districts 1 & 2. To activate this station, needs include a new fire truck, a minimum of 6 firefighters, and basic renovations.

OTDA promotes intelligent and balanced planning and management for growth. It is critical that comprehensive planning for basic services be done now for existing neighborhoods and for those planned for the future. Budget funds are limited and difficult choices will need to be made, but public safety must be considered as a top priority!

SYNOPSIS OF COMMUNITY BRAINSTORMING

The OTDA March meeting opened with a presentation by Starke Irvine, Chairman, Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA). Mr. Irvine highlighted the following DRA accomplishments and initiatives.

Accomplishments:

- Overlay district established in Daphne land use ordinance
- Oak tree grant for streetscape (\$10,000 matching grant)
- Creation of Elizabeth Yelding Park underway by Daphne Utilities

Initiatives:

- Priority to bury utilities on Main Street
- Desire to widen sidewalks and narrow streets—part of recommendation from Dan Burden during a walking audit of Daphne.
- Vision to create uniformity down Main Street from South boundary to Bayfront Park
- Architectural guidelines are under discussion
- DRA is looking at MainStreet.org, Smartcoast.org, Smartgrowth.org, Historic grants, etc.
- Looking for a City source of funding

We asked the question “What do you want your community to be when it grows up” and “What suggestions do you have to improve our community?” Here are the residents responses.

THE BIG PICTURE...

- Look at impact fees to pay for needed infrastructure with growth, future fire stations, etc
- Assemble a team for Grant writing.
- Promote follow up between civic groups, don't need to re-invent wheel
- Find sources of City income for DRA projects
- Investigate the option of the City sponsoring incentives for downtown redevelopment
- Clarify Beautification Committee duties and increase budget
- Lower lumens at night in public lighting to save energy
- Examine potential public/private partnership at Lake Forest Yacht Club

Traffic and roads

- Sheet of steel on Hwy 98!
- City must determine impact of growth and address traffic e.g. extend Pollard Road into Lake Forest.
- Create a turn lane at intersection from Target & Staples parking lots onto Hwy 64
- Create a Veterans Parkway along Hwy 13
- Address impact of traffic from current schools and plan future schools with traffic flow in mind
- Compile a list of uncut roads and plan future use
- Private roads should have the same requirements as city roads (setbacks, services, etc.)

Beautification/identity

- Plan fountains and small sitting areas as a “signature” of our community
- Enhance charm and character of Daphne with distinctive identities for each district such as: sign style, flowers, flower boxes, visual images, goddess, shirts, flags, etc.
- Establish green spaces and plan future parks as we develop to the east
- Use small unbuildable or irregular pieces of property as green areas and/or pocket parks
- Look at linking unused or uncut roads into walking trails throughout the community
- Plan appealing height limits
- Identify scenic areas and highlight them
- Develop a district appropriate “lighting-scape”

OLDE TOWNE SPECIFIC

Architecture/scale/preservation in Olde Towne

- Encourage mixed use development
- Add historic preservation to the land use ordinance
- Develop architectural themes
- Create a program to preserve or purchase properties of historical/cultural interest
- Establish architectural covenants
- Preserve quaint, small scale buildings

Parking in Olde Towne

- Develop program for shared parking e.g. Christ the King, Lott Park, etc.
- Investigate feasibility of downtown parking garage

Small improvements: signs/lights/plants in Olde Towne

- Improve coordination between civic/city groups
- Continue to enhance landscaping and streetscape
- Encourage highlighting older style plants such as Camellias
- Establish a design theme for directional signage

Bay access/water in Olde Towne

- Complete the Bay Trail
- Assist Village Point Foundation to enhance efforts
- Develop a plan for all potential waterfront access points, open, reclaim or purchase for the future
- Improve May Day boat launch and expand launching facilities (and throughout the City)

Baldwin County Bicentennial/history:

- Look for activity in Olde Towne to support Baldwin County Bi-Centennial
- Re-establish the May Day celebration in May Day Park
- Find a way for citizens to show individual commitment to Daphne history or identity, e.g. planting flowers at mailboxes, flagpoles, etc.

BAY RIVERS ART GUILD (BRAG) OFFERING CLASSES

Is your inner artist waiting to come out? Try an art class without investing in materials! On the second Saturday of each month, BRAG in Olde Towne offers a 3 hour single subject class, all materials included for \$30! Summer subjects include pastels, stained glass, jewelry making, watercolors, and more.

For those with children or grandchildren, BRAG is offering 5 weeks of summer art camps for children ages 3-14. Weekly fee for first child is \$50, snacks and supplies provided.

For more information and to sign up for classes, call 621-0659.

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 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. You may also sign up for e-mail alerts at ContactUs@oldetownedaphne.org and we will keep you informed about urgent community issues.

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: 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

May 13th (Tuesday) *OTDA General Meeting. Community Conversation Part 2.* Roundtable discussion of small projects for Olde Towne! Bring your ideas! **Note: New Meeting Time is 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.** Come early dessert and conversation! For details check the web or contact Kären Nady 621-0286.

May 16th- 18th (Friday to Sunday) *Gulf Coast Zydeco Music and Crawfish Festival, Flounder Parade and Daphne Community Day.* Concerts are \$15. Free activities and walking parade on Saturday. Foods from Louisiana will be available for sale. Contact Civic Center at 621-3703 for details.

May 29th (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!

August 5th (Tuesday) *2008 Candidate Forum.* The Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce and OTDA will host an evening with the mayoral and council candidates at the Civic Center. Written questions will be taken by a moderator. Printed packets with candidate responses to advance questions will be available. Door opens at 6:00 p.m. and the program starts at 7:00 p.m.

August 15th (Friday) *Taste of the Eastern Shore.* This annual event benefits Daphne High School. Hosted at the Daphne Civic Center. Call 621-3703 for details and tickets.

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

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. 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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