



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2008

Officers 2008

President

Kären Nady
621-0286

Vice President

Franklin Lamb
626-3993

Treasurer:

Lon Johnston
621-1863

Committees:

Trailblazer Liaison:

Victoria Phelps

Govt. Affairs:

Cathy Barnette

SEEDS:

Fran and DonTerry

Finance:

Louie Nady

Utility Board:

Lon Johnston

Beautification:

Frieda Romanchuk

Press Liaison

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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)

NOVEMBER 18TH: GENERAL MEETING: ROB MCELROY, MANAGER, DAPHNE UTILITIES

One of the goals of Daphne Utilities is to provide environmentally sound and cost effective services to the City and developing areas. In 2004, Daphne Utilities started a very effective 'used oil' recycling program. By 2005, Daphne had an award-winning Bio-diesel program converting cooking oil into clean burning fuel for department trucks and heavy equipment...including the generators for lift stations during hurricanes! The department saves more than \$10,000 a year in fuel costs.

In 2008, using funds from Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), Daphne Utilities has taken their ideas on the road throughout Alabama to teach other utilities and municipalities how our community has made bio-diesel, reduced damage to the sewer system from oils and reduced the chance of sewer spills into the environment.

Join us as Rob McElroy, General Manager of Daphne Utilities, returns to OTDA on how the department achieves its environmental goals, including an update on the innovative 'Grease to Bio-diesel' program. Learn about the byproducts of the diesel project, bio-solids from our waste treatment and how to keep your home plumbing healthy. Get an update on two Olde Towne waterfront properties: The 19 acre Campbell swamp by Bay Bluff and Captain O'Neal and cosmetic changes on the Dryer Ave sewer lifts.

The meeting starts at 6:30 in the Library, but you are invited to come earlier and enjoy coffee and dessert. Contact a board member for further information.

MISTLETOE ON MAIN STREET!

On November 22nd, Olde Towne Daphne businesses will host a full day of festive holiday dining and shopping. Enjoy breakfast at the Eastern Shore Café, have your picture taken with Santa at the Frame Corner and stroll on Main Street for holiday shopping and cheer. Will Hughes Catering will have their holiday catering menus available and 'Pig in the Park' for lunch. Stop into Something Sweet for a cupcake and pick up a copy of their dessert list. CoCo's will take your monogram order for the holidays, Flower's Etc. will plan flowers, Uncorked will select wine. Each merchant on Main Street offers a special service and our restaurants and cafés personalize their menus with local flavors and a good portion of pride.

Olde Towne is growing! Get out of your car and stroll the street. You just might find a gift item, a new place for a bite to eat or a shopping experience you never thought existed.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Olde Towne is the heart of Daphne. With the beautiful fountain and sculpture of Daphne installed, City Hall nearing completion and new businesses opening on Main Street, the neighborhood has a new spark! OTDA asked residents what you wanted in our community and there was an overwhelming response to preserve our small town heritage, 'walkability', green space and smart planning. In short, finding a way to make our part of Daphne the best it can be.

Take the time this holiday season to take a look at Olde Towne, meet our merchants, try our restaurants and support our local businesses. Take the opportunity to enjoy the personal touch and slow pace that Olde Towne can provide. There was a reason you chose to live in Olde Towne...remember to savor it! And, have a wonderful holiday season.

Kären

MAMMA MIA!

OTDA's Team Alloro (The Bay Laurels) joined 26 other teams on November 8th to compete in the 4th annual Mamma Mia Cook-off. Our beautiful new City Hall set the stage as local teams took over the street and served hundreds of guests a taste of delicious Italian food. Our entry 'Conglio all Cacciatora', rabbit stew, created a culinary buzz! As in years past, the recipe is on our web-site. Event proceeds will support the SEEDS (Supporting Educational Enrichment in Daphne's Schools) Classroom Enrichment Grant Program for 5 Daphne public schools and Christ the King Catholic School. To see event photographs, visit www.seedsindaphne.org.

WIRELESS IN OLDE TOWNE?

OTDA has asked the City of Daphne to make Jubilee Courtyard and the fountain area in front of City Hall wireless hot spots. Daphne Utilities already provides wireless service in the Elizabeth Yelding Park. This small service would make it possible to enjoy our beautiful public places and stay connected to the world!

GARDENING IN OLDE TOWNE?

Would you like to be part of a small group to help keep the McMillan Bluff beach access gardens in tip top shape? A little extra work in the fall and spring to tend the plants would help keep this community asset flourishing. Work dates and times to be determined by the volunteers! Call Karen Nady 621-0286 to volunteer or make suggestions for the project.

COMMUNITY BRAINSTORMING

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." The answers from Daphne residents who attended our March and May meetings are posted on our web-site. Click on *Brainstorming*. Contact us with comments or items to be added to the list!

GATOR ALLEY AT D'OLIVE BOARDWALK PARK

Thanks to the energetic efforts of the Daphne Beautification Committee (DBC), Daphne's Gator Alley has a delightful new brochure highlighting the flora and fauna of the park. This park addition highlights our waterfront assets and continues to bring us one step closer in realizing our Bay Trail.

ELECTION OF 2009 OFFICERS

A brief business meeting will precede our general meeting on November 18th to elect officers and committee members. All members are invited to serve and add their names to the nominating process! Current and outgoing Officers and Board members will be available to help you learn the ropes and we encourage new ideas to keep OTDA evolving in order to better serve our community. The time commitment is small!

OTDA is also seeking members to attend Recreation and Beautification Committee meetings. Do you serve on a committee in our community and want to share information with OTDA? Please update us regarding your groups' efforts. It can be as simple as sharing your group's minutes by e-mail! A vibrant community can best be nurtured by supporting mutual efforts!

LEND-A-HAND

Economic times are tough and some Daphne families need a bit of help with utility bills. Daphne Utilities encourages 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-demoniational, United Way social service. They will determine eligibility for assistance based on special need or hardship. Daphne Utilities will make the final decision.

Currently 282 families are enrolled as donors and \$140 a month is generated. But, there are 10,000 Daphne Utility customers! Just think what our community could do to help if more joined the effort! Please consider adding a small donation to your Daphne Utility bill. Simply rounding up your bill to an even amount will help...and, it makes balancing your checkbook easier in the process!

GO GREEN...WITH A BLUE BAG

Carry your books in style and be "green" with a blue book bag on sale for \$3.00 at the check-out desk in the Daphne Library. Shop for book bargains in the Friends of the Library shop and put your purchases in the reusable book bags. Remember to re-donate your books back to the shop for re-sale. All proceeds help our library provide books and library services to our community. The Friends shop is open Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

BRAG BLOCK PARTY AND SECOND SATURDAY SERIES

Do you want to get to know local artists? Come out to the BRAG Block Party on Saturday, November 15 from 5:30 - 7:30. Enjoy seeing local art, pick up Christmas presents and see your neighbors!

Is your inner artist waiting to come out? Try an art class without investing in materials! On the second Saturday of each month, the Bay Rivers Art Guild (BRAG) in Olde Towne offers a 3 hour single subject class, all materials included for \$30! A new series begins in November Call 621-0659 for information and to sign up.

DRUG TREATMENT CENTER IN OLDE TOWNE

Did you know that a drug treatment center is located in the heart of Olde Towne? Townsend Recovery Center is operating on the campus of Mercy Medical on Villa Drive. The program specializes in drug addiction treatment on an outpatient basis. Patients, and their families, come from as far away as Mississippi and can either be court ordered or patient requested. Although outpatient is currently the only treatment offered, it remains unclear whether a residential drug treatment center will be available in the future.

Many of you may recall, OTDA was established ten years ago during the expansion of Mercy Medical's campus. OTDA encourages the City of Daphne leaders to look closely at this program and its location in a residential neighborhood. Are the appropriate variances in place? What are the responsibilities and liabilities of Mercy Medical? Has the community had an opportunity to voice their questions or concerns?

COUNCIL CHANGES

The new City Council was sworn in on Monday, November 4, 2008. Mr. John Lake (District 3) was elected Council President. Mr. Gus Palumbo (District 7) was elected Council President Pro-Tem. Although the council may choose to change officers at any time, the motion expressed the desire for a one year term.

Fire Chief Bo White, Police Chief David Carpenter and City Treasurer Kim Briley were all re-appointed to their respective positions. Jay Ross will continue to serve as the City Attorney and David Cohen will remain as City Clerk.

The Council Rules of Procedure were deferred to a worksession. Councilperson Cathy Barnette (District 2) will propose that the current internal committees be disbanded. Worksessions would be scheduled on the second and forth Mondays of each month. Issues related to public works, public safety, finance, buildings and properties would be discussed with public participation. The intention is to simplify public meetings for the community. There is no proposal to change any city board such as Library, Beautification, Industrial Development, Recreation, etc.

DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT STALLED?

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) has brought forth several plans for Olde Towne. The proposed plans include decorative lighting, underground utilities, crosswalks, changing sidewalks, and planting trees to make Olde Towne more inviting. A proposal to renovate the Nicholson Center for the Bay Rivers Art Guild (BRAG) was also included. That additional space would accommodate the growing needs of our arts community...children to seniors. We hope that discussions will be held to find the necessary funding to move this from a vision into reality.

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Property Taxes and home owners insurance are hot topics in Daphne. Alabama State Revenue Commissioner, Tim Russell will speak about property taxes on Thursday, November 13th at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall.

There will also be a presentation about an upcoming Ecumenical Ministries project regarding 'Reliable/Affordable Hurricane Insurance' to be held on November 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Foley, 211 N. Alston & E. Violet. Local state Representatives and Senators will be speaking. Contact Info: Al Carlson 980-1813 or Michelle Kurtz 928-3430.

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! Note: Dues paid in November and December 2008 includes your 2009 membership!

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

November 11th (Tuesday) *Veterans Day Parade*. Parade starts at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street to be followed by a program to honor our Veterans. Call 621-3703 for details.

November 13th (Thursday) *Coffee with the Mayor*. Tim Russell, Alabama State Revenue Commissioner will speak about 'Property Taxes'. For information call 621-9000.

November 18th (Tuesday) *OTDA General Meeting: Rob McElroy, Director of Utilities*. Come early for dessert and conversation! For details check the web or contact Kären Nady 621-0286. **Note: New Meeting Time is 6:30 P.M. in the Daphne Library.**

December 4th (Thursday) *The 49th Annual Daphne Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting*. Parade runs from Santa Rosa to College Avenue at 6:00 p.m. and is followed by Christmas tree lighting at City Hall. Food, pictures with Santa and more. For information contact (251) 621-3703.

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

Community Spirit Award: OTDA acknowledges a member of our community annually for their contribution to our community. Look for the year's winner in December!

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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ContactUs@OldeTowneDaphne.org