



# OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2009

## Officers 2009

### President

Kären Nady  
621-0286

### Secretary

Diane Roberson-Hill  
626-7075

### Treasurer

Don Terry  
626-0935

### Membership

Kelly Hughes  
802-1688

### Committees

*Govt. Affairs:*

Cathy Barnette

*Finance:*

Louie Nady

*Beautification:*

Judy Sholtis

*Utility Board:*

Lon Johnston

*Press Liaison:*

Tomasina Werner

### Mailing Address

Olde Towne Daphne  
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<br/>daphne.org)

## OTDA NEIGHBORHOOD SOCIAL: APRIL 30, 2009 AT 'UNCORKED! FINE WINES'

No meeting. No speaker. But, we are inviting you to join our OTDA Board and members for a relaxed evening! OTDA has arranged for Will Hughes to make complementary appetizers and we have reserved the deck at 'Uncorked! Fine Wines' on Main Street from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Proprietor Keith Rector will be pouring 12 wines to taste that evening. You can purchase wine by the bottle or the glass from the shop. Wines are \$6 a glass. He will also have a selection of imported and domestic beers for \$3.

Join us for a relaxing time and to learn more about OTDA. We might be able to answer your question about a current city issue, or help you find a way to get the answer. Our organization works hard to provide our community with information on a variety of issues. At this event, we will be joined by many Olde Towne merchants. They are planning to provide menus or information about their services and there will be gift cards, complimentary coupons and the opportunity for local businesses owners to meet you. We want this evening to be fun and informative and to showcase the best our Olde Towne community offers!

## MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> OTDA GENERAL MEETING: BOARD MEETING FORMAT

We hope that by joining us on the 30<sup>th</sup>, you will be intrigued and want to learn more about your community. If so, mark your calendar and join us in the Library on Tuesday, May 12th to participate in our monthly Board meeting. Our members attend city meetings and make brief reports to the Board monthly. Watch our Board in action!

We provide an overview of the latest issue in Daphne and those coming in the future. Want an update on our city finances during these lean times? Interested in beautification projects? Drainage problems on Whiting Court and other areas have you confused? What about the sign ordinances? Our District 2 Council representative, Cathy Barnette, makes a monthly report, as does Daphne Utility Board member Lon Johnston. Our meetings last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Please join us and you will learn more than is printed in the papers! Take the time to come! Be informed!

## PROPOSED TREE BOARD

The Daphne Beautification Committee (DBC) has been working to create a tree board in Daphne. Almost 10,000 questionnaires were sent out with the March utility bills to Daphne residents. Whitney Bains, chairperson of this project, is compiling citizen comments. Please take the time to think about the future of trees in Daphne and contribute your comments.

Daphne is a Tree City USA community, but does not have community oversight through a tree board!

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

OTDA has always supported smart, planned growth. Now, in this period of slower growth and fiscal restraint, it is a logical time for our community to make simple changes to improve our hometown. Let's take the time to consider a tree board, seek community help for small projects like 'adopt a park' and expand our new community volunteer programs. We have the unique opportunity to evaluate plans for the future that we did not have time to discuss or implement during the last decade of rapid growth. We need to take a moment to determine if we are staying on track to keep our community safe and attractive. Taking time for a little extra planning does not cost much, and when the economy takes the upturn we will be ready... plans in order, rules in place and our sleeves rolled up ready to go.

Kären

## **MCMILLAN BLUFF CLEAN-UP**

The City of Daphne has started an 'adopt a park program' this spring. While not officially a park, the McMillan Bluff beach access has been a valuable neighborhood asset for generations. In honor of our 10 year commitment to preserve this beach access, OTDA has asked the City to formally adopt the bluff as our 'park' project.

Our annual clean ups are a neighborhood tradition. Please join us on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 a.m. for our 10<sup>th</sup> annual clean up! Bring gloves, clippers, or your favorite garden tools and your ideas for future improvements! We are looking for a core group of volunteers to keep an eye on the garden year round. Contact Karen Nady, 621-0286 to sign up or for further details.

## **OLDE TOWNE UPDATES**

**Centennial Park Oak Tree:** One of the most beloved trees in Centennial Park was removed in March due to damage from disease and the shade the tree's canopy provided has been lost. Plans to construct a gazebo where the tree once stood are being discussed. The Daphne Beautification Committee will keep us informed.

**Bay Rivers Art Guild (BRAG): Nicholson Center:** A new committee has been formed by the Council to work with BRAG to finalize arrangements for the long term use of the Nicholson Center. Grant fund requirements and restrictions in the deeded use of the property have made further discussions necessary. Long term lease versus sale of the property is being discussed.

BRAG sparked community interest in the project with an open house to showcase their plans to transform the Nicholson Center into a first rate arts facility. The architect's rendering of the building is on view at BRAG's current location behind City Hall. BRAG is open Monday – Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Our OTDA web-site also has a small rendering of the plan.

**Wireless:** The City has provided wireless services to parks and green space within 1,000 feet of City Hall. The wireless zone includes the Daphne fountain area, Centennial Park and some outdoor restaurants. The Utility Department is hosting free wireless in Elizabeth Yelding Park. Take time to have lunch downtown, bring your laptop and stay connected to the world!

**New Jubilee City Banners:** The Daphne Beautification Committee (DBC) spearheaded the project for new City of Daphne banners. The beautiful blue banners with a crab to identify the Jubilee City have been installed on Highway 98 to bring attention to Olde Towne. The DBC has helped identify Olde Towne as the charming center of Daphne.

## **THE CITY AT LARGE**

### **NEED FOR ZONING CLARIFICATION**

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, OTDA joined a neighborhood group of concerned citizens to participate in a Public Hearing regarding the Townsend Recovery Center operating on the campus Mercy Medical. Residents were asking the City to clarify (1) What the variance/special exemption to operate in a R-1 residential neighborhood actually permits Mercy Medical to do and (2) If Mercy Medical were to stop operating and leave the present facility, what would happen to the variance and would the property revert back to R-1. OTDA requested the City of Daphne review the process and history of special exceptions granted within residential communities.

On Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, four OTDA Board members met with Jake Bell, the new CEO of Mercy Medical to discuss our mutual interest in resolving zoning issues. Our conversation was congenial and we had a candid discussion regarding potential future tenants of the Mercy Medical administrative building. We also shared our mutual concerns about an ongoing City of Daphne drainage problem occurring between the south of the Mercy Medical property and the residents on the north side of Whiting Court. It was a good meeting and OTDA looks forward to working with Mercy Medical in the future on Olde Towne issues.

At the April 20<sup>th</sup> Daphne City Council Meeting, Councilwoman Barnette requested that the City of Daphne and the Community Development Department research, unify and clarify the definitions of terms used within the community for sites that have been granted variances and special exceptions. This was brought up in reference to the AltaPointe Mental Health Facility expansion in the Park City Community. Uniform definitions will protect all property owners from inconsistencies of zoning decisions in the future.

### **CITY SERVICES: FEATURING OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Daphne Fire Department Station #2 is offering a free CPR training course. There is an optional \$3.00 fee to take the American Heart Association test and receive a certificate. Spring dates include: May 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) and June 16<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday). The department can make arrangements to teach CPR to a business or group. Contact Dan Castrillo at 621-2802 for details about CPR and other safety classes.

The Fire department also offers free car seat inspections at any fire station. Make certain that your infant or child restraint is up to the job!

The Fire Department is working with the City of Daphne Recycling Program to provide bins at each fire station for inoperative fire extinguishers. Do your part and recycle responsibly.

### **DAPHNE PET ADOPTION DAY**

The City of Daphne Animal Shelter, PetSmart, and Daphne Utilities have teamed up to help our abandoned pets find a loving home. On May 9th a dedication will be made of the decorative fire hydrants provided for both large and small dogs. The event will be held at the Daphne Dog Park on Whispering Pines Road. Contact the City of Daphne at 621-9000 for more information.

## **BALDWIN COUNTY HISTORY**

### **Daphne Oral History: Help Preserve the Past**

The Daphne Public Library is currently collecting the oral histories of longtime Daphne and Eastern Shore residents. Audio copies of the recorded interviews, digital photographs or scanned copies of original photograph will be cataloged into the Daphne Special Collection for future use by residents and scholars. Special days for bringing in old photographs, maps or other materials to be scanned are planned. You will be able to take your special items home the same day, so there will be no chance of you losing a precious piece of family history.

Tonja Young, Director of the Daphne Library, will arrange appointments for you at the library, your home or your office to record your memories of our area. Our community history is too precious to lose, so be a part of this special project for residents and scholars to use now and in the future.

### **Bicentennial Events**

Baldwin County celebrates 200 years of proud history and tradition with special events throughout this year. In late December, the Baldwin County Bicentennial Park near Stockton will be unveiled. If you would like to volunteer to help the Bicentennial Park Special Events or provide financial support to the park contact the Baldwin County Commission Department of Archives and History at (251) 580-1897.

## **EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

### **SEEDS' 2009 Summer Lyceum: Bringing the World to Your Child's Doorstep**

SEEDS, Daphne's educational enrichment foundation, will present a unique summer program of afternoon and evening classes open to all Baldwin County public, private and home school students. The SEEDS' 2009 Summer Lyceum includes sixteen thematic courses, all focusing on the humanities. Virtual tours of the U. S., the United Kingdom and Africa are among this year's offerings as well as short histories of math, dance and sports; introductory Spanish; whimsical portraiture; and a brief study of film as art. The courses encourage new interests in areas of study that often receive less emphasis within current, state-level accountability standards. Reading, composition, critical thinking, geography, research and computer skills will also be highlighted by SEEDS' 2009 Summer Lyceum faculty.

New evening classes in Italian cooking and on the history and culture of local jubilees are open to parents and siblings, too! Prepare yourself to enter SEEDS' Mamma Mia! contest in November!

Tuition ranges from \$50-\$70 for each one-week period, 10-hour course. The 2009 Summer Lyceum brochure can be download at [seedsindaphne.org](http://seedsindaphne.org). A limited number of scholarships are available. For more information, call (251) 656-7333 or e-mail us at [info@seedsindaphne.org](mailto:info@seedsindaphne.org).

### **2009 Earth Day: Electronics Amnesty**

The Mobile Bay Area Earth Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, at Fairhope Pier Park from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Rain or Shine! Learn about environmental issues, enjoy great live music, art **and** participate in the recycling amnesty for electronics! Look for Daphne Utilities very creative booth...snowballs?!

## 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 2009

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)

E-mail (need address)

INACTIVE (dues not paid)

### USE THE WEB-SITE!

OTDA serves our community by posting valuable information on our web-site: [www.OldeTowneDaphne.org](http://www.OldeTowneDaphne.org). 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 between meetings. **We have added useful links to make our web-site a local resource.** Don't forget to email us at [ContactUS@OldeTowneDaphne.org](mailto:ContactUS@OldeTowneDaphne.org) with your local news. To receive urgent community e-mail alerts, please send us your email address. 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: 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.

## 2009 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**April 25<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) *Mobile Bay Earth Day 2009 at Fairhope Pier Park.* Environmental displays, educational activities for all age groups, music and electronics amnesty recycling. 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) *A Neighborhood Social* in Olde Towne will be hosted by OTDA at 'Uncorked! Fine Wines' on Main Street. Join us for appetizers, a chance to taste wine, meet Olde Towne merchants and our Board members. Learn about OTDA! 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>** (Saturday) *McMillan Bluff Clean Up.* Bring gloves, trowel or clippers and join us on the bluff at 9:30 a.m. Contact Karen Nady at 621-0286 to sign up!

**May 9<sup>th</sup>** (Saturday) Pet Adoption at the Daphne Animal Park. Come see the dedication of the doggie fire hydrants and enjoy refreshments.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday) *OTDA Board Meeting.* A series of brief reports from Board members about up to the minute city issues. Your chance to be in the know or learn more than is in the press reports. Meet at the Library at 6:30 p.m.

**May 15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** (Friday to Sunday) *Gulf Coast Zydeco and Community Day.* For details check the City of Daphne website at [www.daphneal.com](http://www.daphneal.com).

**May 30<sup>th</sup>** (Thursday) *Coffee with the Mayor. Speaker TBA.*

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** (Tuesday) *OTDA Board Meeting.* Meet at the Library at 6:30 p.m.

**Thursdays in April and May** Free lunchtime concerts in May Day Park. Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy live music from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jazz, blues, bluegrass and folk music will be featured. For details visit [www.radioavalon.com](http://www.radioavalon.com).

**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. Work sessions are scheduled for the Monday between the Council meetings. The council packets and agenda are posted on the city website at [www.daphneal.com](http://www.daphneal.com)., under the city council section. The Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinance is posted on the city website at [www.daphneal.com](http://www.daphneal.com).

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## OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

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Daphne, AL 36526

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