

OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE WEST

February 2005

Officers 2005

Interim President:

Karen Nady
621-0286

Vice President

Franklin Lamb
626-3993

Secretary:

TBA

Treasurer:

Glenn Robinson
626-2345

Committees:

Finance: Louie Nady

Governmental Affairs:

Cathy Barnette

Membership:

Ernest Berger

SEEDS: TBA

Utility Board:

Lon Johnston

Mailing Address:

Olde Towne Daphne West
Association Inc.
P.O. Box 506
Daphne, AL 36526

Annual Dues:

Sponsor: \$100.00

Family: \$25.00

Newsletter is Published
Quarterly. Comments are
welcome. Email:
otdwa@aol.com

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS:

High Rises on the Bay?

Daphne is facing a major decision on March 7th.....one that could forever change the image of the Jubilee City. If the City Council approves a height variance for a 14 plus story, 190 foot high condominium, it will be the first high rise South of I-10 on either side of Mobile Bay all the way to Fort Morgan and Dauphin Island. High rises may be fine for Gulf Shores and Orange Beach but is that the quality of life we desire in Daphne or on the Eastern Shore?

The master plan for the City of Daphne was prepared with a vision for the future and to be used as a guide for growth. The City Council altered the Master Plan when they rezoned the property involved. The Master plan will be altered again if a variance changing the current height restriction of 50' to 190' is approved. Two additional parcels of land have been rezoned for high density living in the last few months. The projects to be proposed for these parcels will **also** require height variances. Has the Daphne City Council rendered the Master Plan obsolete?

The Master Plan was prepared with input from its residents. Significant changes to the master plan, such as a high-rise building should be discussed in depth with citizens before these changes are made. It is incumbent upon our City leaders to provide a public hearing for this height variance request! Residents need to have the opportunity to review this project and voice their opinions. (See Council Packet 2/9/05 pages 63-73: height variance/Churchula Energy Corp.)

E-Mail Contact Information

Please take the time to e-mail us at OTDWA@aol.com and provide us with your e-mail address. This will allow us to alert quickly as issues of interest arise. We will also be able to keep you informed about current issues, council items or ask your opinion. Please note in subject section: Add my name to OTDWA e-mail list. Of course, our members' information is never shared.

March 1st General Meeting: Meet the Mayor

It has been six months since Mayor Small took office. Come join us as we ask Mayor Small to share his goals for our community and his insights into the challenges facing the City of Daphne. nown. As always the Mayor and Council have been invited to attend.

From the Board

To keep our members informed, OTDWA will be making a few changes this spring. Our newsletter will be published quarterly and timed to hit major issues and topics in Daphne. We will begin providing e-mail updates as an additional way to keep members informed. We have planned 4 general meetings this year, each devoted to timely subjects. The first will be a conversation with Mayor Small regarding his vision for our city including new business and growth. The May meeting will focus on planning and zoning.

2005 Special Project: Planning

OTDWA seeks to serve our community by providing information to residents. Previous projects have included the Election and Candidate Forums for municipal elections and a financial analysis of the City budget, with continued updates, for the finance committee. This year, OTDWA will look at the planning process in Daphne focusing on **Growth**: Are we achieving our long term planning goals in Daphne? Is our infrastructure (roads, water supply, sewers, runoff practices) meeting the needs of our growth? Will impact fees be necessary? **Communication**: Are current procedures for notification of residents adequate? What changes could be made to improve the process?

If you want to be a part of this project or make suggestions, please contact a board member.

City Hall: Future Projects

The upcoming installation of a fountain and the sculpture of Daphne is not the only change to City Hall in the works. The recent damage to the planning department building has created the opportunity for creating a campus style environment for City Hall. Plans are to create a city complex where residents can visit one building for city services such as planning, zoning, licenses, and utility services.

While plans are being developed, the Planning Department, temporarily located near TimberCreek, will be relocated to rented property on Equity Dr. A two year lease has been arranged. FEMA will pay 75% of the rent. Steel from the damaged planning department building will be recycled and used to build a household hazardous waste site at public works the facility. Paint, batteries, computers, etc. will be accepted in the future.

Bayside/Belrose

A second neighborhood meeting was held on January 26, 2005. The meeting consisted of presentations from the neighborhood, the Daphne Planning Director and Bayside Academy. A small group was formed consisting of neighbors and Bayside representatives to brainstorm potential compromises and solutions to the traffic and safety problems.

Olde Towne Daphne West Association

P.O. Box 506

Daphne, AL 36526

Email: otdwa@aol.com

Website: www.hometown.aol.com/otdwa

AGENDA

March 1, 2004

General Membership Meeting

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes- General Meeting, December 7, 2004

Treasurer's Report- Glenn Robinson

Committee Reports:

Village Point Update- Al Guarisco

McMillan Bluff Project/ Pending Lawsuit- Kären Nady

Council Report- Cathy Barnette

Finance- Louie Nady

Utility Report- Lon Johnston

Old Business

Officers and Board for 2005

New Business

Announcements

PROGRAM

Mayor Fred Small will discuss the challenges facing our City
and his vision to meet those challenges

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS

Hardly a day goes by without a decision being made that has a direct impact on our quality of life in Daphne. The local newspapers do their best to cover and report on the affairs of the city that affect us; but Olde Towne Daphne West Association (OTDWA) offers you an alternative for keeping abreast of current affairs.

THE MISSION OF OTDWA

We recognize that Daphne, Alabama is one of the faster growing communities in the United States. Our mission is to aggressively support the community in the management of this growth to insure the preservation of quality of life and maintenance of property values. We will accomplish this through active involvement in the political process and through cooperation with other community organizations. Focus is on business and residential zoning, ordinances, drainage and erosion control, and public safety.

WATCH DOG

The OTDWA is a non-profit organization that depends entirely on its membership for financial and vocal input. You are crucial to our ability to be effective. Let us know your thoughts.

What we do:

- ◆ Board representatives attend Daphne City Council, Planning Commission, and Board of Zoning and Appeals meetings.
- ◆ Telephone polls of your opinion on pressing issues to be presented to the city government.
- ◆ General membership meetings with civic leaders speaking on timely issues.
- ◆ Quarterly newsletters per year with updates on current and pending issues. Special editions are published as necessary.

If you haven't taken the time to renew your membership, please do it now! Bring your check to the March 1st meeting or mail it to the Treasurer. OTDWA 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 Sponsor ___\$25.00 Regular

Mail to: Glenn Robinson, OTDWA, P.O. Box 506, 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.

Membership: 2005

If you paid your dues in October, November, December or January your membership is up to date for 2005 and the box marked below is marked paid. Thank you! If you haven't updated your membership, please consider doing so today! A form is provided on page 4. ALSO, an email contact will help us keep you informed about important issues or rally the troops when needed.

ACTIVE (dues paid)

INACTIVE (dues not paid)

Agenda Protocol and Council Packets Online

Do you want to have something placed on the agenda for a Council Meeting? Contact City Hall before 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the Council Meeting. To read the complete council packet online go to: www.daphneal.com, Click on Legislative News and then click on council packet. Copies of the complete Council packets are available in the library.

McMillan Bluff Project

The McMillan bluff project is currently underway! Plants have been located for the project and will be paid for by the grant OTDWA received from the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP). Marjorie Bellue, our city horticulturalist, will grow many of the difficult to find native plants in the City greenhouses located at Daphne High School. We hope to have students and the master gardeners involved in this effort! If you would like your name added to our list of gardening volunteers please contact Karen Nady (621-0286). Planting will begin after the City has installed the hardscape.

On January 28, 2005, the Circuit Court of Baldwin County **denied** the request by the City of Daphne and OTDWA to **dismiss** case no. CV-03-1320), regarding the McMillan public access. However, **sanctions** were awarded to the City and OTDWA! (A copy of the Court order is included in this newsletter.) OTDWA and the City of Daphne remain interested in discussing a settlement proposal, however none has been offered to date. Unless a settlement can be reached, a jury trial will be scheduled. It will be necessary for OTDWA to continue to fundraise for our legal defense.

The McMillan public access remains, as always, open to the public. Walk to the bluff and check out the progress of the project!

2005 Calendar of Meetings and Events

March 1st—OTDWA General Membership Meeting. Mayor Fred Small.

March 4th—Dedication of Paul J. Bueche Pavilion, Village Point Park Preserve, 10:00 a.m.

March 7th—City Council Meeting: Vote on request for vairance for Chunchula Energy Corporation, high-rise condominium

May 3rd—OTDWA General Membership Meeting: Planning: Regional and Local

October 4th—OTDWA General Membership Meeting: Topic TBA

December 6th—OTDWA General Membership Meeting: Topic TBA

OTDWA meetings are held from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. in the Daphne Public Library.

Board Meetings are scheduled for April 5th, June 7th, August 2nd, Sept. 13th and November 1st and are open to the public. Please contact a board meeting to confirm meeting date and time.

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 meetings are open and public participation is encouraged. A complete set of the council agenda and information packet is available in the Library on the Friday afternoon preceeding each Council meeting. 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 also available.

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