



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2005

Officers 2005

President (interim)

Kären Nady
621-0286

Vice President

Franklin Lamb
626-3993

Treasurer:

Glenn Robinson
626-2345

Committees:

Finance:

Louie Nady

Governmental Affairs:

Cathy Barnette

Membership:

Ernest Berger
SEEDS:

Fran and Donald
Terry

Utility Board:

Lon Johnston

Mailing Address:

Olde Towne Daphne
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1022
Daphne, AL 36526

Annual Dues:

Business: \$100.00
Family: \$25.00

Newsletter is Pub-
lished Quarterly.
Comments are
welcome. Email:
otdwa@aol.com

COMMUNITY VISIONING

Cathy Barnette, John Lake and Ron Scott, members of the Daphne City Council are scheduled to host a Community Visioning Meeting on October 20th at a location to be announced. The purpose of this meeting is to provide Daphne residents with the opportunity to share their vision of our city. The approval of the high-rise condominium this spring brought to light the urgent need for public input in community planning. Your comments are needed to help guide the City's future growth. Topics for discussion include: Building height and re-development in proposed overlay district, bay vistas and public access. Should we require boardwalks as we negotiate building heights? Do we want to encourage mixed-use of properties? Should the ordinance change from gross acres to net buildable acres? Should the International Building Code become a requirement for these larger scale developments? Contact Cathy Barnette with questions or comments at barnette2@bellsouth.net.

OCTOBER 4TH GENERAL MEETING: CITY PLANNING

Diane Burnett, Director of Planning for the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC), will speak regarding City Planning. The Meeting will be held at Daphne City Hall, in the Council Chamber, at 6:30 p.m.

The Eastern Shore is experiencing rapid growth and as our cities grow each community must balance economic growth and the maintenance of city services. Long range planning must include attention to aesthetics, traffic, preservation of natural resources, a city's history and the quality of life for all residents.

How can we manage growth as waterfront communities? What assets can we enhance? What should we change? Each community will need to continue to develop its own identity and to make its own best first impression on visitors and potential new businesses and residents.

Mrs. Burnett is a professional planner and wrote the 1990-2010 Comprehensive Plan for Daphne. She assisted in writing the present 2002-2020 City of Daphne Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Burnett, and SARPC, have been instrumental in guiding the City of Daphne's planning process for creating a new overlay district to include high rise construction for business and high density residential use.

Mrs. Barnett will discuss the role of the SARPC and its technical assistance to the City of Daphne, especially the Daphne Planning Commission. She is well versed in city planning and can provide insight as to how proper planning can achieve the goals and the vision of municipalities. While focusing primarily on Daphne planning, her insights will be valuable to all Eastern Shore residents and businesses.

Bring your neighbors, come to the meeting, meet Diane Burnett and learn more about how city planning can enhance our community. Have your questions and concerns ready to voice.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to thank Fran Nueman for designing our new logo. The stylized Bay Laurel tree represents the roots of Olde Daphne. We will use it with pride!

It is ironic that as we celebrate our roots, our community also stands on the verge of re-inventing itself. Our heritage is the small town we chose to live in, on the shores of Mobile Bay, and the future will be the larger town we are becoming. How we manage our growth as a waterfront community, from the assets we preserve to the infrastructure we build, will be the legacy we pass on to future generations. What would you be proud of?

Attention to planning details will be the key to the future. I urge you to come to the October 4th OTDA meeting and learn how the planning process works. I also urge you to come to the October 20th visioning meeting. Your input is valuable. I look forward to seeing you there!

Kären

OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE DEVELOPMENTS

A planning and zoning issue, regarding potential construction of several homes in Olde Towne, has emerged. It currently impacts adjoining property owners, but will have an impact on all residents in the future depending how the issue is resolved.

In March, a limited liability corporation (LLC) purchased three adjoining pieces of property on the west side of Old County Road, between Dryer and College Avenue, from two individuals. Two of the 3 lots (approx. 8,000 sq. ft. each) do not meet the current R-1 minimum standard of 20,000 sq. ft. with a minimum lot width at setback line of 100'. However, they remain legal lots, as they were lots of record prior to the adoption of the Land Use and Development Ordinance, September 21, 1987. These lots also meet the minimum build-able lot size of 4,000 sq. feet.

However, the City ordinance stipulates that if "two or more lots are in single ownership at the time of application, and such lots have a frontage or lot area less than is required by the zoning district in which they are located, **such lots shall be platted or re-parceled to create one or more lots which conform to the minimum frontage and are requirements of the zoning district**" A survey was filed in April realigning the lot lines and changing the position of the street access to the back lot. The realignment does not conform to R-1 zoning. The structures that were on site have been removed and the lots were stripped of all vegetation. How will the "grandfather clause" apply?

How the Planning Commission and Planning Department intend to resolve this problem is unknown. Will the decision be to re-plat into two R-1 conforming lots with one house constructed on each? Or, allow the reconfiguration of all three lots (as indicated on the modified survey) so that two of the lots remain non-conforming and build one house on each lot? What about the neighborhood concern that four lots will be requested?

Olde Towne's ambiance is enjoyed by its residents who expect that the integrity of this area and the intention of the zoning ordinances will be respected.

McMILLAN BLUFF UPDATE



As our project reaches completion we want to thank the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program for providing the \$3,000 grant to improve one of the few remaining beach accesses in Daphne. We have met all the hurdles to date and will celebrate the conclusion of the project in November!

The Project

The McMillan Bluff project is almost complete. Our volunteers helped dig ditches for the irrigation system pre- T.S. Arlene and installed most of the plants on our list post storm. Additional plants remain in the City greenhouses, waiting out Cindy, Dennis, Katrina and whatever else Mother Nature tosses our way. We will schedule the last planting day in late October when the heat and the weather improves! Please call Kären Nady (621-0286) to sign up for the last work party! Gardening skills are not required. Our wonderful City garden experts will guide us!

Education

Part of our task, as a recipient of a MBNEP grant, is to educate. The plants we chose for the project are native or vintage plants chosen for their appropriateness for Olde Towne and areas along the Eastern Shore. With that in mind, we have put our plant list for the project on our web site with a description of their natural habit, size etc. We will add photos of the plants as they bloom. We want this project to be a resource for our area. We will also be adding a survey to the web as part of our project and will need a volunteer to help coordinate the responses and final details to close out our grant. Interested? Give Kären a call!

Award

Our efforts have been rewarded with a 2005 City of Daphne Beautification Award! We are proud to be a recipient and look forward to working with the City on future beautification projects. We also hope to work with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) again on future projects related to the bay and beach accesses.

Storm Damage

The bluff area remains a public access, but it is currently not safe to visit. The stairs and lower seating area were damaged with hurricane Katrina. The Public Works department is starting the remediation work late September, and FEMA funds will be cover the costs. It will be open as soon as possible. The plants, path and upper deck are in great shape!

Pending Lawsuit

While the planting project is proceeding, so is the court case. The City of Daphne and OTDA remain defendants in a lawsuit filed by the property owners adjoining the public beach access. No court date has been set.

Our legal fees continue to accrue and donations to the defense are needed. This is a tough time to ask anyone on the Gulf Coast for donations, but this is an important neighborhood asset we need to protect and preserve. Please send what you can for the defense fund. Make your check payable to Olde Towne Daphne Association.

SHOW COMMUNITY PRIDE WITH A HISTORIC MARKER

Part of Daphne's charm is the mix of cottages and old homes, especially in Olde Towne and along the bay. Many homes are eligible for a Baldwin County Historic Building Marker. If your building, or site of interest, is 50 years old, it may qualify.

Applications are available in the Commissioner's Office of the Satellite Courthouse in Fairhope. The application includes a packet of information regarding appropriate fencing, building materials, landscaping and a guideline about alterations that are acceptable. There is a \$100 fee to apply and the awards are given twice a year. Get in the spirit of honoring the past, as we grow in the future!

HOW TO RESEARCH YOUR PROPERTY

Have you ever wanted to research the chain of ownership of your property? The Judge of Probate office, next to the Revenue Commission, on the courthouse square in Bay Minette contains records and maps going back to the early 19th century. But, you can get started at home, on-line, with your research. Check out our quick instructions on "how-to" on our website, under Links and Baldwin County.

DEER AVENUE/HOLT PARK PROJECT

The City is working with the Boy Scouts to create a small natural looking park on Deer Avenue and Holt. Maria Buesche, who designed our landscape plan for the McMillan Bluff, is developing the plan. She has chosen plants similar to the McMillan for this project. Let's keep Daphne beautiful!

MAY DAY PARK AND PIER

The City of Daphne started the process of developing plans to improve May Day Park and Pier prior to Katrina destroying this Olde Towne asset. Grant Monies are being sought to create two new walkways in the park: One a gently sloping, ADA appropriate, walkway to the pier and the other, a stepped walkway close to the road. Lengthening the pier, changing the landscaping, the parking area and the boat ramps are other ideas being discussed. See the plan on page 5. If you have any suggestions to add to plans for improving the area contact your council representative.

BAY ACCESS DAMAGE UPDATES

Public Works has authorized an inspection of May Day pier to confirm damage (if any) to the concrete pilings that support the pier. If no damage has occurred to the pilings, pre-stressed concrete panels will be ordered and placed back on top of the support piers. The inspection will take place in September and FEMA will cover the cost of repairs. In the meantime, the boat ramps have been cleaned and opened to the public.

The Village Point Boardwalk and BayFront Park Pier were damaged in hurricane Katrina. Bids have been returned and Public Works will begin repairs in the next few weeks. The current plan is to repair the Bayfront Park Pier first, then the boardwalk and finally, the Village Point Ferry Pier. FEMA will pay for repairs.

The Belrose public access will be repaired at the same time as the McMillan access. The Dryer public access has needed refurbishment for several years. Developing a plan for this access could be a future project for OTDA. Are you interested in helping? OTDA would like to dedicate a bench to Harry and Mary Toulmin, who devoted years of efforts to keep the access open.

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.

OTDA IN ACTION: Volunteer staff is actively involved in the local governmental process. Here's what we do...

- ◆ We attend meetings of the Daphne City Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning & Adjustments, Utility Board, Finance Committee, SEEDS and Village Point Foundation.
- ◆ We alert our membership to Daphne government meetings that involve important focus issues such as requests for zoning variances, traffic & safety, public land, etc. You will receive advanced notice of meetings that warrant your time and participation.
- ◆ OTDA conducts its own telephone polls and circulates citizen petitions on pressing issues to be acted on by our city council.

OTDA LEADS IN ISSUE RESOLUTION: OTDA believes in issue resolution through fact gathering, thoughtful analysis, proactive planning, member involvement and public communications. OTDA supports mediation as a successful method of issue resolution, however, OTDA will support legal action to address an issue as a final option.

OTDA SUPPORTS DAPHNE: We support Daphne in other ways beyond public safety, intelligent land usage and managed growth.

- ◆ OTDA sponsors special forums inviting our county, state and federal representatives to address issues impacting our members.
- ◆ OTDA cooperates with other community organizations in supporting special cultural and community events.

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.

If you haven't taken the time to renew your membership, please do it now! Bring your check to the October 4th meeting or mail it 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.

NEW WEB-SITE!

The new, improved OTDA Web-site: www.oldetownedaphne.org is up and running with new information being added daily. New features will include a section for a question, with a box for your e-mail response. We are adding committee reports and services such as how to research your property on line and at the county court house. Newsletters and minutes will be archived. As part of our MBNEP grant, we have started a plant list. Information and photos will be added and the format will continue be upgraded as well. Check out the site regularly for the latest updates.

MEMBERSHIP: 2005 - 2006

If you haven't paid your membership dues this year, please consider doing so today! Dues paid in October include your membership through 2006! A form is provided on page 6. You may add a donation to OTDA legal expense fund with your check. ALSO, an e-mail contact will help us keep you informed about important issues or rally the troops when needed.

ACTIVE (dues paid)

INACTIVE (dues not paid)

E-MAIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Please take the time to contact us at OTDWA@aol.com and provide us with your Email address. We will be able to keep you informed about current issues, council items or ask your opinion. Please note in the subject section: Add name to OTDA e-mail list. Of course, our membership information is never shared.

AGENDA

October 4th General Membership Meeting
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Call to Order - Ernest Berger

Approval of Minutes- General Meeting, May 24, 2005

Treasurer's Report- Glenn Robinson

Committee Reports: See Committee Chairs after the program

Village Point - Al Guarisco

McMillan Bluff Project/ Pending Lawsuit- Kären Nady

Council Report- Cathy Barnette

Finance- Louie Nady

Utility Report- Lon Johnston

SEEDS - Don Terry

Introduction of Diane Burnett - Franklin Lamb

PROGRAM

Diane Burnett, Director of Planning for the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) will discuss the role of SARPC and its technical assistance to the City of Daphne and how proper planning can achieve the goals and the vision of municipalities.

2005 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

October 4th—General Membership Meeting: Diane Burnett, Director of Planning for SARPC, will explain the planning process and how it can help cities achieve their vision and goals for development. City of Daphne Council Chambers, 6:30 p.m.

October 7th-9th—Weeks Bay Native Plant Sale. Call 928-9792 for information.

October 20th—Community Visioning Workshop. Call Cathy Barnette at 626-0557 for info.

November 1st—Board Meeting. Board meetings are open to the public and are held in the Daphne Public Library. Please contact a board member to confirm meeting date and time.

TBA—McMillan Bluff Dedication! Check the web page for a date for a November dedication date. This one will be weather permitting and to date Arlene, Cindy, Dennis and Katrina have not been cooperative!

December 3rd—Daphne Christmas Parade: Look for our own Santa! Contact the Recreation Department at 621-3703 for more information.

December 6th—General Membership Meeting. Congressman Bonner has been invited. Board elections will be held.

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 is posted on the city website at www.daphneal.com. 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 available in the Library.

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