



OLDE TOWNE DAPHNE ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2006

Officers 2006

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Kären Nady
621-0286

Vice President

Franklin Lamb
626-3993

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Glenn Robinson
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Committees:

Membership:

Ernest Berger
Governmental

Affairs:

Cathy Barnette
SEEDS:

Fran and Donald
Terry

Finance:

Louie Nady

Utility Board:

Lon Johnston

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

Annual Dues:

Business: \$100.00
Family: \$25.00

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Comments are
welcome. Email:

[ContactUs@oldetowne
daphne.org](mailto:ContactUs@oldetowne
daphne.org)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS: RHR ZONE & CONDO UPDATE

The public hearing and vote on the RHR ordinance is set for October 2nd at the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. The Council recommended that the RHR zone boundary be set as south of I-10, west of Hwy 98 and north of Van Buren and that the height be set at 200'.

On August 24th, the Planning Commission approved, as an administrative adjustment, a request by the Apalachee condo project developers to increase the number of units by 33% from 60 to 80. The footprint and height of the project will remain the same as the plan approved last year. The reason for the request was given as the increase in cost of building materials. Both the site disturbance permit and the zoning change request had expired at the time of this decision, as work has not begun on the project. The status of those permits remains controversial, as the City has never enacted its reversionary clause on expired permits.

The impact of the increase in unit density in this project on traffic, additional parking requirements and future greenspace calculations if/when a second tower is constructed is not known. What is clear is that the proposed RHR zone Ordinance will need to: (1) Include a calculation for unit density (2) Mandate a cohesive plan for vehicular traffic and (3) Make this a pedestrian friendly zone by providing connectivity with sidewalks or boardwalks, which is routinely done in other waterfront communities. The new zone needs to be an asset our entire community.

SEPT 12TH GENERAL MEETING: RICHARD MERCHANT, DAPHNE BUILDING INSPECTOR

Are you interested in home improvements? Building a house? Owning a home is a significant investment. Join us as Richard Merchant, our City of Daphne Building inspector, discusses building permits, codes, inspections and procedures.

Since Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina, there has been renewed interest in structural safety and building codes. What are the plans for the future with regards to new home construction requirements in Daphne? Are there structural improvements a homeowner can make to protect an existing home? Is a permit required? How can the building permit and inspection process help a homeowner deal with improper construction or shoddy practices? Should you get a permit to build a fence? Mr. Merchant will present a brief overview of the permit and inspection process and then take questions. This is your opportunity to have your building and home improvement questions answered.

OTDA Board member Don Terry and District 2 Council representative Cathy Barnette serve on the Planning Commission and they will be available at the meeting to planning related questions. OTDA Vice President Frank Lamb, who serves as an alternate member of the Board of Zoning Adjustments, will field zoning questions.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

In our last newsletter, I commented that a vibrant community can only be maintained with a strong focus on planning. Recent projects coming to the Planning Commission have only highlighted that challenge. As our community grows, we are responding to an almost overwhelming number of requests for new projects and annexations of property into the city.

Some of our Ordinances are out of date and their revision will be essential to meaningful development in Daphne. For example, currently 30 homes can be built on a private road in Daphne. Is that logical when garbage, mail and FEMA services can not be provided on private roads? Also, projects on private roads should be required to conform to both zoning requirements and public road standards. Retention ponds are often required on projects, but there is no method for inspection and maintenance. There is also the need to look at the traffic patterns, grid vs. cul-de-sacs, future streets and walk-ability, etc. in Olde Towne in anticipation of the eventual subdivision of large lots and the development of the last large tracks of land.

Our Planning Department needs the resources and additional personnel to be able to take the time to plan our community and not simply react to projects as they come to the City. Ensuring that planning and zoning rules are enforced consistently and uniformly will protect both the City and those developing new projects. Residents' input will be a valuable part of growing our community! Kären

DAPHNE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Daphne Beautification Committee is energized! They are planning new projects and working on funding requests. A general operating budget covers items such as Arbor Day trees, annual Beautification Awards, Event Decorations and Repairs, and discretionary funds.

The capital budget request for fiscal 2007 includes: (1) Three new 'Gateway' signs to be placed at the southern Daphne entry along US 98, at the AL 181 entry corridor and along the Baldwin 64 entry corridor. The new signs will be similar to the 'Welcome to Daphne, The Jubilee City' with the crab logo, located in the median on US 98 at the north entry of the city. (2) Purchase and install half of the irrigation system for the D'Olive Park Butterfly Garden project being developed in the area known as Alligator Alley. Perennial flowers and other plants will be included in the project. (3) Using Daphne's designation as a 'Tree City' as inspiration, new Christmas decorations consisting of 3 tall, lighted, panel trees will be featured this year at the Scenic Overlook. The 'Season's Greetings' sign (placed annually at Hwy 98/Scenic 98) will be moved to the Overlook and expanded to say 'Season's Greetings, Daphne, Alabama' (4) The Scenic Overlook will be expanded to include an observation deck at the pavilion.

Look for refurbished Christmas displays as Daphne gets ready for the holidays!

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. The web will be our way of keeping you informed over the summer months. Visit the site often and stay informed!

COFFEE WITH THE MAYOR

Join Mayor Small and your neighbors for morning coffee and conversation at City Hall on October 26th at 8:30 a.m. This is becoming a very popular event! For more information, contact Shannon Spivey at mayorassist@bellsouth.net or 621-9000.

OLDE TOWNE NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS

The Old County Road Update

The request for the reconfiguration of 3 lots and subsequent the subdivision of the cleared property located on Olde County Road, between Dryer and College Ave was approved by the Planning Commission on June 22nd without going to the Board of Zoning Adjustments Committee as anticipated.



Captain O'Neal Drive Update

On July 27th, the Via Dolorosa project on Captain O'Neal Drive was approved with a 50' private road and 8 lots. The City will not provide garbage service on the private road, future homeowners will be required to petition the Post Office for mail service, rent PO boxes or install a bank of mail boxes on Captain O'Neal opposite the new development and FEMA will not provide debris removal on the private road. The 40' setbacks (required for R-1 zoning) include the private road, therefore not conforming with the intent of R-1 requirements.

A Bayside Academy Update

Bayside's new land use plans for the future include a Performing Arts center, changes to the athletic field, and replacing the "temporary buildings" along Dryer. With school in session, Bayside is currently working on a traffic/parking control plan and discussions with the City include the possibility of adding a 3rd lane on Dryer Ave. Issues with early morning trash pickup and inadequate event parking are also being addressed. Neighbors continue to request that the Dryer Ave. public beach access be delineated and improved.

McMillan Bluff Public Access

With the installation of plant identification tags this summer, the project is complete! A list of native and old style plants used in the project is on our web-site. Plants are blooming and the sunsets are beautiful. Stroll down to the bluff and enjoy this neighborhood asset!

OTDA/SANTA AMERICA/BAYSIDE BBQ

This 2nd Annual get together will be held this fall. Date TBA. Bayside Academy Headmaster Tom Johnson will arrange a special tour of the new track/stadium for OTDA members and neighbors to be followed by our pre-game BBQ and then the game.....viewed from the stands or Santa's deck. Go Admirals!

Ollie's BBQ and a secret Santa will fire up their grills for a delicious dinner. Our own OTDA Board members will provide side dishes and dessert. There will be a small dinner charge. Please call Ernest Berger, Santa America, at 626-6609 to reserve your place for this event or check the OTDA website at www.OldeTowneDaphne.org for details.

MAMMA MIA COOK OFF SET FOR NOVEMBER 11TH

Local businesses, civic organizations, schools, churches, corporations, non-profits, and neighborhoods are encouraged to recruit their most enthusiastic chefs and sign up a team to take part in the second Annual Mamma Mia Cook-Off on November 11th. Teams will vie for Il Primo Premio (First Place) in the lively competition. OTDA was the proud First Place winner in our category last year! Are you interested in being a member of Team Alloro this year?? Call Karen Nady at 621-0286 to sign up!

Proceeds will benefit SEEDS' educational enrichment initiatives such as the Teacher Mini-grant Program and research related to the development of The Lyceum, SEEDS' long-term signature project to establish a state-of-the-art community learning center in Daphne. For information about sponsorship opportunities or team registration - or to learn more about how you can get involved as a Mamma Mia volunteer - contact SEEDS at 656-SEED (656-7333).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS:

OLDE TOWNE IMPROVEMENTS AND PROPOSED RESTAURANT

The Daphne Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) has been tirelessly working to revitalize our downtown area and it is beginning to come to fruition! The traffic in the Daphne Post Office has been an issue for several years and thanks to the new Daphne postmistress these problems are being addressed. The Riviera Utilities substation has been relocated to Johnson Road. The DRA has made a presentation to the Finance Committee asking for support for underground utilities. The costs are being determined and hopefully a decision made by the end of the year.

Local orthodontist Glenn Glass and his brother are opening the Live Oak Restaurant next year at the old Under the Oak Cafe next to Centennial Park. This restaurant will focus on outdoor dining with the park setting. The developers are excited to be a part of the dining destinations and business options within Olde Towne Daphne and the efforts of the DRA.

Drainage and Sidewalk Update

Councilwoman Cathy Barnette will host a meeting on Tuesday, September 12th (just before the OTDA General Meeting) in the Council Chambers to address the ongoing NRCS funded drainage projects on Whiting Court, Church Avenue and Cedar Avenue. Residents of these streets are highly encouraged to attend. Cathy also asks us to have folks highlight any additional needs or comments to be addressed in future public forums. Contact her at barnette2@bellsouth.net.

New Orleans Used Books Project

OTDA received a request from the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) system for new and used books. As a result of Katrina, the vast majority of the system's books were left unusable. OTDA has no fixed office site for a book collection effort, however, the Thrift Shop at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on N. Main St. is offering us their used books when they periodically turn over their merchandise. We will transport the books to the NOPL for use either as library books or for their book sales to fund the purchase of new books for library. If your business or organization can gather books, or act as a drop-off site for books for the NOPL, please contact Frieda Romanchuk, 447-0240.

7th Annual Community Spirit Award

OTDA recognizes groups, businesses or individuals for this annual award. Past recipients have included the citizens of Daphne who took on the challenge of helping Hurricane Katrina victims, the City of Daphne for purchasing the Village Point Park Preserve, and the Downtown Redevelopment Authority for their work to enhance Olde Towne. Nominations are being accepted for the 2006 award. Call a Board Member with your suggestion or e-mail them to contactus@oldetownedaphne.org. Help us recognize special members of our community.

MEMBERSHIP: 2006 - 2007

If you haven't paid your membership dues this year, please do so today! Dues paid in October will include 2007 membership. A form is provided on page 5. ALSO, send us your e-mail address at ContactUs@oldetownedaphne.org to 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 (have address)

E-mail (need address)

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! 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: 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.

2006 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

September 9th and 10th (Saturday and Sunday): **Jubilee Festival.** Main Street in "Old Towne" becomes a walking street for this 2 day event hosted by the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, the City of Daphne and local businesses. Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Also, on Saturday, the Friends of the Library will have a sidewalk book sale from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Library.

Sept 12th (Tuesday) **General Meeting:** Richard Merchant, City of Daphne Building Inspector at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Check the OTDA web-site for details.

October 2nd (Monday) **Public Hearing for the Residential High Rise Zone Ordinance.** City Council Chambers, regular Council meeting 6:30 p.m.

October 6th, 7th, 8th **Baldwin County Master Gardeners Native Plant sale** at Safe Harbor RV Park at Weeks Bay from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm. Call 928-9792 for more details.

October 26th (Thursday) **Coffee with Mayor!** City Hall, 8:30 am. Contact Shannon at 621-9000 for info.

November 7th (Tuesday) **Election Day.** Vote! and **OTDA General Meeting.**

November 11th (Saturday) **SEEDS Mamma Mia Cook-off.**

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, comprehensive plan and Land Use Ordinance are posted on the city website at www.daphneal.com. Just click on legislative news. 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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