

POQUITO BAYOU TIMES

A Newsletter Published by the Poquito Bayou Community Association

President: Dave Hensley 651-5300
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PO Box 1124 - Shalimar, FL. 32579-1124 (www.poquitobayou.com)

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Fellow Poquito Bayou Residents! Last month I started out saying that things are now starting to pick up. I can now say the pace is picking up!!

New Poquito Bayou Sign. On March 26th, we had twenty-five neighbors spreading dirt and moving/replacing fencing around the new Poquito Bayou sign. We had our official dedication ceremony on Saturday April 2nd. We're still a couple of thousand dollars short of our goal. If you haven't donated yet, please do so. Thanks. Our hats off to Pam Martin for overseeing this massive project! ([cont'd on page 5](#))



The Final Product



LONGWOOD ELEMENTARY

We are gearing up for our state testing which begins the first week in April. Our teachers have been hard at work helping prepare our students for success.

Congratulations to our 3rd grade teacher, Ms. Ogilvie, and her class for winning the district door decorating contest for Black History Month. They were recognized with a trophy and a visit from district personnel. We are proud of her and her students. Zoey Farmer, 3rd grade student, won the district's award for best essay for Black History Month in grades K-3. We are so proud of her for representing Longwood!

On April 12th we are hosting a Kindergarten Information night for anyone who will be new to Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. The event starts at 5:30 so join us if you will have a kindergarten student next year.

To find more information regarding the school, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Longwood-Elementary-School-1261954677180100/>

PBCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION YEAR 2022

Please complete this form and submit along with your \$10 dues to your Street Director or drop it off at the PBCA mailbox located at 17 Magnolia Ave (Pam Martin's house). Checks will be accepted, made payable to PBCA. You may also mail to P.O. Box 1124, Shalimar, FL 32579

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Date Paid: _____ Dues: _____ Contribution (specify area): _____ Check #: _____ Cash \$ _____

Name: _____, _____ Spouse's Name: _____
(Last) (First)

Address: _____ Telephone No.: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Minor Children: Boys () Ages: _____ Girls () Ages: _____
(If it changes, notify pcmartin1@outlook.com)

Concerns: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____

Would you be willing to help with: Events for Kids _____, Baking _____, Adult Social Events _____, Leo Norred Park & Clean-Up Days _____, Garage Sales Event _____,

Interest in Action Committees: Street Maintenance & Traffic Safety _____, Environmental Matters _____, Emergency Action & Neighborhood Watch _____, Eglin Interface _____.

Are you interested in serving on PBCA Board of Directors? _____ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training _____.

Other interests, ideas; things you'd like addressed? What are they?

USE BACK OF FORM IF NECESSARY



JOIN US FOR THE
EASTER
BUNNY &
EGG HUNT

APRIL 16TH, 2022
AT 1:00 PM

Leo Norred Park
Poplar Ave
in Poquito Bayou

Why do we hide eggs at Easter?

In many pre-Christian societies eggs held associations with spring and new life. Early Christians adapted these beliefs, making the egg a symbol of the resurrection and the empty shell a metaphor for Jesus' tomb .

PBCA EVENT CALENDAR 2022

MARDI GRAS
PARADE
2/26

NEIGHBORHOOD WIDE
YARD SALE
4/9-10

EASTER EGG
HUNT
4/16

POQUITO DE MAYO
POTLUCK
5/7

INDEPENDENCE DAY
POTLUCK
7/4

CANDIDATES NIGHT
8/11

TRUNK OR TREAT
10/31

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING
10/15

NEIGHBORHOOD WIDE
YARD SALE
11/5-6

VETERAN'S DAY
CEREMONY
11/11

FRIENDSGIVING
POTLUCK
11/19

CHRISTMAS
CARAVAN WITH
SANTA
12/10

Email: EventsDirector.PBCA@gmail.com

APRIL 2022 Yard of the Month

We had a tough time choosing just one to win this month, there are so many beautiful yards on Poquito Rd. 73-149. We see that several families enjoy welcoming each season with variations of their yard décor. We would like to recognize the work and thought they have given to our enjoyment. If you haven't noticed 124 Poquito Rd. drive by and note the baskets and eggs in the tree as well as the large rabbit overseeing it all. 81 Poquito Rd. is also beautiful. 83 is a very family friendly yard meant for running and playing. Flat, soft green grass and a couple of large toys to play on. We can imagine this family running around and laughing together. 111 stood out as we watched the family work out in their huge yard, clearing all the leaves from the beautiful trees on the property. Your arduous work doesn't go unnoticed. **Our choice for Yard of the month is 78 Poquito Rd.** We were impressed with the work put into the yard by Mr. Joe Gorecki. All the bushes are beautifully kept and trimmed. The back yard is an oasis of shrubs, flowers, and a little picnic area. There is truly too much to mention. We can say that Mr. Joe puts a lot of thought and effort in the care of his yard.



Looking for Raffle Items – Poquito De Mayo Potluck Fundraiser.

We are in need of items for a raffle at our upcoming Poquito De Mayo Potluck fundraiser. So far, we have a brand new Charmglow brand electric turkey fryer, boiler & steamer. Please email me at pbcapresident@gmail.com with a picture of your donation. We plan to post all our raffle items on the Poquito Community Facebook webpage and our PoquitoBayou.com website.



(president's corner cont'd)

Crawfish Boil. We held our first-ever (maybe annual) crawfish boil at Leo Norred Park on April 2nd. This complimented our new Poquito Bayou sign dedication. We raised over \$785 towards the new sign!! Many thanks to Felicia & Matt Murphy for all their hard work and dedication in making this an outstanding event!!

PBCA Spring Garage Sale. We held our PBCA Spring Garage Sale on Saturday/Sunday April 9th/10th. The weather was perfect!!! We had over fourteen homes participating. We thank Nance for her hard work and dedication in setting up another outstanding garage sale. If you have any suggestions on how to improve our garage sale, please contact Nance Wendel at: nance.wendel@era-american.com.

Upcoming events. Our Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 16th 1 PM at Leo Norred Park. Details on the Poquito Community Facebook webpage. Please come out to support this event.

Changes to the PBCA Board. We've had a few changes to the PBCA Board this past month: David Boyd will be taking over as Recording Secretary. This will allow Felicia Murphy to focus on her duties as Birch Street Director. We thank Felicia for her hard work as Recording Secretary. We appreciate David for stepping up to the plate to take over as Recording Secretary. We now have a new street director for Holley Ave. David Behrendt has agreed to take over as the Holley Street Director. We appreciate David for stepping up to the plate in supporting PBCA!!! Tracy Mankowich has resigned as Magnolia Street Director and Yard of the Month (YOM). We appreciate Tracy's support of PBCA. Nora Torres has agreed to help with the YOM! We appreciate Nora's support!! If you're interested in taking over as the Magnolia Street Director, please let me know. Thanks. We're still looking for someone to take over the Poquito Boat Ramp Activity Committee. In this position, you interact with the county and other agencies on the Poquito Boat Ramp Park. If you are interested in taking over this vacant position, please contact me at pbcapresident@gmail.com. Thanks

PBCA Membership. We kicked off our PBCA membership drive in February. At present, we have 93 PBCA members. At this time last year, I wrote that we had one hundred. If you haven't joined or renewed your PBCA membership, please do so. There's a PBCA form in this month's issue of the Poquito Times.

COVID update. Please review the weekly informative document regarding a snapshot of the weekly COVID numbers. You can find it at: <https://okaloosa.floridahealth.gov/index.html>. In Popular Programs & Services, please select the COVID-19-WeeklyDiseaseSurveillanceReports hyper link. This will generate a pdf document. It shows our Community Risk Level (Low, Moderate, Substantial and High), New Cases per 100K Population per Week and % Positivity per Week. There's a lot more information on the Okaloosa County Health Department's website.

That's a wrap. Have a great month. Dave

Two- and Four-Wheel Vehicles Riding in County Parks.

Dave Hensley

Recently I've seen an increase in young individuals riding two-and four-wheel vehicles at the Poquito Boat Ramp Park. In one instance, I stopped one young boy and reminded him that he can't ride his four-wheel vehicle in the park. Here's why: Sec. 16-45. - Permitted vehicles on the beach, parks, and recreation areas. **No person, firm, corporation, joint venture, partnership, or other legal entity shall operate any motor vehicle in, on, or over any public land, right-of-way, or county park, beach, or recreational area in the county that is not clearly designated or posted for vehicular traffic, vehicular parking or emergency vehicular traffic, unless the same shall have been issued a permit by the board of county commissioners or their designee.**

Note: Motor vehicle means any vehicle which is self-propelled, including golf carts.

We have a lot of environmentally stressed areas down at the Boat Ramp Park. Please keep your two- and four-wheel vehicles out of the park. There are eroded areas, the shoreline and other sensitive areas that need to be avoided. We appreciate your help in this important matter. *Exceptions can be made at Leo Norred Park for maintenance purposes and for transporting food and party items to the Mary Rush Pavilion.*



We assume by now you have seen the new Poquito Bayou sign!!!!

But did you know the story behind the sign?

The sign project began in the late summer of 2021 when board members were discussing the poor condition of our neighborhood entry sign. Some members suggested that we invest in a new, more permanent Poquito Bayou sign. Pam Martin took the lead as project manager. In eight months, we accomplished the following: Organized a new sign committee by late August; finalized the sign design in November after considering several sources, selected the stone material from a stone dealer in Freeport in late January; removed the old Poquito Bayou sign on Feb 5th and the sago palms on Feb 9th. Donnie Rosicka and his team started construction of our new Poquito Bayou sign on Feb 12th. On February 15th, we formally kicked off our new sign fundraiser campaign. Donnie's team completed the project on time three weeks later!! On Saturday March 26th, we had a workday with an estimated twenty-five volunteers helping with sign related tasks at the park. This entailed re-orienting the split rail fence, leveling a low spot near the front of the sign and removal of some additional sago palms. World of Signs delivered the center point of our sign on Friday the 1st of April and we held our formal sign dedication on Saturday, April 2nd.

This sign project was a team effort. The sign committee, headed up by Pam Martin included: Bob Davis, Tricia Bryant-Flaherty, Lendy Edwards, Felicia Murphy, and David Hensley. Many thanks to all the Poquito Bayou residents, former residents, Longwood residents and Bob Hope Enlisted Village residents who donated to make this project happen. Their donations helped make an idea a reality. To date, we have collected over \$10,525 in donations. Our goal is \$14,000 to cover the entire project which would preclude having to use any existing association monies. The following are individuals who we contracted with and others who contributed towards the construction of our new sign:

Kevin, World of Signs. Kevin also lives in Poquito Bayou!!

Donnie Rosicka, our local brick layer, and his team. Donnie lives in Poquito Bayou!!

Art Self of TamTech Pools provided us with some much-needed fill dirt. Art lives in Longwood.

Matt & Felicia Murphy who is taking care of the landscaping and lighting.

Thanks to all others who were anyway responsible in helping with this important PBCA project.

Happy Spring to all our PB neighbors.



It's that time of year that our own Poquito Bayou indigenous Eastern and Gulf (and often hybrids) Box Turtles 🐢 become active after a long winters nap.

Here are a few friendly reminders to help protect our Box Turtles!!!

#1. Box Turtles live solo lives for the most part (except mating season). They have their own established territory (home) that is within a few houses from their home base so please do not relocate them (except from the road and Always place them on the side of the road in which they were attempting to travel). Relocating 🐢 🐢 🐢 not only confuses them but puts them in danger as they attempt to travel back to their "home base".

#2 Box Turtles are on the move especially in the morning and when it's RAINING so please watch the wet roads when you are driving im/out of the hood as 🐢 tend to blend into the asphalt.

#3 IMPORTANT - it is mating season. Please leave them be as they travel to find a mate. If you see a female laying eggs protect that area when she's complete with perhaps some loosely laid chicken wire so other animals don't dig them up for dinner. 🐢🐢

#4 - URGENT - Look under your cars every time you leave your garage and driveway. They are easily backed over. We've lost 3 turtles in the neighborhood this week that I know of (and believe me, with the new construction in our hood our box turtles population is unfortunately declining).

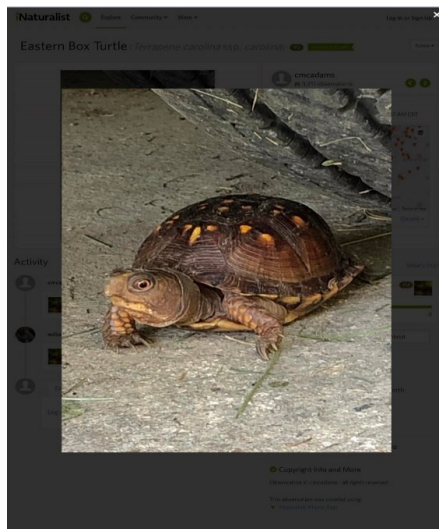
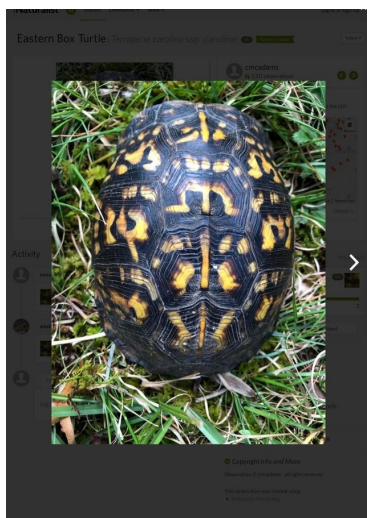
#5 If you find a baby turtle please place it for away from threat (roads, large birds, fox, etc) deep under a bush.

#6 What can you feed box turtles?

Box turtles are omnivores. Diet in the wild includes insects, grubs, worms, snails, slugs, crustaceans, eggs, mushrooms, flowers, fruit and other plant material. You can feed them earth worms, watermelon rinds, bananas, strawberries, cantaloupe rinds (google other options) I personally feed them box turtle pellets as a supplement.

#7. Please do not paint or mark any turtles you find. I even did that one day in time (when I was ignorant to the fact that the paint can harm them).

If you have any questions please send me a message. If I don't know the answer I will get one.



Found a Turtle Crossing the Road?



Why is it crossing?

Here are a few possible reasons:

To find a mate.

Hiya cutie.



To reach a good spot to lay eggs.
(mostly spring & summer)



To spread to new habitats.



Why should you help?

To save that individual turtle.

Thanks friend.



To save species.

Most eggs and hatchlings get eaten. For populations to thrive, turtles must live a long time & lay many eggs.



Bragging rights.



What should you do?

Stay safe. NEVER EVER put yourself in danger.

Let the turtle cross if it can do so safely.

Don't turn it back.
It'll try to cross again!



If you must move it, lift by the back of the shell—never by the tail.



Don't move it to a new area.

It may roam aimlessly or try to return to its home area.



CAUTION: Some turtles need special treatment.

Snapping and Softshell Turtles can be defensive & extra bitey.



Use a stick or other long object to push the turtle along.



Or, hold a hind leg, support the tummy, and help it cross.



EXTRA CREDIT: Tell land managers & policymakers that you don't want roads near wetlands. Support the installation of culverts & fences where needed.

BirdAndMoon.com and AlongsideWildlifeFoundation.org

POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the April 4th 2022 meeting

Pat Hollarn's residence, 139 Poquito Rd.

Meeting called to order at 6:05 pm

Present: Dave Hensley, Bob Davis, Cheryl Archer, Pam Martin, Pat Hollarn, Kiki Higginbottom, Felicia Murphy, Tricia Flaherty, Nance Wendel, Lendy Edwards, David Boyd, and Michael Aid.

Minutes of the March meeting had been distributed; motion to approve was made by Tricia and seconded by Nance, minutes were approved. Treasurer's report for March was presented, motion to accept by Bob, seconded by Kiki, report was accepted.

Emergency Action & Neighborhood Watch: N/A

Leo Norred Park: Hank's Mowing Service has been given the contract. We have not received a signed contract back. We are waiting to hear from Hank. The electrical remains an issue. We are looking at getting a licensed electrician out as soon as possible.

Membership: We currently have 93 members for the 2022 year. We are hoping that when the street directors start going door to door that number will go up.

Events Coordinator: The annual Easter egg hunt is scheduled for 4/16. Kiki will write an article for the April newsletter with more information. The Easter bunny will be present for pictures. There will be 3 different egg hunts broke up by age, as well as a Bake Sale. All proceeds from the Bake Sale will go toward the new sign.

Poquito Boat Ramp Park: No report, and this position is currently vacant. We are actively looking to find someone to fill this position.

Street Directors: Mary Ann Leone is hosting a meeting at her house 30 Poquito Rd. on April 23rd for all the street directors. They will be discussing the door-to-door campaign that they hope to begin in May.

There were no reports from Welcome; CERT, and Street and Traffic Safety

Old Business: The sign construction is now complete, and the sign was unveiled on 4/2/2022. The PBCA hosted their first Crawfish boil and social. 50 plates were ordered, and that lead to over \$700 being raised for the new sign. The yard sale is scheduled for April 9th and 10th. The fee is \$10. Nance will run an article in the local newspaper as well as produce a list of homes participating in the sale. She will also put out the signs and mark the house with a red balloon for easy locating.

New Business: There has been discussion in the neighborhood that DR Horton is looking to purchase 40 acres and put in roughly 200 houses just north of Sunset Lane. Many neighbors are asking questions and getting information on what the communities next steps should be. As more information becomes available PBCA will share within the community.

Announcements: Newsletter articles for April newsletter due to Bob Davis by April 12th. Issue will be published on April 15th. Next PBCA meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2 6pm at Bud and Tricia Flaherty's residence, 68 Poquito Rd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Felicia Murphy
Recording Secretary

**POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 2022

Balance Forward from February 28, 2022

\$8,035.07

	March 2022	YTD 2022
Income		
Membership Dues	\$355.00	\$865.00
Donations	\$235.00	\$420.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$75.00	\$620.00 *
Halloween Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easter Event Income	\$115.00	\$115.00
Annual Meeting Bake Sale/Raffle	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual Meeting Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00
Crawfish Boil	\$150.00	\$150.00
New Sign Fundraiser	\$5,410.00	\$7,265.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$50.00
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$6,340.00	\$9,485.00
Expenses		
Gulf Power	\$39.73	\$172.63
Postage/P.O. Box	\$0.00	\$0.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candidates Night	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Childrens Christmas Party	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual State Registration	\$0.00	\$0.00
Website Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easter Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Sign	\$8,279.00	\$11,533.91
Mardi Gras Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
Halloween Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
Project/Repairs	\$0.00	\$376.02
Leo Norred Mowing	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$8,318.73	\$12,082.56

Reconciled Balance March 31, 2022

\$6,056.34

* Veteran's Memorial Collected to Date

\$2,690.00

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