



POQUITO BAYOU TIMES

A Newsletter Published by the Poquito Bayou Community Association

President: Vacant
pbcapresident@gmail.com

January 2023 Issue, Published 01/15/2023-Volume XXVII Issue 1 Editor Bob Davis, 651-3034
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Greetings Fellow Poquito Bayou Residents!

2022 is a memory and we are well into the new year. Unfortunately, as Dave put out in November, PBCA does not have a President and Mike Aid and Felicia Murphy are filling in as the two Vice-Presidents. Dave continues to help out, but we are currently without an active President. If anyone would like to help out, please step forward and let a PBCA Committee member aware of your interest.

In news around the neighborhood:

Veteran's Memorial. Jane Fedosky and Ken Leone continue to make improvements to the Veteran's Memorial at Leo Norred Park. This is truly a labor of love and they both have put in time and effort to make this something our community can be proud of. If you are interested in adding your name to the memorial, please contact Jane Fedosky at djinshalimar@gmail.com.

Friendsgiving. Friendsgiving was a huge success on the 19th of November. The weather wasn't the best, but we had fried turkey provided by Ray Higginbotham and neighbors furnished all the side dishes. This was a great opportunity to get to know everyone in the neighborhood and share some good food.

Christmas Caravan. The annual Christmas Caravan was held on December 10th and was the biggest turnout we have had in at least the last 3 years. There were over 20 vehicles that participated in the parade, as well as all the children that rode bikes and scooters. Once again the Ocean City Wright fire truck led the parade with Santa who waved from the top! This year the firemen brought a classic fire truck which was really cool. After the parade, Kiki and the team served treats and drinks to over 100 families while they lined up to sit in Santa's lap. Lendy Edwards took pictures which were posted to Facebook. It was a great event!

Christmas Decoration Contest. The annual Christmas decoration contest was completed on December 18th. Nance Wendel and Pam Martin were our judges and the winners for the 2022 decorating contest were:

- Best use of lights - 134 Poquito
- Best traditional - 6 Japonica
- Best whimsical - 144 Poquito
- Best overall - 23 Poplar
- Best mailbox - 68 Poquito

Many thanks to Nance and Pam for taking time to judge homes in these categories.

Improvements. We're compiling a wish list for Leo Norred Park. If you have any ideas, please let us know.

PBCA Membership: Our membership drive is ongoing and we currently have 138 members. Please renew your membership and remember, the annual dues are now \$20. Please see the form in this newsletter.

PBCA Board Openings. We have a number of openings on our PBCA Board: PBCA President, Hickory & Magnolia Street Director, Emergency Action/Neighborhood Watch and Poquito Boat Ramp Activity Committee. If you're interested in any of these positions, please step forward.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). At present, our neighborhood CERT needs more volunteers, especially individuals with medical background. Now is the time to start preparing for next year's hurricane season.

January 10, 2023



LONGWOOD NEWS

This month we have started our second semester of school. With that comes the completion of the second round of assessments. Our students have shown tremendous academic growth and for that we are extremely proud.

We have 14 students that will be representing Longwood at the MLK Celebration at Choctawhatchee High School on Saturday, January 14th. We fill like we will have some winners in the poster contest and/or oratorical competition. We are proud of all of our Leopards who are participating.

Our character phrase for the month of January is: "Be Kind". At the end of the month we will recognize the students from each class that exemplify being kind. To find more information regarding our school, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Longwood-Elementary-School-1261954677180100/>

JANET GUZALAK
4 JULY 1942 – 11 JAN 2023

By Sally Davis

It is with much sorrow that I inform our Poquito Bayou neighborhood of the passing of one of our pioneer members. Janet and Johnny lived at 37 Walnut with now grown children John and Jana. Janet was a lady of many talents, and I was honored to be her close friend. If you were invited to sit at the Guzalak table for her renowned spaghetti and secret sauce, pierogies, or pizzelles, you were in for a treat. Janet gave of her time and talents as our PBCA president, advertising coordinator, director of our annual Veterans Memorial Celebration and providing her home on numerous occasions for monthly association meetings. She admired Mary and Jerry Rush, founders of the PBCA and worked hard to ensure its continuing success. Janet and Johnny left our area little over three years ago to be closer to family in Auburn, New York. Thank you, Janet, for being such a blessing to our neighborhood and PBCA. If you would like to send a note or card to the family, you can mail to The Guzalaks at 8 Thornton Ave, Auburn, NY 13021.



POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the January 3rd, 2023 meeting
Mary Ann and Ken Leone Residence, 30 Poquito Road

Meeting called to order at 18:33

Present: Dave Hensley, Michael Aid, Felicia Murphy, Tricia Flaherty, David Boyd, Nance Wendell, Mary Ann Leone, Pat Hollarn, and Pam Martin.

Minutes of the December meeting had been distributed; motion to approve was made by Mary Ann and seconded by Pam, minutes were approved. Treasurer's report for December was presented by Tricia, motion to accept by Pam, seconded by Dave, report was accepted. There is more than \$5,000 in our account. The 2023 budget was previously sent out by email, and will be finalized and board approved at the February Board meeting.

Membership: Pam reported 16 members renewed membership thus far for 2023.

Emergency Action/Watch/CERT: Dave noted that OCSO app provides storm warnings. Preparations for the 2023 Hurricane season should begin long before June.

Events: Kiki was not present, but has discussed events with Tricia and Felicia. The Christmas parade was a success with 24 participating vehicles/groups, the largest participation in at least 3 years. The Ocean City/Wright Fire truck again participated and was well received. Lessons learned can be shared for the future. A need for storage was discussed, and a decision on a storage building may be made at the February meeting. Upcoming events include a Crawfish Boil and the Easter Egg Hunt.

Leo Norred Park: The plaques have all been ordered, and should be ready by the end of January. A discussion was held concerning additional posts, which may be possible. There is a set of post/fence near a corner that was installed out of place, but a fix has not yet been identified.

Poquito Boat Ramp Park: Dave will work on getting the county to consider removing 3 posts to make it easier for boat/trailer traffic at the bend. The speed limit sign is down and he will report that as well.

Street & Traffic Safety: Bob has been in contact with Okaloosa County officials about repairing signs that are not fully upright or no longer needed, but was not present at the meeting tonight. With respect to the path connecting Magnolia and Holly, Pam said that the County agreed to clean it up last year, but had not occurred and was becoming less safe for kids.

Street Directors: A discussion was held on the role of street directors and how they can help with hurricane preparedness and membership. They can also serve as the representative for their street to the Board.

Old Business: It was decided that WRT the Christmas decorations contest, a yard could not win an award in the same category two consecutive years.

New Business: A discussion was held about re-stringing the Christmas deer for Leo Norred park. It was decided that up to \$300 could be spent on the project, though if new deer could be obtained for the same cost, that may be done. A list was passed around and Board members signed up to host monthly meetings. A discussion was held regarding abandoned and neglected homes, and a committee of Nance Wendell, Tammi Aid, and Deb Henderson may be formed to study options. A project wish list was briefly discussed, including a possible walking path in the park.

Announcements: Newsletter articles for next newsletter due to Bob Davis by Thursday January 12th. Jane Fedosky-Hensley has called most of the advertisers to ensure continuance. Next PBCA board meeting to be held Monday Feb 6th at Pat Hollarn's home at 139 Poquito Road at 1830.

Meeting adjourned at 19:44 pm.

David Boyd

LONG TIME RESIDENTS

Sometime ago I did a series of articles on long term residents of Poquito Bayou. We've had a number of new residents move in since then and I thought it might be interesting to re-publish some of them.

W.A. (VAN) VAN BLARICUM

I may have a claim for longest resident. My father bought the lot at 43 Poquito in 1958. *We built the house in 1965* and some member of my family has lived here since then. I lived here with my folks from 65 till I moved to S FL for thirteen years post high school grad and two years college, then returned and purchased the property from my mother after my dad passed away. So someone from the Van Blaricum family has lived here since 1965. I don't think there are any of the other original families still out here but I could be wrong. When we first built out here Poquito Rd was a clay road and joined Sunset in the bottom of the dip just east of where it joins now. All of the tree named streets were just little more than game trails at that time, probably only cut in for the surveyors. If my memory serves me correctly we were about the third or fourth house built on Poquito.

My father was in flight school at Mariana and Eglin in 1943 prior to going on to Tuskegee as a flight instructor. During his time in this area he flew over Poquito Bayou and swore to himself that someday he would return and try to purchase property here. As life turns out he was stationed at Eglin in 1957. He and my mother and I would waterski off the property he would later purchase. When Tom Brooks opened this area for development in 1958 and my father made the purchase he was a new major, an extraordinarily impressive accomplishment both financially and politically, as a major in those days didn't make the kind of money to buy waterfront property. Further complicating the deal, the developer also had to personally interview prospective buyers. At the time this was called Generals' Row and I believe Generals Dent, Anderson, Persons and Parker (all two stars if my memory is correct) were the first owners on the bayou. So it was really only my mother's charm and ability to discuss quail hunting dogs with Mr. Tom (as everyone called him) that got my family "in the door" to Poquito Bayou. The financial part, while difficult, was not insurmountable and my family bought this lot for \$10,000.00. Everyone around thought my dad was crazy! \$100.00 per waterfront foot!!!! Crazy!!!!

On our second tour to Eglin my folks decided to build the house they would call their retirement home. This rather large decision was determined on a Sunday afternoon skiing get together with friends, one of whom was a builder. Al Acree was an engineer at Eglin (Civil Service) who built houses as a sideline. He was the contractor on many of the houses in Poquito Bayou and Longwood areas. He himself lived in Poquito after he moved over from Longwood. We completed construction and moved in in 1965.

There were no street lights so it was VERY dark out here at night. All houses had their own wells and septic systems and I believe my dad was the lowest ranking officer in the neighborhood as a Lt Col! General Persons had to put up an electric fence to deter the deer and the bears from his garden. In those days deer in the yard was a daily expectation and bears were nearly as common. I don't recall ever seeing a coyote back then, things have changed.

This was a wonderful area in which to grow up. Living on the water we, of course, had a boat. Water skiing, fishing and shrimping were a teenagers way of life for me. With so few houses and little traffic here I was driving the family car long before I had even my "learners" permit. I wasn't allowed to leave Shalimar though. I don't believe Eglin Pkwy was a four lane yet in the mid-sixties and Beal St extension (Lewis Turner Blvd) was oyster shell. Mary Ester Cutoff was really a short cut to Pensacola back then and you could drive from Shalimar to Pensacola in about an hour at any time of the day. Surprisingly, it took nearly as long to drive to Crestview then as Hwy 85 wasn't exactly a super highway in those days.

Yes, things have changed, not all good, not all bad but through it all Poquito Bayou has remained a lovely neighborhood in which to live. I should know. I have resided here for the majority of my now 65 years and still feel blessed that my parents had the foresight to purchase here so long ago.

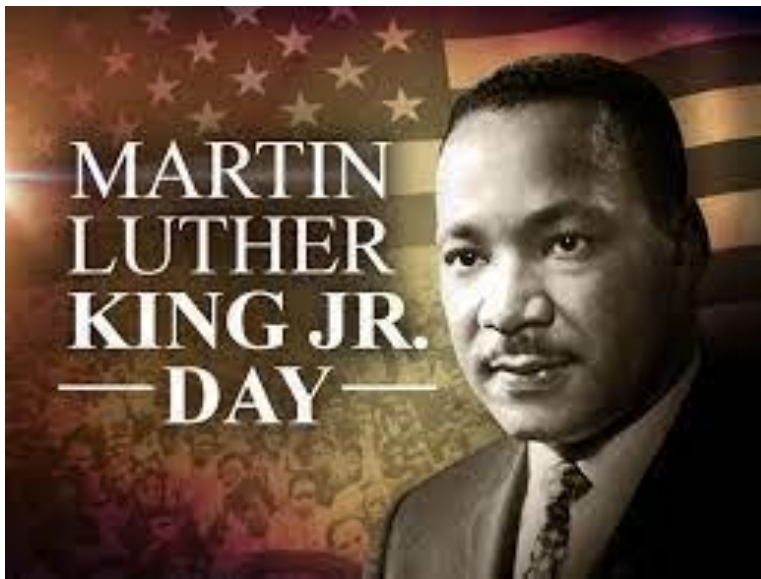
So, while I personally have not lived here continuously from then to now, someone from my family has been here since the house was first built in 1965, I graduated from Choctaw, attended OWJC (now Northwest Florida State College) and called this home when I was travelling. I now own the property and while my dad passed in 1999 my mother still resides in the area in assisted living. She will be 90 this October and is still going strong. I believe I might qualify as Poquito Bayou's earliest, but not oldest I hope, still living resident.

PBCA ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Christmas golf cart parade was the biggest turn out we have had in the 3 years I have overseen events. We counted over twenty “floats” in the parade not including the fifteen or so kids that rode bikes and scooters. Once again, the Ocean City Wright fire truck offered to lead the parade with Santa who waves from the top! This year the firefighters brought a classic fire truck which was really cool. After the parade we served treats and drinks to over one hundred families while they lined up to sit in Santa’s lap. Lendy Edwards took pictures which will be posted to Facebook. The neighbors were very complimentary of our decorations on our beautiful new sign. It was a magnificent event! More pictures are posted on our Facebook page.

(More pictures located on PBCA Facebook page.)





Martin Luther King, Jr., original name **Michael King, Jr.**, (born January 15, 1929, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.—died April 4, 1968, Memphis, Tennessee), Baptist minister and social activist who led the civil rights movement in the United States from the mid-1950s until his death by assassination in 1968.

His leadership was fundamental to that movement's success in ending the legal segregation of African Americans in the South and other parts of the United States. King rose to national prominence as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolent tactics, such as the massive March on Washington (1963), to achieve civil rights. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

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The playground equipment in Leo Norred Park is designed for pre-teens only. Parents, please insure your teen age children refrain from using same. Thank you.

POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2022

Balance Forward from November 30, 2022 **\$6,292.93**

	<u>December</u> <u>2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u> <u>2022</u>
Income		
Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$1,645.00
Donations	\$0.00	\$624.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$1,350.00 *
Halloween Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easter Event Income	\$0.00	\$318.00
Annual Meeting Bake Sale/Raffle	\$0.00	\$65.00
Annual Meeting Donations	\$0.00	\$156.00
Crawfish & Shrimp Boil	\$0.00	\$1,230.00
New Sign Fundraiser	\$0.00	\$9,950.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$330.00
Garage Sale	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$270.00</u>
Total Income	\$0.00	\$15,938.00
Expenses		
Gulf Power	\$71.36	\$792.42
Postage/P.O. Box	\$0.00	\$91.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$125.24
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$175.77
Candidates Night	\$0.00	\$190.44
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Childrens Christmas Party	\$40.00	\$40.00
Friendsgiving Event	\$99.96	\$99.96
Annual State Registration	\$0.00	\$61.25
Website Expense	\$0.00	\$168.00
Crawfish & Shrimp Boil	\$0.00	\$1,304.75
Easter Event	\$0.00	\$121.87
New Sign	\$0.00	\$13,533.91
Mardi Gras Event	\$0.00	\$85.03
Halloween Event	\$0.00	\$61.16
Project/Repairs	\$0.00	\$479.49
Leo Norred Mowing	<u>\$160.00</u>	<u>\$1,310.00</u>
Total Expenses	\$371.32	\$18,640.29
Reconciled Balance December 31, 2022		\$5,921.61
* Veteran's Memorial Collected to Date		\$3,360.00

January

MON. – FRI. 11AM-1PM



30 HOLLY AVE.
 SHALIMAR, FL 32579
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 CALL FOR AFEV CAMPUS
 DELIVERY

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ROAST PORK, black eyed peas, greens & corn bread	3 HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICH & mashed potatoes	4 BBQ RIBS, macaroni salad & beans	5 CHICKEN POT PIE & side salad	6 MAHI SANDWICH fries & coleslaw	7
8	9 GRILLED PASTRAMI & SWISS on RYE & fries	10 TACO SALAD (chicken or beef)	11 MEATLOAF mashed potatoes & vegetable	12 CHICKEN CACCIATORE, pasta & side salad	13 LEMON DILL SALMON, rice & vegetable	14
15	16 CHICKEN FRIED STEAK, mashed potatoes & vegetable	17 SLOPPY JOE, tots & slaw	18 BEEF STROGANOFF, egg noodles & veg	19 CHICKEN & WAFFLES	20 SPINACH RAVIOLI ALFREDO & side salad	21
22	23 CHICKEN PICCATA, rice & vegetable	24 PIEROGIS & KIELBASA & braised cabbage	25 CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS, & side salad	26 COMBINATION FRIED RICE, & egg roll	27 FISH & CHIPS	28
29	30 SEAFOOD SALAD CROISSANT & potato salad	31 CHICKEN ENCHILADA, & guacamole salad				

Text Lunch to 850 685-4759 and if you are the first, free lunch for two!

**POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS and ACTION
CHAIRPERSONS**

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	EMAIL ADDRESS
DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS				
President	Vacant			
Vice President	Michael Aid (Tammi)	37 Hickory Ave	(334) 379-2901	michael.aid@outlook.com
2nd VP	Felicia Murphy (Matt)	16 Birch Ave	(850) 698-3686	feliciamurphy0319@gmail.com
Recording Sec	David Boyd	3A Poquito Rd.	(904) 236-4712	52d2Rovd@yahoo.com
Corresponding Sec	Pat Hollarn	139 Poquito Road	(850) 651-1543	integrityunlimited@cox.net
Treasurer	Tricia Bryant Flaherty (Bud)	68 Poquito Road	(850) 585-8334	tblm81@aol.com
Events Director	Kiki Higginbotham(Ray)			eventdirector.pbca@gmail.com
Past President	Dave Hensley (Jane)	1 Bay Street	(850) 582-3780	pastobcapresident@email.com
STREET DIRECTORS				
Birch	Felicia Murphy (Matt)	16 Birch Ave	(850)698-3686	feliciamurphy0319@gmail.com
Hickory	Vacant			
Holly	David & Terry Behrendt	37 Holly Ave.	(562)342-3373	Dkbehrendt77@msn.com
Japonica	Dan Findley	42 Poquito Road	(850) 830-0303	Dfsalon1@cox.net
Magnolia Ave	Vacant			
Maple	Cindy Henry (Richard)	9 Maple	(850) 803-3841	dianne4016@aol.com
Poplar	Jill Dickey	34 Poplar	(850)598-6935	oggvnhuck@cox.net
1-51 Poquito	Mary Ann Leone (Ken)	30 Poquito Road	(850)543-7054	kcleone@cox.net
52-94 Poquito	Tricia Bryant Flaherty (Bud)	68 Poquito Road	(850) 585-8334	tblm81@aol.com
95-149 Poquito	Ralph Johnson	147 Poquito Road	(850) 651-7906	diraio147@yahoo.com
Walnut	Nance Wendel (Rick)	16 Walnut	(850) 461-8537	nance.wendel@era-american.com
Junior Director	Raj Charania	37 Maple	(850) 598 1023	melanie.charania@email.com
Junior Director	Jaxon Marler	21 Poplar	(850) 855-7989	elliebean_81@yahoo.com
ACTION COMMITTEE CHAIR PERSONS				
PT Editor/Can Night	Bob Davis (Sally)	34 Poquito Road	(850) 651-3034	bobbyz55x@gmail.com
CERT	Cara Teeter	12 Hillcrest	(804)413-1778	poquitobayoucert@gmail.com
BHEV Liaison	Chris Kirsch		850-259-2456	christopher_kirsch@afev.us
Email	Davi Todd (Richard)	35 Maple Ave	(325)864-9245	djtodd86@gmail.com
Emergency Action	Vacant			
Flag	Don Kreis (Vicky)	27 Magnolia	(850) 651-6513	donkreis@cox.net
Garage Sale	Nance Wendel (Rick)	16 Walnut	(850) 461-8537	nanceadw@cox.net
Leo Norred Park	Matt Murphy (Felicia)	16 Birch Ave	(850) 525-3717	murphysoutdoorservices@gmail.com
PBCA Membership	Pam Martin	17 Magnolia Ave	(850) 376-8283	Pcmartin1@outlook.com
PBCA Sign	Tricia Bryant Flaherty (Bud)	68 Poquito Road	(850) 585-8334	tblm81@aol.com
Poquito Boat Ramp	Dave Hensley (Jane)	1 Bay Street	(850) 582-3780	pastobcapresident@email.com
PT Advertising	Jane Fedosky-Hensley	1 Bay Street	(850) 651-5300	djinshalimar@gmail.com
Street Maintenance	Bob Davis (Sally)	34 Poquito Road	(850) 651-3034	bobbyz55x@gmail.com
	Galen Miller (Charlotte)	39 Holly Ave	571-271-1456	gcmiller1951@email.com
USO Cookie Coord	Sally Davis (Bob)	34 Poquito Road	(850) 651-3034	rucifoy@cox.net
Vet Mon Plaques	Jane Fedosky-Hensley	1 Bay Street	(850) 651-5300	djinshalimar@gmail.com
Vet Mon Gardening	Felicia Murphy (Matt)	16 Birch Ave	(850)698-3686	feliciamurphy0319@gmail.com
Poquito Website	Crystal Mayes	25 Hickory Ave	618-530-4541	
Welcome	Cindy Henry (Richard)	9 Maple	(850) 803-3841	dianne4016@aol.com
XMAS Décor Com	Tricia & Nance			
Yard of the Month	Deb Frank (John)	14 Birch Ave	(501) 581-3143	johnfrank12@windstream.net
	Nora Torres	124 Poquito Road	(850) 240-0826	nora.torres@cox.net

Updated on: 12/30/2022

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