



POQUITO BAYOU TIMES

A Newsletter Published by the Poquito Bayou Community Association

President: Vacant
pbcapresident@gmail.com

March 2023 Issue, Published 3/15/2023-Volume XXVII Issue 3 Editor Bob Davis, 651-3034
PO Box 1124 - Shalimar, FL. 32579-1124 (www.poquitobayou.com) bobbyz55x@gmail.com

Greetings Fellow Poquito Bayou Residents!

Spring and Spring Break are almost upon us, and with that comes the pollen and the traffic! I hope everyone in the neighborhood is doing well. We have some great events coming up and by the time you read this one of those events will be in the books – the Crawfish Boil was Saturday, 11 March. Look for news on how that went in the next newsletter and look below and throughout this newsletter for the other events. I also have some good news – PBCA now has a President. At the March Board meeting, we approved Sean Cramer to take over as the PBCA President. We want to welcome him and his wife Whitney and they bring great energy and some new ideas on how to make our neighborhood even better. They are looking forward to working with the entire Poquito Bayou community to make this a better place to live and raise our families.

In news around the neighborhood:

Veteran's Memorial. Jane Fedosky and Ken Leone are finalizing their current improvements to the memorial and Jane should have all the plaques finished and affixed in the next month or so. They have both committed 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.

Easter. We have an awesome Easter Egg hunt planned for the 1st of April. We have several people involved to help make this a successful event. Look for updates on the Facebook page and in this newsletter.

Garage Sale. Our next garage sale is scheduled for 15 / 16 April. Look for details in this newsletter.

Improvements. We're still working a list of potential improvements for Leo Norred Park. If you have any ideas, please let us know. We're also looking for a Committee Chair to head up these improvements, so if you're interested please let us know.

PBCA Membership: Our membership drive is ongoing and we've had nearly 80 members renew their membership. Please help us by renewing your membership. Remember, the annual dues are now \$20. Please see the form in this newsletter.

PBCA Board Openings. We have several openings on our PBCA Board: Hickory & Magnolia Street Director, Emergency Action/Neighborhood Watch and Poquito Boat Ramp Activity Committee. .

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 this year's hurricane season.

PEOPLE PROTECTING POQUITO BAYOU

We were a wave of red T-shirts at the Okaloosa County Commissioners' meeting March 14 in Shalimar. More than 15 residents spoke out against the looming Legendary Cove subdivision by D.R. Horton.

Topics included clearcutting the land; endangered and threatened species; increased traffic – particularly on North Drive; the high density of homes; and the quality of those homes. Our district's Commissioner Carolyn Ketchel said we should be talking to the land sellers and D.R. Horton, not the county commissioners. Ketchel said she was heartbroken about the woods, where she hiked for years, but opposing a development that meets county code would open the county up to a lawsuit.

"We may not like D.R. Horton. We may not like their homes. We may not like that they're going to clearcut. It makes me sick because I love nature," Ketchel said. "But it is a private property rights issue." She brought up the idea of Poquito Bayou residents approaching the sellers and buying the land – in the way Shalimar Pointe Country Club was formed.

You can watch the Poquito Bayou portion of the meeting on the county commissioner's website, <https://myokaloosa.com>. Click on "View Commission Meetings," then click on the March 14 video. The portion begins at the 58-minute mark.

A team from the group People Protecting Poquito Bayou is poring over the 500 pages of documents submitted by D.R. Horton, and will highlight where they do not appear to meet county code.

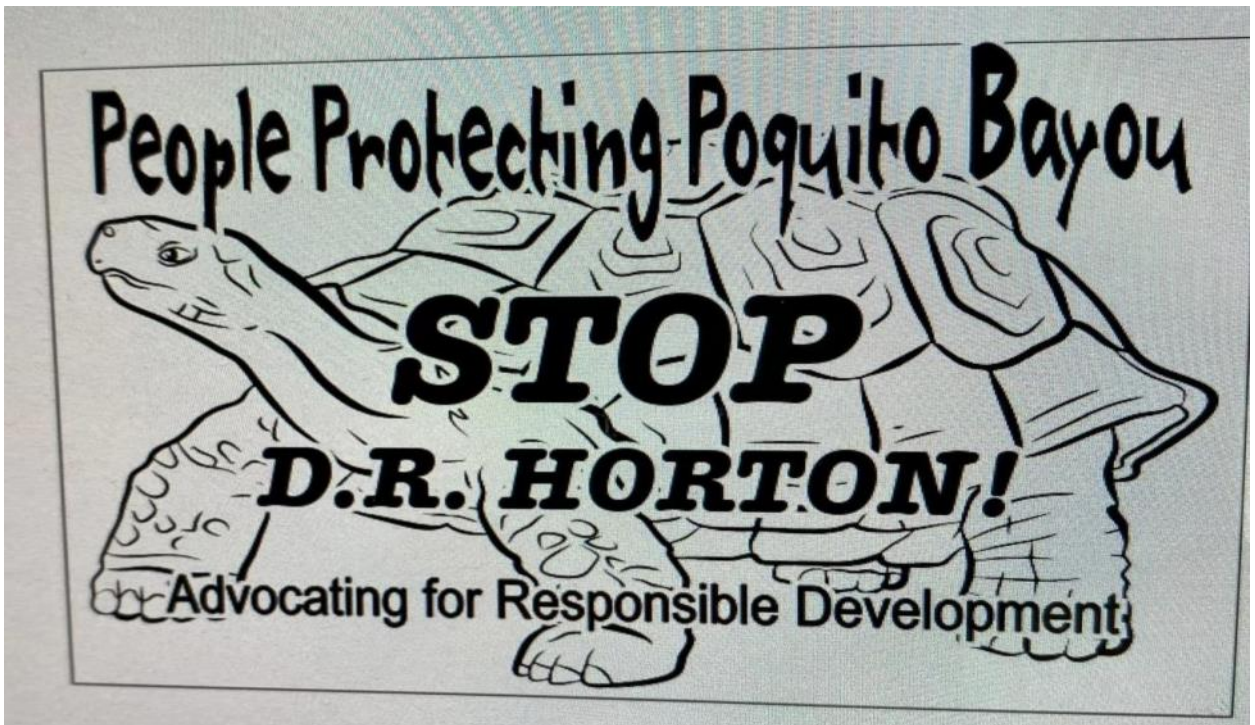
The next commissioner's meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. April 4 in the county's north office, 302 N. Wilson St., Suite 302, Crestview.

More than 80 people attended a People Protecting Poquito Bayou presentation March 1 at Bob Hope Village about the possible subdivision, asking questions and offering good ideas. You can watch a recording on the Facebook page, "People Protecting Poquito Bayou."

A few experts have volunteered to look at the stormwater and traffic portions of the development plan. We appreciate it.

Our team is growing. If you want to support a worthy endeavor, pick up a free Stop D.R. Horton yard sign, or buy a \$6 T-shirt, contact Dave Hensley at mdhensley13@gmail.com.

See pictures on following page:



POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Minutes of the March 6th, 2023 meeting
Aid Residence, 37 Hickory

Meeting called to order at 18:00

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

Minutes of the February meeting had been distributed; motion to approve was made by Mike and seconded by Felicia, minutes were approved. Treasurer's report for February was presented by Tricia, motion to accept by Felicia, seconded by Mike, report was accepted. The current balance is \$6,484 in our account. There is also \$2,110 in Venmo and \$994 in Paypal. The money for the plaques still must be paid, though nearly half has already been paid and Jane has cash from many of the donors. It was generally agreed that a committee would be formed to assess budget priorities and percentages prior to the formal budget process that culminates in presentation at Annual Membership Meeting in October.

Membership: Pam was not present but reported 76 members with paid renewed membership thus far for 2023. A table will be set up in conjunction with the crawfish boil (11 March).

Welcome: Cindy Henry has been out of town and a new Welcome packet is in work by Mary Ann and other street directors. The plan is to revamp this program in the coming months post Covid interference.

Emergency Action/Watch/CERT: No specific updates. A discussion was held regarding the prudence of having street directors compile a list of people who would be in need should a catastrophe occur. This would include people with medical needs (e.g. O2) who might not be able to evacuate.

BHEV: Bob took over as liaison. He is working on access to the workout facilities, but agreement needed from BHEV Legal.

Events: Kiki was not present, but preparations are underway for the Easter Egg event on 01 April. The number of eggs will likely be increased from 500 to 1000. Also, it may be split into age groups.

Leo Norred Park: The plaques have all been ordered, and still awaiting delivery. Jane Fedosky-Hensley continues to monitor the production/progress.

Poquito Boat Ramp Park: Dave reported that dead trees had safely been removed.

Street & Traffic Safety: The stop sign at Evergreen and Birch is covered, and Felicia will send Bob a note so he can have this addressed. Bob recommended a cleanup day, which was set for 25 March at 0830.

Street Directors: A discussion was held on street directors. There will be a continued push to get more active involvement beyond the primary 4.

Old Business: Mike will reach out to Kiki to see how many storage containers can be consolidated. Storage at BHEV or Peterman site is not currently available. With respect to the pathway between Magnolia and Holly used by children walking to school, Dave will again contact/update Ms. Ketchel (County Commissioner) who responded to his previous email request and indicated something will be done by the County. With respect to the Leo Norred Park committee, Sean plans to be a part. With respect to the Abandoned Homes committee, Nance will work with Mel Ponder regarding code enforcement.

New Business: The membership list will be updated. There was clarification of Facebook pages, such that the Poquito Bayou Community page (open page) has Crystal Hollingsworth as Administrator, while the Poquito Bayou Community Association page has Kiki as administrator. Before or during the next meeting, an update will be sent out regarding how to move forward on the PBCA page which would likely be closed to those actually in the Poquito Bayou subdivision (on or within the Poquito/Holly loop), and should probably have an alternate administrator. A motion was made by Mike to make Sean Cramer interim (for the rest of 2023) President and seconded by David, and passed without dissenting vote. The next election will be held at the October General Membership meeting. A document was signed by Sean, Dave, and Mike regarding his responsibilities and copies will be held by Sean, Mike, and Tricia. A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Dave to allot \$200 for additional yard sale signs, for which Nance is the POC.

PPPB: Dave discussed the Sunset Road development proposal (DR Horton) and what is being done to try to prevent an ecological disaster (to include contamination from the old asphalt plant). The next County Commission meeting is schedule for 14 March and there is hope that enough speakers from our area will be present to get the commission's attention to our concerns. The Nabors family paid \$2 for the 30 acres back in 1947, so regardless of the disposition, there should be adequate return on investment.

Announcements: The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 01 April, the Crawfish Boil is scheduled for 11 March, and the neighborhood yard sale is scheduled for 15-16 April (with payment electronically per Nance). Newsletter articles for next newsletter due to Bob Davis by Thursday Mar 9th. Next PBCA board meeting to be held Monday Apr 3rd at the Martin home at 17 Magnolia at 1800.

Meeting adjourned at 19:30 pm.

EASTER FESTIVAL

It's already that time of year again, PBCA's annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday April 1st. This year we are going to be doing two separate hunts. One will be at 11am for children 6 and under. The other will take place at 1pm for children 7 and over. We are doing this just to control the crowd at the park. If you have children that fall into both, feel free to pick which time works best for you. Both times will have a section dedicated to toddlers.

We will have some Easter projects for the kids like egg decorating, coloring sheets, and maybe a few surprises. The Easter Bunny will be on hand to take pictures with everyone as well. During the 1pm hunt we will also have a Bake Sale to help raise funds for future children's events. If you are able to help that day or can even bake us some yummy treats we would greatly appreciate all the help we can get.

You can contact Felicia Murphy at 850-698-3686 or email at feliciamurphy0319@gmail.com, as well as Whitney Cramer at 850-830-8582 or email at Whitneycramer@gmail.com. There is a QR code on the flyer that you can also use to let us know how you can help, and how many in your family plan to attend. We can't wait to see everyone there. HAPPY EASTER!!!

LONGWOOD ELEMENTARY

March 13, 2023



During the month of February we celebrated Valentine's Day. One of our events included Valentines for Vets. In partnership with the Veterans Officers Association, our 2nd grade students created 125 valentine cards to be hand delivered to the residents of Bob Hope Village. It was an exciting morning for both our students and the residents of BHV.

March includes our Spring Break which students as well as staff are looking forward to. As we return from Spring Break, we will begin our 4th and final quarter of the school year.

Our character phrase for the month of March is: "Be Positive". Each morning we give examples to our students of the importance of always being positive. At the end of the month we will recognize the students from each class that best exemplify being positive. To find more information regarding our school, please follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Longwood-Elementary-School-1261954677180100/>

MANY HANDS MAKE LITE WORK

So, let's meet at the park on March 25th at 830 am to clean up our community. Come out, have some coffee, donuts, fellowship and help pick up the trash from the roadway. We'll cover both Poquito Road and Sunset from 4 way stop out to 85 if we have enough volunteer pickers.

We will have bags and trash pickers uppers all you need to bring are gloves and yourself.

Contact Pam Martin at 850-376-8283 if you have any questions.

Hope to see you at the park.

Pam



EASTER Festival

HOSTED BY PBCA

REGISTER



1

APRIL

11AM

(6 years & younger)

1PM

(7 years & older)

Leo Norred Park

BRING
YOUR
OWN
BASKET!

GAMES - MUSIC - CRAFTS - BAKE SALE

2nd ANNUAL PBCA CRAWFISH BOIL

PBCA held its' 2nd Annual Crawfish boil on Saturday March 11. It turned out to be a huge success. Thank you to everyone who supported us, and all the wonderful individuals that donated to and worked the event. We couldn't have asked for a more beautiful day. It was great to see so many neighbors taking some time out of their busy schedules to get together and enjoy some quality down time with each other. A great time was had by all, and we even raised over \$650 to help support future events we would like to put together. Keep an eye on future newsletters and on Facebook for details coming soon. We hope to see you all there.



LONG TIME RESIDENTS

(Third in series of previous articles on long time residents of Poquito Bayou. These articles from a number of years ago were in response to my request for folks to compete for longest time resident. Consider them in that framework, Bob Davis)

PHIL RICHTER

Early 1971

Here is more than you could possibly want to know about my family's personal history in Poquito Bayou:

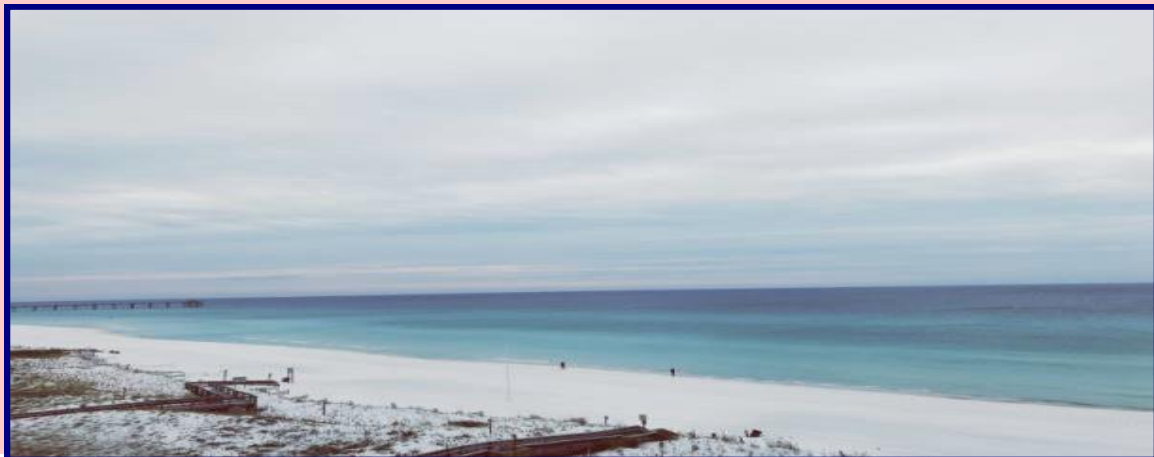
Corrine and I moved here in 1971 as a part of the "rocket scientists" that moved from Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. We bought our house on Walnut when it was only two feet high (just a slab). Charlie Marshall was building houses in clusters of four. He had several of these clusters going at any one time. Every evening the impatient home-owners would congregate at their investments to discuss who was experiencing the most problems with the builder. (We all knew that he was actually doing a good job; but a mutual gripe session nevertheless had real appeal). Out of these sessions came some real friendships, because we were all starting new jobs (both military and civil service) at Eglin. The two nearest clusters of four houses under construction had a large number of kids, ranging from our toddlers to the Breedons, Towerys, and Reicherts who provided the baby sitters.

Most of us "landlubbers" were envious of our neighbors living on the waterfront. But it was rumored that Congressman Bob Sikes who owned a waterfront lot (where Shirley Flint and the Petermans now live, I believe) was asking \$35K! We had just bought a lot with a nice new house on it for that amount!!

In 1971 all the land north of Holly belonged to the Air Force. Just in time for our kids to start kindergarten the land was released to build Longwood Elementary School. A few years later, land was broken for Bob Hope Village.

To our family, a big draw was the park at the boat ramp. Everything north of the park was dense trees and shrubs--all the way to the deep water cove. On summer days our sons John and Steve and their friends would spend entire days there with their fishing poles, spear guns, and swim masks. On the shore a short distance from the park was the "Cousin Tree." It was a tall pine with a low horizontal branch. When our many northern families would visit, we'd take pictures of all the cousins hanging from that branch. The cousin tree is still there; but now it's behind two chain link fences. And when the woods were subdivided and filled in, the branch was evidently too close to the ground, and was removed by the new owner. Today you can still see the stump of the branch. The "Cousins" still visit, now with their kids. But they can't walk to the tree anymore; now there is only reminiscing from a distance. A very nice feature of the park was the diving platform in the swimming area. I'm not sure, but I think the platform was constructed as an Eagle Scout project by one of Jim and Shirley Flint's boys. All summer long that platform was occupied by a bunch of teens sunning, diving, and snorkeling. When the wooded area was developed the nearest home owner declared that the platform was on his property as defined by riparian code. To the everlasting chagrin of us old timers, he removed the platform and built his private dock out to its location.

Corrine and I remain very pleased with our house, the neighborhood and the great neighbors--that's why we've stayed put for these 45 years. If the builder just hadn't used that darn aluminum wiring!



**POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL REPORT
February 2023**

Balance Forward from January 31, 2022

\$6,184.61

| | February 2023 | Year to Date 2023 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Income | | |
| Membership Dues | \$320.00 | \$530.00 |
| Donations | \$125.00 | \$125.00 |
| Veteran's Memorial | \$50.00 | \$50.00 * |
| Halloween Event | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Easter Event Income | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Annual Meeting Bake Sale/Raffle | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Annual Meeting Donations | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Crawfish & Shrimp Boil | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| New Sign Fundraiser | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Advertising | \$0.00 | \$100.00 |
| Garage Sale | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Income | \$495.00 | \$855.00 |
| Expenses | | |
| Gulf Power | \$84.95 | \$84.95 |
| Postage/P.O. Box | \$0.00 | \$97.00 |
| 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 |
| Friendsgiving Event | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Annual State Registration | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Website Expense | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Crawfish & Shrimp Boil | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Easter Event | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| New Sign | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Mardi Gras Event | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Halloween Event | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Project/Repairs | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Leo Norred Mowing | \$160.00 | \$160.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$244.95 | \$341.95 |

Reconciled Balance February 28, 2023

\$6,434.66

* Veteran's Memorial Collected to Date

\$3,510.00

Venmo Balance as of 02/28/2023

\$2,110.00

Paypal Balance as of 02/28/2023

\$994.01

Total

\$9,538.67

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