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August 2023 Issue, Published 8/15/2023-Volume XXVII Issue 7, Editor Bob Davis, 651-3034 PO Box 1124 - Shalimar, FL. 32579-1124 (www.poquitobayou.com) bobbyz55x@gmail.com



President's Corner

This summer in Poquito Bayou has brought scorching temperatures, reminding us of the importance of staying cool and safe. As the heatwave continues, it's crucial to stay hydrated, wear lightweight clothing, and apply sunscreen to protect ourselves from the intense sun. Despite the heat, our community remains vibrant, with neighbors coming together for early morning walks and evening gatherings. Looking ahead, we can anticipate the arrival of cooler weather, eagerly awaiting the chance to enjoy outdoor activities without the sweltering heat. Let's make the most of this season by taking precautions, supporting one another, and anticipating the refreshing relief that autumn will soon bring."

Sean

"Aug 2023 - Longwood Elementary School Updates

The 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start at Longwood Elementary School. We are excited to welcome many new students and staff members including our new Principal, Mrs. Lisa Tucker and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Joan Pickard. Additionally, our campus has benefited from the half-cent sales tax with the unveiling of long-awaited renovations to our school campus. The capital improvement campaign not only provided new walls for previously open-concept classrooms, but also included new age-appropriate furnishing and state-of-the-art Clear Touch interactive technology to support learning.

Please see link below for the WEAR ABC TV news story featuring Longwood Elementary which aired on August 10th: https://weartv.com/news/local/okaloosa-county-schools-seeing-improvements-from-half-cent-sales-tax?
fbclid=lwAR0yDs-5fESOJxplx9qtjRqiPiljW1T-Hz1MZCTWF
fbclid=lwAR0yDs-

As we pursue academic achievement for all students, our motto this year is *One Team. One Goal. No Limits!* We look forward to partnering with families and community members to make our educational program the best it can be.

Lisa Tucker, Principal

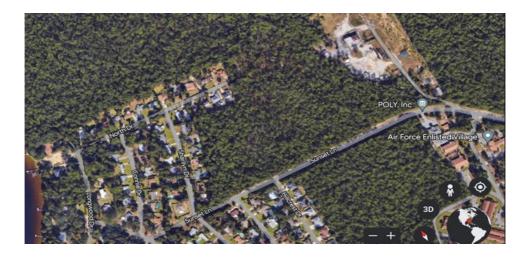
THE PBCA IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD TEENS OR SUB-TEENS

The PBCA is looking for some young people willing to help with our neighborhood events. Our events coordinator is planning a number of events that will only be successful if enough interested young people will lend a hand. You can help yourself by helping us.

Engaging in civic or community service can potentially enhance a student's college application and improve their acceptance odds, not just in Florida but also in colleges and universities across the United States. Admissions committees often look for well-rounded individuals who demonstrate a commitment to their communities and a willingness to make a positive impact. Here's how participating in civic or community service can be beneficial:

- Engaging in community service showcases your character, values, and a sense of responsibility. It indicates that you care about issues beyond your personal interests and are willing to contribute to the betterment of society.
- Active involvement in community service can demonstrate leadership skills and the ability to take initiative
- Participating in community service exposes you to experiences that can help you develop a deeper understanding of societal challenges. This perspective can enrich your personal growth and contribute to your academic pursuits.
- Given that many students apply to college with strong academic records, engaging in community service can set you apart from other applicants and make your application more memorable to admissions committees

Contact Whitney Cramer at whitneybcramer@gmail.com



Legendary Cove Subdivision Update – August 2023 by Dave Hensley
Last week we received three documents from Okaloosa County Growth Management containing review comments for the proposed Legendary Cove Subdivision development order. These comments are for Kimley-Horn Engineering Firm to update the proposed development order documents. Formally they never said that this would generate another 45-day extension. However, the development order review process has been extended without a deadline. I was advised by the Okaloosa County Growth Management office that they will advise us when they plan to issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Issue a Development Order (DO) and post the NOI to Issue a DO sign of the project property (AKA: white sign). Okaloosa County Growth Management office has been very diligent in reviewing the development order documents with the county land development codes.

We've been working with Mr. Mike Chesser, a local attorney who's is advocating that the entrance to the proposed Legendary Cove Subdivision go north through Eglin AFB property. Eglin AFB officials are open to this idea. Ms. Ketchel, our County Commissioner, is on board. Unfortunately, there's no interest from the builder, D.R. Horton, or the owners of the property.

We recently received an email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection about gaining access to the asphalt plant. They have attempted since early March 2023 to investigate the area where the tar pit was. FDEP has been unable to contact the current property owner. FDEP told us the site will be assessed to document whether a release of hazardous substances has occurred and to evaluate potential threats to nearby receptors, including drinking water wells and surface water bodies. The report will be completed in March 2024. At some point, FDEP will gain access, either with the owner's permission or by an inspection warrant. We're not sure how this will affect the development order process. We will let you know what we find out. Additional information about this program: https://floridadep.gov/waste/waste-cleanup/content/cercla-site-screening#:~:text=The%20Comprehensive%20Environmental%20Response%20Compensation,threats%20to%20nearby%20receptors%2C%20including.

Back on July 21st, the second YouTube interview with Michael Pancher, a local realtor updating the community on our efforts. Here's the link to the YouTube video interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a4XBpzM3Tb4

We're still looking for birdwatchers to take some close-up pictures of the Red Cockaded Woodpecker (RCW). Shelly Hakspiel, who lives at 6 Sharilyn Dr. has offered her backyard which backs up to the forty acres that's up for sale. If you want to help, please contact Shelly at shelly@hakspiel.com.

The next county commissioners meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 15th, 2023, 8:30 AM (South) Okaloosa County Administration Building in Shalimar. If you can show up to a Commission meeting, we need you!!!! Please come wearing a red People Protecting Poquito Bayou T-shirt and show your support.

We now have People Protecting Poquito Bayou signs!!! <u>These signs are printed on both sides!!</u> Since they're double sided, we must charge for the signs. \$5 for a sign. We got in more T-shirts sizes (large, extra-large and XX large). Price is \$6 per T-shirt. If you have contributed \$100 or more to PPPB, you get a free T-shirt or sign.

A newspaper article will soon be published in the Northwest Florida Daily Newspaper regarding the proposed subdivision.

We can use your talents. If you can research online, we need you. If you have a civil engineering background, we need you. If you can write a letter to the editor, you need you. If you're passionate objecting to a certain aspect of this subdivision project, we need you! We need reinforcements!

Download our app today!

Search: Okaloosa County Sheriff, FL







Okaloosa County Sheriff, Eric Aden, is excited to announce the release of a smartphone application. This app will serve as a new way for the sheriff's office to connect with Okaloosa County residents and visitors, providing information quickly and efficiently to anyone with a smartphone.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit wants to remind residents in the Poquito Bayou area to LOCK their vehicles, TAKE your keys & guns, and HIDE their belongings. Report all suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office such as people walking the neighborhood with backpacks, dark clothes, acting suspicious, and pulling on door handles in between vehicles. Trust your instincts that tell you something is not right. The OCSO non-emergency # 850-651-7400. Download the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office app which has all the non-emergency numbers, Crime Stoppers App, Crime Prevention Programs, and weather alerts.

Ashley Bailey Crime Prevention Manager Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters 50 2nd Street Shalimar, FL 32579 Cell (850)259-0031









abailev@sheriff-okaloosa.org

POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the August 7th, 2023 meeting Flaherty Residence, 68 Poquito

Meeting called to order at 18:02 Present: Sean Cramer, Pam Martin, Bob Davis, Dave Hensley, Michael Aid, Felicia Murphy, David Boyd, Pat Hollarn, Tricia Flaherty, Whitney Cramer, Jane Fedosky-Hensley, and Mary Ann Leone. Minutes of the June meeting had been distributed; motion to approve was made by Michael and seconded by Felicia, minutes were approved. Treasurer's report for June was presented by Tricia, motion to accept by Michael, seconded by Sean, report was accepted. Treasurer's report for July was also presented, motion to accept by Felicia, seconded by Michael, report was accepted/approved. The current balance is \$9,960.17 between the various accounts, including bank, Venmo, and PayPal. The money for the plaques still must be paid, and if all the money potentially allocated for various projects is spent, the balance would be approximately \$2,200.

Membership: Pam reported 112 members with paid renewed membership thus far for 2023

<u>Events</u>: The Harvesting Fall Festival is scheduled for 28 October, and Whitney has a green light to ask entities for financial donations. The Trunk or Treat will not be sponsored by PBCA, to avoid conflict with the Festival and regular door-to-door trick-or-treating.

<u>BHEV</u>: Bob, the liaison, has reserved the meeting room at BHEV for the annual membership meeting.

Poquito Boat Ramp Park: Dave reported flood monitoring equipment has been installed by the County.

<u>Street & Traffic Safety</u>: Ashley Baily from OCSO will provide incident information/reports for dissemination to the neighborhood.

<u>Street Directors:</u> A mailer (card) is nearly complete and will be mailed to the entire neighborhood. The cost (including postage) will be \$440, and that was approved unanimously.

Old Business: Mike discussed the costs of a storage shed, for which money has been approved. The cost of a 10x8 shed is \$550 (not including foundation blocks and such), and erecting the shed will be a work project for PBCA. The board previously authorized up to \$1000 for purchase of shed and foundation. With respect to the pathway between Magnolia and Holly used by children walking to school, Sean and Whitney cleared a 5-foot path. The Abandoned Homes committee has met since the last board meeting, and Mel Ponder (County Commissioner) has expressed a willingness to help alleviate the burden to the neighborhood that abandoned homes pose.

New Business: Regarding spending goals, the first step is the appointment of a budget committee for 2024, which will be composed of Felicia, Tricia, and Whitney. Pat discussed the nominating committee, who would like to involve teens, including those who may need service hours for school. The General Membership meeting will be held Thursday, 12 October, perhaps 1830, with refreshments starting perhaps 1800. Up to \$250 was approved for refreshments, to include beer and wine, and this will be an adult event. The motion was made by Pam, and seconded by Dave, and was approved unanimously. The Veteran's Memorial plaques should be completed by the end of August, owing to unforeseen events for the engraver. Ken still plans to install the plaques on the appropriate posts. Mike discussed finishing the area immediately around the Memorial structure, and that will be further fleshed out at a future board meeting. The well pump in Leo Norred park is not functional and it will probably require about \$1250 to fix per Felicia, so \$1500 was allocated for its repair, with motion made by Pat, seconded by Pam, and passed unanimously. Upcoming events include a Shrimp Boil on 16 September, a neighborhood garage sale on 04 November, the Friendsgiving on 18 November, and the Christmas Parade on 16 December. The annual Veterans Day Ceremony at the park will be held on Saturday, 11 November.

<u>Legendary Cove Subdivision</u>: Dave discussed the Sunset Road development proposal (DR Horton) and the extensions that have been generated due to inadequate information by the planning team from Horton. Dave praised the County Development Team for their attention to detail. Dave is working to have FL DEP (Dept of Environmental Protection) test for hazardous substances in the area of the asphalt plant. Bird watchers are looking for activity of the Red cockaded woodpecker, since that is a protected species.

<u>Announcements</u>: Newsletter articles for next newsletter due to Bob Davis by Sunday August 13th. Next PBCA board meeting to be held September 11th at the Leone home at 30 Poquito at 1800.

Meeting adjourned at 19:20 pm.

David Boyd, /Recording Secretary

YARD OF THE MONTH August 2023

The Poquito Bayou Yard of the Month Award recognizes the hard work and pride exhibited by residents who beautify their yard.

39 HOLLY AVE

4 JAPONICA LN

August's Yard of the Month goes to!!!!!

This month we have yards on Holly Ave & Japonica Ave



39 Holly Ave & 4 Japonica Ln



This year we will have two Yard of the Month, one for each street being judged.

If there is no winner on a street, then there will only be one winner.

See below when your street will be judged.

April – Magnolia Ave and Hickory Ave

May – Poplar Ave and Walnut

June - Maple Ave and Birch Ave

July – Poquito Rd 1-72 and Poquito Rd 73-149

August-Holly Ave and Japonica Ln

PBCA

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 2023

Balance	Forward	from	June	30	. 2023
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\$6,129.72

_	July 2023	YTD 2023
Income		
Membership Dues	\$0.001	\$1,580.00
Donations	\$0.002	
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$50.00*
Halloween Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
Easter Event Income	\$0.004	
Annual Meeting Bake Sale/Raffle	\$0.004	\$0.00
Annual Meeting Dake Sale/Kame Annual Meeting Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00
Crawfish & Shrimp Boil	\$0.003	·
New Sign Fundraiser	\$0.00	\$50.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$100.00
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$170.00
Total Income	\$0.00	\$3,589.00
Expenses		
Gulf Power	\$107.18	\$474.26
Postage/P.O. Box	\$0.00	\$97.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$484.77
Candidates Night	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$265.89
Childrens Christmas Party	\$0.00	\$0.00
Friendsgiving Event	\$0.00	\$0.00
Annual State Registration	\$0.00	\$61.25
Website Expense	\$0.00	\$216.00
Crawfish & Shrimp Boil	\$0.00	\$647.38
Easter Event	\$0.00	\$281.52
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	\$1,120.00
	<u> </u>	Ψ1,120.00
Total Expenses	\$267.18	\$3,648.07
Reconciled Balance July 31, 2023	3	
*Veteran's Memorial Co	llected to Date	\$3,510.00
Venmo Balance as of 07/31/2023		
PayPal Balance as of 07/31/2023		
Total		
YTD		
1 Dues Actual	\$1,639	
2 Donations Actual	\$578	
3 Crawfish Boil Actual	\$1,324	6
4 Easter Event Actual	\$261	
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The form was not changed but 2023 dues are \$20 vice \$10. We are investigating a number of ways to enhance our neighborhood

August

MON. – FRI. 11AM-1PM



CATERING AND SPECIALTY CUISINE

30 HOLLY AVE.
SHALIMAR, FL 32579
(850) 376-1916
CALL FOR AFEV CAMPUS

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		BEEF TACOS, chips, queso & guacamole salad	MEATLOAF, mashed potatoes & veg	GRILLED CHICKEN CLUB SANDWICH & French fries	FISH & CHIPS	5
6	7 CHICKEN FRIED STEAK, mashed potatoes & veg	8 GRILLED REUBEN SANDWICH & French fries	9 LASAGNA, garlic bread & salad	PULLED PORK STUFFED POTATO & side salad	CRAB CAKES, rice pilaf & vegetable	12
13	CHICKEN CORDON BLEU, rice & veg	SCRAMBLED EGGS, bacon, sausage & pancakes	POT ROAST, potatoes & carrots	CHICKEN ENCHILADAS rice & beans	SEAFOOD SALAD COLD PLATE	19
20	*CLOSED*	CHICKEN PARMESAN, spaghetti & salad	CUBAN SANDWICH & French fries	BEEF POT PIE & side salad	COOKOUT grilled burgers & dogs (no regular menu)	26
27	PIZZA, garlic knot & side salad	CHICKEN SALAD CROISSANT & potato salad	PORK CHOPS, mashed potatoes & veg	MEATBALL SUB & pasta salad		

















Let us support you!

A respite ministry for people and caregivers living with dementia right in your own backyard (almost)! Respite days at the church are Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-2, \$40 includes lunch.

Call Leigh Rice @ 850-865-4123 for more information on attending or volunteering.