



www.josephinecommunity.com

Josephine

Homeowners Association

Newsletter

March 2017

What's New

This January, the JHA Board hosted a community meeting for residents and the developer of a property located adjacent to the Baldwin County public boat launch on Robert's Bayou. The meeting was attended by 42 residents who were able to communicate directly with the developer, Pat Achee. The approximately 35 acre site will be divided into an approximate 10 acre parcel and the remaining 24 acres will contain 14 estate size waterfront lots of over an acre each and a common area. The development would be accessed along Marjon Lane, off Josephine Drive. Contained within the site is the historical Josephine Cemetery, which was last "cleaned-up" after Hurricane Katrina. While only 3 above ground gravesites are identifiable, Mr. Achee utilized a firm employing ground penetrating sonar to identify and map 50 gravesites. The cemetery was hand-cleared so that the survey could be completed. The Cemetery would not be disturbed by the development, but contained within common area and a 20 foot setback. The project is moving through the governmental regulatory agencies prior to development.

The JHA Board has been working with the Baldwin County Commission to police illegal parking along the Josephine Drive right of way adjacent to the county boat launch. One day this summer, 32 vehicles with boat trailers were parked in the right of way. A County sheriff was issuing tickets to individuals and warning notices were placed on illegally parked vehicles. Your HOA has partnered with the Sheriff's department to provide additional patrols during peak boating weekends in an effort to stop the illegal parking. We hope that the boating community is learning not to use the boat launch if the parking lot is full. A larger boat launch and parking lot is available on Perdido Bay in Lillian.

Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Clayton and Joyce Eastlack

Relocated from Marathon, FL, in the Florida Keys, to Stone Quarry and they also maintain a seasonal home in Rangeley, Maine.

Ernie and Tina Rabalais

Relocated from Walker, Louisiana to a new home they built in Stone Quarry.

Stan Lautar

Joining his many friends on the Alabama Gulf coast, Stan purchased a home in Stone Quarry and also maintains a home in Tennessee.

Lee and Joy Cronley

Gulf coast natives Lee and Joy spent the last 30 years in Cody, Wyoming and have now relocated to Stone Quarry where they are closer to family and warmer weather.

Mark and Dee Shellem

Relocated from Moreland, Georgia to their family home on Robert's Bayou.

Calendar of Activities

Just Us Girls Neighborhood Coffee: March 8 & 22, April 12 & 26 Contact Teresa Denny for more information.

JHA Annual Meeting and Party: April 8, 2017, 3:30pm Camp Dixie

Arts and Crafts: April 5, Cake Decorating; May 3, Annual picnic and art challenge reveal

High Hopes for Autism – Pirates Cove, June 2, 3, 4, 2017

Wood Boat Show – Pirates Cove, May 5, 6, 7, 2017

Ongoing: Community Flow Yoga with Bibi Hutchins at Betty Jean's party barn (Rosemary Lane) T/Th 8:15 and Yin Yoga at 9:30

JHA facebook

Keep up with the local events on Facebook (Josephine Homeowners Association) or visit the JHA website at www.josephinecommunity.com

History Corner

The photograph to the right shows Roberts Bayou before almost any development existed on the bayou or looking south across Arnica Bay.

Thanks to Joe Bulger for this photograph.



New Neighbors

The Shellems

Situated on the water of picturesque Roberts Bayou, the home at 6776 South Bayou Drive had humble beginnings in 1950 as a one bedroom, one bathroom home. Over time, it was expanded to the 4 bedroom 1 ½ bath home of today.

During the mid-1970's Frank and Dita Shellem purchased the home and upon his retirement made it their permanent residence. Over the years they added the garage, a master bath and enclosed the front porch.

The home has survived hurricanes of great force as the likes of Hurricane Fredrick in the late 70's and the most recent, Hurricane Ivan. Though the front porch was destroyed during Ivan it was rebuilt and serves as a wonderful area for relaxing and entertaining while viewing the water and activities of Roberts Bayou and Arnica Bay.

In the summer of 2012 the home was turned over to the Estate of Frank Shellem and remained there for four years. From the summer of 2012 through the summer of 2016 the residence served as a vacation spot for the Shellem Family and their friends.

During March of 2016 Mark and Dee Shellem purchased the home from the Estate making them new home owners in Josephine. Mark and Dee immediately began updates to the residence. In August of 2016 they sold their home in Moreland, Georgia and became perma-

nent residences of 6776 South Bayou Drive. "Life in Josephine is grand!" they say enthusiastically.

The Cronleys

Lee and Joy Cronley had a successful career in the rodeo. She rode a sorrel stallion in barrel racing and Lee was a steer roper. Natives of the Florida Gulf coast, they matriculated to Cody, Wyoming 30 years ago where they maintained a ranch near the borders of Yellowstone National Park. Lee is so much the consummate Western man that his photo graces the cover on the DK book on the modern West. He is a true artisan, crafting furniture of burl wood, moose and elk horn, and leather. Their home in Stone Quarry is a testament to their love of Western art. They are pictured with a chair crafted by Lee.

Nowadays they are spending their days on the warm waters of Arnica Bay and enjoying the scenic beauty of Josephine.



Josephine Volunteer Fire Department

Frances Pizitz of the Josephine VFD highlighted some of the activities and accomplishments of the VFD:

Eight of our volunteers completed a First Responders course, six weeks in duration and 65 hours long. This past summer they participated in a Life Flight training course and a weekend long brush fire training course. The volunteers just completed a Water Transfer class, exceeding the goal of 1,000 gallons per minute by doing 1,500 GPM.

Additionally, they are taking a ISO Certification class in Barnwell, with three of our trucks participating. **This helps to ensure that homeowners insurance is kept at a low rating. Our current rat-**

ing is 5\7, about as good as it gets. Next, they will be taking a 30 hour Firefighter #1 course. This will be taught at the fire house.

As you can see, the volunteers are staying busy, in spite of full time employment. I am so proud of our department!!

We are still pursuing a building expansion as we are literally bursting at the seams. At this point we are actively searching for an architect to complete the plans and then we will search for an engineer. At that point we will do a feasibility study as to affordability.

We are pursuing a grant with the Alabama Rural Development program, as well as a low interest loan, knowing that the expansion will be costly.

Josephine HOA It's all about Community!

We won't tell you what color you can paint your house and we won't nag you about your yard. But we will keep you informed about the goings on in and around Josephine. We have been an advocate for our little community at the Baldwin County Commission and even voiced our concerns to our U.S. senators and congressman when necessary. We have worked to get the Josephine park cleaned and restored, enforce parking regulations (and associated traffic issues) at the county boat launch, attended County Commission hearings, hosted community meetings, maintain the Josephine Community website and a Josephine HOA Facebook page.

Our minimum budget just to stay in operation is approximately \$3,000 per year, excluding the annual meeting and party. At \$25 per household, that means we need at least 120 households to pay their dues. So please check your email to see if you have received a second notice, or see if the dues request is sitting in your bill pile, or just email me for a membership form. Our fiscal year runs from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, so it is not too late to join this year.

Our Annual Meeting and Party will be held April 8, 2016 at Camp Dixie, from 3:30 to 5pm. We will provide a little music, beer, wine, sodas and water. Please bring an appetizer to share with your neighbors! (Please note that we will not be serving diner this year due to budget concerns.)

Current JHA Board Members and Officers

President – Michelle McMillen – petenmichelle@sbcglobal.net

Secretary – Karen Owens – kareno40@yahoo.com

Treasurer – Shelby McRae - smcrae1061@gmail.com

Veronica Herndon – vherndon@hamarketing.com

Carl Martray – martray_cr@mercer.edu

Kim Morgan – twmorgan03@yahoo.com

Janet Davies - ndavies@geosyntec.com

Mike Hawkins – Hawkins@gulftel.com

John Shaw – gaffer29@outlook.com