

# Dauphin Island

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## PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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### January 2011 Newsletter

Happy New Year!! I myself am not sad to see 2010 move along and make room for 2011. While we are still experiencing some effect from the oil crisis I have to think the worst of it is behind us and now we can focus our attention and energy on recovery. I will comment on some specific efforts to that end. And we did receive some benefits from the oil crisis—the Town was able to secure funding for a permanent dune system along the south side of Bienville Blvd which should largely prevent the damaging overwash that we have experienced in the past years. A second dune system between the houses and the water is currently being lowered in profile to make access to the water easier. Also, the Katrina Cut has been closed and to the best of my knowledge will remain so. The POA management has been busy. Jeff Collier has been hard at work readying the grill—to be known as the "Gulfview Grill"—for its opening in the very near future. The golf course is now open 7 days/week and BP has vacated our clubhouse. The POA board continues to work on some significant administrative changes hoping to offer proposals for the upcoming ballot this spring. So we are making some progress toward our return to normal although we have to realize that "normal" may not be the same. I think it was Will Rogers who said..." things aren't what they used to be—they never were"

Following are a few specific highlights.

**Clubhouse and Facilities.** The lease with BP for the use of our main building expired late December and while we are awaiting a few final restoration items to be completed, we now have the facility for our own use. In addition to scheduling events for the membership, we will again be renting the facility for weddings, reunions, etc. While we missed using our facility during the time it was occupied by BP, we did receive needed income from them and they returned the building to us in a much improved condition—so not all bad.

As I mentioned earlier, the grill has been revitalized and will be opening very soon—maybe before you read this. We will serve breakfast and lunch 7 days/week and while not serving dinner, will remain open for the golfers -and others—to enjoy a late afternoon beverage and snack.

The pool is presently receiving a facelift and modernization. Our goal is to have it ready to open by spring break. We will also operate the poolside refreshment bar. We will communicate the details of the pool operation as they are finalized.

The golf course is now open 7 days/week and Jeff has at least one tournament already planned—that one being on 22Jan. Contact the golf shop for details.

**New Faces.** First I'll say Thank You to Sussi Dalton for her service to the POA—she left us to pursue other endeavors last fall. Presently helping Jeff with the office are Vickie Yeager and Kathy Rowley—welcome aboard.

**Financial.** As predicted following the oil crisis and as reflected in our approved budget, revenues are down compared to previous—normal—years. However, owing to expense management and to our receiving an interim claim payment for BP, our financial position is actually better than projected. Just to mention a couple of details, our FYTD ( May -Nov 2010) was negative \$18,000 compared with negative \$85,000 for the same period last year, and budgeted negative \$62,000. So while we are still operating at a loss, it is less than anticipated and with the possibility of additional claims payments and enhanced revenues from operations, we have a good chance of ending the year at a break-even, or a slightly positive income.

**AFRC** Dauphin Island is under review as a possible site for an Armed Forces Recreational Center (AFRC) or a variation thereof. Such facility would be akin to the Coast Guard facility that operated on the island for years prior to its demise at the hand of Hurricanes Ivan and Katrina. The facility under review would likely be located in a more accessible location on the island and could involve POA property. There are many possible advantages to the island in general and the POA in particular --one of which would be the presence of a hotel and the inherent increase in tourism associated with it. At this point it is too early to speculate on what exactly will happen—and where—but stay tuned for more information as it comes available.

**Status of Constitutional Issues Under Study.** As we have explained in previous newsletters and board meeting minutes, the board is considering initiatives to remove the "members only" deed restriction, and to make dues a mandatory condition of POA membership. These items will require a vote of the membership and depending upon what the board decides to recommend, will likely be on the next regular ballot. If changes are recommended by the board, they will be thoroughly explained so that all members will know exactly what is being proposed. Again, stay tuned for more information. We are also continuing to work on an online discussion forum and as details are finalized that initiative will be announced and explained.

**Upcoming Election for Board Members.** It's hard to believe that another election is not that far off, but it will be here before you know it. I encourage all members to give some thought to being a candidate, or recruiting others whom you think would be good candidates to run. This election will be a bit unusual in that we will elect four board members—three for three year terms and one for a one year term. The board members whose terms expire in May 2011 are Jones, Graves, Gaba, and Williams. I hope we will have a robust slate of candidates for these openings.

**Next Meetings.** The next meeting of the POA board will be Wednesday, Jan 19, at 6:00 PM, at the Isle Dauphine clubhouse. Keep in mind that the meeting details are subject to change — check the website for updates. The remaining meetings for the year are scheduled at the clubhouse as follows:

Feb 16, 2011 (Wed) 6:00 PM

Apr 20, 2011 ( Wed) 6:00 PM

Mar 19, 2011 (Sat) 11:00 AM

May 14, 2011 ( Sat) 11:00 AM ( Annual Meeting)

Bruce Jones  
POA President

