



GULF HILLS NEWS



A Neighborhood Watch Community
A Bird Sanctuary Community

March 9, 2021



Turning The Corner.....

John Fleming, President, Gulf Hills Civic Association

And down the next street is the "light at the end of the tunnel." On that street, the hotel has been sold and now being run as Gulf Hills Hotel and Resort. Building renovations and room updates are underway as the new owners are working their way through the design change. They are in league with the adjacent golf course owners in a commitment to bring a fun, profitable resort back to the community.



The Gulf Hills Golf Club is up and running, bringing golf back. It has only been a year after the previous management closed the course. They have added two successful amenities to our community with Capone's Restaurant and Speakeasy Lounge.

Energetic to support and be a part of Gulf Hills, the hotel and golf course are creating events for our enjoyment and supporting our civic association efforts to assure our identity as a great place to live and play. The next big event will be on March 20. The Spring/Easter Vendor Fair & Craft Show will be in the hotel ballroom and the Community Easter Egg Hunt will be on the golf course behind Capone's Restaurant. This follows the Christmas Vendor Fair and Craft Show, a Mardi Gras Masked Ball, and a Father/Daughter Banquet and Dance.

While we are thankful for these improvements and welcome the reduced stress from not knowing the fate of the hotel and golf course, challenges are still ahead of us all. Traffic and trash are of concerns that we will keep on the top of our list. The Neighborhood Watch program needs a restart. And, with the new home construction, we must stay engaged with county officials to make sure they provide proper mitigations when these significant changes have negative impacts.

Gulf Hills is in the very beginning of its next existence. Our unique circumstance presents opportunity to create our community as is needed for the next 30 years. We will be limited only by the energy available. Lend your time, talent, and voice when asked and able. Get to know your neighbors and stay connected to the pulse of Gulf Hills.

2020 Annual Membership Meeting – May 11



In respect to the increased Covid-19 vaccination rate, decreasing occurrences, and lifting of restrictions on gatherings, the 2021 Gulf Hills Civic Association Annual Membership Meeting has been set for May 11th.

The ballroom of the Gulf Hills Hotel and Resort have been secured for the event. This meeting is for residents of Gulf Hills households that have paid their 2021 annual dues. Many have already paid, but you still have several weeks to pay via a check or using your credit card at Gulf-hills.org. Of course, you can pay at the door, but please come early.

We will start this year's meeting with a time [Continue page 5 Annual Meeting](#)

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Member:	Haley Chatham '23	2 1 9 - 0 4 5 4
	haleychenault@gmail.com	
Member:	Pete Manley '21	3 8 2 - 4 9 9 5
	Wcupappy@gmail.com	

Display your House Numbers

One night in January, an ambulance drove into Gulf Hills and turned onto Ridge at the south entrance and drove almost to the other end of Ridge, then backed into a driveway to turn around. In hopes of helping them, a resident stopped beside the ambulance and asked where they needed to go. They gave him the address on Ridge and said they could not find the house number on the mail box or house. Shortly, it was discovered that all the house numbers on the mail boxes are on the North side of Ridge. A north bound vehicle would not see the house numbers unless they turned and went south. Yes, they had a GPS address locator, but addresses need to be verified. To help emergency responders, delivery drivers, and visitors locate your home, consider the following:



In the early actions of the Jackson County Planning Commission, a grid strategy was created that gave non-sequential addresses on streets in newly developed areas.

In Gulf Hills, we have too many instances where the same house number is used on more than one street.

We are a landscaped, lovely community that lends to creative mailbox plantings.

The house number should be on the house, not just on the mailbox.

Place your house number on the front of your mail box and/or on both sides.

Oh, the ambulance did find the house they needed to go to, but it was a slow process of driving by the homes, one by one in search of that house number. It all turned out well then. Let's not risk the delay. Make sure your house number is visible.

Lighting District Reminder

Van Arnold, Lightning District Commissioner

Please report outages or malfunctioning streetlights to Mississippi Power at 800-487-3275. Give the address closest to the light. The Gulf Hills Lighting District is being charged for each light, working or not.

Recently, several residents have complained that MS Power has not responded to their reporting of malfunctioning lights. If you have a malfunctioning or burned out street light, email: vanmar-nold@gmail.com with the location of that light. I will report it to MS power for proper replacement.



Work of the Association Your Full Participation is Critical

Often, the question is asked "what benefits or advantages come with the annual paid membership of the Gulf Hills Civic Association?" The answer can be placed in a short bullet list.

- Vote at annual meetings on matters before the civic association.
- Participate as a Director for the GHCA.
- Have a direct voice in the direction of the association.
- Provide funds for activities of the GHCA.

Another question could be asked that would give a better look at what is needed from Gulf Hills residents in the work of the Gulf Hills Civic Association. "How can I fully participate in the Gulf Hills Civic Association?" While each resident has limitations on time and resources, the collective community can do many things. Let's look at the bullet list from this question.



- ◇ Provide your household annual dues, currently \$30 per year
 - This supplies funds for a variety of yearly expenses.
 - Support for the Memorial Garden, other common areas
 - Lease on the land for the entrance sign
 - Publication of Gulf Hills News
 - Management of Gulfhills.org
 - Expenses for Events
- ◇ Attend the Annual Membership Meeting, the next scheduled for May 2021
 - At this meeting, official business is brought before the members for votes as special insight is shared with the members.
 - Election of Directors
 - Changes to Bi-Laws
 - State of the County, Golf Course and Hotel Insights
- ◇ Bring forward and provide thoughtful feedback on issues common to the community.
- ◇ Volunteer to serve on work committees and during special activities.
 - The GHCA is moving forward with a variety of programs where your expertise, special interest, and handy work are needed.
 - Work will either be done by volunteers or paid for by the general funds of the civic association

Support your community newsletter while informing your neighbors about your business!



Buy this advertisement spot in the Next edition of the Gulf Hills News to be published around June, 2021


GULF HILLS
 HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

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Speeding Awareness is the Next Step

The survey is complete, and the answer is in. Your neighbors have noticed you speeding along main roads and side roads and running stop signs. If it wasn't you, then certainly someone in your household, or maybe it was a contractor working at your home? No, then maybe it was the school bus that they noticed. In any case, quite a few drivers in Gulf Hills are not fully aware they are causing concern amongst residents.



There will not be radar enforcement or speed bumps any time soon. So, for now, we must become more aware of our driving habits. While talking with our contractors about not littering our streets, we can remind them to observe the speed limits. If you happen to know one of the school bus drivers, let them know that we appreciate their work, but try to work a little slower.

To help with our vehicle speed awareness, the Jackson County Road Department will be making available a portable speed alert message sign. While keeping our eyes on the road, we are not necessarily noticing the value on the speedometer. From our recent survey, we know which roads are of most concern. Along these roads, we'll need a volunteer resident yard or two in which to place this sign. If you are willing and think it may be a good fit, please send an email to President@gulphills.org. Whereas this device is not used for policing and enforcement, it will collect data on vehicle traffic numbers and speed.



Gulf Hills Hotel & Resort Exciting Update

A group of local residents have partnered to become the proud new owners of the Gulf Hills Hotel & Resort and look forward to meeting their new neighbors! There is plenty to do as they plan to preserve the rich history, return the beloved 11.5-acre resort to its original glory, and work closely with the Gulf Hills Golf Course/Capone's Restaurant to offer a unique, seamless, and fun experience for guests. They ask for your patience and thank you for your continued support of what is truly a gem, right here in our backyard. Currently, renovations of the 56 hotel rooms are underway and they look forward to sharing more plans soon. For now, the hotel is open and ready to host you, your family, and your friends! Please call them at (228) 875-4211 to book your next stay or learn more about hosting your events.



Ho Ho Ho in the Hills 2020 Recap

December was fun and busy in Gulf Hills, even with the restrictions and some bad weather. The Memorial Garden was lit, we had our first Christmas Parade, a family chili supper, and another year of great decorations. Listed below are the 2021 Gulf Hills Annual Christmas Decorations Winners. This event is sponsored by the Gulf Hills Civic Association and the Gulf Hills Garden Club.

- Muzslay – 6304 Poco Road
- Hudson – 13904 W. El Bonito
- Creel – 13807 Puerto Drive
- Bourgeois – 6309 Shore Drive
- Demoran – 13705 Paraiso Road
- Bruno – 6821 Corto Road
- Hitt – 6813 Corto Road
- Pippin – 6705 Orchard Road



**CALL TODAY FOR A
FREE QUOTE!
228.207.8752**



HURRICANE SEASON STARTS JUNE 1

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Give the Turtles a Brake this Spring! **Roy Lipscomb, Mississippi Patrol Officer, MDMR**

Gulf Coast Box Turtle Range & Habitat

The most common turtle found in Gulf Hills, the Gulf Coast Box Turtle can be found along the Gulf of Mexico. They can only be found from Florida to Louisiana along the coast. With the warmer weather approaching they will soon be moving around looking for mates and food. During hotter weather they will be active during early morning and after rain showers. When I see one crossing the road here, I usually pick it up and put it across the road in the direction it was travelling. Unfortunately, people will sometimes try to take it home and release it in their yard, but the box turtle will try to get back to its home range and will often get run over.

This subspecies of box turtle loves to be around water, in Gulf Hills we see them crossing roads, in our yards, and even on our patios begging for food. They like shallow waters that maintain a consistent water level throughout the year. While they are not aquatic and do not live-in water, they like to travel to shallow waters often. Being so close to water also offers them a nice, consistent humidity. The semi-tropical nature of our community, such as the swamps and marshy areas around the golf course; offer reliable warmth for most of the year. If things become too cold, they will bury themselves and somewhat hibernate.

Shape or ID

Of all the sub-species of box turtle, the Gulf Coast Box Turtle is the largest. They have a large dome top shell (Carapace). Their skin and shell are often dark colored, such as browns and blacks. Other sub-species of box



turtles are occasionally encountered here, but this is a result of human relocation.

Is it a Male or Female Box Turtle?

There are a few ways you can determine the gender of a Gulf Coast Box Turtle. The male's eyes will sometimes have a red iris while the females do not; this is one of the easier ways to sex the turtle. The other means of sexing may require having two turtles to compare side by side. Males typically have larger tails, both in length and girth; carapaces are more rectangular than round like females. You can also look at the (Plastron), the underneath or bottom shell. Males will usually have a concave curve to their plastron; this shape is to help them mount a female turtle during mating. Females tend to have flat plastrons.

Breeding usually takes place in March and April with the males engaging in violent combat for territory and breeding year-round. Unfortunately, it appears the female does not seem to have much choice in the mating process as the males are relentless in subduing them for mating. The female will carefully select her nest site around June and depending on environmental factors the eggs will hatch out in around eighty days.

Diet

As with many turtles, the Gulf Coast Box Turtle is an omnivore. This means it eats both meat and plant matter and must have both in its diet to stay healthy. They get their meat primarily from live insects that they hunt. This is one of the reasons they always live near shallow water, as this is a good breeding ground for many insects. They will hunt snails, worms, beetles, grasshoppers, slugs,

grubs, and virtually any insect they can find and capture.

The rest of their diet consists of plant matter and fungi, such as moss, grass, berries, fruit, and mushrooms.

Gulf Coast Box Turtle Lifespan

Like most box turtles, the Gulf Coast Box Turtle has the potential to live for a long time and have been recorded to reach a hundred years of age in the wild. When in captivity for most of their lives, this number is believed to diminish in most cases.

How can you Help?

All the deceased Box Turtles I have encountered in Gulf Hills were caused by being run over by a vehicle. I do not think people intentionally run them over, but people passing through, contractors, and delivery trucks might not have box turtles in their neighborhoods and are not tuned in to look for them; as the Gulf Hills residents are. We can all slow down, pay attention while driving, the object in the road might not be a pinecone, but a startled box turtle frozen in alarm; due to a large object approaching them. Try to inform our delivery drivers, contractors, and people visiting of our community. Turtle Crossing signs can be found online to put in yards to remind people of our little pre-historic neighbors.

Next newsletter we will look at identifying our common snake species found here.



From Our Sheriff - Mike Ezell

I hope this finds all of you well in the beginning of a new year. With COVID-19 still making headlines every day, it seems like this year is just a continuation of 2020. We're living in a different world with the priority staying safe and healthy. It sure will be good to get back to some kind of normal, whatever that is!



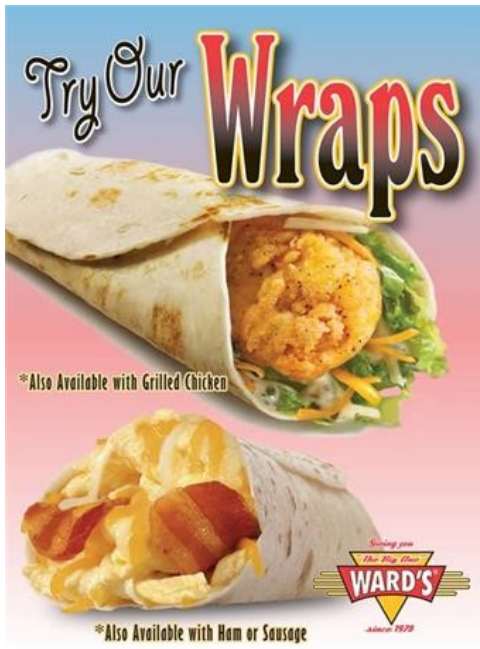
The Census Bureau tells us more people are moving into the unincorporated areas of the county. Even so, the St. Martin community remains our highest crime spot. 34% of all crimes in 2020 occurred in that area. That number represents all major crimes, with car thefts remaining at the top of the list. We cannot stress enough the importance of locking your vehicles and removing all valuables.

I'd like to brag a little about a very old case that, after many manhours and much determination, we were able to solve in late 2020. On December 5, 1982, the body of an 18-month old toddler, who became known as Baby Jane, was found floating in the Escatawpa River. Over 38 years the case went cold as it passed from one investigator to another. Long story short, the child's body, which is buried in the Jackson County cemetery, was exhumed in 2009 to collect DNA samples. That technology wasn't widely available when the child was found. The samples were put into NamUS (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System) at the University of North Texas. A DNA lab in The Woodlands, Texas used the samples to build a genealogical profile, which led to the little girl's family in Missouri. Baby Jane finally had a name: Alisha Ann Heinrich. Her mother, Gwendolyn Mae Clemons, is still missing. The child's father is believed to be deceased, as is the man who Gwendolyn and Alisha left Missouri with on Thanksgiving, 1982. The case remains open as our investigators hope the identities will tell them what happened to Gwendolyn and the man described as her boyfriend. It's very gratifying that after so many years when it seemed we'd never have any answers, we could give the child's family some closure. I'm very proud of all of the investigators who wouldn't let this child and her mother remain nameless.

I am honored to serve as your sheriff. My staff and I are here anytime to help, so please don't hesitate to call. Have a great spring and summer!

from page 1 Annual Meeting

of social interaction, starting at 5:30 p.m. with refreshments provided by the association. Our business meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and last no more than one hour. Included in this year's meeting will be the election of 4 Directors to the class of 2021 and affirmation of directors temporarily put in place in 2020 due to the Covid-19 restrictions last year. Additional items on the agenda are the treasurer's report of expenses in 2020 and budget for 2021; a review of events since our last membership meeting; proposed changes in the by-laws; a look at the Gulfhills.org website; and a discussion of opportunities in the Gulf Hills community and civic association.



**Ward's loves
Gulf Hills**

Gulf Hills Resident



617 Pass Road
Gulfport MS 39501
(228) 864-6911

Gulf Hills Golf Course - Playing Through

At one year after presenting their proposal to the Gulf Hills Golf Club shareholders, Don and Reagan Pfeiffer re-opened the course using the lower nine holes. Considering the challenges of 2020 and the repairs needed to the greens, it was only with much effort and a persistent plan that allowed them to open on Thanksgiving week.

The course offers competitively priced rounds at \$20/nine holes and \$30/eighteen.



Photo credit: Fred L Salinas

The club house is now fully stocked where clubs can also be rented for \$10/round. The course is currently open Wednesday through Monday. For more information give them a call at 228-872-GOLF and visit their website at <https://gulfhillsgolfclub.com>. The club restaurant and lounge are also open and the public is welcome. See the Capones article on page 6.

Capones Restaurant and Speakeasy

Through the transition of ownership, the Gulf Hills Golf Club maintained that a key part of ongoing business would be the operation of the restaurant and lounge.



Once the Covid-19 restrictions were eased, Capones has been offering food and beverage entertainment in our community like we have not seen in many years. Hours of operation are:

Restaurant

Wednesday & Thursday - 11am - 8pm

Friday & Saturday - 11am - 9pm

Sunday - 11am - 2:30pm

Speakeasy

Wednesday - Sunday from 3pm - 10 pm

Capone's often incorporates food and celebration that result in the bar opening sooner than 3 pm and closing later than 10 pm.

Restaurant direct line: 228-872-6447

Visit them on Facebook for upcoming events and specials.

Those who live in South Mississippi cringe when they hear someone mispronounce **Biloxi** as Bi-lox-ee. And anyone who says "**Kiln**" as it is spelled, rather than "the Kill" as it is spoken locally, is instantly known to be a visitor or newcomer. Same with "The Pass," the shortened name for **Pass Christian**, which often is referred to as Pass Chris-chen instead of Pass-chris-tee-ann.

Even locals pronounce **Gautier** in different ways. City officials say it's Go-chay. Others say Go-shay. The GPS says Gau-tee-air and visitors talk about how they enjoyed going to Gator. French teachers say all those pronunciations are wrong.

Saucier ends in "ier" just like Gautier, but it's not pronounced So-chay. It also is called So-sheer or So-shah, depending on whom you ask.

There is little hope we can agree how to pronounce Gautier and Saucier, but let's all agree, and let TV announcers and visitors know —it's Bi-lux-ee!

Please return this form with
Your membership dues to:

Gulf Hills Civic Association
P.O. Box 475
Ocean Springs, MS 39566-0475

I have enclosed payment in the amount of **\$30.00** for my Gulf Hills Civic Association membership dues for the year **2021**. or go to gulfhills.org and pay by credit card. There is a **\$2.00** service fee when paying by credit card.

If the mailing label has PAID by your name, you have paid your 2021 dues.

Please fill in your name, _____

Address, phone number, and _____

Email address. _____

Mail to the address above. _____

Cut Along the dotted lines

Gulf Hills Racquet Club News

It's Springtime and as warmer weather is upon us, it's time to dust off those tennis rackets you've had stashed in the closet all winter! Although things may look a little rough around the edges at the courts right now, we are still in full swing! Repairs are underway to the four main clay courts and the clubhouse area at present. Pro Doug Hague continues to offer wonderful programs. Our juniors' clinics are growing in popularity and are a great deal. You can sign up your junior players for group clinics on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 until 5:30 pm. There are opportunities for all levels, from very beginner to more advanced players. The cost is \$15 per clinic per child, but if you pay in advance for the month it drops to \$12 per clinic. We have lots of fun and kids learn tennis basics. There are also adult clinics on Saturday mornings. Times for the adult clinics are 9:00 to 10:00 am and 10:00 to 11:30 am. All are welcome, although the 10 am clinic features more advanced and challenging drills. The cost of the 9 am adult clinic is \$15 for Racquet Club members and \$20 for non-members. The cost of the 10 am adult clinics is \$ 20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Pros Doug Hague and Duane McPeek also offer private lessons to both juniors and adults. Feel free to contact them at 228-219-6979 (Doug) or 228-218-5971 (Duane). Check out our website at gulfhillsracquetclub.com for more information. Come on out and visit us soon!



Gulf Hills Community Easter Egg Hunt

The Gulf Hills Golf Club, Gulf Hills Civic Association, Tina Seymour Demoran Law Firm and the Gulf Hills Hotel &



Resort are sponsoring a Gulf Hills Community Easter Egg Hunt. This inaugural event will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 20th on the golf course behind Capone's Restaurant. Included in activities will be:

- Photo Ops with the Easter Bunny.
- Baskets for the first 50 children.
- Prizes given per age group.

Updated information will be posted on Gulf-hill.org and on the new Facebook page, Events at Gulf Hills.

To add your business as a sponsor or ask a question, call Jeanell Todaro at 228-697-4572.

Helpful Phone Numbers

UTILITIES

Cable: (Sparklight)	374-5900
Electric: (MS Power)	800-532-1502
Power outage/trouble	800-487-3275
Natural Gas: (Center Point)	896-7500
Water & Sewer: (WJCUD)	872-3898

COUNTY SERVICES

Animal Shelter	497-6350
Health Department	875-1336
Justice Court	875-4125
Planning Department (Zoning)	769-3112
Road Department	875-4545
Rubbish Disposal (Landfill)	872-8340
Sheriff- Hwy 609 substation	875-6963

PUBLIC SERVICES

Ambulance (Acadian)	762-0214
Northwest Fire Dept. 911 or	818-0370
Refuse (Waste Management)	832-3144
St Martin Community Center	392-7361

HEALTH CARE

Singing River Hospital	809-5000
Ocean Springs Hospital	818-1111
Merit Hospital	432-1571
Bethesda Free Clinic	818-9191

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence 875-5433

OTHER

Wild at Heart (Wildlife)	669-7907
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LIBRARIES

Ocean Springs Library	875-1193
St Martin Library	392-3250

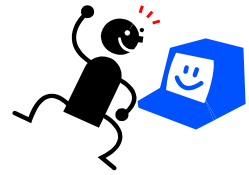
Upcoming Community Dates

Daylight Savings: Sunday March 14
Gulf Hills Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday March 20
Craft & Vendor Show: Saturday March 20
Good Friday: Friday April 2
Easter: Sunday: April 4
1699 Weekend: Fri-Sat April 23-24
Cinco de Mayo: Wednesday May 5
Annual Membership Meeting: Tuesday May 11
Memorial Day: Monday May 31
Red, White & Blueberry Festival: Sat June 5
Flag Day: Monday Jun 14
Independence Day: Sunday July 4

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Get Connected to Yahoo/Facebook

Join one or more of these social media groups to get involved and connected with your fellow residents of Gulf Hills.



- ◆ Gulf Hills Living Facebook Group
- ◆ Gulf Hills Civic Association Facebook Group

Here's how to connect:

For Gulf Hills Living Facebook Group

1. Log into Facebook (get an account using your current email)
2. Search in Facebook for the group (Gulf Hills Living), then click a request to join.
3. Answer the required questions.

One of the administrators, Jackie Parker or John Fleming, will review your answers and approve as appropriate.

For Gulf Hills Civic Association Facebook Group

1. Pay your annual membership fee to the Gulf Hills Civic Association. You can find the instructions in this newsletter or go to Gulfhills.org.
2. Send an email to one of the Facebook Group administrators that you have paid your annual membership fee. Their emails can be found on the front page of this newsletter or at Gulfhills.org.

Administrators for Gulf Hills Civic Association Facebook Group are John Fleming, Philip Demoran, and Jeanell Todaro. One of them will send you an invite to join this group.

Garbage Pickup Reminder



Household garbage pickup is scheduled each Tuesday. On **THREE** major holidays (New Years, Thanksgiving, Christmas) pickup will be postponed a day. Check the holiday schedule in the newspaper or on TV.

Rubbish Reminder

Rubbish (no-household garbage) pickup is scheduled for the second week of every month and all limbs and debris need to be put out by 7:00 am Monday of that week.

Limitations of Rubbish Pick-Up

The maximum volume of trash, trees, debris and/or vegetation that Jackson County may remove per pick-up per month is 3 cubic yards.