



# GULF HILLS NEWS



A Neighborhood Watch Community  
A Bird Sanctuary Community



February 19, 2019



## From the President

**Dave Philo, President, Gulf Hills Civic Association**

A Happy New Year to all of you. I hope your holidays were filled with family and friends.

As we enter a new year, your board will continue to work with our county officials to make Gulf Hills a pleasant and safe place to live. We are currently working with the county on a project that we think will improve the safety of our residents. There is an article included in this news letter describing the project. We will continue to seek out projects that improve our quality of life here in Gulf Hills.



As the weather warms up, we need to be reminded alligators get active. Be very careful around the water. Keep an eye out for your small pets. There is a leash law in Jackson County which essentially says the pets must be under the control of their owners. If you are walking a pet be especially alert when near the water. Of course, we will also have to contend with gnats, mosquitos, fire ants and black flies to name a few. Some of our new neighbors may not be aware of the summer hazards so if you have a new neighbor please help them adapt to our various pests.

If you have a new neighbor, welcome them to Gulf Hills. Invite them to join us at our annual meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March. It will be a good opportunity for them to meet new people. At this years meeting, we will have a presentation of The State of the County. Normally this is presented by our supervisor Troy Ross. Troy will be on military duty and unavailable. This years presentation will be made by the President of The Jackson County Board of Supervisors, Mr. Ken Taylor.

Until next time, enjoy our community and if you have anything you would like the board to look at, contact any board member or attend any board meeting. Hope to see you all at the annual meeting.

## Get Involved!

The Annual Meeting of the Gulf Hills Civic Association is coming up shortly. (March 12th) At that time we will have four board members who's terms are up. They are eligible to run again. The terms are for three years. Additionally, we have three other vacancies. Two of these are to fill 2 year terms and 1 for a one year term. Assuming we have at least seven residents, the voting will be as follows: The four nominees receiving the most votes will fill the three year positions. The next two highest vote getters will fill the 2 two year positions and the next vote getter in line will fill the vacant one year slot. Now is a great time to get involved with you civic association by submitting your name to be placed on the ballot to any board member. Remember, the association works best when we all contribute.

### Inside this issue

Hazardous Waste Day	2
Gulf Hills Gators	2
Status of Golf Course	3
From Our Sheriff	3
We've Been BUSY!	4
Seymour Road Extension	5
Société Des Arbres	5
Neighborhood Cleanup	6
Gulf Hills Garden Club	7
Rubbish Schedule	8
Lighting District Reminder	8
Garbage Collection	8
Yahoo/Facebook Groups	8
Useful Numbers	8
Community Dates	8

### Board of Directors & Committee Chairs

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	philos@cableone.net	
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	mends1@bellsouth.net	
Roads:	Robert Manley	238-3566
	rmanley400@gmail.com	
Utilities:	John Albrycht	875-4133
Neighborhood Watch:	Barry Mends	382-7723
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History:	OPEN (Your name could be here)	
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Membership:	John Fleming	875-0483
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	Donna@gulphillshotel.com	
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	LindseyJML@gmail.com	
Member:	Kim Easterling	860-9341
	Kime626@gmail.com	
Member:	OPEN (Your name could be here)	
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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 May, 2019

  
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## JACKSON COUNTY HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

A One Day FREE  
Proper Disposal Turn-in Event  
**Saturday April 13, 2019**  
 8 a.m. - 12 noon  
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 HWY 90, Gautier

**Put Toxic Waste In Its Place**

For More Information Call 228-872-8340 or visit  
<http://www.co.jackson.ms.us/departments/solid-waste/>

### Responses Needed

**John Fleming, GHCA Board member**

As described on page 5, Jackson County is offering to make a new connection into the Gulf Hills subdivision. After reviewing their proposal, please direct your questions, concerns, support, disapproval, etc. directly to the Gulf Hills Civic Association Board of Directors, not the Jackson County Road Department. It is preferred that you make this in writing as an email to the Board President and Board Secretary (addresses found on the front page) or as a letter to our P.O. Box. The Jackson County Board of Supervisors will be looking for official guidance from our Board. Your written input will be most helpful. If it is more convenient, you may comment to postings of this information that have been placed in the GHCA Yahoo Group and/or the GHCA Facebook page. Barry Mends will be gathering comments from each social media. Thank you for your participation in this process.

## Gulf Hills Gators News

Colleen Cutler, GH Facebook administrator

On October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Gulf Hills Gators sponsored a cocktail party called "An Evening on the Waterfront" to raise money for the maintenance of the Memorial Garden. It was a 30 seat maximum event that featured heavy hors d' oeuvres by Food, Booze & Hiccups, a dessert table by Sweet Enchantments, a signature cocktail, wine, champagne and live piano music!

We sold all of the tickets in advance and raised a total of \$2500 dollars which is roughly one year of maintenance. We would like to give a special shout out to our donors! You can see this sign at the Memorial Garden.



*Continue page 2 President*

We hope to repeat this event next year as a way to do our part and keep the Memorial Garden a wonderful place to visit and enjoy with all of our neighbors.

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## Status of Gulf Hills Golf Course

George Canaga

In 1927 the Gulf Hills Golf Course emerged on the landscape of our community, and became a landmark course on the Mississippi coast. It was a beautiful, challenging course to the golfers who sought to try their skills on a course verdant with oaks and pine and many other indigenous, beauties, including Dogwoods, Myrtles, Azaleas, Camellias, and Gardenias. The course has been host to the Professional golfers when past stars such as Patty Berg, Kathy Whitworth, Carol Mann and others of note applied their skills on the Course.

That was the past! Over the bygone many years, nature has taken its toll. Hundreds of trees have been lost to storms. Critters, such as armadillos and foxes have continually dug into the grounds seeking food, and worst of all, mole crickets have been a continual, destructive nuisance to our greens and fairways. Although challenging, our longtime Superintendent and President, Jimmy Fayard, was up to the task, and kept the course in championship condition.

Well, Jimmy retired recently and a suitable replacement has not yet been located. We now face a course that has aged, and the perfection of playing ground that once existed has deteriorated from its former condition. Correspondently, there has been a drop-off in the number of golfers playing which affects the courses' viability and could impact the future of the golf course. The current course management is an all-volunteer group working hard to restore the course to its former grandeur, and it is committed to establishing a marketing program that will bring new golfers to play the course, and prevent the loss of traditional tournaments scheduled for the future. One of the first actions was to bring back Jimmy Fayard on a consulting basis.

Although there is not much that the local Gulf Hills community can do to improve the playing conditions, each of you living adjacent to or close by the course can help by making sure that your own property presents a landscape that is pleasing and compatible to its vantage point from the course. Also, and extremely important, if you are a golfer or have friends who

are golfers, encourage them to patronize our Gulf Hills Course, even if you like on occasion to play elsewhere.

Additionally, a steering committee has been established to help in the marketing effort, and your suggestions and comments are welcome. Thoughts and ideas can be directed to Mike Frazza at the Gulf Hills Club House – 228-872-9663.

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### From Our Sheriff - Mike Ezell

Greetings to Gulf Hills Citizens, Its hard to believe it's already mid-February of the new year. I hope all of you had a happy holiday season and are now enjoying Mardi Gras.



I'm happy to report we saw an 11% reduction overall in crime from 2017 to 2018. The St. Martin community is our highest crime spot, with 30% of all crimes in 2018 occurring there. We have increased our patrols in St. Martin, but remember, the deputies can't be everywhere, so please be each other's eyes and ears. If you see something, say something. Although car thefts are among the crimes down in 2018 over 2017...301 in 2018, 171 last year...that's still too many. I can't emphasize enough how important it is that you lock your vehicle and don't leave valuables inside. In 99% of the cases our investigators work, the cars are unlocked.

Since we're right in the middle of tax season, I'd like to remind you of the many IRS scams that just don't go away. Don't fall for any calls from someone claiming to be from the IRS that they are investigating you for not paying taxes. The IRS does not make calls, they send letters. **DO NOT** give your information to anyone and just hang up the phone.

I am privileged to be your sheriff. My staff and I are here to help you, so please don't hesitate to call us. Have a safe spring and summer.

## WE'VE BEEN BUSY!

Donna Brown, GM, Gulf Hills Hotel

We've been busy! From our Traveling Turkey Thanksgiving Dinner to a lobby FULL of trikes and toys for the Jackson County Sheriff's Department "Santa Wears a Badge" program... the months have flown by. Many of you may not have heard about our Traveling Turkey dinner. If you recall, Panama City Florida got hit with major Hurricane Michael this past Fall. I had a personal connection in Panama City who worked for me many years ago. Thomas was well aware of what we experienced in Katrina and how we handled things. He was trying to do similar work with those around him that were far less fortunate than he. Initially, I had the idea to bring he and his family a hot Thanksgiving meal. That idea grew and grew and grew as I was telling individuals what I was planning to do. I put out the call for help to our Gulf Hills Hotel staff and to GH neighbors and their respective families and to local businesses – and the HELP poured in! My cousins and I left out of here at 8am on Thanksgiving morning in a

26' U-haul truck packed to the brim with a fully prepared/cooked (and HOT) Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings kept hot in borrowed hot boxes from local caterers. We also amassed much needed supplies and hundreds of dollars in gift cards for Walmart and Lowes. We set up in the parking lot of the destroyed Mt. Olive Baptist Church (pre-arranged via Thomas with Pastor Jerome). We brought everything with us including tables, chairs, decorations and our full hearts. The families in this devastated neighborhood were so so grateful. They kept repeating over and over that they thought they had been forgotten in light of the wildfires and forest fires in California. It brought back sad memories of our own Katrina devastation overshadowed by the New Orleans levy break. Their BIG



SMILES said it all! It was all made possible by so many of you too many to name. You know who you are. I know who you are. I am eternally Blessed and thankful to live and work amongst you – my Mississippi angels! We, as a hotel, have also worked with our Jackson County Sheriff's Department by being a drop off site for the Christmas "Santa Wears a Badge" Program in collecting toys for disadvantaged children within Jackson County. It's always been successful and we've filled 2 or 3 big boxes full of toys each year via the help of our staff and caring Gulf Hills neighborhood residents. This was not the case in 2018! Katy bar the door...as our very own staff member, Pat Dehaan, (she who makes the incredible Christmas displays for her own home on Shore Drive, the hotel and the Memorial Garden) decided that it was going to be better than ever. She single-handedly purchased over 25 children's bicycles AND engaged the help of her COASTAL GARDEN SOCIETY members to buy even more bikes, toys, dolls...you name it! Folks, our lobby was jam packed with those trikes and the many large drop boxes were filled to the brim! Sheriff Ezell heard about our efforts and came to see for himself. I do believe he and his staff each shed several tears that day. It was another very emotional undertaking and once again... YOU, GULF HILLS... heard the call and came through with amazing generosity. NOW...we are gearing up for Spring and Summer. For those of you new to the neighborhood (and as a reminder to all), we are a locally owned and operated Boutique Hotel. We have a beautiful and

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**We've Been Busy—Cont page 6**

## Hugh Seymour Lane Extension

Barry Mends, GHCA Board member

The Jackson County Road Dept. (JCRD) has proposed creating a fourth entrance into Gulf Hills and they have asked for our input. The proposal is to extend Hugh Seymour Lane from Hwy 609 to Ridge Rd a little north of Hollow Oak. Seymour Ln is the road that goes to the NW JC Fire Dept. The road currently dead ends a couple of hundred feet east of Ridge Rd.



There are several advantages to this for us. Safety is the primary reason. Seymour already has a traffic light where it meets Hwy 609 and it's a straight road, unlike Pine Rd. It would create a faster route into GH for the fire dept. and would be safer than trying to turn north onto Hwy 609 from Pine.

As far as Pine Rd goes, the JCRD said that it's future is up to us. They could either leave it as it is or they could close it off and make a cul-de-sac out of it. As it is, Pine Rd has no stoplight, it has a somewhat dangerous S curve in it and there are 2 occasional homeless camps off of it.

It would take about 12 to 15 months before the work would be completed and absolutely no cost to us. This is the road dept.'s idea and they will make it happen, if we want it. [Please see "Response Needed" on page 2](#)

## Société Des Arbres

Mary Ann Westfall, Gulf Hills Garden Club

Did you know there is a way to estimate the age of your large trees, and if the estimated age is 100 years or more, the trees can be nationally registered for a nominal fee?

The Société Des Arbres (Society of Trees) will register qualifying trees, or a group of trees on the same property, and send you a lovely, numbered and signed certificate with the name of the person or group registering the tree(s) and the name given to the tree(s). That's right, if you register a tree or a group of trees, you get to name the tree(s). All that is asked is for the sponsors of the tree registration do their best to protect the tree(s) for future generations.

With all the beautiful old-growth trees in our neighborhood, the Gulf Hills Garden Club decided to offer their services to all homeowners to help them identify qualifying trees on their property, and to assist in getting the trees registered if the owners would like. The club has identified it as their major new project for 2018-2019. An application form, along with the formula for estimating the age of trees, is available by going to the website of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., and clicking on the link for Société Des Arbres. If you need assistance, the Gulf Hills Garden Club will be happy to help.

Under the administration of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., co-chairs of the Société are Beverly Watson of Gautier and Mary Ann Westfall of Gulf Hills. Westfall is the registrar and the person who oversees the registration process. Westfall can be contacted by email, [westfall2@reagan.com](mailto:westfall2@reagan.com). Permanent records for the Société Des Arbres are maintained in the Ocean Springs Public Library Archives of History.

The Société Des Arbres was started in the early 1970s by Mrs. Donald L. "Pat" Conner (Ethelyn) of Ocean Springs in response to her distress at seeing large trees being destroyed to develop a subdivision. The basic purpose of the Société is to preserve the historic and/or aesthetic and environmental assets of any species of trees in our state or anywhere in the United States. Over 1530 trees have been registered to date in Mississippi and eight additional states.

call us for a quote:

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quotes@bishopins.com

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## WE'VE BEEN BUSY! Continued from Page 4

simply elegant Banquet Hall and meeting space available by contacting our Event Manager for weddings, receptions, reunions for gatherings large and small. We are 100% Smoke-free and offer a very, very special Gulf Hills Resident Rate to your friends and family when visiting. Groups are excluded. All you or they have to do is call us direct in order to receive this rate at 228-875-4211. It is NOT offered via our website or on any of the internet booking sites. Did I happen to mention that we also serve our guests a complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast each morning in our lobby; we have a wonderful outdoor salt water swimming pool open seasonally mid-April to October; Outdoor, lighted Rubico tennis courts; Kayak and Canoe launch area on our waterfront property; and we are situated on the 18 hole Championship Gulf Hills Golf Course. It doesn't get much better than this!

TOMORROW will be here before you know it. We are already gearing up for an even BIGGER and BETTER "SANTA WEARS A BADGE" toy drive 2019. I'm not sure if many of you know that TOYS FOR TOTS that was handled by the Marines for so many years is no longer affiliated in Jackson County. Jackson County Sheriff Department is now the single largest provider of toys countywide for the little ones. Our Pat has enlisted the help of both the COASTAL GARDEN SOCIETY and the GULF HILLS GARDEN CLUBS this year. The Gulf Hills Garden Club hosts the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Memorial Garden each year on the Saturday immediately following Thanksgiving. The



Memorial Garden is located where Shore Drive, Fairway Drive and Ridge Road come together. Pat has made and donated the fabulous decorations and lights the past several years. She is currently working on a new display that will put most commercial ones to shame. Rumor has it that Santa (Danny who????) will make a stop and will be flanked by his mischievous Elfs and sitting on a magnificent throne that the children will be able to join him on and whisper their lists in his ear. There'll be music, hot chocolate and goodies to add to the festivities. We thought this would be a most fitting kick-off for the Christmas Holiday and the Toy Drive. It will be MAGICAL! The Hotel will provide the Donation Boxes and we are once again challenging our GH neighbors to help us fill 'em up! We'll also have the boxes in the hotel lobby mid-November until pick-up by the Sheriff's department 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December. We'll be reminding everybody of the program in the next newsletter, too. Likewise, watch your mailbox for a postcard reminder 1<sup>st</sup> week in November. That's all for now. Love your family and your neighbor. Hug your Dog and your cat. Enjoy Spring!

## Neighborhood Cleanup Day

John Fleming, GHCA Board member

Many of our Gulf Hills residents routinely cleanup common areas in their immediate neighborhoods. To help out in more troublesome areas and particularly along the main roads. We have been coming together in April and November each year to give our community a beauty boost. Our next Neighborhood Cleanup Day will be on **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. Meet at the Gulf Hills Hotel at 9:00 a.m. Trash bags and disposable gloves will be provided. For more information and/or suggestions contact Board Member John Fleming.

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 **2019**. ***If you have already paid dues for this calendar year 2019, Please disregard.***

Please fill in your name, \_\_\_\_\_

Address, phone number, and \_\_\_\_\_

Email address. \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to the address above. \_\_\_\_\_

**If the mailing label has PAID by your name, you have paid your 2019 dues.**

## **Gulf Hills Garden Club**

**Mary Ann Westfall, Gulf Hills Garden Club**

Even though our weather hasn't been very cold this winter, we've endured more cloudy, foggy and rainy days than most of us would like. I think we're ready for some sunshine coupled with mild temperatures to enjoy before the heat and humidity return as they surely will.

Hopefully we'll have lovely weather as the Gulf Hills Garden Club ventures to The Crosby Arboretum in March to observe our region's biological diversity and plant species native to the Pearl River Drainage Basin of south-central Mississippi and Louisiana. With 700 acres of natural areas featuring over 300 species of indigenous trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses as well as rare, threatened, or endangered species of plants and wildlife throughout the Arboretum's preserves, this trip promises to educate and inspire participants to take an interest in and protect the natural beauty of our area. Non-members are welcome to travel with us. Please contact Mary Ann Westfall by email at [westfall2@reagan.com](mailto:westfall2@reagan.com) for information.

February's Garden Club meeting gave members the opportunity to learn about hydroponics gardening from Steve Hariger, a hydroponics gardener who also made a presentation last year to members of area garden clubs who, like our club, are affiliates of Spanish Trail District of The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc.

The history of landscape design was the topic of January's meeting, with a presentation at the Ocean Springs Yacht Club by Dianne and Don-

ald del Cid, owners of ARCHterra in Ocean Springs. Dianne is a landscape architect and Donald is an architect. They encouraged attendees to consider landscape design when planning a home or other building to achieve a harmonious and overall pleasing result with less effort than planning the landscape after building. The del Cids showed photos of some of their most inspiring installations.

For their December meeting the Gulf Hills Garden Club members got together to learn from one of our neighbors, Pat DeHaan, about harvesting seeds from our gardens and the importance of saving and sharing heirloom seeds from original plant varieties. Members brought seeds and bulbs from their gardens to exchange. We're looking forward to learning about the plants we grow from these true seeds and to being able to harvest, save and share seeds with others in the future.

In lieu of planting a tree in the Memorial Garden or elsewhere in Gulf Hills for Arbor Day, the Garden Club donated to the statewide Avenue of Magnolias program to have a magnolia tree planted in Jackson County in honor of Bill Demoran, longtime Gulf Hills resident and late husband of Gulf Hills Garden Club life member Theresa Demoran.

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Gulf Hills Civic Association.*

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## 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.

Use the landfills whenever possible -- especially during the dry spells in an effort to prevent fire hazards -- Plus the Seaman Landfill is free to residents!

### 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.

## Join Gulf Hills Yahoo/Facebook

Join Gulf Hills [Yahoo Group](#) and/or the Gulf Hills Civic Association [Facebook Group](#). These two social media groups help keep each other informed of activities -- from



neighborhood watch observations of suspicious characters/vehicles/animals to community activities/needs and sharing of ideas. So if you have not already, please join one or both. **It's easy:**

1) You will need an email address to join -- a Yahoo email is needed for Yahoo Groups.

2) For Yahoo Groups, go to [groups.yahoo.com/group/gulfhills](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/gulfhills)

- \* Click the blue button that says "Join this group"
- \* Request membership using your Yahoo email
- \* The moderator, Barry Mends ([mends1@bellsouth.net](mailto:mends1@bellsouth.net), 228-382-7723), will send approval.

3) For Civic Association Facebook Group,

- \* Log into Facebook (get an account using your current email)

- \* Search in Facebook for the group, then click a request to join.

- \* The administrator is Colleen Cutler, ([rcutler113@gmail.com](mailto:rcutler113@gmail.com)). You will receive an approval notice in Facebook

## 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.

## Lighting District Reminder



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

## Helpful Phone Numbers

### UTILITIES

Electric: (MS Power)	800-532-1502
Power outage/trouble	800-487-3275
Natural Gas: (Center Point)	896-7500
Phone: (AT&T)	888-757-6500
Cable: (Cable One)	374-5900
Water & Sewer: (WJCU)	872-3898

### COUNTY SERVICES

Health Department	875-1336
Sheriff- Hwy 609 substation	875-0475
Planning Department (Zoning)	769-3112
Road Department	875-4545
Rubbish Disposal (Landfill)	872-8340
Justice Court	875-4125

### PUBLIC SERVICES

Ambulance (Acadian)	762-0214
Fort Bayou Fire Dept. <b>911</b> or	818-0370
Refuse (Waste Pro)	818-5393
St Martin Community Center	392-7361

### HEALTH CARE

Singing River Hospital	809-5000
Ocean Springs Hospital	818-1111
Bethesda Free Clinic	818-9191
Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence	875-5433

### LIBRARIES

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

## EMERGENCIES DIAL

### COUNTY OFFICIALS

Troy Ross, District 4 Supervisor	769-3457
Brian Fulton, County Administrator	769-3088
Josh Eldridge, Chancery Clerk	769-3124
Randy Carney, Circuit Clerk	769-3040
Angel McIlrath, District Attorney	769-3045
Mike Ezell, Sheriff	769-3015
Vicki Broadus, Coroner	769-3197
Joe O'Neal, Road Manager	826-2547
Nick Elmore, Tax Assessor	769-3070
Janice Sharp, Tax Collector	769-3074

## Upcoming Community Dates

Mardi Gras Carnival: Tuesday, March 5

Daylight Savings: Sunday, March 10

Gulf Hills Annual Meeting: Tuesday March 12

St Patrick's Day: Sunday, March 17

Hazardous Waste Collection Day: Saturday, Apr 13

Neighborhood Cleanup: Saturday April 16

Easter: Sunday, April 21

Memorial Day: Monday, May 27