



GULF HILLS NEWS



A Neighborhood Watch Community
A Bird Sanctuary Community



November 25, 2019



Coping With Change!

John Fleming, President, Gulf Hills Civic Association

Change. Sometimes its good for you, sometimes not so much. The best thing each of us can do is prepare ourselves to deal with what may come. I have been considering what might be a more difficult process to manage. Would it be slow changes that are only detectable by the diligent or sudden changes that disrupt your thoughts and emotions?



Gulf Hills has experienced the gradual building of houses and development of the subdivision for 80 years. The community has been subjected to drastic changes only a few times. During my time here, major changes have included the widening and commercialization of North Washington, creation of the waste water district, installation of street lights, the new water lines, then the paving of the streets. While the commercial zoning of Washington may have been major, it does not compare to the physical and emotional stress that the sale of the Gulf Hills Golf Club property has brought to many. Yet, we will look to make the best of this change as we are diligent and prepared to work with any new owners to understand what is needed for the next great version of Gulf Hills.

For those things that affect some or all of us, the Gulf Hills Civic Association stands in the best place to help manage the changes that come abruptly. Where we have influence, it will be used. When mediation is needed, we can step in and bring about a consensus. Remember, we are not a Home Owners Association where rules and required participation are the focus. Rather, we are a civic organization, designed for the sole purpose of coping with change, preparing for a time when a resistance is needed, knowing when to promote new ideas, and always looking to increase the value in being a resident of Gulf Hills.

Gulf Hills .Org

Welcome to the new face of our community, Gulfhills.org. The Board of Directors of the Gulf Hills Civic Association is in the initial stages of developing a Gulf Hills community web site that will be a launching spot for all our associated events, community partners, and latest news. Included in the comprehensive site will be a running blog to read the latest in articles as well as previous offerings. The Gulf Hills News will be concurrently published on the web site, sent to your email and preferred mailing address as



Cont. page 2 Gulf Hills.Org

Inside this issue

Communications	2
Gulf Hills Hotel	3
Fishing Report	4
From our Sheriff	5
Membership has it's	6
Halloween in the Hills	6
Saturdays in November	6
Ho, Ho, Ho in the Hills	7
Christmas Shopping	7
Rubbish Schedule	8
Lighting District Reminder	8
Garbage Collection	8
Yahoo/Facebook Groups	8
Useful Numbers	8
Community Dates	8

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COMMUNICATIONS



A significant challenge for the Gulf Hills Civic Association Board of Directors is providing timely information to residents. We've had the quarterly Gulf Hills News published routinely for many years. The Yahoo Group has a significant percentage of our residents watching their inbox for the latest developments. The Gulf Hills Civic Association Facebook group was created to help keep residents abreast of events and to have a venue to share thoughts and ideas. Even with these communication devices in place, we are not able to reach everyone in a timely manner.

Additionally, gathering all the pertinent information can be difficult while opinions and suppositions can distract and redirect our attention from the intended message.

All of our current communication methods have a useful purpose with neighbors sometimes preferring one over the other. The weakness of one method may be the strength of another and vice-versa. The newsletter is vetted information and can reach almost every home, but it takes a lot of effort, cost, and can only be done infrequently. This leaves a gap to be filled by the others. The Gulf Hills Yahoo Group is now an email distribution option. Van Arnold is the current moderator and administrator. He can use it as a message board of sorts to provide community information that only goes to the that specific group of email addresses. Other members of the group can post, so remember that if you do, be sure of the story being told. Of course, opinions are welcome, but please be respectful. The Facebook option seems to be very fast and is now an open Facebook group page. Jackie Parker, the administrator, opened the group to the general Facebook world to get more coverage and awareness of activities in Gulf Hills.

If you post something on the GHCA Facebook page, don't be surprised if you get a Messenger request for your address in Gulf Hills. Sometimes, the GHCA is using opinions in the social media to determine paths forward. Knowing that postings are from Gulf Hills residents is critical.

To add to the communication options and improve on the accuracy and timeliness of information, two new processes are being implemented. Using provided emails from members of the civic association, we will be using a mass emailing system. This will be the quickest way to reach the most folk. If you have given us your email address, look for announcements and critical information to come from a gulfhills.org email address. As mentioned in a separate article in this newsletter, the launching of our Gulfhills.org web site is just around the corner. This communication tool will be a formal face for the community, its partners, and amenities. Permanent information, links, and blogs will be featured to bring residents, friends, and visitors the best information on Gulf Hills.



Gulf Hills .Org (cont from page one)

requested.

A highlight of this web interface will be the ability to take credit cards to pay your annual membership fees. It has come to our attention that there are an increasing number of the population not using checks and/or never having cash on them. If this works for businesses, it can certainly work for us.

Expect a full launch of the site by the next issue of the Gulf Hills newsletter in February 2020. Until then, if you have a nice picture of a special place or view in our community and would like for it to be considered as part of our web site, please forward to john.s.fleming.3@gmail.com or vanmarnold@gmail.com.

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 February, 2020


GULF HILLS
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 611 Jackson Avenue Ste. B • Ocean Springs, MS 39564

Gulf Hills Hotel

Donna Brown, GM, Gulf Hills Hotel

'Tis the season...to get ready for your family, friends and Santa's arrival in 2019! In true Gulf Hills Hotel style, we'll once again be decorated in our finest Christmas attire for all to see and enjoy. It's quite an undertaking and is done mainly by our very own Becky Bartles and Barbie Canaga. Pat Dehaan, our Night Auditor and Artist in Residence, has contributed immensely to the effort with her large and whimsical elves, toy soldiers, nutcrackers and just about everything else Christmas. Donna Thone, Esther Galle, Steve Bartles and Larry Reed all contribute to the effort whether it be hanging from the ladders or helping with whatever needs to be done. We began the process the 5th of November and hope to be finished by the 15th at the very latest. I know, I know... you want to know why so early and before Thanksgiving? It's two-fold: The Christmas Party season begins in mid-November; and we, the staff, enjoy it so much and want to work within the ambiance created by it for as long as we can! We encourage everyone to come by for a visit over the Holidays. It's truly magical in scope. This year, Pat also made a very special THRONE reserved for a very special gent in a Red Suit! Her Grinch's flank it on both sides. Many a picture has been taken around our beautifully appointed 14' Christmas Tree and the lobby. It makes for a wonderful family photo, so bring the kiddies and come on in!



Several years ago, we teamed up with our **Jackson County Sheriff's Department** to be a collection point for the **SANTA WEARS A BADGE** program. The department compiles

the names of disadvantaged children in Jackson County throughout the year. They then collect from the sites and personally deliver the toys to the boys and girls. It's an awesome program and we have loved working with them on it. Last year, our Pat Dehaan up'd the ante and provided trikes, trikes and more trikes! Additionally, we had many dolls and toys provided by our own staff members and many GH residents. Pat hasn't stopped there. She has enlisted the help of the Coastal Garden Club (of which she is a member) who are also jumping in on the action. We are once again **CHALLENGING** all Gulf Hills neighborhood residents to help us make this a bigger year than the Sheriff's Department has ever known! All items must be new and unwrapped. There will be a collection box inside the lobby of the hotel at the Christmas Tree. The items will be collected the 1st week in December. Let's make this a very special Christmas for our Jackson County boys and girls!

A friendly reminder – your family and out-of-town guests receive a **very special rate** here at the hotel. You must call the hotel direct 228-875-4211 to receive the rate. No internet or web site bookings unless you want to pay full rate! Every guest room that is occupied over the Christmas holiday is outfitted with a small Christmas Tree complete with lights. Santa always knows who is here (both naughty and nice) to spend the night with us on Christmas Eve and he dutifully leaves a handmade present for them under our Lobby tree! We also set out cookies, various other goodies, hot chocolate and hot apple cider in the evenings from Christmas Eve through to New Year's Eve when the Bubbly finds its way, too.

On behalf of the owners and our entire staff, we wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Request a quote today!

228-354-0877



WRITING HOMEOWNER'S POLICIES WITH WIND.

www.bishopins.com

4 LOCATIONS COVERING THE COAST

November 2019 Gulf Hills Fishing Report

Bob Manley, GHCA Board member

The fishing in our Gulf Hills bayous this month is not nearly as good as in Novembers in past years. Last November, it was common to catch a limit of specs (15 speckled trout) or close to it using live shrimp. You're lucky to catch 2 or 3 this year. Part of the problem may simply be that there are much fewer shrimp in the marsh this year. Last year, our bayous were teeming with shrimp, the favorite food of specs. This year, the shrimp have come and gone several times. Right now, they're gone. The few that were in the marsh at the start of the month left when we had the heavy rain. They did not come back. What specs there are have little incentive to enter our marsh bayous.



The lack of shrimp is probably due to the 110 days the Bonnet Carre spill way was open in the spring and summer. The fresh water damaged our shrimp industry badly, as well as the oyster industry. That, in turn, was caused by record rain falls all along the Mississippi River and its tributaries for the second year in a row, though this year was worse. Unfortunately, global warming will probably cause this to happen more and more often.

One interesting fact is that, in spite of raising

the minimum legal size of specs kept from 13' to 15" a couple of years ago, my experience in our bayous is that you catch one legal spec for every ten specs you catch under 15" long. I've had several fishing trips where I caught no legal specs, and the most I've caught are three. Usually, I catch the legal specs in the last hour before dark. For some reason, they tend to come into our marsh in the late evening. I have fishing buddies that have caught their limit of specs in our bayous and along the Back Bay shoreline in our vicinity, but that is very rare now.

As I have noted, you can keep the shrimp alive on your line longer by hooking them just under the horn on their head in front of the large dark mass. That mass is their brain and a



hook through it will kill the shrimp very quickly. Have a popping cork on the line a couple feet above the shrimp and pop it several times a minute. You pop it by jerking the tip off your rod quickly. Practice it until you get a clear slurping sound. That mimics the sound of a trout slurping down prey at the water surface. Of course, there are many lures you can use, as well.

Sandtrap Grill & Bakery

Gulf Hills Family Restaurant
(228) 341-1940

Monday - Closed
Tuesday Through Friday 10:30 am-7:30 pm
Saturday 8 am - 5 pm
Sunday Brunch 10 am - 2 pm

Dine-in or Take-out
Handicap accessible
Free Delivery in Gulf Hills

Stircrazybakery@gmail.com

Daily Plate Lunch Specials:

Monday - Closed
Tuesday - Fried or Grilled Pork chop
Wednesday - Hamburger Steak
Thursday - Country Fried Chicken Breast
Friday - Farm Raised Catfish



*Homemade Desserts made daily from
the Stir Crazy Bakery*

www.crazyforbaking.com

From Our Sheriff - Mike Ezell

Well, after a long, very hot summer, I think we're getting our first taste of winter with the colder than usual temperatures. Seems like Mother Nature skipped fall entirely, but we all know that's how it is here in Mississippi.

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and Christmas will be here before you know it. I'd like to remind you to be aware of some holiday themed scams, such as people calling asking for money to help needy or homeless children and/or families at Christmas. DO NOT give your personal banking information to anyone over the phone. There are plenty of legitimate organizations that accept donations all year for the less fortunate in our community. Also, we've had a few reports of packages being taken from mailboxes. These thefts from mailboxes and porches are expected to increase with the upcoming holidays. We suggest you have the package mailed to your place of employment or to a neighbor or relative that will be home to accept them.

Our deputies will again participate in the "Santa Wears a Badge" program to insure underprivileged children find presents under their tree. This is the 6th year for this campaign and I'm proud to say it gets bigger and bigger every year, thanks to all the citizens and businesses



that donate. The ladies staffing your hotel go above and beyond every year to help get donations and we truly appreciate their tireless efforts and generosity. We are also looking forward to leading some of the Christmas parades in our county.

I am honored to be your sheriff as we begin another four-year term in January. My staff and I are here to serve you the best we can. We wish all of you a very happy and safe Thanksgiving and Christmas season. God Bless all of you.

Let's Get LIT Memorial Garden Lighting Sunday, December 1st

Gulf Hills Garden Club invites all Gulf Hills residents to the annual "Memorial Garden in Lights" Christmas Celebration on Sunday, December 1 at dusk. GHGC members log-in many hours to create a breathtaking Christmas display for all to enjoy. Join your friends and neighbors for the dramatic count-down as thousands of twinkling lights become "LIT." In addition to the lights and Christmas decorations, GHGC members will provide holiday refreshments and music. Do not be surprised if a chubby guy in a red suit makes an appearance during the event.



Membership has its..?



join

The 2020 Gulf Hills Civic Association Membership Drive is going well with checks coming in every week. Thanks to everyone that has paid their annual fees early. Our goal for next year is to have 200 homes (almost 50 %) included in the paid membership listing. Even as the association represents all the residents in the Gulf Hills community, official membership helps provide the needed funds that are used for many projects. Not the least of these endeavors is the publication of this quarterly newsletter. While some of the cost is offset by advertisements, the remainder is paid from our general fund.

Moving into 2020, you will see an increase in community events and communication efforts, some subsidized by the funds of the civic association. Your full participation as a paid member is appreciated in providing these funds, being a member of an event committee, voting in our annual membership meeting, and giving a substantive acknowledgement that the civic association and its Board of Directors speaks for you and works on your behalf. There is much that can be done when more are banded together in common cause.

Look for an announcement later this year on how it will be easier to pay your membership fees. We will be accepting credit cards and with that, the opportunity to have an automatic renewal each year. Membership has its...? Well, you fill in the blank after joining in.

Halloween in the Hills Success on Short Notice

It happened so fast it could have been missed, but, it wasn't. An idea was born, then planned, and executed with fun and excellent participation. Thanks to a committee of enthusiastic residents, led by GHCA Director Jeanell Todaro, more than 70 Trick or Treaters came by the first ever Trunk or Treat. Car trunks and truck beds were decorated and treats

handed out in the parking area in front of The Sandtrap Grill.



5:30-8:00PM TRUNK OR TREAT IN FRONT OF THE SANDTRAP Cont. page 7 Halloween

Saturdays in November

The weather was perfect the first three Saturdays in a row in November, making local events extra enjoyable. After the Peter Anderson festival on the 2nd, the Gulf Hills Community Yard Sale followed on the 9th with 20 participating homes scattered throughout and a good turnout by the treasure hunters. On the 16th it was a great morning to get outside early and pickup cans, bottles, signs, white grocery bags, fast food containers, and a variety of undistinguishable, yet obviously man made and discarded items. Thanks to everyone that participated in these November community events. Here's looking for at least one more really nice Saturday before the busy Christmas season.



Mother Nature Does a Cover Up.



"All of these cans found in one spot on the side of Shore Drive. Do you see a common theme?"

"Plant-It-Pink"

Shore Drive—for most GH residents—is a daily commute and the monotony makes it easy to "zone-out." Gulf Hills Garden Club encourages all residents to resist becoming impervious to the beauty of Gulf Hills and to look at the community with fresh, new eyes every day. Annually, October is well known as breast cancer awareness month, so the GHGC members joined the cause by planting pink petunias and installing a pink, wooden ribbon sculpture at the Azalea Triangle (with the flagpole). As fall slowly makes its way to the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the spring/summer bedding plants start to fade, the azalea triangle is a true bright spot in the community. Soon, the triangle will be pink again with the bright pink azalea blooms.



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 **2020**. or go to gulfhills.org and pay by credit card. There is a **\$2.00** service fee when paying by credit card.

Please fill in your name, _____

Address, phone number, and _____

Email address. _____

Mail to the address above.

Ho, Ho, Ho in the HILLS

Treva Goff, President, Gulf Hills Garden Club

Gulf Hills residents . . . it's time to crawl into those attics, inventory your Christmas décor and make a plan, because the Gulf Hills Civic Association is—once again—sponsoring the annual Christmas in the Hills outdoor decorating contest. Judging will begin at sundown on Sunday, December 15 (and Monday, December 16 if needed). Seven (non-ranked/non-categorized) winners will be selected. Winning homeowners will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Frasier's nursery (to get a jump on those spring plantings). Signs will also be placed in the winners' yards. Gift certificates and signs will be distributed on Tuesday (12/17). The signs will be removed immediately after the New Year.

Winners will be judged using the following criteria:

ORIGINALITY: Unique design and creative use of lights and decorations

ARRANGEMENT: Display and placement of decorations

THEME: Storyline or scene

OVERALL PRESENTATION AND NEATNESS!

The Gulf Hills Garden Club has graciously volunteered to handle all logistics regarding the contest. For more information, contact:

GHCA President John Fleming (john.s.fleming.3@gmail.com) or Gulf Hills Garden Club President Treva Goff (goffclub@cablone.org).

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Christmas Shopping Made Easy

Treva Goff, President, Gulf Hills Garden Club

Buying for those “hard-to-buy-for-people” on your Christmas list just got easier thanks to Gulf Hills Garden Club. The Club will be taking orders for one-gallon red and/or light pink Camellias (Japonicas). The cost of each shrub is \$10.00 (much cheaper than your local big box store). Orders must be placed before December 1 and all funds are due when the order is placed. Remember, most of the lovely green spaces in and around Gulf Hills are maintained by GHGC member volunteers. GHGC fundraisers help support the maintenance and upkeep of these park-like settings. To place your order, contact: Gulf Hills Garden Club President Treva Goff (goffclub@cablone.org).



Halloween (cont from page six)

Participants were also treated to hot dogs and had the opportunity to decorate fresh baked cookies.

Along with a few neighborhoods within Gulf Hills that have good conditions for door to door Trick or Treating and stopping by the Gulf Hills Hotel, the new Trunk or Treating gave a chance for more residents to participate in this annual community experience. This year, the weather turned cool for October 31st and an encouraging number of children (toddlers to young teens) had a great time taking advantage of all the treats at Halloween in the Hills.

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.

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.

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
 - * Click the blue button that says "Join this group"
 - * Request membership using your Yahoo email
 - * The moderator, Van Arnold (vanmarnold@gmail.com ,228-380-4055), 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 Jackie Parker, You will receive an approval notice in Facebook

Helpful Phone Numbers

UTILITIES

Cable: (Sparklight)	374-900
Electric: (MS Power)	800-532-1502
Power outage/trouble	800-487-3275
Natural Gas: (Center Point)	896-7500
Phone: (AT&T)	888-757-6500
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
Bethesda Free Clinic	818-9191

Gulf Coast Center for Nonviolence 875-5433

OTHER

Wild at Heart (Wildlife)	669-7907
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EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

LIBRARIES

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

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

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday November 28
 Memorial Garden Tree Lighting Sunday December 1
 Christmas Decorating Judging: December 15-16
 Christmas: Wednesday December 25
 New Year: Wednesday January 1, 2020
 Annual Meeting: Tuesday March 24