



A Neighborhood Watch Community
A Bird Sanctuary Community

October 5, 2022

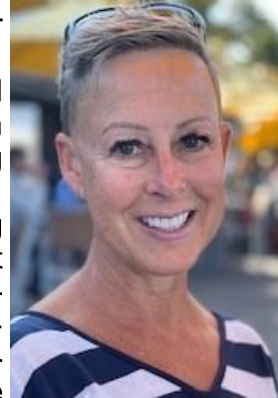


FALL IS IN THE AIR!

Heather Wagner, President, Gulf Hills Civic Association

The last week or so has brought some delightful weather to the Hills, and with that, our thoughts turn to bonfires, s'mores, football and gatherings with friends and loved ones! The GHCA has a busy fall and winter season planned for Gulf Hills, and we are looking forward to seeing our old friends and making new ones.

I am particularly excited to announce some upcoming fundraising events, focusing on improvements to the sign at the main entrance to Gulf Hills at Shore Drive and Washington Avenue. Over the years, this sign has fallen into disrepair and, despite attempts to put band-aids on it, is looking pretty shabby and doesn't present our community in the best light. Although located in the county right-of-way, GHCA leases the land where the sign is located from the County and maintenance of the sign has been through efforts of volunteers, and the Garden Club has devoted a lot of time and effort keeping it up, but it needs a serious facelift! Making this sign an attractive entry to the neighborhood will take funds, and the Board is working to get designs drawn up and quotes for the work. Our first fundraiser for this project will be a fish-fry on October 15th and I hope you will all help us with this important beautification project. More details can be found in the Events and Activities article in this issue.



I am also pleased that the GHCA is bringing back several community events this fall, including Halloween in the Hills and Christmas in the Hills, as well as resuming the fall community yard sale, with another sign fundraiser associated with the yard sale. The Garden Club is also planning a plant sale in conjunction with the yard sale. We sure hope you will join us for these family-friendly fun events!

On a serious note, over the past several months The GHCA Board has heard from many of you regarding various issues related to safety, most notably, drivers who are speeding and running stop signs. This has become an incredibly dangerous problem in the neighborhood. While some of the offenders are non-residents, many are our own neighbors. To help address this problem, we explored several options. Speedbumps or other types of barriers in the actual roadway are not encouraged by the county, for both maintenance and liability reasons. They are also not very cost-effective. So, we have been looking at other ideas. Be on the lookout this fall for increased patrols by officers with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. We have also requested portable radar speed feedback signs be placed in the neighborhood in strategic places, to alert drivers of their actual speed. If you have a location that you believe is a particular speedway or dangerous intersection, or you want to volunteer to have one of these portable signs temporarily placed in your yard, please let a board member know so we relay that information to the Sheriff's Department. We will also be pre-selling yard signs with the saying "Slow Down Gulf Hills." More details to come later. Remember, though, we ALL share the responsibility for driving safely in our neighborhood – please pay attention, be careful and encourage your neighbors to do likewise.

Other news from the County includes some large

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Capones now serving specialty coffees including lattes, Cappuccino & Frappuccino! Also includes a New Bakery serving cakes, cookies, including NSA pastries! Special orders welcome!

Visit our new Clubhouse! New, fully stocked Pro Shop! New Lounge Area! Relax before golfing, after golfing or just come over for cocktails, good food, bakery goods and coffee. Comfortable and cozy seating with a beautiful view.



Continue page 1 President initiatives which will impact Gulf Hills over the next several years. Washington Avenue/HWY 609 will be improved from Cook Road north of I-10 to the Ft. Bayou bridge. These improvements will include adding curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The County is also aware of a number of dangerous intersections along this stretch of road, and for that reason, will be re-aligning certain traffic signals and creating designated turn bays. A new entrance to the neighborhood is also being discussed, with a traffic signal for increased accessibility and safety. Although these improvements may cause some temporary traffic delays during the different project phases, the end result will be a vast improvement over the current situation. And, as mentioned in the previous newsletter, the construction of a bridge on Shore Drive at the Memorial Garden is set to begin in late 2023. As always, if you have a question or concern about something happening in the neighborhood or in surrounding areas, please feel free to contact a board member.

A new feature of the newsletter are Board member profiles. Check out some new and some very familiar faces. Once we have introduced the Board, we will be continuing with a "Meet your Neighbor" segment in each newsletter, where a Gulf Hills resident (or residents) will be spotlighted.

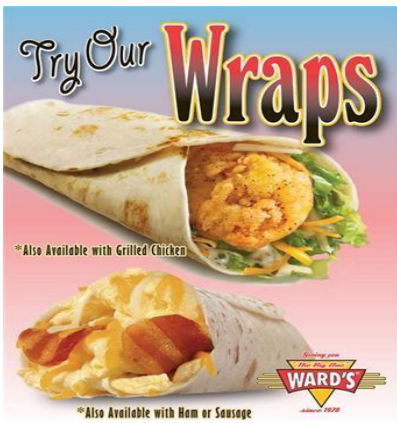
I hope you take some time to check out the articles in this issue. There are many exciting things happening in the Hills. From the special events we have planned, fundraisers for some community improvements, to education about urban forest restoration and Garden Club events, there is never a shortage of examples of how our neighborhood is full of wonderful, caring individuals wanting to play their part in continuing Gulf Hills' reputation as one of the most desirable neighborhoods on the Coast. As the cooler fall weather sets in, take the opportunity to get out and enjoy the beauty we are blessed with here. Get involved! Fall of 2022 in the Hills has much to offer, we don't need to look too far.

Meet Jesse Lancaster, Media, GHCA

I was born in Hattiesburg and grew up in Petal. After graduating high school in 1997, I attended Jones Junior College and then Southern Miss. My wife Natalie and I worked at McAlister's Deli during college. She was from Ocean Springs. I'd never heard of OS. My senior year, I chose an internship with Cintas corporation in Birmingham, AL and took a job as a management trainee in Mobile, AL. Natalie taught math at Pascagoula High School. We got married in 2002 and moved to Gautier, MS in 2004 because we couldn't afford Gulf Hills. Natalie's grandparents, Robert and Peggy Cox, and aunt and uncle, Gary and Cheryl Verhoven lived in here. We liked it a lot. I drove through Gulf Hills all the time looking. Natalie was 8 months pregnant with Brooklynn when Katrina hit in 2005, and the hours back and forth to Mobile were seriously long. Opportunity came knocking for a Ward's franchise in Gulfport and we opened that location in 2006. Natalie got a job at Ocean Springs High School and we opened another Ward's franchise in Gautier. The BP oil spill killed our Gautier store so we closed it and focused on Gulfport. 2009 was the year our son Trey was born and I found our house in Gulf Hills. We have been living the dream since. Cruising, boating, concerts, football, Mardi Gras...you name it, we like it. Especially if the kids are involved.



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Gulf Hills Resident



Meet Brad Linder, Safety Director, GHCA

I was born and raised in Bellevue, Ohio near Lake Erie. I graduated from UNC in 1979. I was a HS teacher and Head Wrestling Coach in Wilmington, NC. I attended the Army's Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, GA and was commissioned an Infantry 2nd Lieutenant in 1982. I earned my Airborne Wings and Ranger Tab. In November 1989, I was the Task Force Commander of a 110 man unit guarding the former East German/Czech Border along the Iron Curtain when the Wall came down in Berlin. I was a Senior Captain, Assistant Brigade Operations Officer (S-3) during Operation Desert Shield-Desert Storm, with 3rd Bulldog BDE, 1 AD, and earned my Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB) during the ground war invasion into Iraq to free Kuwait (1991). I came to the MS Gulf Coast in 2008, earning post graduate studies at Tulane University and my MA at Tiffin University in Homeland Security-Criminal Justice. I bought my Forever Home on Paraiso Rd. in 2019. When asked by people living in this area; why I have settled here after living around the world? I answer, a novelist and a musician: James Lee Burke and Jimmy Buffett.



Why do trees matter? For Southerners, trees connect us with our deep past and endow a legacy for future generations. They benefit property by beautifying, shading, and buffering our environs from wind and noise. Trees provide habitat for the charismatic wildlife important to many Gulf Hills residents. They clean our air. Scientific studies show the presence of trees is correlated with improved human health outcomes (Wolf, Kathleen, et al. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health 2020, 17, 4371). Finally, research has been done into the potential relationship between urban forest and lower crime rates.

The practicality of a healthy urban forest is undeniable, but you may be wondering, **"What should I plant, and where, and how?"**

Look in your own back yard for native trees volunteering, though at some distance from your building, and simply let them grow. Consult an arborist if you are not sure of species.

If you plant, emphasize native trees in your landscape, as they love our sandy, acid soil, and can tolerate Gulf Coast weather conditions.

Plan for your tree: Research its height and girth at maturity, and plant where it will have space, light, and water to thrive. Have your soil analyzed for free by the MS Cooperative Extension service to ensure your tree can flourish in it. The younger and smaller your tree when planted, the more likely it will live and grow.

Plant a containerized tree, according to arbor-day.org guidelines:

Dig a hole 3 to 4 times the size of the container;

If the tree is root-bound, "cut an X across the bottom of the root ball and four vertical slices along the sides of the root ball with a sharp knife." (arborday.org)

Plant the tree so that the top of the root ball is slightly above ground level.

Fill and pack the hole around the tree with original soil.

Water the area around your tree well, and mulch with 2 to 4 inches of mulch, covering an area about 3 feet in diameter around the tree, but not touching the tree's base.

Water your tree. During its first year, watering every 7 to 10 days during dry weather is advised.

Maintaining Gulf Hills Urban Forest

Carroll Campbell

Gulf Hills has lost some of its valued trees recently due to development. The young families buying new homes will keep Gulf Hills thriving, so the lost trees can be regarded as a trade-off. A few trees removed here and there does not seem significant, but they add up, and the attrition results nationally in a loss of 4 million trees per year. (Nowak, D.J.; Greenfield, E.J. Declining urban and community tree cover in the United States. Urban Forest Urban Greening. 2018, 32, 32-55.) While many city building codes require mitigation for removed trees, Jackson County currently has no tree ordinance in place. However, individuals can support urban forest restoration on their own.



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Gulf Hills Azalea Triangle

Many of you who take Shore Drive to enter and leave Gulf Hills have noticed the poor appearance of the Azalea Triangle located across from the Memorial Garden. The large azaleas that have been there since the mid-1970s were beautiful, but over time, have become overrun with vines and weeds. The Gulf Hills Garden Club tried for years to control the vines, including in recent years, paying a landscaper \$1200 to eradicate them, which was not successful. Since the Civic Association has taken over the maintenance of the Memorial Garden and the Azalea Triangle from the Garden Club, we have also attempted to get this area under control. We hosted two work parties recently to prune the azaleas back to allow the landscaper to try again to treat the vines. That was also not successful, and the vines have come back with a vengeance! Along with the vines, the mound is full of torpedo and Cogon grasses and other broad leaf weeds, making the recovery of this bed to its former glory an impossibility. The Civic Association has struggled to come up with a way to control the vines and maintain the azaleas. A further setback to this area occurred recently, when the contractor hired by MS Power to spray herbicide on the woody growth under the power lines in Gulf Hills sprayed a broad swath of the azaleas in the triangle, badly damaging or killing over half of them.

The GHCA Garden Committee has met on several occasions to discuss appropriate steps for this section of the Memorial Garden. There are two main barriers to maintaining the azaleas. First, the vines are out of control. The roots of the vines are intertwined with the roots of the azaleas, thus the vines cannot be eradicated without also impacting the azaleas. Secondly, the invasive grasses are likewise difficult to eradicate within the existing plantings. The Garden Committee has resolved to remove the azaleas, effectively treat or remove the vines and invasive grasses, and then re-plant the triangle with some low-maintenance options. Prior



to moving forward with this plan, we consulted experts in horticulture with the Mississippi State University Extension Service. This expert advised the best course of action was to remove the azaleas, treat the ground and re-plant the area in the Spring.

In the next few weeks, you can expect to see some changes in the Azalea Triangle. You may have already noticed the daylilies in the front of this section have been removed to preserve them for transplant later, after all work has been completed. Various contractors will soon be hard at work removing all the azaleas and treating the soil to eradicate the vines, invasive grasses and weeds. The area will lay fallow for the fall and winter, and in the Spring, replanting will occur. We will select plants for this area based on a number of factors, including ease of maintenance, beauty, and safety. The contractor that sprayed the azaleas has offered to assist the GHCA financially in this effort, but we may be seeking additional funds through fundraisers and donations to help support our efforts.

Meet Van Arnold, Editor Gulf Hill News

I was born in Seneca SC, grew up in Greenwood MS, graduated from Lambuth University in Jackson TN where I met my wife Ellen. I worked for The Babcock & Wilcox Power Generation Manufacturers in West Point MS as the Accounting Systems Specialist where we were blessed to adopt our three South Korean American children, Valerie, Van III and Vanessa. We moved to Ocean Springs in 1990, buying our forever home in 1991. I joined the Civic Association in 1995 and became the Gulf Hills News editor shortly thereafter. I retired from Quality Health Services as CIO in 2009 and I've been busy ever since with various volunteer work and am helping my wife in real estate (and she helps me). Thru the Civic Association, I've seen the inclusion of street lights in our neighborhood, the Front Entrance sign, improvements to the Memorial Gardens, planned annual events and hopefully more to come. We live in Gulf Hills... "Aren't we lucky!!"



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4 LOCATIONS COVERING THE COAST

EVENTS

Fall of 2022 is going to be busy in the Hills! The GHCA has a number of family-oriented events planned for our neighbors and friends! *Mark these important dates on your calendars and plan to participate!*

October 15, 2022, 11 am – 1 pm

Fish Fry Fund-raiser!!!! Our first fundraising event will support plans to repair and renovate the sign

FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

at the main entrance to Gulf Hills at Shore Drive and Washington Ave. This sign has been in disrepair for some time. Since this sign is the first thing most folks see when they visit our neighborhood, it's important for it to reflect what a wonderful place Gulf Hills is to live and play. GHCA will be selling plates at the main entrance by the sign from 11 am until 1 pm. Plates are \$15, and include fish, hushpuppies, baked beans and a cookie. Carry out only and delivery is available to Gulf Hills addresses. Advance tickets may be purchased by contacting Tammy Lee at 228-217-6633. We will also have a rendering of the new sign design to view.

October 30, 2022, 4 pm – 6 pm

Once again, GHCA will sponsor **Halloween in the Hills**. Back by popular demand is the Haunted House, held in the cart barn next to the Gulf Hills Hotel. Entrance fee to the Haunted House will be \$1. We will also have a trunk or treat, games and face painting for kids of all ages. A costume contest will be held for age groups 0-2, 3-6, and 7-12, 13-21 and adults over 21. Food

HALLOWEEN IN THE HILLS



will be available for sale and GHCA will provide free hotdogs for kids under 12. We are looking for volunteers to decorate golf carts or vehicle trunks for the Trunk or Treat – you will need to provide your own candy to hand out. Contact Tammy Lee at 228-217-6633 to participate in the Trunk or Treat or Haunted House.

November 12, 2022, 8 am – 1 pm

After a number of inquiries from residents, GHCA is organizing a **FALL YARD SALE**. Households wishing to participate and get on the list and community map should contact Tammy Lee at 228-217-6633 no later than November 5. We will post an advertisement in the Sun Herald and there are always good crowds for these community-wide sales. Food will be available for sale. Look for more details to come on the GHCA and Gulf Hills Living Facebook pages.

YARD SALE

If you have items you need to get rid of, but don't want the hassle of a yard sale, we can help! Consider donating your items to the GHCA to sell. The proceeds of any items sold will help support our efforts to renovate the sign at the main entrance of our neighborhood. Contact Tammy Lee at 228-217-6633 to donate items (no clothes please) by November 5. We will also plan a Spring sale as well, so if you're just not ready to part with that stuff yet, you'll have another opportunity soon!

December 11, 2022

Christmas in the Hills returns! This fun day will begin with a golf cart parade through the neighborhood. Line up for the parade starts at 3 pm at the Golf Club with the parade beginning around 4 and will travel through the neighborhood – the precise route TBD. The parade will end at the Memorial Garden for the Tree Lighting and caroling at 5:30.



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- ◆ Residential



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Santa and his elves will be on hand for photos with the kids. This year we will have a golf cart decoration contest, with prizes for the top three! Food will be provided afterwards at Capones. As we get closer to the date, look for more complete details on the GHCA and Gulf Hills Living Facebook pages.

December 18, 2022

Deck the Hills! GHCA will be presenting awards for the best decorated homes in Gulf Hills! This friendly competition always brings out the creativity and Christmas spirit of our neighbors. Seven top winners will each receive a \$30 Gift Card to Capones. Judging will occur the evening of December 18th.



If you are interested in volunteering to help the GHCA with any of these events, please get in touch with Tammy Lee at 228-217-6633. Keep in mind these are all good opportunities for your high schoolers to earn service credits required for various organizations!

November 12, the Garden Club will be offering pansies and snapdragons for sale at great prices. Stop by the Memorial Garden to purchase your plants, and help beautify Gulf Hills with fall flowers!

After many months of canceled meetings due to Covid, the Garden Club is resuming a monthly meeting schedule and looking forward to fun and informative activities. We have openings for membership. Contact Mary Ann Westfall, westfall2@reagan.com, if you are interested in joining the club.

While the club will continue its projects of maintaining the Daylily Garden and the Butterfly Garden, as well as selling and installing bricks for the Memorial Brick Path within the Memorial Garden, we have adopted a new project, working with the Société Des Arbres to identify and assist in registering trees throughout Gulf Hills that are estimated to be at least 100 years old. We have so many beautiful trees in Gulf Hills, but only a handful have been registered. Our club would love to register many more trees in Gulf Hills and the surrounding areas!

The Société Des Arbres is sponsored by The Garden Clubs of Mississippi, Inc., and chaired by Beverly Watson of Gautier and Mary Ann Westfall of Gulf Hills. Westfall is the registrar for the trees. Information about the Société Des Arbres and forms to register trees can be found at gardenclubsofmississippi.com.

Interested in ordering bricks for the Memorial Brick Path? Order forms are available in a display box near the path in the Memorial Garden, or you can contact the chairman Sue Manley, csmanley01@gmail.com.

Gulf Hills Garden Club

Mary Ann Westfall, President, GHGC

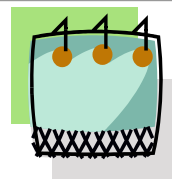
Gulf Hills Garden Club has taken action to protect the Daylily Garden after a company was hired to spray an herbicide which killed many of the azaleas and other plants in the area known as the Azalea Triangle, near the Memorial Garden.



The Garden Club hired a contractor to remove the daylily plants, which club members potted offsite until the damaged plants in the triangle have been removed and the soil treated to kill undesirable vines and grasses. It's unknown how long the process will take, but the Garden Club will nurture the daylilies until the time is right for replanting in the Daylily Garden.

In conjunction with the Neighborhood Yard Sale on

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 January, 2023

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 **\$50.00** for my Gulf Hills Civic Association membership dues for the year **2023**. or go to gulfhills.org and pay by credit card. There is a **\$2.00** service fee when paying by credit card.

Unsure if you've paid your 2023 dues? Contact Shari Radich (228)282-4238 or Hunter Landry (225)788-7020

Please fill in your name,
Address, phone number, and
Email address.

Mail to the address above.

Cut Along the dotted lines

Capones & Golf Course News

Now serving BRUNCH every Saturday and Sunday from 8am – 2pm. The Menu includes everything from eggs benedict to French toast. Menus are available to view on Facebook for those curious. The bakery and coffee



bar are doing well and continue to accept special orders along with their regular business. The bakery will be taking holiday dessert orders. So, make sure to get your orders in early. NEW GRAB & GO options are available in the restaurant for those busy days when cooking just isn't an option. The restaurant calendar is also looking

great with holiday office parties, baby showers, birthday celebrations and other events. The Golf Course improvements are moving along nicely. The greens have grown immensely over the last year and continue to improve. The course is staying busy with guests. Gulf Hills Golf Club is very grateful for the continued support of the community. Please call 228-872-GOLF to book your events today!



also have year-round resident eagles). They will be repairing their nests, mating in late fall, and laying eggs at the end of December. The eggs will take a little over a month to hatch. The babies will grow to full size in about 3 months. Before summer the parents and eaglets will start travelling and wandering up North and up the East Coast. Mississippi has approximately 100 nests and 14 or so on the Coast.

The Bald Eagles construct the largest nests of any bird species with the largest ever recording reaching 10ft across and 20ft in height. The nests are more noticeable when they have eaglets to feed as they are continually travelling to the nest to feed their young and repairing and expanding their nest. Bald Eagles are mainly fish eaters but will readily dine on carrion. One of my neighbors sent me a short video of a Bald Eagle swooping down to chase a Red-Tailed Hawk off a roadkill rabbit by Gulf Hill's South entrance next to the road on Shore dr.



Southern Bald Eagles

**Roy Lipscomb, Marine Patrol Officer,
Mississippi Department of Marine Resources**

This morning while walking my dogs considering what to write for the Gulf Hills Newsletter, I heard the distinctive call of a Bald Eagle pair flying and landing in one of the large pine trees nearby. Bald Eagles are returning from their summer areas this time of year (we

Of course, we all know what a mature Bald Eagle looks like, but it takes them five years to get the adult plumage. Juvenile Bald Eagles are often confused with Golden Eagles, but they are scarce here. A Golden Eagle will have feathers covering the whole leg while a juvenile Bald Eagle's feathers only cover half of the leg.

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

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: vanmarnold@gmail.com with the location of that light and who will report it to MS power for proper replacement.



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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 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 vanmarnold@gmail.com that you have paid your annual membership fee. One of the administrators for Gulf Hills Civic Association Facebook Group will send you an invite to join this group.

Upcoming Community Dates

Fish Fry Fundraiser: Sat October 15, 11 am – 1 pm!
Halloween in the Hills: Sun October 30, 4 pm – 6 pm
Halloween: Monday October 31
Peter Anderson Festival: Sat-Sun November 5-6
Fall Yard Sale: November 12, 2022, 8 am – 1 pm
Thanksgiving: Sunday November 27
Christmas in the Hills: Sunday December 11
Deck the Hills: Sunday December 18
Christmas: Sun Sunday December 25
New Year's Day: Sunday January 1, 2023

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.