

SAN JAC Alive!

San Jacinto Neighborhood Association • PO Box 2575 • Galveston, Texas 77553 - 2575
Online at <http://www.sanjacneighborhoodassoc.org>

OCTOBER 2010 • VOLUME 28, ISSUE 4

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PICNIC

**Tuesday, Oct. 5, 6pm-8pm. Gulf Breeze Apartments parking area.
1211 21ST STREET We are combining our efforts with the Gulf Breeze residents.**

Bring a side dish, friend, neighbor, a chair and come and have some fun and meet our neighborhood Community Police.

From the President... Alan Kamen

Neighborhood Master Planning

On September 8, 2010 we had our neighborhood meeting along with our Silk Stocking Historic District neighbors at the Hotel Galvez. Over 50 people attended. The meeting was organized and run by the city planning department and by consultants the City hired, CDM. George Carbo and Polo Munez of CDM asked the audience for ideas that would improve our neighborhoods.



There were many suggestions and discussion of what was needed. George and Polo took notes and these will be put together over the next few weeks.

Prior to this meeting, I sent a survey out to all of our members who live or own property in San Jacinto. It was the same exact survey filled out back in 1986 during a similar exercise. We had about 70 responses compared to 100 in 1986. The spreadsheet on the next page will illustrate our community's perceptions in 1986 compared to today.

You will find it interesting that not much has changed, and according to the survey, respondents feel that many concerns have gotten worse. But there is a common thread. All we are asking for are the basics. Sidewalks, curbs, drainage, CLEAN streets and property, code enforcement, better street lighting, elimination of blight, crime, etc. No one is asking for a rock-climbing wall.

We ask that our City leaders listen to our pleas from the San Jac 1986 Neighborhood Report, the 2001 Comprehensive Plan, and now the 2010 Neighborhood Master Plan. There is still much work to be done in our core neighborhoods. Start with improving and upgrading the basics. Three plans later, and still waiting.

The San Jacinto Neighborhood Association is designated by the City of Galveston as the area bounded by Broadway, Seawall and 23rd Street. San Jac is a 501c(4) organization with goals of neighborhood improvement & community building. Meetings are announced via this newsletter which is published quarterly. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Association, but are those of the individual author. Membership is for the calendar year & is open to property owners, residents, and others interested in neighborhood integrity. The Board is elected each January. Contact us at PO Box 2575, Galveston, TX 77553.

To the San Jacinto Neighborhood from District 3 council member Elizabeth Beeton

Galvestonians have spoken up loud and clear about their desire to have a cleaner city. This was one of the recurring themes we all heard from voters on the campaign trail. I am proud to report that City Manager Steve LeBlanc has a comprehensive plan to clean up the city, and that Council unanimously supported funding that plan for the new fiscal year beginning October 1.

Mr. LeBlanc's letter to the council on this topic is worth reading. He didn't mince words, estimating that almost one-fourth of the city's residential properties suffer from neglect and disrepair; that our primary entrance to the city, Broadway Boulevard, desperately needs maintenance and care; and that trash seems to be everywhere. "We'll never be able to attract new residents or businesses back to the island if we are unattractive and continue to allow our city to slide into this state of disrepair," he concluded.

To implement his plan, the city will create a new division within the city manager's office dedicated to addressing these problems. Key elements include:

- An assistant city manager to oversee the program
- An assistant city attorney and outside legal assistance to improve our ordinances, bring properties into compliance, and take action against those that fail to do so
- Three of twelve total code enforcement officers dedicated to targeted properties
- Three police officers working full-time on civil and criminal nuisance abatement and removal of junk vehicles and boats
- Two fire inspectors to determine the safety of structures
- Three street sweeping vehicles on a regular street-cleaning rotation
- Manual cleaning of every curb and gutter at least once a year
- A full maintenance crew for Broadway
- Review of all signage to reduce visual clutter
- Heavy trash pickup within 24 hours of call-in
- Auditing of who is not paying for trash pick-up
- Requiring chronic trash violators to purchase additional trash receptacles
- Recruiting volunteers to adopt blocks, parks, and medians
- Community service and adult inmates to mow, weed, remove graffiti, and pick up trash



The Council will monitor the progress of the effort on a monthly basis. This won't be an easy process, but I am confident we can accomplish it.

Elizabeth Beeton, District Three Council Member

SJNA Board Members & Volunteers

Alan Kamen: President

Lyssa Graham Reynolds: Treasurer

Jussi Tinnemeyer: Secretary

Tom Schwenk: Webmaster & Clean

Galveston Representative

Joan Mertens, Board Member

Brenda Lee, Board Member

Hank Thierry, Board Member

Russ Mertens: Board, GAIN

Joanne Griffin, Board Member (LBHD)

Georgia Hungerford, Student Board Member

Kay Sandor & Wayne O'Quin: Garden Chairs

John Koloen: Bulletin Board Coordinator

George Lee: Newsletter Editor

Kay Sandor: Board Member & GHF Representative

Dale and Janet Morris: Picnic Chairs

**Jul Kamen: Newsletter Distributor, and
Membership Chair**

Mayor Pro Tem Colbert
Comments to Neighborhood Associations
San Jacinto—Old Central Carver Park – Kempner Park – Lasker Park

During the past several weeks the council with recommendations from city staff has gone through the laborious process of completing a balanced budget. Tough decisions had to be made that impacted, negatively, the lives of people who lost their jobs as well as our citizens who are concerned about public safety due to police and fire department budget cuts. We had to streamline the city's operational costs in various departments because of lost revenue as a result of Hurricane Ike and the overall state of the national and local economy. Although, we are not happy with all of the decisions that were made, we needed to submit a balanced budget to our citizens that responsibly reflected the city's financial state.

Now that the budget is behind us, Galveston still faces many challenges as we continue to recover from the storm. The debate over public housing continues to be an active discourse amongst our residents. I have received numerous emails from residents for and against the rebuilding of public housing on the Island. Therefore, I urge each of you to attend the town hall meeting at the Galveston Convention Center on October 13, 2010 beginning at 6:00 p.m. Representatives from HUD, the Texas Department of Rural Affairs (TDRA), Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA), and GHA will be present to answer your questions. Please take advantage of this opportunity to have a constructive dialog with officials that will be available to help us to move forward as it relates to this public concern.

In addition, I was very disappointed by the new council members' successful effort to dismantle the smoking ban by amending the city's smoking ordinance. If we want a cleaner, healthier city we need to develop a comprehensive plan that includes public safety, public health, cleaner neighborhoods and clean air. I am sure the debate will continue in the days to come.

Finally, I look forward to seeing all of you during National Night Out as we make our rounds throughout the city. I hope to visit with many of you at Gulf Breeze Apartments and in other locations around the city on October 5th.

Sincerely,
Mayor Pro Tem Colbert



Profile of Joanne Griffin: SJNA member running for GISD School Board

I am continually amazed at the high caliber of people we hold in our small neighborhood. One such person is Joanne Griffin. After Ike, she stepped forward to serve on our board, providing new representation previously lacking for the Lost Bayou Historical District, where she has lived since childhood. Now she is throwing her hat into the ring for the School Board. As a GISD math teacher for 36 years, a Ball High grad herself, with many honors including Teacher of the Year under her belt, I could not imagine a person more qualified to serve. And she is a math teacher with a sense of humor no less, her campaign slogan reads ..."much about GISD **does not add up!**" Having only been out of the school system for one year now, she is uniquely positioned to add insight and personal experience into the issues facing our school system today. Among her many awards, the one she cherishes most are the Academic Excellence Top 50 Teachers Awards. Each year, the top 50 students are selected from all schools and grade levels. Those students in turn select their top 50 teachers. Joanne has won almost every year. Her desire to serve her community, after so many years of dedicated service already, says a lot about her character. I hope you will support Joanne Griffin for School Board, District 2-B. Written by Jul Kamen.



Please **VOTE** for
JOANNE GRIFFIN
GISD Board of Trustees
District 2-B

I'm FOR: **Strong educational programs*
**Balanced budget*
**Improved two-way communication*

EXPERIENCE **Clean, safe, orderly & pleasant environment for students and teachers*

that
COUNTS **GISD Math Teacher for 36 years*
**BHS graduate & mother of two BHS graduates*
**Experience + courage to bring change*

Nov. 2 General Election
Oct. 18-Oct.29 Early Voting (Justice Center 59th St.)
Griffin Fund, Pam Gilbert, Treasurer, 1824 Avenue M, 77550

Vote early: Oct. 18-29, Justice Center at 59th and Broadway Election Day is Tuesday Nov. 2, 2010 See map below for those eligible to vote in District 2-B



Neighborhoods Trees for San Jac

This spring San Jac will planting trees in public parkways, thanks to a program and grant from the Texas Forestry Service. San Jac will receive 200 street trees, and Alan Kamen has donated 30 more. His orchid trees grown from seed are true "like survivors" having gone completely underwater in the storm surge and are now 5' tall! This re-treesing effort will require the help of many volunteers, not just digging holes, but in the planning, printing, choosing sites, notification, purchasing, organizing food, trucks, shovels, etc. Homes which are selected to receive a tree will have a choice of 6 varieties, depending whether there are power lines overhead or not. Recipients will need to "opt in", returning a postcard and agreeing to water the tree for 2 years. Target date for planting is April 2, 2011, and we hope to get students to assist with the dirty work. Anyone who would like to volunteer in any capacity, use of a truck, etc. call Jul Kamen at 409-621-1413. I will be happy to add you to the list!

Spot Light on Kitty Allen and the FLASH MOB DANCE

I would like to recognize and congratulate San Jac member Kitty Allen for her huge effort organizing and pulling off Galveston's Flash Mob dance on September 12 in downtown Galveston. Kudos also go to Amy Allen, Gina Manlove Barbara Canetti, Carlos Rios, and anyone else who helped make this happen. It was a huge success with hundreds dancing in the street celebrating Galveston's ongoing recovery from Hurricane IKE. Even if one could not dance or participate, it was enjoyable to watch everyone. At one point it looked like we had the Village People out there dancing. We had a policeman, construction worker, a judge in robe, and the Mayor. What a sight!! It looked like everyone was having fun and enjoying the moment. Thank you Kitty and everyone dancing in the streets for adding much needed spontaneous fun to our lives!! Great job! A huge thank you from the San Jacinto Neighborhood Association.

Catch it on youtube.com:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-r7>

Conservation District Brings National Attention to San Jacinto

"Planning Magazine", a national publication for planners, has accepted for publication a news article about the San Jacinto neighborhood conservation district. Authors Catherine Tinnemeyer and Brax Easterwood submitted the article to Planning in June of this year. The 500 word article includes photos of the neighborhood and will be published in the November 2010 issue.

The National Trust interviewed Tinnemeyer, Easterwood, SJNA Presidernt Alan Kamen and Board member Brenda Lee for their comments on the neighborhood conservation district. Alex Braca, online journalist for the National Trust, interviewed the foursome during a conference call conducted at City Hall. Publication date of the article is pending.

Brenda Lee



SJNA would like to extend our sympathies to the family and friends of Reverend Cummins who passed away. He and his wife Viola Cummins have been long time members of SJNA.

San Jacinto Neighborhood Meeting Dates

All Members 2010

(2nd Wed. of every month, 7pm)

Jan. 13 , Feb. 10 , March. 10 , April 14

May 12 , June 9

July 14

Aug 11

Sept. 8

October 5: NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Oct 13

Nov. 17 (Revised date)

Dec. No Meeting, Yeah!

City Council & Commissions

City Council: 2nd and 4th Thursday every month, 4:00 p.m., streaming video is available at cityofgalveston.org.

Council Representatives for San Jac:

District 1: Rusty Legg

rustylegg@cityofgalveston.org

District 2: Dr. Linda Colbert

lindacolbert@cityofgalveston.org

District 3: Elizabeth Beeton

elizabethbeeton@cityofgalveston.org

Building Standards: 3rd Wed. of the Month, 4pm

Landmark Commission:

1st & 3rd Monday of the Month, 4pm

Planning Commission:

1st & 3rd Tuesday of the Month, 3pm

Zoning Board of Adjustments:

3rd Wednesday of the Month, 4pm

Check www.cityofgalveston.com for agendas and meeting details.

To report stray or dead animals call 765-3702

To report power outages / downed power lines:

Centerpoint Energy, call 1- 800 332-7143

To report hazardous materials, fire code violations

contact the City of Galveston Fire Marshal call 797-3870 or email: fmo@cityofgalveston.org

To report street, broken water lines or flooding or storm drain problems

call 797-3630 or email:

publicworks@cityofgalveston.org

Lead paint removal is a huge issue in our city!

We do not want to get the lead paint chips in our water or mixed in the soil around our homes. There are strict procedures to follow to scrape, sand, and remove lead based paint from our homes and buildings to keep our children and pets safe. Briefly, one of the biggest problems, is using a pressure sprayer to remove loose paint from your home. This is not allowed unless you are certified to use one to remove lead based paint. Yes, you must be certified and take all the necessary precautions. This process is one of the worst along with using an electric sander, they spread lead base paint particles everywhere, like on your neighbor's home. Sanding with an electric sander, same rules apply, must be certified. Hand scraping with appropriate drop clothes around your home to collect paint chips is about the only way a home owner should remove old paint on structures built before 1978. Paint chips should be put in a plastic bag and put in the trash. If you would like to test almost anything in your home for lead, test kits are available on line at:

<http://www.leadinspector.com/>

Lead is a serious issue in our lives, especially for children and pets. Our old neighborhoods, in fact almost all of Galveston was built before 1978, which is when lead base paints were banned. Any structure built before 1978 probably has lead base paint somewhere on it or in it. If you have any questions concerning lead paint removal, contact::

Alicia Cahill (409) 797-3546

Public Information Officer 823

Rosenberg, P.O. Box 779, Galveston, TX 77553

Fax: (409) 797- 3521

cahillali@cityofgalveston.org openrecords@cityofgalveston.org

Code Enforcement Issues: Email problem with exact

address and information to Ron Penn at

pennron@cityofgalveston.org or

planningcounter@cityofgalveston.org or call Planning and Community Development at 797-3600.

GHF: Matt Farragher

Phone: 409 765-7834

Email: mattfarragher@galvestonhistory.org

Abandoned Cars in the Street and cars parked on and across sidewalks: Make, model, color of car.

Exact location and plate number would be very helpful.

Officer Chris McNeil:

Email: cmcneil@cityofgalveston.org

or call dispatch at 765-3702.

Who To Call For What

Who Do I Contact If:

	Phone
My garbage can breaks, is stolen, or I need another one?	(409) 797-3630
There is a pothole in front of my house?	(409) 797-3630
I need a second trash can?	(409) 797-3630
There is a problem with my water, sewer or water pressure?	(409) 797-3630
A sign is missing?	(409) 797-3630
A traffic light is out?	(409) 797-3630
A street light goes out?	(713) 207-2222 or 1-800-332-7143
My garbage was not picked up?	(409) 741-4636
I want to learn about recycling?	(409) 741-1446
My plumber didn't do the job right? Call between 8-9 am or 1-2pm	(409) 797-3522 or 3526
I'm moving and need to change water service?	(409) 797-3550
There is a problem with my water bill?	(409) 797-3550
I want to contact my City Council representative?	(409) 797-3510
I need a permit? (Building, mechanical, electrical)	(409) 797-3620
There is an abandoned vehicle nearby?	(409) 797-3870
I need to find zoning information?	(409) 797-3660
There is a gutter filled with building materials?	(409) 797-3660
I need Animal Control to pick up a pack of dogs?	
In Galveston, call Galveston County Animal Control	(409) 765-3702
In Jamaica Beach, call the Jamaica Beach Police Department	(409) 737-1800
In Pirate's Beach, call Galveston County Animal Control	(409) 938-2282
I need to contact Municipal Court?	(409) 765-3740
I need a birth certificate or death certificate? Call the Galveston County Health District	(409) 765-2520
I need a marriage license? Call Galveston County	(409) 766-2200

Missed a Commission or City Council Meeting? Want to see how items were voted on and who voted for what? The Minutes of all the Commissions and City Council meetings are now available on line at the City Website. See links below.

Minutes from City Council Meetings:

http://cityofgalveston.org/city_council/minutes.cfm

Minutes from Planning Commission:

http://cityofgalveston.org/_private/newstool/newsdoc/042010%20Minutes.pdf

Minutes from Landmark Commission:

http://cityofgalveston.org/city_committees/citycomm_landmark.cfm

Minutes from Building Standards:

http://cityofgalveston.org/city_committees/citycomm_buildingstandards.cfm

Minutes from Zoning Board of Adjustments:

http://cityofgalveston.org/city_committees/citycomm_zoning.cfm

Advertise in San Jac **Alive!**

One Year Ad - 4 Issues

Members: Business cards (2" x 3.5") - \$ 40
Half page (6" x 5") \$ 100; Full page (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") \$ 160.

Non-members \$ 80, \$ 140 and \$ 200 respectively

Contact George Lee at georgedlee@sbcglobal.net

Renew now or join us for 2010 - 11 . Dues are for the calendar year.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ email _____

New Renewing Call on me to volunteer!

Membership category Individual \$ 10 Family \$15 Senior / Hardship \$5

Business / Sponsor \$50 (includes listing in each newsletter and much gratitude)

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