

JICANet Update

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Arts Association January Exhibit & Artists' Reception

The Jekyll Island Arts Association will host the exceptional work of photographer; Carla Cook Smith and whittler; Ernest Shaver on exhibit at Goodyear Gallery January 4th – 31st. The artists' reception will be held Sunday, January 10th from 1:00-3:00 PM.

Photographer, Carla Cook Smith discovered a new side of her self when she picked up a camera. As a painter, she photographed places and things she wanted to paint. However she started to see the beauty of photography all on its own. The lens opened to show her the extraordinary beauty of ordinary things. Through the camera Carla takes the time to absorb the beauty of what is before her: storm clouds on the marsh, sand blowing across the desert, a dusty radio, an interesting reflection or a new perspective of a cemetery. Carla's hope is that her work opens others to pleasant thoughts and new experiences.

Self taught in the art of hand carvings whittler, Ernest Shaver began wood carving with a pocket knife in 1980. Early on, he concentrated on hand carving walking sticks that feature mammals, reptiles, human faces, vines, and abstract images. Most recently, he started hand carving song birds and woodpeckers using several wood types such as bass, buckeye, and tupelo. Ernest strives to develop the implied image of each walking stick or bird by the natural shape of the original wood.

Arts Association Music Program

Come enjoy the music you grew up with, tunes that bring back the fond memories of yesteryear. Come enjoy the Three of Us, a popular musical group that performs pop and folk-type cover tunes from the 60's and 70's. Their tight vocals which come from many years of musical experience specialize in two and three part harmonies.

The group features Bill Townsend on harmonica, guitar and vocals who has been performing professionally for over 30 years; Bo Fox on guitar and vocals with experience playing for over 45 years and Marie Toler, who joined the group about a

year ago. Marie has been playing professionally for over 15 years and has become a focal point for the group's performances. With her incredible bongo playing, stellar vocals and an arsenal of percussion instruments she keeps the audience wondering what she'll do next - making this band just plain fun to watch as well as hear.

This free performance sponsored by the Jekyll Island Arts Association, on Tuesday, January 5th at 7:30 PM in the Jekyll Island Convention Center, will give you an opportunity to enjoy the best trio in the Golden Isles. For more information call 635-3920. [Revitalization Update from the JIA Executive Director](#)

The following message is repeated for those who did not receive it directly from the JIA.

In this last revitalization update before the New Year, I want to make sure I thank you for your interest over the past twelve months. It has been a year of great progress as we achieved our goal of breaking ground on the beach village project. The first phase of construction will be Great Dunes Park, which when complete will be nearly 20 acres of open public space along the beachfront. The first phase will be complete by next summer and provide new changing facilities, showers, restrooms and picnic shelters for families spending the day at the beach.

Construction will progress until the beach village is complete in the spring of 2012. The public funding is in place and includes the park and green space, parking, the wonderful new convention center and all the road and utility infrastructure for the beach village. Those public assets continue to move forward as planned.

There has been a recent change in how the private-sector components will be completed. The beach village plan calls for lodging and retail that are identified as the private-sector development components. The plan allows for some loft condominium units above some of the retail that is intended to create a vibrant little village. The lodging had been planned as two hotels located adjacent to the new convention center. The plan also allows for development of vacation ownership. Instead of having one revitalization partner to handle all of these, we will consider other options such as attracting several developers to handle various components separately. New lodging has always been the driving idea for the beach village revitalization project and is still the top priority. Conventions are vital for us to have a steady tourism business. Conventions typically meet during the week in non-vacation time periods. Conventioneers, as well as vacation guests, also like to shop and eat so the retail component is also very important. We will be moving forward with our retail transition and plan to have new retail complete for our island merchants close to when the new convention center opens.

Speaking of retail, our retail transition plans have come together, and we are excited that we have a very viable solution. Based on much input from island merchants, the favored site of island retail appears to be along the beach in the large surface parking lot just south of the Oceanside Inn & Suites. We expect a final location decision shortly, and if this site is selected, we will improve the distressed surface parking lot and create a wonderful little seaside retail area that I know guests and merchants will enjoy. This area will open after the summer of 2010. The

current retail will remain operational until our busy season ends next August and September. At their December meeting, the JIA Board thanked Jekyll Pharmacy owners John and Mary Waters for their 35-years of business on Jekyll. John and Mary will close the pharmacy at the end of this month.

There are many great things happening regarding revitalization. The new Jekyll Island Hampton Inn & Suites will open January 7th. The JIA Board along with Governor Perdue had the opportunity to tour this new hotel last week. All were impressed; this is not your typical Hampton Inn! This hotel has all the character and style of Jekyll Island and features upgrades like an expanded lobby with select dining and bar and a large pool area with zero-entry and family fire pit. The Hampton Inn & Suites Resort is now taking reservations, and you will want to check out this new facility!

The new gas station/convenience store that will replace the old service station is progressing. Soil reports came back indicating contamination, and we must perform some environmental work to remedy this situation. The work on the Morgan Conference Center will get underway in January with expected completion in June 2010. This is an exciting adaptive reuse project which will convert the historic J.P. Morgan indoor tennis court into a modern meeting and banquet facility which will be operated by the Jekyll Island Club Hotel.

Next month, we will cut the ribbon on a new wildlife viewing platform which is on the island's south end overlooking the beautiful St. Andrews sound. We are also progressing on the bicycle trail network that will eventually tie into this area and complete the island-wide trail network. In terms of policy, the JIA Board recently passed the new residential lease policy providing a renewal path for residential leaseholders wanting to extend their lease beyond the current expiration of 2049. The board also received a first reading of a new sign ordinance and a new tree ordinance. A naming policy was also adopted to manage the names assigned to the new assets that will be coming on line over the next few years. As you can see, revitalization is moving forward and the pace is quickening! That is good as we seek to reverse the 20-year downward trend in visitation and provide more opportunities for Georgians and people from across the country to enjoy our unique natural environment and historic attractions.

Look for more news early next year as we quickly address the beach village lodging and retail opportunities. The JIA staff remain committed to working hard to deliver an excellent guest experience. On Jekyll Island - it's all good!

Sincerely, C. Jones Hooks, Executive Director, Jekyll Island Authority

---and that's the news from Jekyll Island where history lives, nature abounds and now we are all updated!! Darrell Davidson, Interim JICANet Editor

JICANet Updates are distributed periodically by the Jekyll Island Citizens Association to its

members and interested parties. To subscribe or unsubscribe send an email to jicanet@jekyllcitizens.org.