

N Jekyll Island Citizens Association NEWSLETTER

--- June, 2009 ---

JICA CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Norman Haft and Bob Lelli

A number of things have happened since our last newsletter in April. Of major concern to all



residents and home owners is the recent report by the Bleakly Advisory Group by project director Gary Mongeon, in which he described that through their efforts they are

trying to find a formula that provides some overall equity to the issues of renewing the leases. Mr. Mongeon commented at a recent meeting with the JIA board and JICA membership that they want a new plan that will bring land leases closer to market value and that it doesn't destroy the property values and it isn't so prohibitive that the home owners just refuse to renew their leases. Most people at the meeting felt that there was a different tone to the overall lease proposal and that more facts were taken into consideration regarding the new lease proposal. Mr. Mongeon stated that this new report was simply an update so that the board can ask some questions and then formulate their policy guidance. The final report should be available either the end of June or beginning of July, along with the Bleakly Group's recommendations. If anything does occur that would be newsworthy we will get out this information through the internet as well as a brief newsletter.

With the summer fast approaching it reminds us of preparation for hurricanes, Memorial Day observance and safety as we enjoy the lazy hazy days of summer. The Public Safety Department has asked everyone to take steps now to prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. They

advise that we take the time to prepare an emergency plan that entails what to do when and if we have to evacuate, important family and friends names and numbers, pet information, and if you can provide assistance to neighbors if needed.



Remember - be informed and don't underestimate Mother Nature and the force you deal with concerning hurricanes.

As this newsletter is published we will

have celebrated Memorial Day, which is a day we should give thanks to all our fallen citizens of our military that gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy our wonderful freedoms and safety of The United States of America. We certainly have a lot to be thankful for; especially being able to live on this wonderful island we call Jekyll Island. We should never lose sight of the fact that many lives were lost so that we could live a life of freedom with the ability to worship as we wish and live in communities where we want to.

We hope that all our membership has a very restful and enjoyable summer with family and friends. If you are traveling to see family please be careful and drive safely.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone back here on the island in the fall and gear up for a new season. We both feel this year has been a productive one as Co-Presidents and we look forward to another year in that capacity. We thank you very much for your continued support and look forward to serving you again this coming year.

Jekyll Island Citizens Association

P.O. Box 13101
Jekyll Island, Georgia 31527

JICA meetings are normally held on the first Monday of the month unless it is a holiday, then it will be held on the second Monday. Meetings are held at the Convention Center, Beachside Hall at 2:00 P.M.

A newsletter is published on the 1st of October, December, February and April. The annual meeting and election of Officers is held in May.

Officers

Norman Haft and Bob Lelli, Co-Presidents
Rick Hoffman, Vice President
Gloria Zocchi, Secretary
Larry Waldhauer, Treasurer
Frank Mirasola, Immediate Past President

Executive Committee

Norman Haft
Bob Lelli
Rick Hoffman

Directors Terms End

2010: Mindy Egan; Bob Lelli; Rick Hoffman

2011: Norman Haft, Richard VanInderstyn; Larry Waldhauer

2012: Steve Newell; Gloria Zocchi; Stan Jennings

Standing Committees - Chairs/Alternates

Communications

Randy Simpson; Bob Lelli; Darrell Davidson;
Ron Willnow (web site)

Logistics

C.J. Jefferies

Quality of Life on Jekyll

(Vacant)

Membership

Megan Jeffries

Business Association Update

By Bob Lelli

I recently had an opportunity to speak with Clayton Porter, Jekyll Island Business Association



Clayton Porter

President, about the overall revitalization plan and the potential for the business district. While there wasn't much to comment on, he did state that he along with his board and merchants are waiting to see

what the final plan is with the Linger Longer proposal, as to what role they will play in the business end of the revitalization. Clayton did state that at present there is no alternative plan regarding the business district and everything is still up in the air as to what may happen with the new business area. He does feel comfortable with what may happen and that there may be some possible alternative sites for the business district for those businesses that do not go across the street to the new Linger Longer facility.

Clayton also feels confident that the JIA will do what is best to enhance the area, which will be for the betterment of Jekyll Island and overall tourism.

For those who are not familiar with the structure of the business association, the following is the present make-up of the board:

President - Clayton Porter
Vice President - C. J. Jefferies
Secretary - Megan Jefferies
Treasurer - Nan Ferguson

Elections are done on an annual basis and it is the hope of the association that they will continue to play a vital role in the future of Jekyll Island.

A Message from Jekyll Island Authority Executive Director

By Jones Hooks

Friends,

Time flies! It is difficult to believe June 16 marks



Jones Hooks

my one year anniversary with the Jekyll Island Authority. What a year – I can honestly say, I haven't been bored a single moment since arriving on the scene.

I feel we have accomplished much over the past 12 months – some small items

and some large, but all will have significant impacts on the future of this beautiful Island. From planting vines on JIA public works fences to hiring an A/E Firm to move the revised Beach Village Plan forward, I think we've had a good year. I have tried to improve communications with residents by establishing Town Hall Meetings and attempting to keep you informed. Needless to say, there is always room for improvement, and it is my intention to continue this quest. Two projects I am especially proud of are our new Recycling Park and Wildlife Viewing Platform. Thanks for your support of these additions!

After living on the Island, I have a different perspective than I did as a visitor. I understand more about the love for this special place we all have – obviously, there are differences in priorities; however, the passion for Jekyll runs deep. One thing that bothers me tremendously, however, is the perception of some residents that the Jekyll Island Authority is the “enemy”. There is no “us and them”. We should all recognize our different roles,

while at the same time working together for the good of the Island.

I am grateful to the MANY volunteers who perform a variety of functions on the Island. Your dedication and spirit is phenomenal. I hope you are also proud of the JIA workers who try each day to maintain Jekyll as a special place. I feel JIA employees do a tremendous job - they truly love working on Jekyll Island and many have the longevity to prove it!

Stephanie and I are so pleased to be a part of the Jekyll Island community. Thanks for your support, suggestions, and critiques. I look forward to working with you.

(No the house isn't finished yet – hopefully soon!)

Jones Hooks

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "C. Jones Hooks".

Executive Director

JICA Election Results

At the election meeting on May 4th of the Citizens Association Members, the following new individuals were selected to a 3 year term ending in 2012: Steve Newell (Incumbent), Gloria Zocchi and Stan Jennings. We want to wish them well and thank them for being willing to serve with the best interests of Jekyll Island in mind.

We would also like to thank Anna Lee Willnow and Dawn Zenkert, who went off the board and for serving and working toward a better Jekyll Island. As you know Anna Lee was instrumental in revising the welcome material for new Jekyll residents and chairing the Quality of Life Committee. Dawn Zenkert served as our Treasurer and did a fine job in keeping the financials.

Thanks Again to all.

Hotel Corner

By Bob Lelli

The Quality Inn

This issue will focus on the Quality Inn, located on North Beachview Drive and managed by Linda



Keel. I recently spoke to Ms. Keel regarding the hotel and her feelings about its' place on Jekyll and its' future with the revitalization plan of the island.

Linda wanted it to be known that she is happy to be back on Jekyll having formally served as the manager of The Days Inn for 5 years and Villas By The Sea for 4 years. She has been back at the Quality Inn since August 29 2008 after being in Myrtle Beach for 1 ½ years. She enjoys Jekyll Island and the people who live and vacation here and looks forward to the Quality Inn being one of the top hotels on the island for years to come.

The Quality Inn is a 71 unit operation with 52 units being apartment type suites fully equipped with all the amenities one would want. Of all the units, 19 are equipped with 2 Queens or Kings and have refrigerator, microwave's and free Wi-Fi. There also is a fully equipped laundry, which is another service provided to winter guests and vacationers. The on site pool is also opened all year for all guests.

The Quality Inn is owned by IM/IC Hotels out of

Columbia, SC and owns and operates 14 hotel properties in South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. Many people who are long time residents and guests remember the Quality Inn as the Seafarer Hotel, which was its' former name.

Some of the happenings that winter guests have come to enjoy are the Wednesday night movie specials and monthly pot-luck suppers, along with trips to the museum and casino boat rides. There are also annual barbecues that lend itself to the friendly atmosphere of the Quality Inn.

Linda stated that the economy hasn't really affected their business, the bookings have been steady and she looks forward to a better future with the revitalization soon to get moving. She feels with all the revitalization to take place, this should help all the hotels not only during the construction phase, but after with vacationers and winter guests.

The Quality Inn management team consists of Linda Keel as manager; Clyde Sequi - Chief Engineer; Christine Truesdale - Executive Housekeeper; and Sheila Godley - Director of Sales. The desk personnel, who service the public, are: Scott Thrift, Dannette Garland; night auditor - Mallory Pierson and breakfast supervisor - Katia Scocz. The Inn serves a hot continental breakfast daily with eggs, waffles, bacon, sausage gravy and biscuits. Cold cereal is also available for breakfast. Breakfast is served from 7 to 10 AM every morning.

Linda Keel is also a certificated Certified Hotel Administrator and comes to the Quality Inn with a wealth of experience. Linda also lives on the property, which she feels is a plus in terms of the overall service that is provided and is always available to work with the customers to handle complaints and to just get positive feedback about the operation of the hotel. The Quality Inn operates under a choice privilege program, which is the largest hotel rewards system in the state.

In closing, Linda wanted it to be known that she looks forward to the revitalization of Jekyll and sees nothing but positives in the future.

**Jekyll Island Citizens Association
Officers for 2009-10**

By Bob Lelli

LAST ISSUE FOR 2008/2009 NEWS YEAR

NEW JICA BOARD SELECTS OFFICERS

At a reorganization meeting of the JICA board held on May 12, the following members were selected for the below listed positions:

President: Norman Haft and Bob Lelli

Vice President: Rick Hoffman

Secretary: Gloria Zocchi

Treasurer: Larry Waldhauer

**Immediate Past President: Frank
Mirasola**

All positions were unanimously voted in.

Both Norman Haft and Bob Lelli just recently finished the past year as Co-Presidents and the board felt that they should continue. Both Norman and Bob accepted.

Rick Hoffman and Larry Waldhauer just finished their first year on the board and were willing to take on more responsibility.

Gloria Zocchi accepted the position as secretary and has served as secretary for the Arts Association this past year.

The position for the Quality of Life Committee is vacant and does not have to be filled by a board member. Some names were suggested and will be followed up by Norman and Bob. If anyone is interested please contact either Norman or Bob and they will be referred to Ann Lee Willnow for all the particulars.

Be safe and enjoy your Summer. We look forward to seeing everyone in the Fall.

The JICA Board and Officers

This is the last issue of the 2008/2009 Newsletter year. I hope I have kept you informed as to what was going on in and around Jekyll Island. I have tried to cover areas that I hope all members would find interesting and informative. I have continued to get positive feedback from our readers over the year, which enables me to continue with areas that I think our readership would enjoy hearing about. It is the intent with this newsletter to cover areas that are pertinent to the island as well as general information that would be interesting hearing about. So you can rest assured that I will continue to seek out what is noteworthy and productive that all the membership would enjoy hearing about and keep you up to date on key issues as they unfold.

I want to wish all our members a very healthy, enjoyable and safe summer with family and friends. I am looking forward to seeing our winter guests back with us next season and hope all our residents enjoy their families this summer wherever their travels take them, either here on Jekyll or on their travels throughout the United States.

Jekyll Island Web Sites

The following is a partial list of web sites to help keep you informed about Jekyll Island activities.

JICA - www.jekyllcitizens.org

JIA - www.jekyllislandauthority.org

Sea Turtle Center - www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org

Jekyll Island - www.jekyllisland.com

Jekyll Club Hotel - www.jekyllclub.com/events.asp

Initiative To Protect Jekyll Island State Park -
www.savejekyllisland.org

LLC Development - www.rediscoverjekyll.com

Tidelands 4-H Nature Center - www.tidelands4H.org

HAPPENINGS AROUND JEKYLL ISLAND

By Bob Lelli

Four Turtles Released Following Rehab

On Friday, May 29, 2009 a very exciting thing happened on Jekyll Island. Dr. Terry Norton, veterinarian and Director at the Turtle Center, along with his staff, released four turtles back into the Atlantic Ocean. Betty, a loggerhead turtle was the biggest. Aussie, a loggerhead and Shrimp and Route, both Kemps Ridleys were also released in front of a huge crowd down on the beach.

For those of you who are turtle lovers and concerned about the activities at the turtle center, this was without a doubt a very exciting and wonderful experience not only for the employees of the center, but all the people who showed up for the release.

Another interesting thing has been happening at the turtle center with all the publicity it has been receiving statewide and worldwide. The turtle center has been host to Uzma Noureen, from Pakistan, who is a conservationist intern from the Wetlands Program with the ministry of Environment in Pakistan. She is here under the international Asian Scholarship program. With the help of Dr. Norton's staff she has learned all about the operation at the center along with the process of tagging the turtles.

Along with this program the staff at the Turtle Center has participated in several programs that have taken individuals to the Caribbean to attend educational seminars and also instruct classes and workshops along with participating in research and various studies pertinent to the overall operation at the Center.

As you can see the Turtle Center has gone through some exciting times since it opened in the summer of 2007. On any given day you can see a large number of visitors going in and out of the center and I'm sure gaining a wealth of knowledge about

turtles and seeing up front just what the staff does with sick and injured turtles. Having been there myself a number of times with my grandchildren it is remarkable to see just what occurs on a daily basis and what you can learn from the mini tours in the building. I would like to congratulate Dr. Norton and his staff for the outstanding job they do and the knowledge they impart to our daily visitors who frequent the Jekyll Island Turtle Center.

In addition to the above mentioned turtle happenings, I'm sure many of our residents and guests were wondering about the mounds and crates that have been placed along the Jekyll Causeway near the marsh. These mounds are artificial nest mounds with raccoon proof cages to allow the diamond-back terrapins to seek higher ground from the marsh and hopefully not cross the causeway so much. Hopefully it will cut down on the deaths of the turtles crossing the causeway. Dr. Terry Norton, stated recently that "every year from 200 to 300 terrapins are hit by vehicles as they cross the causeway" seeking higher land and safe nesting areas. It is hoped that the cages placed some 30' back from the causeway will result in a safer environment for the turtles to nest. If you happen to see a turtle on the causeway please stop, pick it up and place in one of the cages.

Golfers participating in the Georgia-Florida golf classic before the big game can now register on line as was recently announced by the Golf Pro Shop. This year will mark the 30th year of the classic, which will be on October 29 & 30, with the game being played on Saturday, October 31. The days leading up to the tournament are filled with the Wednesday night cocktail party and Thursday night oyster roast and buffet dinner. Registration this year is \$270 per player until July 1 and \$300 after. Online registration is limited to the first 400 registrants and includes green fees, ½ cart rental, cocktail party and oyster roast for player and guest and non-player functions. If you require more information about the tournament you can contact the Jekyll Golf Pro Shop at 912-635-2368.

New/Replacement Dove Cote Completed in the Historic District

By Bob Lelli



As many residents and guests by now know there is a new Dove Cote, which was recently rebuilt between The Hollybourne Cottage and the burned down Chichota Cottage in the historic district. The new structure was built from the ground up by residents Hank and Dodie Wysocki of Jekyll Island and Mark Evans a former employee of the JIA. The work on the restructure began around the beginning of February and was finished the 1st week in March. Hank and Mark explained that they were able to salvage some of the old timber from the original structure, which was roughly 30% of the old Dove Cote. Most of the other material was bought at the local Lowe's store and the wood shingles (Pine Shakes) the JIA already had purchased. It is very eye appealing and fits perfectly between the two cottages and adds another phase to the historic preservation of Jekyll Island. Hank and Mark did mention that it is hoped that maybe the garden club along with the nursery people of the JIA will add to the beauty of the building with some bushes and flower arrangements. The last item to be placed in the area of the Dove Cote will be the historic information plaque, which John Hunter, Museum Director, will take care of. Finally, many thanks to the Friends of Historic Jekyll Island for their foresight and financial support in pursuing this project.

Help reduce the pet population!

Have your cat spade or neutered at Susie's Friends, Brunswick

912-342-7073

From the JICA MEMBERSHIP desk...

Those of us who are JICA Board members take pride in the fact that our membership is growing yearly and that you, the members, seem ever more interested in the growth and direction of our Island.

A yearly membership runs from June 1 to May 31 and the cost is going up in the light of expected needs to address critical issues the JICA is facing. At the special board meeting on March 21, the group voted to make annual dues \$40 for family, \$25 for an individual. If you have a question about the status of your membership, please don't hesitate to call me. I may not be able to give you an immediate answer, but I will get back to you ASAP.

If I am not available, please leave a message with your telephone number and I'll get back to you. You can reach me during the day at (912) 635-3301, or in the evening at (912) 635-3357.

Many thanks for your continued support and input. **Megan**
Jefferies

Jekyll Island Citizens Association Membership Form

My check for \$_____ is enclosed for my 2009-2010 membership in the Jekyll Island Citizens Association. (Family - \$40; Individual - \$25)

Member		Email Address
Jekyll Address	Street	Phone Number
Other Address	Street	Phone Number
City	State	Zip

Return this form with your dues to: Megan Jefferies, Membership Chairwoman, Jekyll Island Citizens Association, P.O. Box 13101, Jekyll Is., GA 31527

