

# N Jekyll Island Citizens Association NEWSLETTER

--- October, 2009 ---

## JICA CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

*By Norman Haft and Bob Lelli*

**Activity still abounds** on Jekyll Island since we last discussed issues and happenings in our June



**Norman Haft**

issue. Work continues on the Hampton Inn & Suites, with an opening of January 7, 2010 to accept guests. This will be a tremendous lift to the revitalization

of Jekyll Island and the potential of exciting things to come in the future.

**Reviews by the JIA** and JIA Board continue along with private companies regarding the potential new leases. The primary goal is affordability and clarity, so that all citizens can make a knowledgeable decision on future costs. There have been many proposals presented at a number of the JIA board meetings and all have been reviewed as stated by Mr. Jones Hooks, Ex-Director JIA, with the understanding that whatever is finalized will be with the best interests of the citizens of Jekyll Island considered. It is hoped that we will be able to have this particular issue finalized by the end of the year.

**We will continue** to work toward an amicable solution of the business district while construction proceeds on the new village,

convention center and the signature park. We both feel that in order for the citizens,



**Bob Lelli**

merchants, and guests of Jekyll Island to be comfortable about our future we must have a true direction and some concrete plans for a working business district.

**We have had an** exciting and active summer with the July 4<sup>th</sup> extravaganza on the beachfront along with the Beach Music Festival and BBQ Bash in August. Attendance was terrific and it appeared that all people who attended enjoyed the hospitality of Jekyll Island. We also had our annual Shrimp & Grits Festival in September at the historic district, which was highly attended and again all appeared to have a good time.

**So as we look** to the New Year we are hopeful that Jekyll Island will continue to move forward with the revitalization plans and continue to make Jekyll what it truly is and that is Georgia's Jewel. We will continue to stay in touch with our members and if anything comes up that requires immediate action on our part; we will inform you through a newsletter if needed, a special meeting or through the internet process (JICA NET).

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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

## Change In Meeting Dates 2009-2010

As many of our members know our meetings are generally held on the first Monday of every month unless it is a holiday. We have decided to have our meetings on the same day as the JIA board, which hopefully will make it more convenient for our members and guests that wish to attend. It also doesn't take up another day to attend another meeting. Below are our meetings for the 2009/2010 business year:

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>SITE</u>
Mon.	Oct. 19	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Nov. 9	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Dec. 14	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Jan. 11	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Feb. 15	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Mar. 15	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Apr. 12	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	May 10	2:00 PM	CC
Mon.	Jun. 7	2:00 PM	Morgan's

If for any reason dates are changed, it will be noted on the JICA Net and hopefully in local newspapers.

## Jekyll Island Web Sites

JICA - [www.jekyllcitizens.org](http://www.jekyllcitizens.org)

JIA - [www.jekyllislandauthority.org](http://www.jekyllislandauthority.org)

Sea Turtle Center - [www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org](http://www.georgiaseaturtlecenter.org)

Jekyll Island - [www.jekyllisland.com](http://www.jekyllisland.com)

Jekyll Club Hotel - [www.jekyllclub.com/events.asp](http://www.jekyllclub.com/events.asp)

Initiative To Protect Jekyll Island State Park -  
[www.savejekyllisland.org](http://www.savejekyllisland.org)

LLC Development - [www.rediscoverjekyll.com](http://www.rediscoverjekyll.com)

Tidelands 4-H Nature Center - [www.tidelands4H.org](http://www.tidelands4H.org)

## A Message from Jekyll Island Authority Executive Director

By Jones Hooks

### Good Things are Happening!

**I am excited** to be a part of the enthusiasm that is Jekyll Island! Even in a down economy, we continue to attract visitors from throughout the country and the world to special events that are well planned and executed including the



**Jones Hooks**

Beach Music Festival, Shrimp and Grits, and the Georgia-Florida Weekend! These events are not just a result of JIA employee efforts, but I am thankful that we now have successfully incorporated significant numbers of volunteers into our efforts to assure a wonderful experience for all who participate! Thanks for your support. Good things are happening!

**The Fire Wise Program** is another example of excellent cooperation between the JIA and citizens of Jekyll Island in bringing about a tremendous program with significant benefits for Jekyll Island. Good things are happening!

**Jekyll Island Authority Board members** listened to the comments submitted by lease holders and the JICA regarding terms for new leases, and I am confident a new lease program will be adopted that will address the

goals of simplicity, affordability, transition of current leases to the new lease policy, and the JIA's long-term revenue needs. Good things are happening!

**Bike paths are** being expanded and improved; a new wildlife viewing platform is being constructed; our airport runway is being resurfaced; enhanced 911 is being installed; Turtle Tags are available for purchase; the Island-wide United Way Campaign is in full swing, and a new cell tower is being erected! Good things are happening!

**Final designs for** the public portions of the revitalization effort are coming together, and a groundbreaking for the first revitalization project is now scheduled for early December. Great Dunes Park will be a tremendous asset for guests and residents alike. Good things are happening!

**I expect additional** successes and challenges over the next few years as construction of public and private facilities occurs on the Island. My intention is to keep you apprised along the way to assure your understanding and to seek your cooperation. Hopefully, we will all keep our minds focused on the many benefits improved services and facilities will provide to guests and residents alike. My goal is that together we will proclaim, "IT'S ALL GOOD!"

Jones Hooks

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Jones Hooks".

Executive Director

## Hotel Corner

By Bob Lelli

### JEKYLL OCEANFRONT & RESORT

This is the last issue regarding information on the existing hotels on Jekyll Island. Hopefully, in the



**Shara Nelson, Front Desk and Linda Amazon, Mkt. Mgr.**

future with new hotels going up, I will be able to give our readers new material about the proposed hotels which are part of the revitalization.

**I recently sat down** with Linda Amazon, Marketing Mgr., for the Jekyll Oceanfront to discuss items about the hotel and its' present revitalization program. Many remember the hotel, which was built in the 1960's as the Sandollar, Hilton Hotel, or the Jekyll Inn. It is now called the Jekyll Oceanfront & Clarion Resort, which is owned by Leslie Lurken out of Minnesota. The hotel also has had a number of different names for its' restaurant - The Italian Fisherman, Capital Steak & Seafood and now the Time Out Sports Grill. The hotel is in the process of change, which will consist of condo's and regular guest rooms. At present some of the 1 & 2 bedroom condos have been sold. Eight buildings on the north end will contain the condo development, while four buildings on the south end of the complex will be the guest room facilities. The condo complex facility will have 1 full bath, 1 double or king beds, 1 full shower with washer/dryer set-up, dining area, living room along with all appliances stainless steel. In addition all units will have tile floors and carpeting. Guest room units will have some lockout ability as well as the normal amenities such as shower, queen and king bedding, TV and coffee making ability.

**Hotel staffing exceeds** 100 employees during the summer and reduces to around 50 during the winter. Some of the staff members are as follows:

**Michelle Blackstone - GM, 10 yrs with hotel.**  
**Linda Amazon - Marketing Mgr, 10 yrs with hotel.**  
**Sheila Powell - Reservation Mgr, 12 yrs with hotel.**  
**Bob Hedges - Front Desk Mgr, 5 yrs with hotel.**  
**Clive La Rocue - Kitchen Mgr, 5 yrs with hotel.**  
**Tim Hotaling - Ass't Food & Beverage Mgr, 1 yr.**  
**Tracy Parkissen - Chief Engr., 5 yrs with hotel.**  
**Kim Sanford - Bar Mgr., 5 yrs with hotel.**  
**Beverly Shupert - Restaurant Mgr., 5 yrs with hotel.**  
**Sonia Butler - Rooms Supr., 12 yrs with hotel.**  
**Gloria Smith - Ass't Rooms Supr., 12 yrs with hotel.**  
**Holly White - Dir. of Sales, 5 yrs with hotel.**  
**Jeff Culpepper - Front Desk, 5 yrs with hotel.**

**To show appreciation** for their staff, Linda stated they have an employee of the month and year award. They also have employee luncheons on a monthly basis and a front and back house award.

**The hotel also** has a Red Bug Rental franchise that operates out of their lobby. It has been part of the operation for about 1 ½ years and is well utilized. There is a Spa, which is owned and operated by Sandra Harden, and is open Tues. through Sat. There is also a fitness center located behind the pool. A business center is located on the property with 9 meeting rooms, which enables the hotel to attract that kind of business.

**For their winter guests** they have Bingo once a week or twice a week. They also have a manager's reception every 2 months to keep guests apprised of the various hotel offerings. They also cater to various groups for their many activities such as the Sandollars, monthly meetings; Loins, twice monthly; and the Shag Club, which meets once a year for a dinner and dance. Along, with the aforementioned groups, the hotel provide facilities for Ga/Fl guests, Sandy Paws-Greyhounds yearly convention, Blue Grass Festival Host Hotel and many other groups. They also cater to family group reunions and weddings, averaging 8 to 10 per year with a beautiful ocean view as a backdrop.

**Jekyll Oceanfront & Clarion Resort** has gone through many phases in its' operation over the years and they hope that with their revitalization and the island's revitalization that they will continue to be a vital part of Jekyll life.

## Interesting People of Jekyll Island

By Bob Lelli

### 30 Years of Island Living

This article regarding the many interesting people of Jekyll Island is about Kate Rumbaugh. Kate was



**Kate Rumbaugh in front of her home on Old Plantation Road**

born in the Cleveland, Ohio area in the town of North Olmsted, Ohio. She lived in this area for most of her life until she moved to Jekyll Island in 1979 with her husband Paul. Kate and Paul were blessed with twin boys Peter and Jeffrey. Peter passed away recently and Jeffrey lives in the Brunswick area. Kate and Paul had sixteen wonderful years together on Jekyll before he passed away in 1995.

**Kate has been** involved in many activities while living on the island. She has belonged to the Garden Club, JIAA, Friends of Historical Jekyll Island, and is a member of the Methodist church. She also has served as treasurer of the above organizations during her tenure on Jekyll Island. While a member of the Friends of Historical Jekyll Island she also served as President. As is so typical of the volunteerism on Jekyll, Kate also sits Goodyear Cottage and Mistletoe Cottage at least once a month. Kate was also chosen as the YWCA Woman of the Year for 2007, an award well deserved for her continuing efforts. She also has

worked part time at the island pharmacy since 1995. During her lifetime she also has managed various gift shops at hotels. Kate is an avid Mah Jongg player and plays at least once a week.

**One of Kate's** favorite things to talk about is her bike group which she belongs to and has been a member since 1981. It started out as an Episcopal Church group who wanted to stay in shape and ride around the island. It was organized by Kate and her late husband as also a way to socialize with members of the church. It now has grown to 20 people and they can be found every Thursday morning traveling the paths of Jekyll. Unfortunately, Kate is not able to ride anymore, but still enjoys the after ride breakfast with her friends. As Kate stated, this is a very big part of her life and continues to be.

**The best way** to describe Kate is that she is a churchgoer, biker and totally involved in the life of Jekyll Island. She is very happy about finding Jekyll through her sister and brother-in-law and very thankful that she had a good number of years here with her husband.

**Kate is just** another example of the type of person who lives here and takes an active role in the everyday life of Jekyll Island. She highly recommends to all who care about Jekyll to just continue to take part in all you can and keep Jekyll Island the place that it has become, an Island of pleasure, solitude and total involvement.



**See Pg. 7 for Hampton Inn & Suites Story**

## HAPPENINGS AROUND JEKYLL ISLAND

By Bob Lelli

### Jekyll Recognized for Fire Safety

1. Jekyll Island received recognition on October 8, 2009 as a Firewise Community of the Year from



**L to R: Nancy Kring Rowan (Island resident), Mark McClellan (Forestry Chief Ranger, Lorraine Donahue (Island resident), Jason Richardson (Fire Chief), Gayle H. Slauson, (Firewise Specialist), and Steve Bolin (Code Enforcement Officer)**

the National Firewise Communities Program. Kudos to Lorraine Donahue and Nancy Kring Rowan for their efforts to alert residents about the safe way to fireproof your property. Along with Lorraine and Nancy, Jason Richardson (Fire Director), Gayle Slauson (Firewise Specialist), and Mark Mc Clellan (Forestry/Chief Ranger), presented programs during the year to inform and educate our population. Steve Bolin our new Code Enforcement Officer will work towards all residents making sure their homes and business areas are fireproof and safe. (Please see picture in this issue when the award was given).

2. A new golfing experience was conducted at the golf complex during the summer. It was called glow ball golf, where the ball is illuminated along with the greens to see where your ball travels. Many golfers who participated stated that it was a lot of fun and enjoyed the activity. Thanks to Harry

Kicklighter for putting together an excellent experience.

3. A New Bird Watching Tower is being erected on the southern end of the island at St. Andrews Beach just north of the Wanderer exhibit, with completion expected within the next few weeks. Along with being able to bird watch from the tower, people will be able to see boats go by as well as the dolphins doing their acrobatic jumps from the water.

4. Georgia/Florida Golf Classic will be held October 28-31. Along with the 2 day tournament, there will be a cocktail party, oyster roast and tailgate party at the beach deck. This will be 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event and congratulations and thank you's go out to Johnny and Ginny Paulk for all their efforts as well as all the volunteers, JIA personnel, golf course personnel and others who make this such a great experience and fun for all.

5. Gas Station Closes. The Jekyll Island gas station was closed recently to make way for a new facility which will be part of a new Mini-Mart and eatery. Over the next few months old gas tanks will be removed and replaced with new ones. A new structure will be built by the Flash Foods Corporation and will include new state of the art mini-mart concepts. While the new structure is being built anyone who might be concerned about running out of gas can call the fire dept. and pay for gas to get them off the island and to the local station of their choice.

6. Segway Bike rentals are now located near the miniature golf complex off Beachview. This will be housed here during the construction and will be there until further notice.

7. Bird Watching and Nature Festival was held on Jekyll Island Oct 8 thru 12. The festival featured nature trips, workshops and seminars for experienced and new bird watcher. It is a wonderful experience for all to enjoy the natural setting of the southeast coast.

## An Update on the Hampton Inn & Suites Project

By Bob Lelli

Although the Hampton Inn & Suites is still under construction, it will be opening soon. With that in



**Hampton Inn & Suites Gen. Mgr. Deborah Exum** mind I discussed the progress of construction and took a mini tour of the facility with General Manager, Deborah Exum. What I found was a facility that is absolutely beautiful and I'm sure something that all Jekyll Islanders and guests will be proud of and enjoy staying at.

**Deborah came to** the Hampton Inn & Suites this past July from New Castle Hotels, management co. for the Hampton. She came to the island from Stafford Hospitality out of Tifton, Ga. with 15 years of experience in the hotel industry and comes to the Hampton Inn with a varied background in hotel management. She is a true Georgian and grew up in the Nashville, GA., area, which is near Valdosta. Deborah expressed pride in this new facility and indicated her delight to be working on Jekyll and living here with her husband and two children.

**The hotel has 138** rooms with 1 meeting room of 400 sq ft, 88 suites, which will cost \$159.00 per day and 50 standard rooms at \$139.00 per day. Along with daily rates, guests may rent longer term with weekly or monthly rates determined on a case by case basis. The studio suites have an extra sitting area, balconies and a separate bedroom area. All rooms have a microwave, refrigerator, hair dryer

and coffee maker. All suites have King Beds or 2 Queens. The eight handicap rooms are very open and also have either a king or queen bedding. The decor in the rooms, hallways and lobby is extremely aesthetically pleasing to the eye. The floor plan for the main lobby is extremely comfortable and has a very nice flow from entrance, to front desk and then to elevators and room areas.

**Amenities include** an eating area just off the kitchen as well as a guest laundry and fitness center, along with a lounge just off the main lobby with large HD TV's. The lounge is accessible from the lobby and pool area behind the hotel. The back of the hotel will have 3 access areas to the beach. Two of them are being rebuilt and a new one is being built at the southern end of the facility. All three will have a beautiful walk through and over the forest and dune area and open up to the beach.

**There will be a** resident reception as well as an invitation to island residents to experience the facility at the rate of \$65.00 per day during the month of January. There is also a contest going on now for people to name the meeting room.

**There will be a ribbon** cutting celebration close to the opening of the hotel, which is scheduled for January 7, 2010. This will be the first date to accept guests. There will also be a second phase of development, which will be at the north end of the property. It will consist of an 88 room boutique hotel, along with a restaurant and will have 6,000 square feet of meeting areas. At present there is no start date for this second phase of development.

**In closing,** I want to thank Deborah Exum for her openness in talking about her hotel. I found her to be very knowledgeable and excited about what the hotel will offer to guests and visitors. After touring the facility and seeing what has been done to make this a first rate hotel, the ownership can be proud of the finished product. The Hampton Inn & Suites will surely be another added attraction for all to come and see while visiting Jekyll Island.



**See Pg. 4 for Jekyll Oceanfront Resort Story**

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.  
**Jefferies**

**Megan**

***Jekyll Island Citizens Association Membership Form***

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for my 2009–20010 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

