

Property Appraiser scheduling exemption appointments

Greg Brown, Santa Rosa County Property Appraiser, will be accepting Homestead and other Exemption applications as well as scheduling appointments

in Navarre and Gulf Breeze during the months of January and February 2007. Walk-in appointments are welcome on a first come, first serve basis. To make

an appointment, please call 983-1898, for all other services, call 983-1880.

■ Navarre Library, 8484 James M. Harvell Road, Navarre:

Tuesday, February 27, (9-12)

■ Gulf Breeze Recreation Center, 800 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze: Tuesday, February 27 (2 – 6 p.m.).

County announces new Housing Program Manager

Officials with the Santa Rosa County Community Planning, Zoning and Development Division proudly announce the addition of Janice Boone to their staff in the position of Housing Program Manager.

Among her duties, a top priority is for Boone to provide staff support to the recently formed Santa Rosa Housing Coalition, a private/public partnership created through the Santa Rosa County Housing Plan to identify barriers to quality workforce housing and develop recommendations for overcoming those barriers, including a land-density bonus for affordable housing developments which was recently approved by the Santa Rosa County Board of County Commissioners.

According to Boone, who has years of community development banking experience, dealing primarily with affordable housing, "Our focus right now is to work with coalition members, which include local lenders, builders, realtors, and employers, to identify county housing issues and create ways to solve them. We're also addressing other local housing issues, including transitional

housing, and next week the groundbreaking for one of three phases of a 226-unit, workforce housing project made possible by Hurricane Housing Recovery Program funding will be held. I'm excited at the potential we have to make a difference in quality of the lives of our residents by ensuring we have an appealing variety of housing alternatives."

Bill Gandy, Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Housing Coalition and President of the Santa Rosa Professional Educators, expresses confidence in the efforts to address housing issues, "We're going to be able to help all our residents, including our everyday heroes like our teachers, soldiers and sheriff's deputies, afford quality homes."

The public is encouraged to attend the next Santa Rosa County Housing Coalition meeting scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7th at the Public Services Media Room, located at 6051 Old Bagdad Hwy. in Milton.

Please contact Boone at 981-7075 or janiceb@co.santarosa.fl.us with any questions about county housing issues or this meeting.

SRC officials break ground on visitor information ctr.

Santa Rosa County officials and Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce leaders hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for construction of the new Santa Rosa County Visitor Information Center on Tuesday, February 6 at 2 p.m., at Navarre Park, located at 8543 Navarre Parkway.

When complete, the 4,600-square foot facility, which will be constructed by Southeastern Construction, Inc., will also be the site of the Tourist Development Council and Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce offices.

According to Dorothy Slye, Chairman of the Tourist Development Council and former Chamber president, "Plans

for the building have been underway for more than three years, under the direction of Sarah Hernandez and Rus Calhoun of Hernandez-Calhoun Development Inc. Sarah was instrumental in helping Navarre map out the plans for the Navarre Town Center, and those designs were fully employed in the design of our new building. There is no better way to kick off development of the Navarre Town Center than to use our facility as an icon of all of the hard work and planning done by the citizens of our community."

For more information on the construction, contact Tracey Terry, Executive Director of the Navarre Beach Area Chamber of Commerce, at 939-3267.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, Feb. 8

Santa Rosa County Commission Regular Meeting, 9 a.m., Commissioner's Board Room, 6495 Caroline Street, Milton

Executive Board Meeting, 11:30 a.m., Gulf Breeze Chamber of Commerce, Chamber Conference Room, 409 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze

Friday, Feb. 9

No meetings scheduled as of press time

Saturday, Feb. 10

America's Boating Course, 8 a.m., taught by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 17 at West Marine, 3810 Barrancas Avenue, Pensacola. Preregister by calling 850-983-6953.

Sunday, Feb. 11

No meetings scheduled as of press time

Monday, Feb. 12

No meetings scheduled as of press time

Tuesday, Feb. 13

Friends of The Gulf Breeze Library Annual Meeting, 7 p.m., Gulf Breeze Library Meeting Room, Gulf Breeze Library, 1060 Shoreline Drive, Gulf Breeze.

Margo Stringfield, with the Institute of Archeology at the University of West Florida will speak on "The Hidden People of St. Michael's Cemetery." The community if invited to attend.

Wednesday, Feb. 14

Santa Rosa Island Authority Board Meeting, 5 p.m., SRIA Administrative Office, 1 Via De Luna, Pensacola Beach

Thursday, Feb. 15

No meetings scheduled as of press time

To submit an event for publication in the calendar, email news@gulfbreezenews.com with the subject "Calendar." Items must be received one week prior to publication.

LA CARIBE: Owners shocked by foreclosure notices

Continued from page 1A

begun foreclosure proceedings on the lease.

"I immediately went out and paid the prior owner's unpaid MSBU," Medve explains. "The recording error on LaCaribe is bad enough, but to find out that I was about to lose the lease on my Calle Marbella lot due to a 2004 unpaid assessment by the prior owner was almost too much. They may be going after the prior owners, but it's the current owner that loses the lease."

West says that Miller understood that he was purchasing the Deepwater Condos pool deck lease only at the time of the foreclosure, and did not think that he was purchasing the entire eastern half of La Caribe subdivision. Mary Bolman, Manager of the Administrative and Leasing Department of the Santa Rosa Island Authority, reports Miller told the SRIA he had bought deepwater cove and requested they transfer the eastern leases in the property description to his name.

"We directed him back to the county, and told him his certificate would not be enough," Bolman says. "We told him we needed a lot more information before we could do that."

Miller's trip to the county prompted a survey by the county surveyor which confirmed the faulty legal description and certificate of title that erroneously included the eastern half of LaCaribe.

This foreclosure may be one

of many coming, according to Bolman. Bolman strongly recommends that beach residents check the records pertaining to their properties on the Clerk of Courts and Tax Collector web pages.

"We update our lease records all year, and once a year we send our information to county offices. Our lessees usually keep us posted, but many have not been in touch as many of them are displaced from the hurricanes, so it's more difficult. This is the first occurrence that I've heard of, but there is the potential for more."

According to Bolman, hundreds of properties still have outstanding MSBU liens, many of which are now inhabited by new owners whose taxes are paid. The liens are on the leases for the 2002, 2003 and 2004 MSBU assessments that remain unpaid regardless of who the current owner may be.

"My guess at what happened is that the Deepwater Condos were originally owned by Deepwater Corporation and was initially intended to be a three-phase development," West explains. "After the first phase was built, the second and third phases were sold to be the single family homes of LaCaribe. The original developer, Deepwater Corporation kept the pool lot in its own name, never conveyed it to La Caribe or Deepwater Condos."

And the plot thickens. According to West, not only do the eastern La Caribe property owners want to see the tax foreclosure vacated, the Deepwater

Condominium Property Owners Association believe they were promised ownership of the pool and now the long-lost original developers have surfaced, repaid past corporation fees and taxes and are expected to be at the hearing on Feb. 14 before Judge Michael Allen in the Circuit Court of Escambia County. Allen will hear the petition from the County Attorney's office to vacate the foreclosure of the lease due to the erroneous legal description used in the sales proceedings, and the property association and the original developers are both expected to argue for ownership of the foreclosed pool deck lot lease. The lot was never legally conveyed to the property association, but they have maintained the pool and pool deck for years. Deepwater Condos representatives claim that there is an arrangement, though not recorded, of implied ownership, according to West. They did not receive notices of the unpaid MSBUs, as the title did not reflect ownership. All communication to Deepwater Corporation was returned undeliverable.

"I'm optimistic the foreclosure on the eastern leases will be vacated," says West. "I don't know how the court will address this. Given the situation, it is clearly due to an error. Our concern right now is to help those 10 property owners, eliminate the error that has affected these innocent lot owners."

Of 600 original properties

liened, only ten properties went to judicial sale, after every effort was made to contact property owners, according to West.

"Every measure was made to contact lease holders," West explained. "The County Attorney's Office steps in once the lien is in place. Before we actually get to the point of a sale, we exhaust every effort to contact the owner of record. I would recommend the advice of an attorney when closing any property," West urges. "It is more complicated with lease hold property. Title companies that are not local may not be aware. And there is some burden on the part of the owners - there is an opportunity for error and some lag time between sale and recordation."

West defended the process, stating "I think we are taking reasonable steps to try to find the correct owner. We follow up if the preliminary notice is not received, looking for same-name properties, etc. We have to make reasonable effort to find people - not extraordinary means. People do need to keep track of these taxes and assessments - it's easier if we do not have to go to court."

"This has caused property owners problems," West summarizes. "It is an alarming situation, and some property owners have lost sales on their properties."

result of the home's construction on wetlands. However, she said she has always had an invisible fence, and the dogs wear a device on their collars that is activated when they reach the perimeter of the yard.

According to 16-year-old Gulf Breeze resident and friend of the Kesslers, Philip Floyd, while visiting the home as he often did, the two great Danes attacked him.

"No one besides Mr. McDaniel and I know what it's like to get attacked by dogs this size. I've told the whole story to my parents, the doctor who took care of me and my friends, but they still don't know what really happened like Mr. McDaniel and I do," said stated in a letter.

Susan Bleiler, president of the Deer Point Homeowners' Association commented on concerns had by Deer Point residents.

"I'm a dog lover, and I appreciate the concerns for the dogs, but I also feel I have to speak on behalf of the association. This goes beyond just love for dogs," said Bleiler. "The concern of the association is that if these dogs are to get loose or if a young child were to wander over there who can't read, something very serious could happen."

Westgate Parade is Tuesday, February 13 and you can drop off beads at Seville Quarter in downtown Pensacola.

For more information phone Susi Lyon or Nancy Rodriguez at 434-6211.

ATTACK: Staff researching gaps with animal regulation

Continued from page 1A

occurs," said Eddy. "Second, once an animal has been designated as dangerous, does the city need to establish guidelines that would prohibit a dangerous animal from being kept in a residential area?"

The owners of the dogs addressed the council regarding specifics of the guidelines.

"I think our dogs have done things that could deem them dangerous, certainly. We've never been required to do anything in any other incidences that occurred that were even looked at by animal control," said Alec Kessler. "We put up a sign, so we thought we were doing something to protect our animals and keep people off the property, and obviously that didn't work." Kessler added that McDaniel entered the property disregarding the posted signs.

"[McDaniel] came right up to the property, right past the sign. But the big question is if an animal is deemed dangerous, is that not suitable to control them. There's a list of requirements for those animals and those requirements are followed are a danger to your city or neighborhood."

Florida Statute 767.12(b) states, "A dog shall not be declared dangerous if the

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— Lane Gilchrist
Mayor, City of Gulf Breeze

threat, injury, or damage was sustained by a person who, at the time, was unlawfully on the property or, while lawfully on the property, was tormenting, abusing, or assaulting the dog or its owner or a family member."

Mayor Lane Gilchrist said more needs to be done.

"We are going to proceed with some sort of ordinance to make up the gap between our animal control contractor once they've investigated and classified an animal as dangerous and what we do beyond that point. This is the first time it's come up to this degree," said Gilchrist. "What we're about tonight is authorizing staff to proceed doing some research on along those lines."

Other city residents felt enacting an ordinance was not the right approach.

"I want to say I am opposed to the ordinance that's going to be discussed. I think we're going down the wrong rabbit

trail," said Shoreline resident Douglas Hightower. "First of all, if anybody knows anything about animals, it's the old adage of we don't have bad dogs, we have bad owners."

Kessler's wife Rhea defended her dogs' demeanor and gave an account of why she felt she had a right to have them.

"They are not bad dogs, they're great dogs. The first night that I moved into Gulf Breeze Proper, I was cornered in my driveway by a man and my German shepherd saved my life," she said. "We have not trained these dogs to bite. They are the sweetest, most loving dogs you could ever meet. They just instantly protect our home: our home where a man crossed a line that we begged by putting our home phone number on a sign at the end of our drive to please call before entering our property." Rhea explained that she was not being able to build a physical fence on her property as a

Recycle your beads for special kids this Mardi Gras season

Every year at this time local krewe, civic organizations and law enforcement agencies join together to provide a mini Mardi Gras parade for the students at the Westgate Center. These children experience various degrees of

developmental disability and cannot attend our area's public Mardi Gras parades. The paraders take time from work, school and other activities to bring the spirit, color and fun of carnival celebration to these special kids.

What can you do to help? Bring in your beads! Dig in your closets, garage or under your bed and find that bag of beads that you drug home from last year's parade. You know you'll get more at this year's parade! The

Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office Report

Information provided by the Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office.

FELONIES		
1/29/07 Bruza, Matthew Robert, 28, W/M, 3000 block of Wind Meadow Drive, Gulf Breeze, failure to appear	1/30/07 Mewhinney, Jonathan Alan, 28, W/M, 8100 block of Sierra Street, Navarre, burglary, larceny, less than \$5,000	Parkway, Navarre, smuggling contraband into a detention facility
Lawlis, Michael Allen, 19, W/M, 3200 block of Auburn Parkway, Gulf Breeze, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana, possession of	1/31/07 Cummings, Chadwick Carroll, 21, W/M, 2000 block of Heritage	2/1/07 Meta, Rafael, 27, H/M, 1900 block of Pelican Lane, Navarre, driving on a suspended license
		Tavares, Derrick Jason, 29, W/M, 2500 block of Lincoln Road, Navarre, fraud

2/2/07
Sheldon Jr., George Dennis, 40, W/M, 5400 block of Harmony Lane, Gulf Breeze, driving on a suspended license, violation of probation

Henry, Stony Marvin, 41, W/M, 5900 block of Capitol Drive, Gulf Breeze, driving on a suspended license

2/3/07
Matthews, Wesley Kyle, 20, W/M, 6500 block of Federal Street, Navarre, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana

Jackson, Jonathan Brice, 18, B/M, 8700 block of Estrada Street, Navarre, possession of more than 20 grams of marijuana

2/4/07
Muir, Danny Jay, 43, W/M, 7000 block of Nelson Street, Navarre, aggravated assault

Punt, Travis Dewight, 20, W/M, 8100 block of Fourth Street, Navarre, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny

DUI

1/30/07
Kaylor, Jeremiah Robert, 21, W/M, 8000 block of Raleigh Street, Navarre, DUI

2/2/07
Curle, Glenn Meek, 53, W/M, 8700 block of Bay River Road, Navarre, DUI

2/4/07
Banks, Angela Ruth, 30, W/F, 1100 block of Redwood Lane, Gulf Breeze, DUI