



Baldwin Lawmakers Muddle, Deny Voter Push for Zone Changes Aimed at Sprawl

Victory dissolved into denial in Keep it Country's bid to limit the number of houses per acre in new Lillian area developments.

The thumbs-up the Baldwin County Planning Commission unanimously gave to local activists hoping to cap new home building to half-acre lots turned to thumbs down when Planning and Zoning Director Matthew Brown presented the proposal before County Commissioners last month.

Brown told the commissioners limiting homes to two per acre and paring mobile home lots from four to three per acre was "too restrictive." All four commissioners- the court of last appeal - voted against the measures.

Local organizer Tracy Gambill said she thinks Brown threw the Lillian citizens' cause under the bus.

"Matthew Brown, misrepresented me as a sole citizen petitioning for these amendments rather than representing the citizenry of 289 voters in the three planning districts 22, 29 and 33," Gambill said.

Nearly 300 registered voters signed a petition in favor of half-acre lots to the Planning and Zoning Department in the fall of 2022. Gambill cited citizen survey results in a "A Citizen's Guide to Growth," which listed "unplanned or unregulated growth as most important for Baldwin County to act on."

After the positive recommendation from the Planning and Zoning commissioners, the citizen's group's measures went for final approval before the County Commission Oct. 17. Until then, no one had spoken against them. But that day, several large landowners voiced opposition.

The final vote was deferred until Dec. 5. Five spoke at that meeting to oppose the half-acre limit, including Danny Bailey of BJ Farms and Richard Davis, attorney for Lillian Land & Timber LLC, which holds 1600 acres. Overturning the Planning and Zoning Commission's positive recommenda-

IS 'CULTURE CLASH' LILLIAN'S FUTURE?



tion, Director Brown recommended denial. The four county commissioners agreed unanimously.

Local activists cite lagging infrastructure improvements as reasons to manage new developments carefully. Fire, police, schools, drainage and traffic systems won't be able to accommodate a rapid influx of new homes and families. But the Planning and Zoning commission regulates land use only and doesn't take consider resulting infrastructure issues in its decisions.

The way it stands today, it seems the push for half-acre lots has come to the end of the road.

Could the drive to limit housing density have a future?

To offer a compromise that might be less restrictive, the year-long process would have to start anew with new figures and a new round of hearings.

"At this time, the Planning and Zoning Department doesn't plan to ask the commission to revisit these amendments," Brown said

BALDWIN COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT:

REAL ESTATE DEVELOPERS &
LAND SELLERS

X

YES

VOTERS & SPRAWL OPPONENTS

X

NOT SO MUCH

New Year Brings Fundraisers, Scholarship Plans for the Legion

The American Legion Post 48 of Lillian hopes you have had a very Merry Christmas and extends their best wishes to everyone for a Happy New Year, and a better year in 2024.

We hope everyone came out to the Lillian Christmas parade and saw our float, it was a spectacular event this year, the organizers did a super job.

As we move into the 2024-year, Post 48 starts the year with a few Ham Dinners planned. They are on the fourth Sunday of each of the first 3 months starting in January.

The dates are January 28, 2024, February 25, 2024, and March 24, 2024.

These dinners are Post 48's primary fundraiser for the 2023 year, The cost again this year will be \$12 per meal. The money raised provides the means for continued activities and donations such as maintaining the medical closet for the Lillian community, help sponsor a legion baseball team, sending two high school students to Boys State, and presenting the Veterans Day program and this year we are giving two \$1000 scholarships to two JROTC students. We hope everyone will continue to show support to the Post.

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Wayne B. Lavalley
Adjutant

and have been honorably discharged or are still serving you are eligible for membership in The American Legion! Please come join your fellow legionaries, we need your help to maintain our post to continue supporting your community. Membership applications may be picked up at the American Legion Building next to the Lillian Community Club on Wednesday mornings between 9 and 11 a.m., from any member, or at any American Legion meeting.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Lillian Community Club. Come and join us and become one of the millions of Legionnaires still serving. OR, come have a cup of coffee on Wednesdays – we'd like to meet you.

Let's take a look back at 2023 as we move forward into 2024

Western Perdido Bay Watershed Management Committee

Lillian area bay lovers band together to find ways to clean up Perdido Bay for future generations. Public support was overwhelming when local environmentalists landed a \$250,000 grant from the Mobile Bay Estuary Program to fund a remediation study to restore Perdido Bay after decades of pollution from

International Paper and residential sewage runoff. The funding funneled down through the Mobile Estuary program from its \$4.3 million \$4.3 million in BP Oil Spill money.

The new Perdido Bay clean-up group has recruited about 10 committee members and is actively looking for volunteers to do water testing.

We're awaiting the engineering report, being conducted by engineering firms 5020 Engineering of Foley and Geosyntec, a multi-state corporation.

The report, expected this year, will no doubt be a top headline in 2024.

Keep it County development management drive derailed

After the Baldwin County Planning Commission unanimously gave a positive recommendation supporting local activists' year-long bid to cap new home building to half-acre lots, county commissioners ultimately unanimously rejected the measures in December.

Nearly 300 area neighbors signed a petition and many spoke at public hearings in favor of large-lot requirements.

The turnabout came after a handful of large landowners, including BJ Farms and Lilian Land and Title, opposed the new zoning changes. Planning and Zoning Director Matthew Brown abruptly reversed the planning commission's recommendation to adopt the proposed limits and the four county commissioners voted to deny.

The future of the citizens' efforts to control rapid development is in doubt as as Brown said "...the Planning and Zoning Department doesn't plan to ask the commission to revisit these amendments."

Radium Levels Spike at Water Well in Spanish Cove

Perdido Bay Water, the Spanish Cove well on Pine Ridge Dive, was shut down for weeks last winter as Perdido Bay Water grappled with spiking levels of radium in drinking water.

Radium level readings from water flowing from Spanish Cove faucets peaked at 7.22 picocuries per liter (pCi/L), well above the five pc/l legal maximum set by the Environmental Protection Agency. That reading followed levels of 6.22 and 6.74 taken in the first two quarters of 2022.

While the EPA limit is 5 pc/l the Environmental Working Group, a body of scientists and doctors, sets .05 as the maximum safe level for radium in drinking water - 100 times the EPAs 1976 legal limit.

The Environmental Working Group focuses on health risks rather than pocketbook issues concerning businesses.

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Twelve Days of Christmas

It might seem unbelievable given that the “Christmas creep” now begins before Halloween, but the true Christmas Season actually starts on Christmas Day itself. That is right: December 25 marks the official start of the 12 days of Christmas, the Christian tradition that shares its name with a relentlessly stick-in-your-head Christmas carol. Here are a few things you may not know about the season and the song.

The 12 days of Christmas is the period in Christian theology that marks the span between the birth of Christ (December 25) and the coming of the three wise men, January 6. That date is also known as Epiphany. Some families choose to mark the 12-day period by observing the feast days of various saints remembered during those days and planning daily Christmas-related activities, but for many, things go back to business as usual after December 25.

“The 12 Days of Christmas” is also a Christmas song in which the singer brags about the lavish gifts they received from their “true love” during the 12 days of Christmas. Each verse repeats to build on the previous one, serving as a really effective way to annoy family members as the song goes on and on.

The history of the carol is somewhat murky. Most agree it originated in England as a “memory and forfeits” game, in which singers tested their memory of the lyrics and if they forgot a lyric had to award their opponents a “forfeit”, perhaps a piece of candy or a kiss or a favor of some kind. The song most of us are familiar with today comes from English composer, Frederic Austin; in 1909, he set the melody and lyrics and added as his own flourish such as the drawn-out cadence of “five go-old rings.” There is an odd old theory that the lyrics to “The 12 Days of Christmas” are coded references to the teachings of Christianity. The theory claims that the song was written to help Christians learn and pass along the tenets of their faith while avoiding persecution. Example being, two partridges represent Old and New Testaments, four calling birds represent four Gospels, etc. Unfortunately, this is not the case. (Check the myth-debunking website Snopes for the full story.) This article has been to share with you the 12 Days of Christmas, both when it starts, December 25 and when it ends, January 6. As well as share about the memorable song, “The 12 Days of Christmas. This article will be published at the beginning of January. Still in Christmas season but just as we are receiving those bills letting us know how much money we spent during Christmas. I expect all of us gave and receive many wonderful gifts over this season, but I assume none of us gave or received all the gifts in the “The 12 Days of Christmas,” song. To calculate the cost of all the gifts in the song, please go to an internet search engine and type “PNC Bank Christmas Price Index” Since 1984, the PNC bank financial services group has created an annual Christmas Price Index to calculates the cost of all the gifts in the song based on current market rates. This smorgasbord of gift-giving can be costly. The total for 2022 was \$45,523.27, up 10.5 percent from 2021 prices, or \$197,071.09 if you count each mention of an item separately; (which would amount to 364 gifts in all), a 9.8 percent increase from previous year.

The rising price of items like gold and fertilizer means those five rings (\$1,245, a 39 percent increase) and the infamous partridge in a pear tree (\$280.18, up nearly 26 percent) are costlier than ever. Some things have not changed at all, though, as the index points out, the federal minimum wage has not increased since 2009, meaning the rate for eight maids a-milking is steady at a rate of \$58. No matter the cost, though, actually receiving all this stuff is probably not great either; just think of the first four items and all the bird poo. Either way, this song is not what I think Jesus meant when he said it is better to give than to receive.



Moving Forward
By Rev.
Tina Lockett



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Cultivated 2,000 Years Ago in Greece, Pansies Land in Our Hearts

By Celeste Hadley-Champion

According to your Alabama Gardener's Calendar, this month you should be planting your Violas. Now the name Viola is a common name for the flower family "*Violaceae*", which includes such delights as Johnny jump-ups, pansies, violets, and many others.

Pansies are my personal favorite cold weather flower. They can be planted anytime from September to December. They have large heart-shaped, overlapping petals and one of the widest ranges of bright, colors and patterns. Pansies are the cheerful upturned "faces." They love cool weather and are popular to grow in spring and fall. They're also edible, adding color to salads, drinks, and cakes!

Violas have been cultivated for over 2000 years! Violas were cultivated by the Greeks as early as the fourth century B.C. Their primary use was for medicinal purposes. Its anti-inflammatory properties have made it a remedy for skin diseases such as psoriasis, eczema, and itchy skin. It has also been used to treat inflammation and chest conditions like bronchitis and asthma. Research shows that the cyclotides in *V. tricolor* variety may have promise in the treatment of some cancers!

In the early 1800's an English nobleman, Lord Gambier, and his gardener, William Thompson, began crossing different varieties of violas to create the larger two and three-colored pansies that brighten our modern gardens. These crosses resulted in flowers of unusual colors or color combinations and much larger flower size.

Soon the pansy was welcomed to North America by gardeners and its popularity skyrocketed! A 19th century seed catalog described pansy as "The most popular of all flowers grown from seed--our sales exceeding one hundred thousand packets a year." A remarkable statistic, considering the early date and the population of the United States at that time!

Johnny jump-ups (*V. tricolor*) are those tiny, white, yellow and purple pansies. This little flower has lots of other names too, like wild pansy, heartsease, hearts delight, come-and-cuddle-me, love-in-idleness, call-me-to-you, and kiss-me-at-the-garden-gate. This winter flower is at the heart of some Literature. William Shakespeare wrote of *V. tricolor* in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; "the juice of it, on sleeping eyelids laid, will make a man or woman madly dote upon the next live creature that it sees." Early Christians thought that the three-colored flowers of heartsease symbolized the Holy Trinity. The Druids made magical potions with it and used it in purification rituals. King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table believed the lines on the petals foretold their future.

Fortunately, violas are easy to grow, low maintenance, and come in even more varieties. Fall plantings allow violas enough time to establish their roots before winter arrives. Planting in early spring gives them enough time to grow and flower before the summer heat arrives. In the summer, violas get long and leggy. Most South Alabama gardeners prefer to toss them into their mulch pile and grow a fresh batch when the seasons turn.

Violas can be easily started from seed or transplanted from established plants. For growing from seeds indoors, sow the seeds 6-8 weeks before the expected last frost. Once they are a few inches tall and have some true leaves, transplant them to their final growing location.

Violas prefer slightly acidic soil, with a pH between 6.0 and 7.5. They need moist, well-drained soil with full to partial sunlight. Water violas well until plants are established. Do not let violas dry out; they do best with regular tap water. They like a boost of organic matter, like compost, in the soil before planting to help with drainage.

They also like a light dose of fertilizer during their growing seasons. Violas will bloom more often with regular deadheading. Cut the faded blossom off just at their first leaf under the flower. At the end of the growing season, allow the flowers to drop their seeds after blooming. Once the flowers are faded, the seed pods will grow and turn brown. Collect the seeds before the pods burst and store them in an airtight container in a cool, dry place. Many varieties, including Johnny jump-up, will reseed easily each year. In fact, the name "Johnny Jump-Up" comes from their ability to self-seed and "jump-up" in new, patches of these delicate, beautiful flowers.



Three-colored Pansies



Johnny jump-ups (*V. tricolor*)



Violaceae

Violas are not just beautiful; they are also edible. They are used in salads, herbal teas, cakes, and many other dishes. Pick the flowers in the morning and wash them gently, removing the sepals and stems. You can also dry them for use in fragrances or potpourri. Harvest viola blooms often to use in salads, baking, and as a garnish.

Many avid gardeners become a bit depressed in the fall with the end of the growing season. Pansies help to extend life of our gardens because of their ability to withstand sub-freezing temperatures.

Violas are as therapeutic for our souls as they are beautiful to our eyes. What did the pansy do for the New Year? It turned over a new leaf!

As we enter 2024, remember that you only have as much fun as you bring with you! We wish you a Joyful New Year from the Hadley Termite & Pest Control family to all y'all!



The Lillian

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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

The Lillian newspaper is a monthly publication. Advertisements may be dropped off at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library, mailed to *The Lillian* at PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549 or emailed to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

Advertisement inquiries can be directed to Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 (cell) during the business hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Letters are welcome but must be signed and include contact information should our staff have any questions.

No letters will be accepted regarding property owner associations' problems. All letters must be legible and limited to 300 words or less.

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We gladly accept news and information from the community. Please

submit by:

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The content of articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editor, the board of directors for *The Lillian* or the Lillian Action Committee.

We are also not responsible for the business practices of our advertisers.

POLICY

Thank you for your articles and news items, but due to space limitations, some submissions may not be included in this issue. They will be included in a future edition when possible. The editorial board has the right to deny any articles or ads not suitable for this publication.

DEADLINES AND CONTACTS

The deadline for the February issue of *The Lillian* will be January 22.

Anyone may send an email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com for information on articles and news.

Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 or email lillianadvertise@yahoo.com for advertising information.

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Dogs Detect During Water Training



A training day between LASAR and Southern Star Search and Rescue from Foley was held December 16 at the Lillian Boat Launch. Handlers Laurie Strite and Ray Mooney demonstrated how trained dogs respond to human remains in the water. Dogs can detect a "slick" of oils and odors that are undetectable by humans. Two dogs were used on two trips on Perdido Bay on LASAR's pontoon. Each person on the boat had a role: the handler with the dog, the person driving the boat, the navigator who determined how the boat would sweep back and forth across the water, and the GPS guide who would mark the location when the dog detected the slick. Both dogs homed in on the location of the remains, which were approved in advance for training purposes. Another water training day is planned for January. For more information about the Lower Alabama Search and Rescue activities or membership, call Commander John Wade, 518-859-7381.

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30700 Block Cedar St Perdido Beach, AL 36530

Reported on 12/02/2023 at 11:48 p.m. Responding Agency: Baldwin County Sheriff's Office

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28900 Block Dearing Ln Elberta, AL 36530. Reported on 11/26/2023 at 9:45 p.m.

Responding: Baldwin County Sheriff

Never Fail, Every Year It Rolls Around; The Dreaded Tax Season!

Well, soon we will begin the 2023 tax season. Some would call this the 2024 tax season, but that only confuses me since the focus will be on 2023 tax returns. Since it is too early to reveal 2023 tax changes, I thought it might be interesting to review charitable contributions, especially since there always seems to be a rush on making donations before December 31.

First if you recall, many folks may not benefit from their charitable contributions because the current federal standard deduction is so high and will remain so until 2026, unless Congress changes it.

For Single and those filing Married Filing Separately, the 2023 standard deduction is \$13,850, for Married Couples and those Widowed with a dependent, it's \$27,700 and for those filing as Head of Household it is \$20,800. To these amounts, you add \$1,850 if you are single and over 65 and \$1,500 if married (\$3,000 if both of you are over 65). Remember, though Alabama has a lower standard deduction. Depending on your income: Singles \$2,000-2,500, Married

Filing Separately \$2,000-\$3,750, Married Filing Jointly - \$4,000-\$7,500 and for Head of Household \$2,000-\$4,700. So even if you are not likely to benefit by claiming charitable contributions at the federal level, you will very likely benefit if you file an Alabama tax return.

Let's start by stating the IRS definition of a deductible charitable contribution: "A charitable contribution

***Do the research,
make certain your
hard-earned
money will be put
to good use, and
never bend to
pressure!***

is a donation or gift to, or for the use of, a qualified organization. It is voluntary and is made without getting, or

expecting to get, anything of equal value. Qualified organizations include nonprofit groups that are religious, charitable, educational, scientific, or literary in purpose, or that work to prevent cruelty to children or animals." Note the emphasis on "organization"; it does not include donations or gifts to individuals directly or through "Go-Fund-Me" campaigns. IRS Publication 526 provides detailed information on charitable contributions and is worth reading if you want to ensure your contribution is deductible. As you know, cash contributions include cash, check, credit and direct debit transactions. Non-cash are items like clothing, appliances, furniture, art and the like. Total Non-cash contribution of \$500 or less do not require further detail. Those in excess of \$500 require a separate IRS Form 8283 and may trigger a request by the IRS for additional information.

Of course, we give to charity because it is the right & necessary thing to do. The tax deduction is always a nice outcome, but not as important as the personal satisfaction we feel about helping those less fortunate.

The IRS provides tips for taxpayers to make certain their donations go to legitimate charities. When disaster strikes, Americans can always be counted on to help. That help comes in countless ways, but often the easiest way to help is by donating money to charities. Unfortunately, scammers have no heart nor conscience. Criminals are just as likely to answer the call after a disaster or emergency as the millions of people who open their wallets. Scammers solicit donations to fake charities and can pose as employees of legitimate charities or federal agencies to dupe disaster victims trying to get disaster relief. Although some legitimate charities do contact people out of the blue, people should always be suspicious of unsolicited contact.

Taxpayers donating money should keep a few things in mind:

Use the IRS [Tax Exempt Organization Search](#) tool to find or verify qualified charities. Donations to these real charities may be tax deductible. This tool can be found on the IRS website www.irs.gov.

•Research a charity before sending a donation to confirm that the charity is real and to know whether the dona-



Let's Talk Taxes

By Carol Kovacs
CPA, EA

tion is tax deductible.

•Always get a receipt and keep a record of the donation.

•Review bank and credit card statements closely to make sure donation amounts are accurate.

Keep scammers' tricks in mind:

•Legitimate charities do not ask for gift cards, cash, or wire transfers.

•Scammers may claim to work for the IRS or another government agency.

•Thieves may pose as a representative of a legitimate charity to ask for money or private information from well-intentioned taxpayers.

•Scammers can change their caller ID to make it appear they are a legitimate organization calling from a legitimate phone number.

•Scammers make vague and sentimental claims but give no specifics about how your donation will be used.

•Scammers set up bogus websites using names that sound like real charities.

Bogus organizations often claim a donation is tax deductible when it's not.

There is a lot of information on charities available through simple google searches and of course it is always a good idea to go to the prospective charity's website to research how your donation will be put to use. It is always important to try and determine how much of your donation will go directly to its purpose and how much goes to administrative expenses, including advertising and officer's salaries.

Do the research, make certain your hard-earned money will be put to good use, and never bend to pressure!

I hope you found this information interesting and helpful. If you have any specific questions or areas of interest you would like addressed in future columns (leave out your personal information), my email is carolpkovacs@aol.com. Use "Let's Talk Taxes" as the subject.

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Lillian Alabama's Spanish Cove; A Piece of Paradise That is No Longer a Secret

Many years before my husband and I were ready to retire, I got a call from a longtime friend of ours who had an RV in the Dells, Wisconsin. Many of her neighbors spent the summer there and the winter in Spanish Cove. She told me all about this great place to retire and we sent for the video that they were using for advertising purposes.

Wow! What a great place, we said. We'll have to go there some day. The mid-80s soon arrived and retirement was in our sight, so we took a trip to Lillian, Alabama. We promised each other that we would not buy anything. Yeah, that went well. After a serious investigation, I took out our check book and we bought a lot on Spanish Cove Drive South.

Some months later we received a call from our salesman asking if we'd like to sell our lot. Some people wanted it because it was close to friends of theirs. What? Are you nuts? We told him if he could find a lot like the one we had, we'd consider it, but we would not pay one penny more for the lot or anything else, like realtors and attorneys.

We had planned a trip to visit the Cove in a few weeks and told him we would consider whatever he had to show us. Voila! Martinez Drive had just what we wanted and we made the deal. And what a deal it was! It kept us in Spanish Cove and we have never regretted it. Our friends joined us as well as family members and their friends. It is paradise, just as the realtor promised. So, now here's "the rest of the story," as Spanish Cove commemorates 50 years in Lillian.

A Glimpse at the History of Spanish Cove By John Blalock

Development Services Incorporated (also referred to as DSI), a development company spawned from the 1960's and 1970's, had many successful development projects across the United States! Most of their residential developments were just outside major population centers from which they drew for their resort type communities. In 1973, DSI took an interest in the coastal area of Alabama, particularly Lillian, Alabama. This location fulfilled the requirement of DSI to be located near the populat-

ed areas of both Pensacola, Florida, and Mobile, Alabama.

Their search for an attractive tract of land put them along the shores of Perdido Bay. The land was purchased in 1973 from one owner and the idea of developing a community with three different types of neighborhoods was born. Keep in mind that Lillian was a sleepy little community just barely on the radar with a small fishing store on the corner of Hwy. 98 and 6th Street, and an auto repair garage on the opposite corner. At that time there was a much smaller version of a community center and a newly developed KOA campground.

In early 1974, the surveyors, bulldozers, and marketing team moved in to implement the concept of Spanish Cove. To start with, a road (dirt) was pushed in from County Road 99 to



Perdido Bay which is now known as Vasco Drive and part of Clubhouse Drive. Three more short dirt roads were opened as the beginning stages of Spanish Oaks, Perdido Pines, and Land Harbor. The developers soon began construction on the main clubhouse, pool, and the management office across the street which is now a residential home at 2205 Clubhouse Drive.

In the early 1970's, land developments (dirt tracts) were marketed by offering gifts, free dinners, and onsite tours of the project. It was a numbers approach. The DSI marketing team believed if they approached the local market via advertisements and mail outs, it would produce showings and eventual sales.

This would not be the case for Spanish Cove. The market areas of Pensacola, Mobile, and surrounding areas, did not rise to the offering as DSI expected. Sales activity was there but not by the rate expected or needed to make a successful development. Many other factors effected the future of Spanish Cove. When the oil crisis hit in the 1970's and gasoline prices soared, it left questions in the con-

sumers' minds about the economy and resort property sales suffered.

DSI was experiencing difficult times with several of their other developments across the country as well. This took away much of the focus and needed capital to construct and market the Spanish Cove development during these hard times.

What had the potential to become a one-of-a-kind community, treasure along beautiful Perdido Bay, was momentarily moving at a snail's pace. But that was all about to change.

The Project Manager for Spanish Cove who was working closely with the lender, established a good relationship with the bank and was able to keep the idea of Spanish Cove alive with a plan to continue funding for the construction of roads, water system, sewer system, marketing

campaign, and the many other expenses for a successful development.

The first step was establishing a successful marketing campaign which targeted the mid-west states. An ad campaign was started with Trailer Life magazine and Good Sam's Club along with other travel-oriented publications which drew interest in our area. The RV owners were invited to "Come down and camp with us" approach and sample the southern life style that Lillian and Spanish Cove had to offer. People began to visit the area and just loved it! Some purchased RV sites so they could come and go whenever they liked. Others looked at Perdido Pines and Spanish Oaks for the purpose of retirement. No snow, no ice, no more cold temperatures equaled no problems compared to where they were coming from.

Spanish Cove was now truly born. Folks from the north and mid-west states were very interested. And they were buying property! As sales increased, extension of roads were paved in each area providing additional lots for the migration of the "snow birds" from up north. Word of



Just a Thought or Two

By Sally McKinney

mouth became the number one source of advertising for Spanish Cove. A video was created using property owners providing testimonies about their little piece of paradise found.

The videos were sold to inquiring consumers who would replay their video over and over until they could visit Spanish Cove and make their purchase.

The uniqueness of Spanish Cove and the Gulf Coast area was the perfect draw for folks from all the country. It fast became one of the most desired destinations and activity in lot sales soared. Now a successful venture and with its subsequent growth, the management and sales teams were in need of more room in which to work. In 1983, the new Spanish Cove office building was completed on Highway 99. The original office was sold as a residential home.

In 1991, with much of the property sold and all the amenities completed, the lender made the decision to sell the balance of unsold and undeveloped land that make up Spanish Cove. Around this time the Property Owners Association of Spanish Cove (POASC) was formed with all the common areas, recreational facilities, and seed funds being transferred to the owners through the POASC.

Spanish Cove continued to be a community with growth by several different developers such as Perdido Land Inc., Rowan Developers Inc., and Saltwater Land Company. Resale activity along with developer sales were strong with Spanish Cove reaching its 18th birthday in 1991. In today's market, it is still one of the most looked at communities by potential buyers in Baldwin County.

Lillian's face has changed, a beautiful community with many more full-time residents yet it still has maintained its quaint, quiet, and picturesque surroundings.

Spanish Cove is not a secret anymore. People from near and far have heard of or have discovered for themselves this small piece of paradise along Perdido Bay and Alabama's Gulf coast.



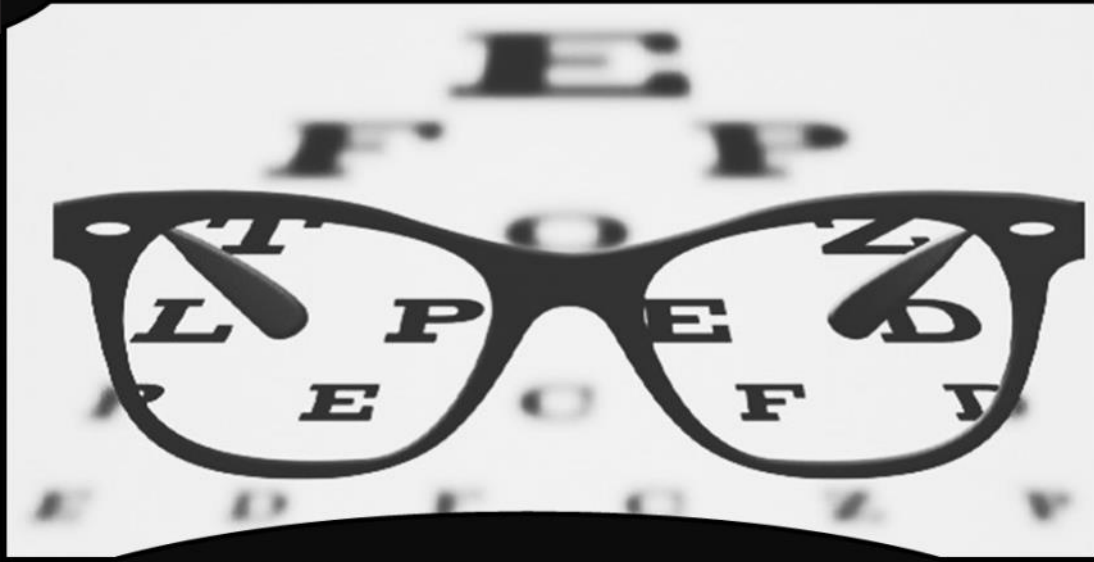
Top Optimist Club Christmas Parade Winners Named

Santa and Mrs. Claus made a quick trip to Lillian recently to participate in the annual Optimist Club Christmas Parade. More than 50 entries participated. Best Overall winner is the Lillian Recreational Park Christmas Train. Most Enthusiastic went to Gulf Coast Dance. Most Creative was Dennis Newell's homemade Blue Angel representation and Spirit of Lillian went to the Lillian Community Club.



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WI Sno-Bird Club Slates January Events

The Wisconsin Sno-bird Club will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the Orange Beach Event Center (4671 Wharf Parkway W) at 8:30 a.m. for donuts and coffee with the meeting starting at 9 a.m. Anyone from Wisconsin is welcome to join us! Our speaker will be Grant Brown from Gulf Shores.

You will also hear information about golf, potluck lunch and volunteer activities. Sheephead card games are played every Friday at the American Legion, 6781 AL-59, Gulf Shores, from 9 a.m. to noon. We collect empty printer ink cartridges, pop top rings, motel soaps and toiletries and boxtop logs from General Mills and Johnson & Johnson products.

Our second January meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan, 23, at 8:30 a.m. For more information see our website: Wisconsin Snowbird Club Foley, Gulf Shores/Orange Beach, and NW Fl or call Kenn at 715-927-3927.



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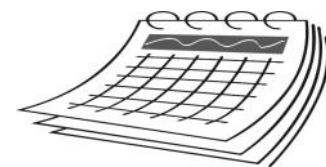
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Lillian Calendar



***January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 7:00 PM: ALANON Support Group Meeting, Lillian Methodist Church located at 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL 36549. Discover more about ALANON at <https://al-anon.org/>.**

***January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 1:00 PM & January 4, 11, 18, & 25 at 10:00 AM: Ageless Grace, Brain Fitness at Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630. (No class the week of Christmas.**

***January 13 at 8:00 AM: Annual Optimist Teacher of the Year Recognition Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club located at 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian AL 36549. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay. Come help us celebrate the Teacher of the Year from Elberta Elementary, Middle & Highschool. Discover more about the Perdido Bay Optimist Club at www.OptimistClubPB.org**

***January 18 at 1:00 PM: Dementia Education Forum & Caregiver Support Group at Lillian Methodist Church, located at 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL. January guest speaker This month's topic is managing difficult dementia caregiving situations. Guest Speaker: Leslie D. Provis with WF Memory Disorder Clinic. For more information contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.**

***January 27 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast at the Lillian Community Club located at 34148 Widell Ave., Lillian AL 36549. Come learn about the Alabama / Mississippi District of Optimist International as the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Host the First of Three Zone Meetings. Discover more about the Perdido Bay Optimist Club at www.OptimistClubPB.org**



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Baldwin Lawmakers Strike Again; Plans for Blueberry Patch Uprooted

Case No Z23-37 Lillian /Nogueira property rezoning

(This letter was printed as submitted by the author)

Dear Editor,

I am writing this to inform of my dissatisfaction with the shocking decision in my third time trying to rezone my property in Baldwin County.

As this time I have been working for the last three years to plant 2,000 blueberry plants with the support of my parents. Besides the financial investment for installing the well, drip irrigation, hives, tractors and tons of hours to establish an organic farm, I want to let commissioner Gruber know how shameful he should feel and I struggle to understand being locked out of any opportunity in this county every time.

Why did I not have enough votes to pass special commissioner Billy Jo Underwood? As a woman with her roots related to farming, why did she not support other growers? She votes no. My idea was to turn my property as a family operation business, a u-pick organic system as a traditional value to pass to generation during the harvest of blueberries experience which this year has seen by a lot residents in this community. But also she failed to give me a chance and an opportunity to encourage entrepreneurs to come and to establish their business in Baldwin County.

Also commissioner Jeb, my second "no vote" showed real discrimination towards sexism and ageism as his previous vote "yes" for a commercial processing plant of deer meat in less than one acre in my neighborhood, proves his lack of support as I represent a minority. I have been supported by state agencies since the beginning of this project by Alabama extension of Auburn University. Also I brought in the factors about the traffic towards 7th street by our farm staff as one big issue, which I felt the irregularities not addressed in 10 years fail to remedy the neglected 7th street improvements. It's treated like a private road by opposing neighbors as an excuse to be added or not included in next budget 2024. This time the majority signatures in the petition by neighbors that 650 foot was requested to be open not having the need to be paved but to be maintained by the county to keep basic services provided in their street to avoid paying the high price for emergency services, collection of trash, mail. One neighbor against 7th street upgrades installed a mailbox to establish his physical address in Alabama between my mailbox. My documents have been delivered in his mailbox, which I was unaware of for seven months, caused me to miss an appointment with immigration office for my father 89 years old. Now there is a federal investigation.

I oppose this denial of rezoning my place from Residential to Rural Agriculture or for the several attempts towards open 7th St. 650 foot-right-of-way in this county. I realize no equal opportunity in Baldwin County is a failure of the county's vision and mission. My rezoning denial demonstrates a total discrimination in every manner in each situation. But I will assure with my reputation and support from the residents of this community they will be aware how we will be represented in Baldwin County.

Sincerely,
Maria Cecilia Nogueira



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Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

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Youth Grades 6-12 Bible Study & Activities

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Worship Leader: Beverly Thompson

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Youth Director/ Pianist: Erin LeAnne

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Williams Dubbed Knight of the Year

Michael Williams was recently named Knight of the Year by Knights of Columbus Council 2736. He was honored for his long-time dedication to the Knights' programs.



Santa Claus made his yearly trip to Lillian to participate in the Optimist Club Breakfast with Santa event. He and Mrs. Claus visited with children of all ages to hear their Christmas wishes. Breakfast was served to approximately 200 adults and 137 children who also received gifts. In addition, dozens of Optimists and non-Optimist volunteers helped in a variety of ways, including kitchen duty, set up, clean up and gift distribution.

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The Most Interesting Thing About Orchard Mason Bees: Its Nests

What do you call a bee that lives in America? A U.S.-Bee. There are more than 4,000 bee species native to North America.

Of those 4,000 bees, Alabama is home to at least 450 different bee species. These bees are divided into four main groups: social bees, solitary bees, parasitic bees, and cuckoo bees.

The Orchard Mason Bee (*Osmia lignaria*), or OSB (the bee, not the building material), is a solitary bee. OSB is a small blue or black, shiny, metallic bee. This bee is so small it can be mistaken for a black fly.

The female OSB measures just over half an inch in length. Her iridescent bluish-grey color may appear black, and her body is coated by small hairs. The male is slightly smaller than the female. He can easily be distinguished from a female by his longer antennae and a light-colored hair tuft on the head, and fewer overall body hairs.

The OSB has some unique traits. First, they restrict their pollen-carrying to a special structure on the underside of their bodies rather than carrying pollen on the hind legs like most other bee families. In this bee it's like carrying a book bag on your belly, instead of wearing cargo pants with lots of pockets. Pollen carrying sections are referred to as "scopa", which are mostly modified body hairs.

Their other unique adaptation is their elongated "labrum", which is basically the upper lip of an insect's mouth. Scientists don't know exactly what the purpose is of this longer, stiff upper lip. There was a study done in 2017 about deformed labrum in bees. Science doesn't know what it is used for, but they do know to be worried when the labrum shows up deformed. The study's conclusions were, um, inconclusive.

Orchard Mason bees' emergence from their nests generally matches with



Know Your Critters

By Celeste
Hadley-Champion

Redbud trees blooming in the spring. OSBs are only active for 4 to 8 weeks (the same length the blossoms last). The first order of business? Mating. In fact, males often hover around the nest entrances and wait for the females to emerge for immediate mating.

The most interesting thing about these bees are the nests themselves. They



are not hives like honeybees. They are not drilled into our homes like carpenter bees. The OSB cannot drill holes in wood. What it can do, and do very well, is lay mud like the profession they are named after, Masons!

The female Orchard Mason bee prefers to nest within hollow stems, old woodpecker, or insect holes, or hollowed out trees. OSB females' nest in narrow holes or tubes, though they have been found to nest inside cedar shakes and even keyholes. A female might inspect several potential nests before settling in.

OSBs arrange their nests as a series of partitions, with one egg per partition. A female bee begins the process by collecting mud and building the back wall for the first partition. She makes several back-and-forth trips to nearby flowers. (What did the bee say to the flower? Hey, bud!) One bee can visit 75 flowers per trip! It takes 25 trips to create a complete pollen provision for her precious egg.

Once the pollen ball is large enough, she backs into the hole and lays an egg directly upon it. She then gathers more mud to seal off the partition. The new seal also doubles as the back wall of the next cell. The little bee continues until she has filled the nest hole with a series of pollen bundles topped with eggs.

OSBs can select the gender of the egg they lay by fertilizing the egg, or not! Unfertilized eggs are males, while fertilized eggs are females. The female eggs are carefully laid in the back of the burrow, and the male eggs towards the front. Males are considered expendable and are laid at the end of the tunnel. Also, male bees have a shorter development time than female bees, can exit first during spring emergence and be ready for mating!

Once the female bee has finished the nest, she plugs the final nesting pod with a mud wall, thicker than the partitions that precede it. She will then fly off to scout another location for a new nest. She works tirelessly to lay the foundation for the next generation until she dies. As soon as the bees were finished making their hive, they threw a big house-swarming party.

The little bee mama can fill around four, six-inch long tubes with about eight eggs per tube in her lifetime. Her life will include nearly 60,000 blossom visits and around 200 eggs! Not too shabby for a teeny tiny bee!

Those 60 thousand per bee visits to blooms makes the OSB a super-efficient pollinator of early-season crops, including trees, fruits, flowers, and vegetables. OSBs are highly sought after by orchards. Plus, these little bees are very gentle and unlikely to sting. With enough building materials provided, they are as happy as can. . . bee!

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Christmas at The Jade Garden



The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat Ladies had an excellent lunch at Jade Garden in Foley as their Christmas gathering. The hostesses for this party were Lorraine Standish, Inge Petit, and Judy Wargo. We celebrated Priscilla Westgate and Mary Margaret Ayres' birthdays. Each lady received a gift bag with four presents, including a jar of Judy's Bread and Butter Pickles. We played the game "Did You Do This?" There were great prizes and we had fun learning a lot about each other. On January 9 we will meet at Lillian's Pizza on Perdido Key. If you would like information about joining us please call Judy Wargo 586-383-1206.

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Ladies Luncheon



The Soldier Creek Road Ladies had their twenty-fifth annual Ladies Luncheon on December 7, 2023 at the home of Rachel Lamb. Hostesses: Pat Brewer, Denise Cotton, Teresa Casey, Loree Hadley, Mikey Johnson Gonsales, Rachel Lamb, Connie Ramseyer. We all had a great time. It was so good to see many of our neighbors and meet the newcomers to our luncheon. Those who attended were: Penny Ashworth, Tony Baraco Noonan, Barbara Boykin, Cindy Baker, Joyce Boutwell, Pam Bidwell, Pat Brewer, Peggy Bailey, Brenda Chesman, Denise Cotton, Teresa Casey, Laurie Davis, Kerry Ellis, Barbara Flynn, Sally Greer, Loree Hadley, Anne Hails, Pamela Harroff, Lucy Hazebrook, Mikey Johnson Gonzalez, Susan Johnson, Ludy Lurwig, Rachel Lamb, Shelly Owen, Connie Ramseyer, Vicki Rider, Julie Stanhope, Kelly Verret, Tracy Williams, Judy Witterstaeter, Myra Walters, Laura Young

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- Chef's salads

- 1/2 lb Chicago Dogs
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- Cheese Burgers
- Foot-long chili dog

- Potato salad
- Pasta salad
- Onion rings
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Library Membership Cards Coming

We do hope y'all had a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

January is the month that we send out membership cards to everyone in our postal zone. Please fill the card out and return it to the Lillian Perdido Bay Library at P.O. Box 237, Lillian.

We certainly will appreciate the donation. We do this as we do not receive any government funds from the Federal, County or State. We rely on all donations from our members and our community. We operate with volunteers and your help.

The library thanks Santa Claus for his generous donation of \$100.

If you have not visited the Lillian library yet, please come in for a tour. We are larger than it looks from the outside. If you do not have a library card, a volunteer will help you fill out the form and you will then be able to check out anything available in the library. The card is free.

We have new books, hardback and paperback books, large print, non-fiction, western, biographies, classics, children's, DVDs, audios, music CDs, Alabama books with a separate display for Baldwin County.

Our opening hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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Lawmakers Give Lillian, Elberta Voters' Sprawl Petition the Boot

DENIED! *Local Ordinances Text Amendments TA-23001* for Lillian and Unincorporated Elberta. Heard December 5, 2023 by the Baldwin County Commissioners, the local ordinances text amendments matter was **DENIED**.

Unfortunately, the Director of Planning and Zoning, Matthew Brown, *misrepresented me as a sole*

citizen petitioning for these amendments rather than representing the citizenry of 289 voters in the three planning districts 22, 29 and 33. The Commissioners relied on his representations as well as listened to my 5-minute presentation as a community spokesperson, Bill Moore's comments in support of the amendments stating that the five opposing landowners or their representatives were looking for the "highest and best dollar" rather than the "highest and best use" of the land. It is my belief that the vote for denial by the Commissioners was to reject three areas of concern presented by Director Brown: 1) that RSF-1.5, 2 homes per acre, is too restrictive, 2) That 2 units per acre in most of the districts outside of the activity nodes is too restrictive, and 3) that reducing maximum mobile homes per acre from four to three might affect affordability. The decision by the Commissioners on those issues is understandable and respected. What is not understandable is the way Director Brown teed up the vote, leading to a **full rejection of ALL** proposed amendments. It is my opinion that Director Brown misled the Commissioners into believing that the matter would be republished, removing the portions of "concern" and coming back for another vote on the remaining 19 provisions.

YOU DECIDE: AT 12:55 MINUTES ON VIDEO OF THE BALDWIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HEARING DECEMBER 5 AT 10 a.m.:

Commissioner McKenzie: "Is Ms. Gambill part of the advisory committee?"

Director Brown: "Ms. Gambill has kind of petitioned as a citizen for the Commission to consider these amendments."

(289 registered voter signatures stating they were in favor of amending the text amendments were personally hand delivered to the Planning and Zoning Department in November 2022. There was some delay due to grievances I filed on how the process was being handled and time for the new County Administrator to mediate those grievances.)

AT 43:20 MINUTES ON VIDEO:

Commissioner Ball: Matthew, come up here and help us out ..."

Director Brown: "Staff ultimately took a neutral position because we had concerns with some of the specific items in there. So officially our recommendation was neutral. I just want to avoid confusion on that. It sounds like the motion is essentially recognizing staff's concerns, a recommendation to deny..."

Chairwoman Underwood: "So would you like to restate ..."

Commissioner Ball: "So all the amendments or just the controversial three amendments?"

Director Brown: "So I talked to Brad (County attorney) about this and we discussed is it possible to tweak the amendments from the floor, and we believe that we would need to completely re-notice the amendments. This is a little bit different than a new planning district being born. It's a ... these already exist, so we've already published these changes, and so now in order to do something different, we would need to republish them."

Commissioner Ball: "My motion is to deny."

Commissioner McKenzie: "Second."

Chairwoman Underwood: "Is there discussion? Hearing none, all of those in favor signify by saying aye."

Commissioners Ball, McKenzie, Underwood and Gruber vote aye.

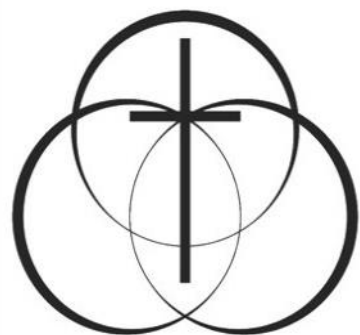
Chairwoman Underwood: "The vote is unanimous. The amendments fail."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)



Keeping it
Country

By Tracey Gambill



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**DEMENTIA EDUCATION FORUM
& CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP**

JANUARY 18 1:00 PM

The support group meets in the Fellowship Hall on
the third Thursday of each month. This month's topic
is managing difficult dementia caregiving situations.
Guest Speaker: Leslie D. Provis with West Florida
Memory Disorder Clinic.

REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE SINCE 1980

Endeavor to Learn About God's Will for Your Life



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Randall

The Prophet Jeremiah's proclaims in
Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I
have for you," declares the Lord, "plans
to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

We crave that hope that God does have a plan for us, a future for us. As a
pastor people continually come to me, desperately wanting to know God's will.
The good news is God's will is not a secret. Discovering God's will is not
some kind of game of hide and seek where God hides it and is amused by
watching us try to find it. God deeply desires for us to know and do his
will. God's plan and will for us is not complicated. Quite often people know
what God's will is for them; they just don't want to do it. When people struggle
with God's will in their lives it is a struggle of change or a struggle of
pride. Sometimes this can be the real cause of our inability to find God's will.

The unavoidable truth is that there is no growth, Christian or otherwise,
there is no wholeness, there is no fulfillment, there is nothing worthwhile that
happens in this gift of God called life without change. To refuse to change is to
refuse the best God has to offer you and your life. Period. Pride can also be an
obstacle for many who are struggling to find God's will. When out of control,
pride can strip our spiritual gears and put us in a real mess.

Pride is what started it all in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve thought,
"We don't need God; we can be gods ourselves." And we all know the pain
and misery that followed. Too much pride can get us into a lot of trouble. We
get so filled with it that we are totally oblivious to where it is leading us.

This is why it is impossible to live out God's will when we are filled with
pride and self-righteousness. Pride makes us stubborn to God's will or it self-
ishly attaches conditions to God's will. Our pride often causes us to bargain
with God: "Yes, Lord I will forgive this person as long as he apologizes." Or,
"Yes, Lord, I will serve in the church as long as I get recognized for my ef-
forts." Is it any wonder that we have a tough time finding God's will and living
it out when we live our faith in this way? Perhaps you have prayerfully
searched yourself and you know that your struggle with God's will is not a
struggle of change or pride and you are at a loss.

The truth is sometimes when we struggle with knowing God's will we just
have to go back to fundamentals. Jeremiah 29:12-13 tells us, "Then you will
call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me
and find me when you seek me with all your heart." In order for us to truly
know God's plan and hope for us we must seek God with all of our hearts. "All
of your heart" does not mean you are trying really hard to find God; it means
you are seeking a relationship with God through prayer and reading His word,
through faithfulness in attending worship and in serving the needs of others. In
that relationship you will discover the hope and future you need and desire. If
you want to know the will of God, you must first seek the heart of God. Jesus
said in Matthew 22, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first
commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as your-
self.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

So before you speak, make a decision, choose a path, respond in the heat of
the moment, make a business transaction or do anything ask yourself, "Will
this honor God? What is the loving thing to do?" 95 percent of the time you
will be confident about your decisions and actions if you ask these two ques-
tions. You can't find and do the will of God if you are not trying to please the
heart of God. Instead of deciding what we want to do and asking God to bless
it, decide to surrender all that you are to God and ask Him what He wants to do
with you. We must put ourselves at the disposal of God. "Lord I want to honor
you and love others. I want to be a person after your heart." Then and only
then, will we be clear about our Lord's will for our lives

The Lillian

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Thank you, Lillian Recreational Park sponsors!

The Lillian Recreational Park would like to thank this year's Movies & Music in the Park, Fall Fest and Christmas in the Park sponsors. Without their wonderfully generous community support, none of the Park's events and activities would be possible. Please be sure to thank them for their support when you visit their establishments.



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and thank YOU for your support of the Park's events and activities! We look forward to seeing you in 2024.

District Optimist Club Members Excel in Service As Year Winds Up

The October through December service period was a great time for Optimist Clubs and their communities in the Alabama Mississippi Optimist District #29. The Optimist Club of Perdido Bay offered several of the most impactful service projects, including the ARC Community Thanksgiving luncheon (nearly 300 special needs children served), Breakfast with Santa (130 Children received gifts & 275 meals were served) and the Lillian Christmas Parade.

It would take more space than we have to list all of the wonderful projects conducted by District Optimist Clubs. To name a few, the Optimist Club of Huntsville has 93 schools in its service area. Their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) Grant program award \$1,000 grants. Each year they are able to gain involvement from more local schools. This year the goal was to award \$100,000.

Many of the other Clubs in the District performed service projects supporting local food pantries and providing food to individual families during the holiday period. The Junior Optimist Clubs also got involved in this type of project. The Elberta High School JOI Club provided Christmas gifts to the elementary school student backpack program. This is a program where students receive food for the weekend.

One of the lesser-known programs is the Partners in Optimism program. This program matches a large Optimist Club with a smaller club (less than 20). The OCPB is working with the Pleasure Island Optimist Club (Orange Beach and Gulf Shores) to add new members and to deliver quality programming. During the quarter, Santa and Mrs. Claus posed with local elementary, middle and high school students to get a picture for the holidays. The second project saw the special needs children at Gulf Shores Elementary, Middle and High School meet in the library for pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, while receiving presents provided by the high school KEY Club, a Kiwanis organization.

Other highlights for the quarter included starting a new Optimist Club in Leland, Mississippi. This effort was led by New Club Building Chair, Judy Richardson, who also serves as Lt. Governor for Zone 10. The District also benefitted from achieving a retention rate of over 96%. Local club member Robin Newell was the top recruiter for the District while the OCPB led all Clubs by adding eight new members. The Optimist Club of Birmingham, the oldest Club in the District added four new members. These new Optimist members were inducted while the Governor was visiting the club.

Local residents are invited to the Lillian Community Club on January 27 at noon to hear Gaelon McCollum, a plastic surgeon and writer, to give his presentation on patriotism and the constitution. He has published numerous books on the subject and is an acclaimed public speaker. Lunch will be available for a small fee. Contact Kathy Keener at 251-228-9470, if you are planning to attend.

Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

By Jeff Keener

Basics of Prepping, Eating Vegetables

The purpose of this article is to provide a basic understanding of how to become a better-informed consumer when it comes to buying and preparing vegetables. Eating meals that include vegetables can provide your body with key nutrients like fiber, potassium, folic acid, and vitamins A and C.

One of the most common questions when it comes to eating vegetables is what is better for your health – eating locally grown vegetables or supermarket frozen produce? Each has its benefits and different variables should be considered such as budget and lifestyle. Locally grown refers to foods that are grown and harvested within 100 miles of your home or restaurant where it is served. Fruits and vegetables that are locally grown are picked at their peak when dense with nutrients. Typically, local farmers focus on soil health and safe growing practices. Also, foods that are transported are exposed to artificial lights and temperature changes that may lower the nutritional value. However, this is not to imply that all supermarket frozen vegetables are not healthy. The key is understanding what to look for on how vegetables are grown, packaged, processed, and preserved.

The US Department of Agriculture has a system for classifying the safety of frozen vegetables that you find in the supermarkets. This is a scoring system that factors in color, absence of defect, odor, and flavor. The detection of crystals immediately after thawing is assessed as well as representative samples of the produce after cooking to determine tenderness of the frozen vegetable. Look for fresh frozen fruits and vegetables that have been properly stored. Packages should feel firm with no signs of thawing. Check for excess sodium and sauces



Health Corner

By Donna Chetta, RN

‘Boiling vegetables leads to a significant decrease in the nutritional value. Steaming vegetables can preserve nutrients, flavor and as well as texture without having to add unnecessary butter.’

that have been added to the package. Frozen vegetables purchased at the supermarket have quality and control systems in place, but nothing beats knowing what to look for when purchasing frozen veggies.

How you cook vegetables plays a key role in preserving the nutritional value. A general rule is that the lower the temperature and less time exposed to heat the better. Boiling vegetables leads to a significant decrease in the nutritional value. Steaming vegetables can preserve nutrients, flavor and as well as texture without having to add unnecessary butter. It is important during the steaming process to ensure the vegetables do not touch the water. Cooking vegetables in water can deplete some of their nutritional value by dissolving some of the water-soluble nutrients. Another good option for preparing vegetables is stir-frying. It is a good option for preparing vegetables because the heat is high and sears the vegetables quickly locking in important nutrients. Lastly, microwaving is also another favorable option for cooking vegetables because it heats quickly. Using the microwave with a small amount of water steams food from the inside out preserving the vitamins and minerals. Vegetables are healthy for you whether you purchase vegetables from a local farmer or supermarket. They provide a host of benefits in maintaining weight, providing antioxidants and have been linked to preventing heart disease. Frozen vegetables are budget friendly and healthy for you when preparing them in a manner that preserves the nutrients. So, the next time you go to the supermarket or your local farmers market don't forget to pick up some fresh veggies to cook for a healthier lifestyle. Medical Disclaimer: The information provided in this article is for entertainment and informational purposes only. Talk to your doctor before starting any new diet or exercise program. If you would like to receive free tips on health and wellness, email me at wellnessd@wellnessdimensions-c.com.

Submit your news items, photos, and community interest pieces to *The Lillian* by email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com

Along With Holiday Duties, LVFD Thanks It's Supporters

The Lillian Volunteer Fire Department responded to 59 calls dispatched by the 911 operators in November: 35 Medical Assistance; 6 Public Assists; 5 Motor Vehicle Accidents/Clean up; 0 Brush Fire; 1 Structure Fire; 6 Cancelled en route; 6 False Alarm/Miscellaneous.

December was a very busy month for the department celebrating the Christmas season. On December 9, LVFD along with Perdido Beach FD joined the Lillian Parade then on December 16; we had two functions, first the LVFD Santa Run in the morning and the Spanish Cove Christmas Parade later in the day. As usual these festivities are something the fire department looks forward to every year. It gives us the opportunity to show our appreciation to the community for supporting us throughout the year; plus, it's a wonderful way to meet and talk to new and old friends.

At our last monthly board meeting, Waynette Brown, an LVFD board member, presented Chief Dewhurst a donation on behalf of the 'Red Hat Ladies.' We would like to thank them very much for their generous donation, and we would also like to add we are extremely happy with the continued support from the rest of the community. We are still receiving checks every day. If you have lost your letter and would like to contribute to the fire department, you can fill in the form attached to the article or go to our website 'Lillian Fire Rescue' for online donations. Thank you again to everyone for your support.

We would also like to remind the community we are in desperate need for volunteers, especially for daytime runs. This month we will be losing one of our most frequent runners which will put a heavy burden on the rest of the daytime volunteers. If you are available during the daytime and looking for something exciting to fill your days, we would be more than happy to talk to you. You



Lillian Volunteer Fire Department

By Goretti Lysek



Firefighters ready for the Santa Run

don't need any experience and no age limits; just a passion for helping is all that's needed. Call 251-962-2696 and leave a message one of the officers will call you back.

As a reminder, the monthly LVFD board meeting will be held the second Monday in January because of New Year's Day. The meeting will be on January 8 at 7 p.m. If you wish to attend the address is: 11331 County Road 91 S, Lillian

Membership Registration Form 2023-2024

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Name _____

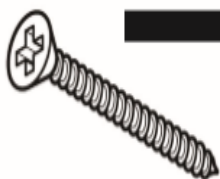
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CHIT CHAT

Chit Chat is a column for you. Take this opportunity to brag a little, share a little, and have fun with birthdays, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren, and family visits.

Happy birthday wishes in January go out to: Alyssa N. Williams, Vince Cooke Heather

Price, Becky Wiggins, Jake Fretwell, Bob Garcia, Dick Ayres, Joanne Matthews, Tay Randall, Linda Sepac, Shirley Covert, Earl Paschke, Clarence Hardiman, John Trenfield, Jeanette Delaney and David Monaghan.

Anniversary congratulations

go out to Jerry and MJ Rooks 1957, Michael and Marge Handzus 1972 Don and Adele Hartman 1981, Weldon, and Ruby Dell Cox 2011.

If you would like to add or delete information from the Chit Chat column, please email

lillianeditor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, 36549.

Aso, you may place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library.

The deadline for the February 2024 issue of The Lillian is January 24..



Angel Tree Shopping Spree

The Elberta Middle School Chapter of FCCLA went on their third annual Angel Tree Shopping Spree. Their goal for the year was to raise at least \$800, which would sponsor 10 children from the Elberta Police Department Angel Tree. They met their goal and went on shopping after school on December 5, 2023.

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MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE BY OWNER New house and lot 12558 Perdido St. Lillian. Call or text 251-228-6247 or 251-424-5707

Wanted - Looking for community residents that see the positive side of things, expect things to turn out well and believe they have the skill and ability to make good things happen. Must be able to work with others. Contact robinnewell3@gmail.com.

RV LOT FOR RENT in Lillian - very private \$400 per month includes water/sewer/garbage - electric NOT included. Call - no texts David 251-923-7239

CAR FOR SALE 2014 Buick Regal 2.0 turbo- excellent condition, very clean, one owner, non-smoker, new battery, almost new tires with wrnty.. A must see! Asking \$10,000. Call 251-961-3412.

The Lillian

Call Julie McManus at 703-217-2874 to place your advertisements

OBITUARIES

John R. Krupinski, 90, Farmer

John R. Krupinski, born November 8, 1933, lived a full 90 years in Baldwin County. He passed away November 30, 2023, peacefully at home surrounded by his family.

He was a proud farmer and enjoyed growing Krupinski Farm into what it is today. His farming legacy will live on through his sons and grandsons. He served in the United States Marine Corp. and was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He loved Alabama football and supplying his grandchildren and farm kids with ice cream.

He never missed a day riding around the farm on his John Deere Gator. He is preceded in death by his parents and his six sisters.

He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Margaret Krupinski, daughter Tammy (Darren) Mason, sons, Joseph Krupinski and Mark (Diane) Krupinski. Grandchildren, Samantha (Glenn) Lewellen, Jonathan (Kayla) Mason, Alexander Krupinski and Nicholas Krupinski. Great Grandchildren, Mary Claire and Amelia Lewellen, and Keidan Mason. And we cannot forget his pets whom he thought the world of.

**Laura Dean Reinhardt, 82**

Laura Dean Reinhardt, age 82, a resident of Elberta, AL, passed away on December 1, 2023.

Laura was a member of Day Break Methodist Church in Mifflin, an avid quilter, and a frequent visitor of Windcreek Casino.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 44 years, Grant Reinhardt; son, Grant "Ed" Reinhardt; and parents, William and Laura Vondean Crabtree.

Laura is survived by her daughters, Rhonda (Mike) Krehling of Elberta, and Donna (Jerry) Schoen of Elberta; brother, David Crabtree of Corpus Christie, TX; grandchildren, Angie, Laura, Kyle, and Dalton; great grandchildren, Stone, James, Katelyn, Hayden, and Gus; and many other loving relatives and friends.

A chapel service will be held at Pine Rest Funeral Home in Foley, AL, on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 2:00 pm. Interment will immediately follow the service at Pine Rest Cemetery

**Charles Robert (Bob) Hastings, 71**

Charles "Bob" Robert Hastings, 71, a resident of Elberta, Alabama, passed away peacefully Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023, with his family by his side.

He was a native of the Pine Grove community near Bay Minette, Alabama. Bob was a retired Conservation Enforcement Officer Area Lieutenant of the Marine Resources Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and former Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. An avid fisherman and hunter, he enjoyed spending time with his friends and family. His grandchildren were his pride and joy.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd Hallard and Evelyn (Gilbert) Hastings; one brother Lloyd Gilbert Hastings.

Bob is survived by his two sons, Charles "Charlie," Robert (Marlene) Hastings III of Elberta, Alabama and Dustin Richard (Henry) Hastings of Birmingham, Alabama; five grandchildren, Angel Marie Hall, Braydon Ryan Hastings, Blakely Reese Hastings, Madison Lay, and Morgan Lay; four sisters, Joyce Elizabeth (Sam) Bray of Columbus, Mississippi, Norma Dianne (Bob-decd) Wiser of Helena, Alabama, Lisa Evelyn (George) Pritchett of Brooklyn, Alabama, Lucy Carole (Randy) Byars of Guntersville, Alabama; one brother, Gerald Randall (Theresa-decd) Hastings of Bay Minette, Alabama; one sister-in-law, Joan Walton (Lloyd-decd) Hastings of Bay Minette, Alabama; many nieces and nephews; and family and friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 8, 2023 from 12:00pm until 2:00pm at Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home - Foley Chapel. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the Forever Wild Land Trust at 64 N. Union Street, Suite 464, Montgomery, Alabama 36130.

**DEATH NOTICE**

Susan Renee Anderson, age 54, a resident of Elberta, AL, passed away on Tuesday, November 28, 2023.

She was a hardworking loving mother and grandmother and was kind to everyone.

Susan is survived by her children, Robby (Bethany Silcox) Graham of Robertsdale, AL, and Kasey "Sissy" Anderson of Elberta, AL; grandchildren, Camden and Landon; mother of her grandchildren, Samantha Johnson; and all of her beloved cats.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAHE 17)

EMAIL EXCHANGE BEGINNING AT 12:47 PM December 5:

Tracey Gambill: "Director Brown, I am assuming you will be publishing the text amendments without RSF-1.5 for hearing in the next few weeks, correct?"

Director Brown: "Good afternoon, Ms. Gambill. At this time, the Planning and Zoning Department does not plan to ask the Commission to revisit these amendments."

Tracey Gambill: "Thank you for the clarification."

Full video is available on YouTube, Baldwin County Commissioners December 5, 2023, and September 7 video of Planning and Zoning Commission hearing. Full Text Amendments TA-230001 can be viewed at www.baldwincountyga.gov.

Did you notice that Director Brown never tells the Commissioners whether he will or will not republish? What does "Not at this time" mean? Not now, not this week, this month, this year, someday, never? Do you think Commissioner Ball was possibly ready to approve the amendments other than the three concerns had there been an opportunity to do so? Do you think that raising "concerns" is a neutral position? Do you think that speaking on behalf of 289 voters and holding two Townhalls is "a citizen petitioning for these amendments"? Does a unanimous vote on September 7 recommending approval by the Planning and Zoning Commission to the Baldwin County Commissioners carry any weight in the least? (I had 10 minutes to be heard September 7, five minutes on December 5.) Does The Baldwin County Future Land Use Guide (Our Vision) a/k/a Master Plan, adopted July 18, with County-wide survey results in favor of protecting rural areas of the County carry any weight?

This denial on the whole leaves our three planning districts with no local ordinances/provisions. If these remaining 19 ordinance proposals are not republished and brought forward for approval by the Commissioners, we will not have any of our own local ordinances in the foreseeable future. This result is highly prejudicial to our local citizens and needs to be resolved. All 289 voters who petitioned for text amendments a year ago were dismissed outright by the way this was presented as all or nothing.

Eagles Bestow Christmas Support on Mary's Shelter



Scott Thomas, (right) President of the Fraternal Order of Eagles 4549, Foley, and Dianna Shirley, (left) Madame Chaplain of the auxiliary, gift more than \$500 in cash and goods to Mary's Shelter Thrift Store Manager Charlon Collier (center). Mary's Shelter is an Elberta shelter helping homeless, pregnant moms where they can have their baby in love and dignity, learn the skills to take care of themselves and secure education and employment leading to independent living.

We will carry on!

Please call your commissioners and express your opinion on being *stonewalled* by the Director of Planning and Zoning in proceeding forward on the other 19 local provisions remaining after rejection of the three mentioned above. (Numbers 1) and 2) are basically the same concern.)

Commissioners: Gruber 251-943-5061 Ext. 2801, (Commissioner representing Planning Districts 22, 29 & 33), Underwood 251-972-8515 Ext. 8515, McKenzie 251-990-4620 Ext. 4620, Ball 251-937-0330 Ext. 2330, Planning and Zoning Department 251-580-1655. I will keep you updated in The Lillian each month ... please consider subscribing! Please submit *your* natural wonders to my email below ... KEEPING IT COUNTRY! All the best ... Tracey ... Ruralcharacterlillian@gmail.com



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Ode to the New Year Resolution

Can you believe the year is over? Every January I say the same thing and I'm sure I'm not the only one. Kids probably are thinking their holiday vacation is over and they still have several months left of school until summer vacation.

Like so many people I used to make resolutions on January first. As with so many other things that faded with age, I've let that tradition slip into oblivion, but not before I wrote a 'poem for that'.



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

Resolutions

The New Year brings its promises.
Resolute in dreams and purpose.
Success most often eludes us.
Hopes fade subtly, month by month.
Unfinished plans, discouragement, failure.
Resolutions only to begin afresh on day one.

Did you know that hospital healthcare workers across this nation work 12-hour days? They work three to four days a week followed by that same number of days off. The problem is that half of those days off is spent sleeping, the next quarter is spent running errands and cleaning and the last quarter is, hopefully, having fun.

Think about that for a minute. If you have a family, you can't just go home and fall into bed and sleep until you start all over again with your work schedule. And what about the alertness of staff at hour 10 or 11? Not to mention having a normal life.

The long hours cause a lot of issues with employees. Issues that aren't beneficial for the hospitals either. The stress of this type of schedule leads to time missed at work and other staff members having to fill-in before they've finished their days off. There is also a high rate of burn-out which leads to a big turnover of employees.

I would think it would be more efficient and practical to cut back the hours, even if only to 10-hour days. Just saying.

I wish everyone a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

"Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true."

—Alfred Lord Tennyson.

Perdido Bay Residents,

Your bay is being used as a dump. International Paper is dumping chemicals into our bay. The water is toxic to larvae and is herbicidal. Testing by Friends of Perdido Bay has demonstrated the toxicity. Our government has not only allowed this to happen but has supported it. No longer do we see shrimp boats or crabbers in our beautiful bay. This million dollar fishery is gone. Paper mills are the problem. Restore Perdido Bay to its once prolific past. Join Friends of Perdido Bay with a \$30.00 annual membership. Send your membership (Name, Address and Telephone Number) to: Friends of Perdido Bay, 38 S. Blue Angel Parkway, PMB 350, Pensacola, FL



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COUNTY COMMISSIONER CONTACT INFO

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251-943-5061 x 2804

COMMISSIONER UNDERWOOD

251-937-0264

COMMISSIONER MCKENZIE

251-990-4620 x 4620

COMMISSIONER BALL

251-937-0330 x 2330

CONGRESSMAN JERRY CARL

251-677-6630

What Should You Know About Required Minimum Distributions?

You may spend decades contributing to various retirement accounts. But for some accounts, such as a traditional IRA and 401(k), you must start withdrawing funds at a certain point. What should you know about this requirement?

To begin with, the rules governing these withdrawals — technically called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — have changed recently. For many years, individuals had to begin taking their RMDs (which are based on the account balance and the IRS' life expectancy factor) when they turned 70½. The original SECURE Act of 2019 raised this age to 72, and SECURE 2.0, passed in 2022, raised it again, to 73. (If you turned 73 in 2023, and you were 72 in 2022 when the RMD limit was still 72, you should have taken your first RMD for 2022 by April 1 of this year. You will then need to take your 2023 RMD by Dec. 31. And going forward, you'll also need to take your RMDs by the end of every year.)

Not all retirement accounts are subject to RMDs. They aren't required for a Roth IRA, and, starting in 2024, won't be required for a Roth 401(k) or 403(b) plan. But if your account does call for RMDs, you do need to take them, because if you don't, you could face tax penalties. Previously, this penalty was 50 percent of the amount you were supposed to have taken, but SECURE 2.0 reduced it to 25 percent.

When you take your RMDs, you need to be aware of a key issue: *taxes*. RMDs are taxed as ordinary income, and, as such, they could potentially bump you into a higher tax bracket and possibly even increase your Medicare premi-

ums, which are determined by your modified adjusted gross income. Are there any ways you could possibly reduce an RMD-related tax hike? You might have some options. Here are two to consider:

• Convert tax-deferred accounts to

Roth IRA. You could convert some, or maybe all, of your tax-deferred retirement accounts to a Roth IRA. By doing so, you could lower your RMDs in the future — while adding funds to an account you're never required to touch. So, if you don't really need all the money to live on, you could include the remainder of the Roth IRA in your estate plans, providing an initially tax-free inheritance to your loved ones. However, converting a tax-deferred account to a Roth IRA will generate taxes in the year of conversion, so you'd need the money available to pay this tax bill.

* **Donate RMDs to charity.** In what's known as a qualified charitable distribution, you can move up to \$100,000 of your RMDs directly from a traditional IRA to a qualified charity, avoiding the taxes that might otherwise result if you took the RMDs yourself. After 2023, the \$100,000 limit will be indexed to inflation.

For questions, please contact Jason Kozon or Chantz Blacmon of Edward Jones, located at 22394 Mifflin Road in Foley, AL, 251-943-3399



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones

JANUARY 2024 LILLIAN COMMUNITY CLUB

34148 WIDELL AVENUE, LILLIAN, AL 36549

OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-11AM - OFFICE (251) 962-3366 / LOUNGE (251) 962-3966

LOUNGE HOURS: SUNDAY-THURSDAY 11:00 AM TO 10:00 PM

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 11:00 AM TO 11:00 PM

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****OPEN AT 1:00 PM NEW YEAR'S DAY****

Happy New Year
From all of us at
Lillian Community Club



American Legion Ham Dinner

Sunday, January 28th

11 am - 1 pm

\$12.00

Ham with Raisin Sauce, Green Beans, Yams,
Potato Salad, Roll, Dessert & Iced Tea or Coffee



CIVIC & LEGISLATION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 8TH - 8:30 AM

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 11TH - 7:00 PM

NEW MEMBER MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 21ST - 3:00 PM



BANDS



Friday, January 5th • STORMFOLK • 7-11 pm

Friday, January 12th • Wicked Jones • 7-11 pm

Friday, January 19th • Gary Story & Bad Habit • 7-11 pm

Sunday, January 21st • Gary Story • 3-7 pm

Friday, January 26th • Blackwater Country • 7-11 pm

Sunday, January 28th • Plus One • 3-7 pm

\$5.00 cover for non-members

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