

Happy New Year!



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JANUARY 2026

Lillian, AL 36549
Volume 30, Number 1

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YEAR IN REVIEW

From National EPA Focus, Park Grants & Estuary Rescue to High Bacteria Levels; 2025 Was Quite a Ride For Lillian

1. Perdido Bay Hits National EPA radar

The plight of Perdido Bay flashed onto the radar screen of local, state - and even national environmentalists. It took six years and an act of Congress. But Perdido and Pensacola Bays are the first waterways in three decades to land federal designation as National Estuary. The historic designation gives Perdido Bay top priority for government money to make our troubled waters healthy again.

"It's certainly an exciting time here at the Estuary Program," said Matt Posner. Executive director of the Pensacola and Perdido Bays Estuary Program.

"The National Estuary designation puts Perdido Bay, along with Pensacola Bay, in the national spotlight and ensures that all water quality issues, habitat restoration, and community resilience will have the financial support that conservationists need in years to come, Posner said. Over the last six years, the estuary program and its partners have already brought in more than \$30 million from the RESTORE Act, granted in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in 2010.

2. Western Perdido Bay Watershed Action Committee releases long-awaited assessment and recovery plan

More than two years in the crafting, The Western Perdido Complex Watershed Management analysis reflected the heavy toll that urban and industrial development has taken on local waterways.

"More development means more wastewater challenges in most places in Baldwin County," said Christian Miller, spokesperson for the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, which funded the report.

NOT ALL BUSINESS IS DONE THE SAME: *TRY 1-STOP, 1-DEAL, BEGIN FUN!*

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reviews of all the other spa stores in the Flora-Bama area.

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Even though we aren't veterans, Charlie extended his generous veteran's discount to close relatives, and we were able to capitalize on a father's service to bring our new tub into our price range. Three days later, we were happy to see Charlie again, this time in our driveway with a new tub. We will definitely recommend RWB to our friends.

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*To All Our
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Thank You

2026 Could Just Be the Best Opportunity to Share Your Talents With Others

The holidays are over and tradition has it that it's time to make New Year resolutions. The past couple of months and throughout the year there are many exciting and fun events in our community.

Hopefully you have participated in many or all of them. Did it ever occur to you that without the generosity of your neighbors, these events would not occur? So, I have a suggestion for you. This New Year make a special resolution to give back to your community by joining a local organization, volunteering at your church or becoming active in other ways.

You have many choices to share your talents. Here are a few, Lillian Volunteer Fire Department, Lillian Recreational Park, Lillian Community Club, Lillian Perdido Bay Library, Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, Masonic Lodge, churches of all faiths, food pantries and now, Meals on Wheels.

Especially if you are new to the area, joining a club or organization is a great way to make friends, many of whom eventually

become family. Were you in the medical field? Do you have ideas how to add to the beauty of a park? Would you like to get involved in projects for kids? Do you have a few hours a month to give back to your community? Well, we can meet your desires.

Many of us have been doing these activities for years. We don't want to give them up, but we could use some help and an opportunity to train others for a time when we can't do it anymore.

Lillian has been known as "a little piece of paradise." Our activities help to keep this tradition alive. Won't you be part of this great tradition?

- Lillian Community Club, 251-962-3366
- Lillian Perdido Bay Library, 251-962-4700
- Lillian Recreational Park, 251-962-2129
- Lillian Volunteer Fire Department, 251-962-2696
- Masonic Lodge, 251-284-1677
- Meals on Wheels, 251-943-3449



Just a Thought or Two

Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, 402-677-3944

Bayside Baptist Church, 812-371-2323

Episcopal Church of the Advent, 251-961-2505

First Baptist Church of Lillian, 251-962-2180

Eternal Life Church, 814-330-4503

Lillian Fellowship, 706-816-1241

Lillian Methodist Church, 251-962-4336
New Mount Marriah Missionary Baptist Church, 251-752-2348

St. Joseph Catholic Church, 251-962-3072

Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church, 251-962-7682

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WORSHIP:**



As we begin a new year, we invite you to come and Worship with us at Bayside Baptist Church. We sing the hymns of the church from the hymnal and preach the Word from the Bible.

* Sunday morning we are studying the Gospel of Matthew, verse by verse. Join us at 10:30 AM for a great time of Worship and fellowship.

* Sunday evening, we are digging into the book of Revelation. Come and join us as we Worship our God and King at 6 PM.

We are meeting on every Tuesday, late afternoon, 4:30 PM for a time of prayer for the persecuted church. You are invited to join us as we lift up our brothers and sisters all over the world.

Numbers 6.24-26



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PO Box 1088

Lillian, AL 36549

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.

ADVERTISING SIZES

- Full page = 10" wide x 11.5" tall
- 1/2 Page (horas.) = 10" wide x 5.5" tall
- 1/2 Page (vertical) = 5" wide x 11" tall
- 1/4 Page = 5" wide x 5.5" tall
- 1/8 Page = 5" wide x 2.75" tall

Business Card = 3.5" wide x 2" tall
Classified = maximum of 40 words

The Lillian is not responsible for the factual content of ads or articles submitted to us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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 vs. associations' disputes. All letters must be legible and limited to 300 words or less.

ARTICLE OR OBITUARY INFORMATION

We gladly accept news and infor-

mation from the community. Please submit by:

- Mail to PO Box 1088, Lillian, AL 36549
- Email to lillianeditor@yahoo.com
- Drop off at Lillian Perdido Bay Library

DISCLAIMER

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 21. 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.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Executive Editor: Sally McKinney
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'PEOPLE GOTTA EAT' AUTHOR TO SPEAK JAN. 10

Jan Greer Enfinger of Greer & Sons' will be sharing about her recent book, "People Gotta Eat" at the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay for Breakfast January 10, 2026 at the Lillian Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 8:00 a.m. She will be sharing stories of Groceries and Grace, A little bit of Autry Greer & Sons' grocery store history, stories of doing good for others, and God's amazing grace. Concerning her book Jan shares "I hope that the joy of feeding others around you becomes a priority. . . There are many opportunities in our lives to do good for others and to allow others to do good for us. When we feed others, the Lord looks on and sees our hearts, and He is pleased that we have had a hand in making sure people are fed. Jobs are just jobs. People are forever. Make time and give thanks for every opportunity to sit down with those you love. Our relationships provide food for each of us. Be a source for others to bring peace, love and joy to their lives. Be a giver. Let us give thanks to God for our many blessings. To learn more about author Jan Greer Enfinger and her book "People Gotta Eat" click on <https://www.jangreerendfinger.com/people-gotta-eat/>



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It's a New Year With a Stronger Lillian Fire Dept.

As we step into 2026, we want to take a moment to say thank you. Serving this community is an honor, and 2025 was a year that reminded us just how special Lillian truly is.

This past year brought exciting growth for Lillian Fire Rescue. We added a new apparatus to our fleet and upgraded lifesaving medical equipment, including a new Life Pak cardiac monitor and two new AEDs. These tools allow our volunteers to provide faster, more advanced care when our neighbors need it most. We were also incredibly grateful to receive a grant from the Gulf Coast RC&D Council to help fund the new Life Pak — support like this truly saves lives.

Last year was also a year of well deserved promotions and new leadership within our department. Please join us in congratulating Chief Cantrell, Lt. Gleason, and Lt. Monroy. We're also proud of our two new Officers in Training, Firefighter Nation and Firefighter Siler, along with the addition of our Medical Liaison, FF Byl, who strengthens our EMS response every day.

Community moments continue to be some of our favorites. Even with cold, rainy weather, we had a wonderful turnout at Christmas in the Park hosted by Lillian Recreational Park. We also hosted our annual apple and orange distribution, and seeing so many smiling faces made it all worth it. This past fiscal year, our volunteers responded to 990 calls, including 34 Fires, 641 EMS calls, 56 hazardous conditions, 116 service calls, 143 miscellaneous. Every call represents someone in need and a volunteer willing to answer.

You'll find our donation slip included this month. Lillian Fire Rescue relies entirely on community donations to fund our medical

LILLIAN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

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ANNUAL 2025 - 2026 DONATION REQUEST

Name _____

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Requested: \$75 Residential / \$150 Commercial

calls, and every dollar makes a real difference! If you've ever thought about giving back in another way, we're always looking for volunteers. Stop by the station or call us at (251) 552-FIRE (3473).

Looking ahead, we hope you'll join us for our Annual Chili Cook-Off on February 28th and the Firefighters Ball on April 25th. More information will be coming out soon, but for now, make sure you save the date!

From all of us at Station 37, thank you for your continued support!

Look Who's Visiting Us More and More: The Manatees

By Janet Larson

Did you know that manatees visit Alabama? Recently, our neighbors reported that they saw several manatees in Soldier Creek. We're always excited to see these gentle giants, but surprisingly, manatee sightings are frequent on the Gulf Coast.

Since 2007, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Manatee Sighting Network has been keeping track of Alabama manatee sightings. Thanks to the public reporting, scientists now know that manatees are regular seasonal inhabitants off the coast of Alabama. The manatee population that visits us is part of the West Indian manatee species. At one time they were endangered but because of recovery efforts their status was changed from endangered to threatened in 2017. However, they are still protected under the Endangered Species Act.

Manatees visit us during the warmer months, primarily between April and October, because as mammals they prefer water temperatures greater than 68 degrees. Once the waters become cooler they migrate to Florida

where the water is consistently warmer.

There are several things that we can do to encourage these gentle visitors. Manatees rely on seagrass for their diet, eating up to 100 pounds of seagrass a day. Seagrass beds around the world are rapidly decreasing because of pollution from runoff and habitat destruction. We can restore seagrass beds by building Living Shorelines and keeping our water clean by controlling runoff from our property.

If you're boating where manatees have been seen, follow speed limits and have someone watch for them. Manatees surface frequently for oxygen, and high speed boat collisions are a leading cause of manatee deaths.

If you are lucky enough to see one, stay clear! It is recommended that you stay at least 100 feet away from them.

If you spot a manatee, you can report it to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab by calling 1-866-493-5803, emailing manatee@disl.org, or reporting online to the Manatee Sighting Network website at manatee.disl.org.



If you want to help protect our waters, you can join us as part of the Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association.

For membership details or questions, please email wpbwac@gmail.com. Also, feel free to join our Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association Facebook for more watershed related information.

Consider the Path of Good and Decency

To-do lists are a part of my everyday life, but the one list I stopped making years ago consisted of New Year Resolutions. Most of the time, as you probably know, you don't fulfill all your hopes of achievement, which only makes you feel like you failed. Hey, if you have better luck with it keep doing it.

But regular, everyday chores that you want to remember without constantly asking yourself, is there anything else I must do, the to-do list is just the thing.

There is nothing more satisfying than crossing off items on the list and when you finish everything on it, you can do your happy dance. That's what I'm talking about. Other than New Year resolutions, one other item I will never jot down is, don't get angry at the computer today, because I know I would never be able to cross that off my list.

Last month I mentioned the robot toy dog and my worry about how it would affect a child's awareness of reality and AI. A retired schoolteacher friend of mine took this subject further with her concern, which is the lack of responsibility in caring for a live dog if they do think the robot is real.

Children who learn there is more to having a pet than just loving it but also understand the importance of taking care of all its needs, such as feeding it and anything else that pertains to its care become better, more loving and responsible adults. But parents also must be willing to dedicate some time to direct their child to this goal.

Renowned veterinarian Jan Pol of central Michigan constantly states that the best teacher for a child's character is loving and caring for a pet no matter what species.

The cosmos is very complicated and as much as astrophysicists are discovering all the time, they must admit that they probably only know about five percent about the universe. We can only imagine the mysteries and secrets it holds. That's why it is so fascinating.

The sky we see at night is not the exact scene that Galileo viewed. Not only that, but with the universe constantly expanding and our Milky Way and solar system moving further away from other galaxies, if humans still exist on Earth in an eon from now, they may only see a dark open outer space. How lonely and scary.

Of course, by then we may have already linked up with Andromeda, which will change things too. A lot depends on whether we collide or smoothly incorporate. I doubt the latter because everything in the universe seems to be turbulent. Scientists know that these two galaxies will come together but have no idea what will survive.

There are groups bashing the Ten Commandments again. Actually, I don't think they have ever stopped. They rudely shout that that symbol of religion has no business being on public property. I beg to differ.

My thoughts on the subject are that it doesn't matter what your religion or lack thereof, because the Ten Commandments represent rules of decency and goodness that pertain to all mankind. If everyone followed them there wouldn't be all this evil and crime in the world. But maybe that's why these groups want these rules abolished because they are against being good and decent. Just saying.

An ad that's airing right now about a certain drug and it states that it shouldn't be taken by anyone who was assigned as female at birth. I envision a conveyer belt with newborn babies laying on it and someone at the end announcing, "this one will be a boy. Next, this one will be a girl. Next." Really people, is that the wording you think is appropriate?

"If it's not yours, don't take it. If it's not true, don't say it. If it's not right, don't do it." Fishmonger Quotes.

"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." Jacqueline Reid.



Bits and Pieces

By Jackie Reid

Holiday Market Slow-Down Signals Reduced Competition

BY SHANNON YOUNG

A Realtor's Year-End Perspective: There's No Place Like Home—Especially During the Holidays

As the year winds down here in Lillian and the surrounding communities, many people assume the real estate market goes quiet until spring. In reality, this season remains an important—and often very meaningful—time for buyers and sellers across Spanish Cove, our rural properties, and our beautiful waterfront areas.

The holidays naturally bring a slower pace. Families are busy with gatherings, travel, and traditions. But those who are active in the market right now are typically very intentional. Buyers touring homes in December are often relocating, downsizing, planning for retirement, or investing along the coast. Sellers, too, are usually motivated by clear goals and practical timelines. For homeowners in Lillian and Spanish Cove, one advantage this time of year is reduced competition. With fewer homes on the market, well-cared-for properties stand out. Simple touches—good lighting, tidy yards, and addressing small repairs—often matter more than elaborate decorating. Buyers want to picture themselves at home, not distracted by clutter.

Rural and waterfront properties also shine during the winter months. Clear sightlines, lower vegetation, and cooler weather can highlight land boundaries, water views, docks, and outdoor features that may be harder to appreciate in the heat of summer. These properties tend to attract serious buyers who understand their long-term value. Pricing correctly is especially important during a quieter season. Homes that are positioned well often see smoother negotiations and more straightforward contracts. A local Realtor who understands neighborhood trends, seasonal demand, and recent sales can make all the difference.

For buyers, the holidays can bring opportunity. There is often less competition, and sellers may be more flexible on terms, closing dates, or concessions. Lenders and service providers also tend to have greater availability, helping transactions move along more comfortably. Even for those not planning an immediate move, winter is an excellent time to prepare. Getting a home market-ready now allows sellers to step confidently into the new year with a strong plan in place.

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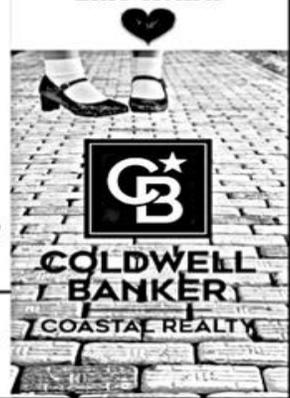





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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

It Has Been Awhile Since Sally Hit Lillian Perdido Bay Park on CR 99 Needs Repair

The public access to the beach, from the park, is still closed. During Hurricane Sally, the large deck at the end of the series of steps down to the beach was destroyed, however, most of the stairs were undamaged, although they have been closed for so long now, they may need some maintenance.

I understand that replacing the deck would be costly, however just adding a flight of steps down to the beach should be much less expensive. I used to walk the beach every day, as would other people, some serious runners would jog down the steps, do their run and jog back up (just a bit much for me) I am sure that everyone that used the beach access miss it greatly.

Since the boat launch off CR 99 has been completely repaired, it would be nice to know when/where the beach access is on the repair list, or has it simply been forgotten?

Gloria D. Cramp

Stay Active, Stay Social; The Newest Park Programs Begin This Month

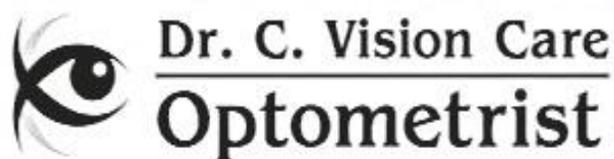
The Lillian Recreational Park is offering three new programs designed to encourage active living and social engagement among older adults. The new programs include a walking group, monthly bingo, and weekly beginner mahjong lessons and open play.

The walking group provides a safe, supportive way for participants to stay active while enjoying the Park's walking trail. It will meet at the Park's new Back Porch at 9 a.m. on Monday and Wednesday mornings beginning on January 5.

Bingo will be held from 1-3 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, beginning January 15, and mahjong lessons will be offered on Tuesdays, from 1-3 p.m., starting January 6. Both activities will offer opportunities for social interaction and friendly play.

"This program supports both physical activity and social connection," said Lucy Smith, LRP Board President. "It's a great way for participants to stay active, meet new people, and try something new."

The program is part of the Park's new Back Porch program and is open to anyone 55 or older. To register or for more information, visit the Park's Facebook page or call Lucy at 719-494-7986.



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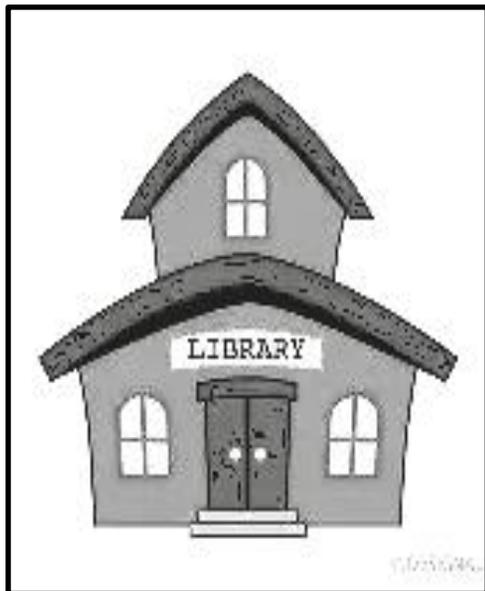


Lillian Perdido Bay Library Corner
By Betty Bovat

Happy New Year From Your Library

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

This is the beginning of a new year at the Lillian Perdido Bay Library. We are not sending out our usual membership cards within our postal zone but will be sending out a letter indicating it is time for membership renewal. This is a yearly donation to help the library, as we do not receive any government funds from the Federal, County, State or local. We operate with volunteers and your help. The cost of membership is \$10 for individuals and \$15 for families. A form is printed alongside this article if you care to use it.



We are located at 34081 Ickler Avenue, south of US Highway 98 and east of Perdido Street.

A computer room is in the library with five computers and two printers for public use, for a small donation. There is also a large printer that prints/scans/fax for your use for a small donation.

Along with everything in our library to be checked out, we do have some hardback books, paperback books, audio CDs, DVDs and children's books for sale at a very reasonable price.

Thank you so much for your support and patronage. We appreciate each and every one of you and feel so fortunate to provide services to our community.

Lillian Perdido Bay Library Membership Form

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Monday - Friday
9am - 6 pm
Saturday **CLOSED**



First Baptist Church

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" John 8:12

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

Sunday School (all ages) 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities:

Wed. 5:30 pm: Dinner

Adult prayer meeting in the FLC

Children Grades: K-6 Bible Activities

Youth Grades 7-12 Bible Study & Activities

*Free childcare is provided during all Bible Studies and services at our church.

Pastor: Josh Thompson

Worship Leader: Beverly Thompson

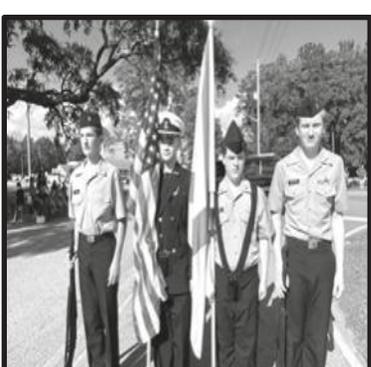
Pianist: Erin Equihua

Youth Director/ Pianist: Erin LeAnne

**34421 Barclay Ave ~ PO Box 178 ~ Lillian
251-962-2180**

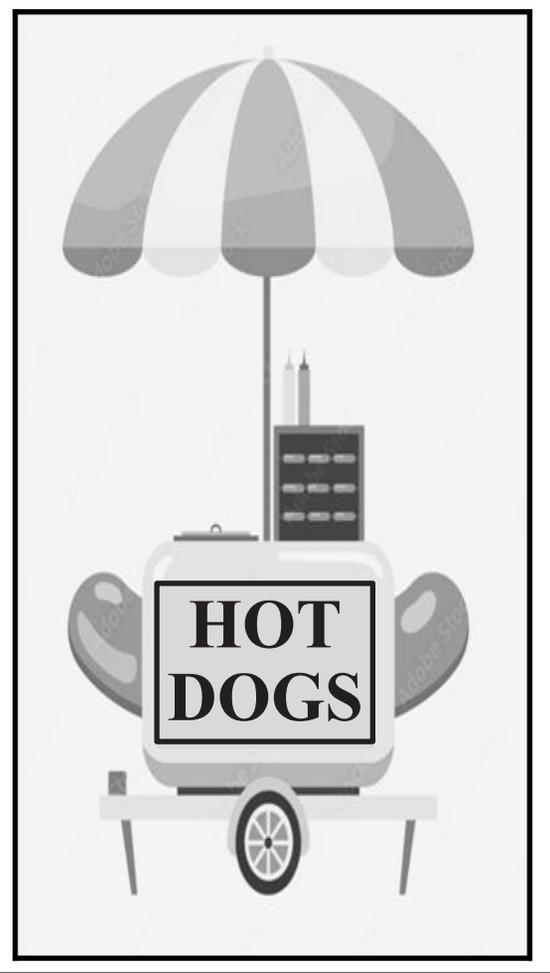
LillianBaptist36549@gmail.com

Who Doesn't Love a Parade?



GREAT HOT DOGS AT US 98 & CR 99 IN LILLIAN

TUESDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS 11 A.M. TO 2 P.M.



Quilts of Valor



Pat Brummett, a board member of Quilts of Valor, visited the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay to inform members of the Quilts of Valor program. Approximately 250 have been presented to veterans or current members of the military in Baldwin County to say "Thank You" for their service. To nominate someone or to volunteer to make the quilts, visit www.QOVF.org/nomination-awards. Pictured with one of the quilts is Optimist President Robin Newell and QOV member Pat Brummett. The Optimist Club meets on the second and third Saturdays at 8 a.m. in the Lillian Methodist Church.

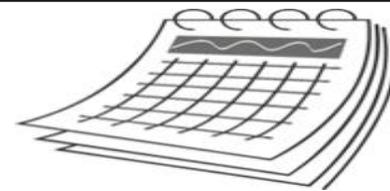
Episcopal Church of the Advent

12099 County Road 99
Lillian, AL 3654



All are welcome to worship with us
Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Tina Lockett, Vicar
churchoffice@adventlillian.org
251-961-2505 & www/AdventLillian.org
"A little church with a big heart"

The Lillian Calendar JANUARY 2026



January 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 11:00 AM & January 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 10:00 AM: Ageless Grace, Body & Brain Fitness, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630. We will not meet on New Year's Day 1/1.)
January 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 7:00 PM: Al-Anon Meetings, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (Al-Anon is a fellowship for relatives and friends of alcoholics, offering support for those affected by a loved one's drinking. It provides a safe, non-judgmental space to share experiences and develop healthier coping mechanisms through its meetings, which are based on the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. Learn more about AL-Anon at <https://al-anon.org/>.)

January 6, 13, 20 & 27 at 7:00 PM: AA Meeting, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) is a fellowship of people who share their experience, strength, and hope to stay sober, primarily through a 12-step program and mutual support at free meetings. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking, and the organization is open to anyone regardless of background, beliefs, or identity. Learn more about AA at <https://www.aa.org/what-is-aa>)

January 8 at 1:00 PM: Healing Hope Grief Support Group, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (If you are navigating the pain of loss, please know you are not alone. Join us for grief support in a safe space to share your experiences, receive compassionate listening, and find healing alongside others who understand. For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.)

January 8, 15, 22 & 29 at 6:30 PM: Lillian Community Celebrate Recovery Meetings, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (Rev. Rick Long and Rev. Daniel Randall invite everyone to join us for Celebrate Recovery, a faith-based, Christ-centered, 12-step program designed to help individuals overcome various hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Celebrate Recovery uses a combination of biblical principles, the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous, and small group support to foster healing and recovery. The program addresses a wide range of issues, including substance abuse, codependency, and other life challenges, and is offered in thousands of churches worldwide. Learn more about CR at <https://celebraterecovery.com/>. We will not meet on Christmas Day 12/25 or New Year's Day 1/1.)

January 10 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL (Our guest speaker will be Jan Greer Enfinger, author of "People Gotta Eat" that shares stories of groceries and grace, a little bit of Aury Greer & Sons' grocery store history, stories of doing good for others, and God's amazing grace. To learn more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, go to www.OptimistClubPB.org.)

January 15 at 1:00 PM: Dementia Education Forum, Caregiver Support Group and Aging in Place, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido St., Lillian, AL (For more information, contact Sharyon Miller at 850-221-8630.)

January 24 at 8:00 AM: Optimist Club of Perdido Bay Community Breakfast, Lillian Methodist Church, 12770 S. Perdido Street, Lillian, AL (We will be honoring our local Elberta School's "Teacher of the Year". To learn more about the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay, go to www.OptimistClubPB.org.)

READY FOR ADOPTION NOW!

Baldwin County Animal Shelter
bcas@baldwincountyal.gov
251-972-6834



Lillian's Pets of the Month



GIZMO



REDD

If you have a best friend of the furry, feathery or scaly kind feel free to send in a picture to Dave Monaghan at lillianeditor@yahoo.com

Lillian's Pests of the Month



ALABAMA BADGER



ALABAMA TOM

If you live in Lillian or Elberta AL and have an unwanted pest call Stu at Down South Wildlife Removal at 251-979-4333

The Lillian Online!

Read your local newspaper anytime, anywhere!

Go to lilliancommunityclub.com, click on The Lillian newspaper link at the top of the page. Please bookmark our page!



GLORY

ALBERT

WONTON

PUGSLEY

SANDRA

SCOUT

Visit the Baldwin County Animal Shelter County Road 49, Summerdale, AL 36580
251-972-6834

PLEASE JOIN US

Saturday, February 7th, 3-6 pm
Lillian Community Club • Hoffman Hall
34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL 36549

Meet Your Hosts

Joshua McKee, U.S. House of Representatives candidate & Tracey Gambill, Baldwin County Commissioner candidate.

Get to know your candidates. Learn about their backgrounds and find out why they are so passionate about Baldwin County. Ask questions & hear their strategies and concerns.

There will be refreshments!!!
See you there!!!



Joshua McKee
Decorated U.S. Army Green Beret, Bronze Star recipient, and disabled veteran who spent 25 years serving our nation across the globe. Running for Congress to bring mission-focused leadership to Washington, reform broken systems like the VA, and restore the American Dream for Alabama families.

LEARN MORE AT: MCKEEFORCONGRESS.COM



Tracey Gambill
Tracey is committed to transparency, protecting taxpayer dollars and keeping Baldwin County from being bulldozed by large developments. As County Commissioner, she will focus on real, everyday needs. Her priorities are safer communities, better access to services, and practical solutions that directly improve quality of life, NOT political agendas.

RSVP TO: TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM

PLEASE JOIN US

Saturday, February 21st, 4-6 pm
Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church
Enfinger Center
6325 Bon Secour Highway/CR 10
Bon Secour, AL 36511

Fundraising Event

Hosted by Matt McKenzie, Baldwin County Sheriff candidate & Tracey Gambill, Baldwin County Commissioner candidate.

Come talk with the candidates. Ask questions and learn more about them and their plans for Baldwin County's future.

Enjoy live music by Lisa Zanghi, food and more!
Seafood donated by Aquila Seafood, Inc.



Matt McKenzie

Born and raised in Baldwin County, Matt has spent his life serving our community—as a Marine, a state trooper, and now as a county commissioner. As your Sheriff, he's committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and honesty, rooted in Christian values. He will prioritize transparency and ethical leadership, ensuring that Baldwin County Sheriff's Office operates with accountability and transparency.

LEARN MORE AT: MATTFORSHERIFF.COM



Tracey Gambill

Tracey is committed to transparency, protecting taxpayer dollars and keeping Baldwin County from being bulldozed by large developments. As County Commissioner, she will focus on real, everyday needs. Her priorities are safer communities, better access to services, and practical solutions that directly improve quality of life, NOT political agendas.

RSVP TO: TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM

New Year's Financial Resolutions: Making Them Stick

As the calendar flips to a new year, millions of Americans pledge to improve their financial lives. But without a concrete plan, those well-intentioned resolutions often fade quickly.

Financial goals consistently top the list of New Year's resolutions. A 2025 CFP Board study shows that financial resolutions are prominent, with saving more money (45%) and reducing debt (32%) ranking among the top three goals.

Unfortunately, most resolutions don't last. A 2023 Forbes Health poll found that over half of people give up on resolutions by the four-month mark and only 1% make it the full year.

The challenge isn't a lack of desire for change. People may set the same resolution year after year, revealing a disconnect between intentions and action. Or it may be that they try to tackle too many goals at once, or aim higher than is realistic, setting themselves up for disappointment.

Set smart financial goals. Before crafting your action plan, consider which financial priorities matter most to you. If you need ideas, here are some areas where you may want focus in 2026:

Regularly review your financial goals and track progress toward meeting them

Increase your 401(k) contributions or max out your IRA and/or HSA contributions

Pay down debt strategically and negotiate lower interest payments

Build an emergency savings fund of six to 12 months

Save more consistently

Be specific. Vague resolutions like "save more money" rarely succeed. Instead, it can help to make goals specific and measurable. For example, rather than making a resolution to "start an emergency fund," commit to a specific goal, such as, "I will put \$100 a month into an emergency fund."

This shift from general to specific transforms wishful thinking into actionable steps. When goals are attainable, it's easier to track progress and stay motivated.

Find an accountability partner. Don't go it alone. Having someone to check in with can help you stay on track. This could be a spouse, friend or family member who shares similar goals.

Consider working with a financial advisor who can help you create a realistic plan, monitor your progress and adjust strategies as needed. A professional can provide expertise and accountability, making it easier to stay on track throughout the year.

Start small and build momentum. Rather than overhauling your entire financial life all at once, focus on one or two priority areas. Identify where the largest gap exists between your current situation and where you want to be, then concentrate your energy there.

Breaking larger goals into smaller, manageable actions makes them less overwhelming and more achievable. Each small win builds confidence and momentum for tackling the next challenge.

The new year offers a fresh start and renewed motivation to improve your financial health. With specific goals, a solid action plan and the right support system, this could be the year your financial resolutions finally stick.



Financial Focus

By Jason Kozon
of Edward Jones



Financial Focus

By Chantz
Blackmon

American Legion Annual Fundraiser Switching it's Menu Offering

The American Legion is your voice in congress; we need membership numbers when they go in front of the VA and all concerned. The focus has been and always will be on service to the community and support of our veterans.

If you have served Active Duty in the United

are changing up our annual fund raiser dinners this year. We will be serving Roasted Pork Loin with sides. These dinners are the Legion's primary fund raisers and provide the money for the continued activities and donations, such as building ramps for disabled veterans, maintaining the medical closet and much more. The dinners will be on the last Sunday of each month in January, February, and March 2026. The hours will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$15 a plate. Please come out and try our new menu and support your local American Legion.

MEDICAL CLOSET: The Medical Closet is for all Lillian residents and there is absolutely no charge. Many items are available, such as walkers, hospital beds, and more. The only requirement is the return of said items when no longer needed.

The individuals to contact are Bill Burns at 251-978-3440 and Darrell Ochs at 251-269-9084.

Every Wednesday morning from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Legion members "drop by" the American Legion Building 48. The building is located next door to the Lillian Community Club, adjacent to the POW/MIA flag. Come and



Lillian American Legion Post 48

By Gay L. Pyle
1st Vice
President

join us for a cup of coffee or a soda, and enjoyable conversation.

Meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Lillian Community Club Hall. Come and join us and become one of the millions of Legionnaires still serving.



States Armed Forces, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving -- you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

Happy New Year: The American Legion Post 48 wants to wish the Lillian Community and all our Troops around the world a very safe and Happy New Year.

POST 48 FUND RAISER DINNERS: We

PJ Plumbing

Master Plumber/Gas Fitter

See our reviews on
Next door
Licensed
251-504-0457



St. Joseph Christmas Celebration



When is the Right Time to Get Help at Home for a Loved One With Dementia?

Caring for a loved one with Dementia is one of the most meaningful acts of love a family can provide. Many families want to help their loved one remain at home — surrounded by familiarity, comfort, dignity, and the people who love and care for them most.

Families should consider help in the home for a variety of reasons. It may be time to consider in-home support when safety becomes a concern or when everyday responsibilities begin to require consistent, hands-on assistance. Additional support can also become important when daily routines are harder to maintain, emotional or social needs are increasing, or there is a growing need for meaningful interaction and guidance throughout the day.

Planning ahead is important, because early support can extend the amount of time a loved one can remain where they feel most at peace — at home.

Caregivers also need to watch their own well-being. Exhaustion, stress, changes in mood, or constant worry are signs that additional support is needed.

Asking for help is not giving up — it ensures your loved one receives the best care possible while you protect your own health, too.

You don't have to do this alone. Reaching out for help today can ensure safety, independence, and a better quality of life for everyone involved.

For More Information, call us for a free in-home needs assessment for assisting seniors: Debbie McMillan, Marketing Director 970-545-0954.

Christmas in the Park Kicked Off the Lillian Holiday Season

The holiday season officially came to life on December 5 as the Lillian Recreational Park's Christmas in the Park was launched with a Preview Party and, then, the next day, the community opening ceremony. In spite of the rain, both events were filled with lights, laughter, and holiday spirit. While the rain didn't dampen any spirits, it did mean that Santa couldn't helicopter in this year.

The lights were lit by Aubrey Smith, a third grader at Elberta Elementary School. Her artwork of Santa and his sleigh won the Park's Facebook art contest, giving her the honor of "Flipping the Switch" to turn on the Park's light exhibition.

"Christmas in the Park truly captures the heart of our community," said Lucy Smith, President of the Lillian Recreational Park board of directors. "Seeing people of all ages come together to celebrate the season, enjoy the park, and create new traditions is what Christmas in the Park is all about."

A special highlight of this year's celebration was the participation of local businesses and organizations, many of whom decorated themed display pods for the first time. Their creativity and support helped transform the Park into a festive holiday destination and showcased the strong partnerships that make community events like this possible.

The candlelight Christmas caroling was also a lot of fun. Featuring choirs from the Lillian Methodist Church and The Gathering Church, people enjoyed singing and listening to Christmas carols, and drinking hot chocolate and cider by a roaring bonfire.

Organizers extend a heartfelt thank-you to volunteers, sponsors, and businesses whose hard work and dedication made this year's celebration a success.

ROOSTER'S LAWN CARE

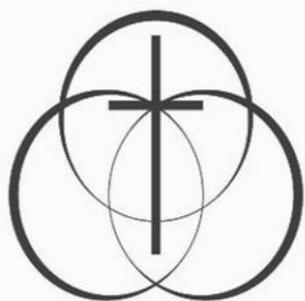
CUT, WEED EAT, EDGE, BLOW, LIGHT TRACTOR WORK,
BUSH HOG & TREE WORK

Christmas lights

Small concrete work, rock driveways (gravel)

Questions?

Contact Phyllis 251-975-8482 OR Contact Rooster 251-543-6355



“A Global Methodist
Congregation”

LILLIAN
Methodist Church
12770 South Perdido Street
Lillian, AL 36549
(251) 962-4336
office@LillianMC.org
www.LillianMC.org

Rev. Daniel W. Randall, Pastor

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Children's Church & Nursery During 10:00 AM
Worship for Children Birth to Second Grade

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM

ONLINE WORSHIP at LillianMC.org

(Click on the Worship tab to view.)

AA & ALANON Tuesdays 7:00 PM

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

Thursdays 6:30 PM (Except New Year's Day)

HEALING HOPE GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

January 8 1:00 PM Conference Room

Dementia Education Forum,

Care Partner Support Group

& Aging in Place

January 15 1:00 PM

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

January 19 5:30 PM

(Bring an dessert or side dish for 8.)

 **REACHING OUT WITH GOD'S LOVE**

A Message of Hope for the New Year



The Methodist Message

By Rev. Daniel Radall

As we enter a new year we move from Christmas to the season of Epiphany, marked by Epiphany Sunday January 4, 2026. The ancient journey of the Magi offers a timeless message of hope, perseverance, and the power of transformation. Their pilgrimage serves as a powerful metaphor for our own lives, encouraging us to seek guidance and embrace the changes that shape our path.

The Magi were hopeful wise seekers who followed an extraordinary star, which they recognized as a sign of a newborn king. Their decision to follow this distant light, despite the immense travel and uncertainty, embodies a hopeful spirit. Unlike King Herod, who was disturbed by the news of a new ruler, the Magi had the courage to step outside their comfort zones in search of something new. Their story encourages us to remain attentive to the "guiding lights" in our own lives, our values, our purpose, or a quiet inner knowing—that beckons us toward a meaningful future.

The Magi's journey from the East was not a simple trip; it was long, arduous, and potentially dangerous. Their perseverance through these challenges reminds us that the path of hope often involves "twists and turns" and requires patience and faith to continue. "We cannot let our weariness; our falls and our failings discourage us." This message of resilience is a valuable one for the new year, when we invariably face difficulties. It encourages us not to lose heart but to trust that our journey, with all its ups and downs, is part of a larger, guiding process.

The ultimate lesson of the Magi's story is the power of transformation and the opportunity for new direction. Their encounter with the Christ child changed them profoundly. They offered gifts that were symbolic of Jesus' royalty, divinity, and humanity.

After their encounter, they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod and departed for their home "by another way." This change of route symbolizes more than a detour; it represents a fundamental internal shift. Like the Magi, we are invited to let our pursuit of what matters most transform us.

The hope they found in the humble Son of God inspires us to look for the sacred in unexpected, everyday places and to embrace the new directions our lives might take. Their journey is a timeless reminder that after experiencing a profound change in perspective, we can no longer go back to our old ways. May your New Year be one marked by a clear guiding light, persistent hope, and transformative encounters with the divine.

If you haven't yet found a church family, we would love to have you join us for worship on Sunday at 8 or 10 p.m. and our monthly Community Potluck Supper January 19 at 5:30 p.m. From our church family to yours please receive this special New Years Prayer from Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Happy New Year! - Pastor Daniel Randall, Lillian Methodist Church

As We Celebrate the Country's 250th, Remember the Role Religion Played

With this year, 2026, the United States will celebrate 250 years as a nation. The story of religion in America's original 13 colonies often focuses on people coming to this new land, from groups such as Puritans, Quakers and other Protestants fleeing persecution in Europe, looking to build a community of like-minded believers. Protestants were indeed in the majority, but the reality was far more diverse. Colonial America attracted believers from a wide array of backgrounds and beliefs, include Judaism, Catholicism and more.

Myriad groups of Indigenous Americans who already lived along the Eastern seaboard had their own beliefs, many of which forged connections between the living, the departed and the natural world. And African people transported to the colonies as part of the transatlantic slave trade brought their own multiplicity of spiritual practices, which included polytheistic, animist and Islamic beliefs, before merging into new variants of Protestantism.

In 1630, English Puritan lawyer John Winthrop, a founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, invoked the phrase "the city on the hill" to describe the new Christian religious community he and his fellow colonists should aspire to build in service to "God Almighty." But the various believers drawn to, or brought to, the colonies built many proverbial cities, on many hills. Five generations later, in 1776, Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence without mentioning the word "Christ," and neither the word "God" nor "Christ" appears in the U.S. Constitution, written and ratified a decade later. Both documents show the ideals of a new nation that had a religious foundation, but developed a secular soul.

The thirteen American colonies were founded as distinct societies, with their own charters and, with a few exceptions, an emphasis on religious uniformity for each one. In Virginia, the oldest of the original thirteen colonies, religion was a major topic in the first meeting of colonial assembly in 1619. The representatives passed laws requiring citizens to do "God's Service," including mandatory attendance in the Church of England, meaning the Anglican church, Britain's state-established Protestant denomination. The Puritans arrived in New England in 1630's, believing in the strict Protestant teachings of John Calvin, who criticized the Church of England as still tainted by

Catholicism. Once in the New World, Puritans gave their version of Protestantism a new name: Congregationalism.

Anglicans and Congregationalists became the two dominant forces in American religious life for much of the 17th century, with nearly all the new colonies having one or the other as their

established faiths. By the early 18th century, American colonies were a place where religion was basically the culture. In spite of geographic and linguistic diversity the colonies were dominated by the near uniform conviction that there will be more

social peace and a better moral order if everyone goes to the same church.

There were some exceptions to this attitude among the colonies. One was in Rhode Island, where a breakaway Puritan named Roger Williams, who had been expelled from Massachusetts in 1635, imagined his new colony as a shelter for persons distressed of conscience. He promoted the idea of a society where religion should not be regulated by the state. The other took root in 1680, when King Charles II paid off a debt by granting 45,000 square miles on the west side of the Delaware River to William Penn, he was a follower of Quakerism, the radical Protestant sect that rejected nearly all the trappings of church ritual and hierarchy, Penn went on to found Pennsylvania, a new, tolerant colony that attracted a variety of German Protestants, from Lutherans to Pietists, and even some Catholics.

And there was also Maryland, founded in 1634, as a refuge for English Catholics fleeing religious wars in Europe.

On the eve of the American Revolution, no single Protestant denomination could claim more than one-fifth of the colonies' religious followers. The Church of England, once dominant, and gradually reconvened as the Episcopal Church, following the break with England, was down to about 15 percent of the population.

The Founders Fathers, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and James Madison—were all nominal Christians, but scholars have noted that they tended to avoid doctrinal beliefs. And the American Revolution itself is regarded as a profoundly secular event.

Many Founders were followers of Deism, a set of Enlightenment ideas, vaguely grounded in opposition to religious orthodoxies, that was marked by skepticism, rationalism and the close observation of nature. Some Deists, such as Thomas Paine, rejected Christianity outright.

The former colonies, now new states, typically still had established religions. But the founding documents of the Revolutionary period adjusted the role of religion away from government, starting at the national level, with the states following.

If you want to talk more about religion in the United States or any aspect of the Christian faith, come visit us at Episcopal Church of the Advent. Sunday Service is 10am. Everyone is welcome.



Moving Forward

By Rev. Tina Lockett

KAEICHELE MOTOR SERVICE

P.O. Box 187

Elberta, Alabama 36530

Phone (251) 986-5219



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The Lillian

Call Julie at 703-217-2874 to place your ad in The Lillian!

Local County Board Candidate Updates; Seeks Spotlight on Community Issues

Greetings!

I am on the campaign trail for Baldwin County Commissioner. This is a county-wide voting opportunity for the May 19, 2026 primary and November 2026 election. We now have four candidates in this race! We had a very successful float in the Lillian parade, great turnout! Thank you to all of our volunteers! I have been appointed Parliamentarian for the South Baldwin Republican Women. Follow me on Facebook Let's Keep It Country. Please go to my updated website letskeepitcountry.com and let me know what you think. Let's keep Baldwin County from being bulldozed over by large developments! My campaign is grassroots; no special interests accepted ... Public donations are needed and appreciated. Thank you.

Join us and get to know your candidates ... Mark your calendar:

Joshua McKee for U.S. House of Representatives and Tracey Gambill for Baldwin County Commissioner are hosting a Get to Know Your Candidates event on Saturday, February 7, 3:00-6:00 p.m.; speeches at 3:45 p.m., at the Lillian Community Club, 34148 Widell Avenue, Lillian, AL 36549. Come to talk with the candidates and listen to their ideas and strategies. Find out why they are passionate about Baldwin County.

Enjoy food and drink. Plenty of time for questions. RSVP TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM

Matt McKenzie for Baldwin County Sheriff and Tracey Gambill for Baldwin County Commissioner are hosting a Get to Know Your Candidates fundraiser on Saturday, February 21, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Morgan's Chapel United Methodist Church, Enfinger Center, 6325 Bon Secour Highway, CR 10, Bon Secour, AL 36511.

Come to talk with the candidates and find out more about them. Enjoy live music by Lisa Zanghi, food and more! Plenty of time for questions. Seafood donated by Aquila Seafood, Inc. RSVP TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM

To hear from more Baldwin County and State of Alabama candidates running for office, please come to the Common Sense Campaign forums on the 2nd Thursdays of the month; very informative. See letskeepitcountry.com for dates and locations.

Traffic Safety Improvements In the Works: Permanent striping and reflectors will be installed on the new pavement on CR 99. These activities should be completed within the next week or so. The traffic count did not qualify for a 4-way stop at 6th Street and Barclay Avenue. A traffic signal installation at County Road 91 & US Hwy 98 is happening, but no timeframe is known. My request for a flashing beacon at 98 and Santa Pedro Street for the Lillian Fire Department is in progress. A traffic signal at US Hwy 98 and South Perdido Street is in review. The Barclay and US Hwy 98 interchange is being considered for a possible change in design. Drainage issues on County Road 99 are in review. The intersection of US Hwy 98 and CR 99 is in the process of adding turning lanes.

Planning & Zoning updates in the Lillian vicinity: Planning & Zoning Commissioners' meeting January 8, 2026 and Commissioners' meeting January 20, 2026.

May Brothers Property Fireworks Store southeast corner of Hwy 98 and CR 99, CSP25-45 - No update currently. Hamm Enterprises Spanish Cove West, Lot 3268, 23 Acres, 50 lots - No update currently.

In Progress: I am currently working with local citizens on flooding/drainage matters, and trespass matters. Plus, AT&T fiber optics installation damage to private property ... "You accomplished more in short order than I have in weeks. You are definitely as advertised, a problem solver." Anne Lawrence, Summerdale, AL.

Other: A "Welcome to Lillian" sign upon entry at the Lillian bridge is in progress. We could also place our "Lillian Landmark District" plaque there (pending approval in the upcoming legislative session) for a more impressive entrance to our beautiful area. Please email me if you would like to be involved in designing and funding these projects.



Keeping it Country

By Tracey Gambill

"IF SERVING IN AN ELECTED OFFICE EVER BECOMES A CAREER, CORRUPTION WILL SURELY FOLLOW." ... Thomas Jefferson

All the best, Tracey Gambill. Stay tuned for updates on Facebook LET'S KEEP IT COUNTRY and LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM or call 251-216-2012

YOUR OPINION MATTERS Contact PLANNING@BALDWINCOAL.GOV, 251-580-1655 for questions or to show support or opposition regarding upcoming zoning and subdivision cases. Planning Commission meetings are the first Thursdays of each month at 4 PM at the Baldwin County Central Annex, 22251 Palmer St., Robertsdale AL 36567. Rezoning cases are heard by the County Commissioners on the third Tuesdays of the month at 10 AM at the Baldwin County Fairhope Satellite Courthouse, Commission Meeting Chambers - 2nd Floor, 1100 Fairhope Ave., Fairhope AL 36532. Please attend meetings when possible. Please email me with questions or comments at TRACEY@LETSKEEPITCOUNTRY.COM

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Dr. Dan Kammer

(REVIEW FROM PAGE 1)

“We know we can’t stop development, but we can try to get everybody to do development in ways that will protect our waterways.”

The Mobile Bay National Estuary Committee spearheaded the report in conjunction with the local Western Perdido Bay Watershed Action Committee with \$250,000 of its \$4.3 million grant, also from the BP oil spill, to analyze the ecological health of the bay and to design ways to restore it.

The Western Perdido Bay report identified the area near the Lillian County Boat Launch as one of several areas of top concern for shoreline erosion and prioritized conservation measures on land parcels along the Perdido River.

Miller also mentioned the ongoing Alabama Department of Environmental Management investigation into Baldwin County Sewer Service and suspected contamination of Peterson Branch flowing into Perdido Bay as an area of concern.

3. Lillian Recreational Park gets nearly \$400,000 improvement grant

Big changes will be coming to the Lillian Recreational Park on CR 99 in 2026. The Park received a \$396,000 grant from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) program to make major improvements at the park, including a new drainage system and parking lot.

The project includes green infrastructure features that will help manage stormwater runoff, protect nearby waterways and promote environmental sustainability. These improvements will make the park safer, easier to access, and more enjoyable for everyone. For years, the park has faced challenges with flooding and standing water, especially in its gravel parking lot and kiddie playground. These issues not only made parking and walking or pushing strollers difficult but also caused safety concerns and forced the unfortunate cancellation of some community events.

4. Results from Alabama Department of Environmental Management testing of Peterson Branch in Spanish Cove show high E. Coli bacteria levels.

Two of eight single sample *E. coli* bacteria values came in at 387 colonies/100 ml in July and 461 colonies/100 ml in August. - well above the 298 colonies/100 ml maximum acceptable level.

ADEM then compared results with water tests from other nearby streams to find out how much of a problem this poses to humans - as well as fish. Fred Leslie, Montgomery Branch Chief of Field Operations and Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator, told The Lillian.

Leslie said. “If our comparisons show that a water body is officially impaired, then we will look at all possible sources of contamination to determine and analyze what changes need to be made and by who to make it so that it is no longer impaired,” Leslie said.

Water samples, taken at Peterson Branch at Pensacola Street, also showed dissolved oxygen was below the Fish & Wildlife water use classification criteria of 5. mg/L during five out of eight station visits, made in June through October of last year.

ADEM also tested water in other nearby Baldwin County waterways, including Dyas, Fletcher, Hollinger and Mifflin creeks as a means of comparison.

“If our comparisons show that a water body is officially impaired, then we will look at all possible sources of contamination to determine and analyze what changes need to be made and by who to make it so that it is no longer impaired,” Leslie said.

Results from the second phase of testing have yet to be released.

5. Lillian Will Host Area-Wide Watershed

The Western Perdido Bay Watershed Association (WPBWA) in October hosted area water experts in a community forum.

The forum featured Frank Lundy, Baldwin County Engineer; Ashley

Campbell, Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Department Natural Resource Planner and Christian Miller, Public Sector Program Lead with the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP).

The environmental planners presented details about projects including renovations to the Perdido Bay Park, Lillian Boat Launch improvements, improvements to the Lillian Recreational Park on US 98, resurfacing and widening on CR 99, and safety improvements to the intersection of CR 91 & US 98 which will include a new mast arm signal. These improvements represent \$10,000,000 worth of investment by Baldwin County and the State of Alabama in the Lillian Community. Attendees raised questions about the health of Perdido Bay, sewage issues and the Florida International Paper Mill.

THANK YOU

Thank you, Christmas in the Park sponsors!

Thank you to this year's Lillian Recreational Park sponsors. Without their wonderfully generous financial support, Christmas in the Park and other Park activities would not be possible.



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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 birth days, anniversaries, vacations, grandchildren and family visits.

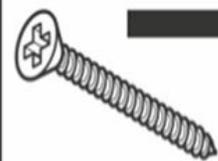
Happy birth day wishes in January go out to: Konrad Kemberling, Jeanette Delaney, John Trenfield, Heather Price, Becky Wiggins, Jake

Fretwell, Bob Garcia, Joanne Matthews, Tay Randall, Caroline Canada, Linda Sepac, Shirley Covert, Earl Paschke and Clarence Hardiman.

Celebrating wedding anniversaries in January are Jerry and MJ Rooks 1957, Michael and Marge Handzus 1972, Don and Adele Hartman 1981 and Weldon and Ruby Dell Cox 2011. If you would like to add

or delete information from the Chit Chat please email: Lillianedor@yahoo.com, mail it to The Lillian, P.O. Box 1088, Lillian, 36549 or place a note in our folder at Lillian Perdido Bay Library.

The deadline for the February issue of The Lillian is January 21.



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All Welcome to Lillian Garden Club, First Monday of the Month

The Lillian Garden Club, with open attendance to all, will meet on the first Monday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Lillian Recreational Park conference room.



A free, educational, plant-related program by a Baldwin County Master Gardener is offered at each meeting.

There is time after every meeting for attendees to ask questions and share. Bring a friend! For more information contact Robin Newell, 402-677-3944.

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OBITUARIES

Esther L. Blythe, 83, Lillian

Today we gather in love, in remembrance, and in deep gratitude for the life of Esther L. Blythe – a woman whose presence lit the world with kindness, strength, beauty, and an unshakeable spirit.

Born on December 12 1942, Esther grew into a woman who lived life with purpose and heart. She carried within her a rare combination of gentleness and determination – soft in spirit yet strong in will. She believed in hard work, in loving deeply, and in giving freely. Anyone who knew her could feel that deeply loving spirit, one that embraced others without hesitation and lifted those around her. Esther was another first and always. Her children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and even a few great great-grandchildren were her pride, her joy, and her greatest legacy. She poured all of herself into raising them, teaching them resilience, compassion, and the courage to strive for better. Through them, her light continues on.

Also dear to her heart was Rebecca Tramp, Cathy Maitlen, and passed before her, Kim Dilley. Esther had a living relative, Nancy Small, with whom she shared lifelong memories.

Esther also held a unique place in her family's story. She was the last surviving sibling of Franklin, Shirley, Pete, Joe, and Eddie Wayman.

She carried their memories with her, honoring the roots from which she came. Throughout her life, Esther loved deeply and was deeply loved in return. She shared parts of her journey with her husbands – Hershel Wade Gordon, Frederick Dwight Horine, Berl William Blythe, and John Franklin Stevenson – each chapter shaping the remarkable woman she became.

She also leaves behind many grandchildren and great grandchildren who carry pieces of her heart into the generations ahead.

Esther's life was rich – rich in love, in experience, in perseverance, and in the bonds she built. She touched lives with her kindness, inspired others with her strength, and left behind a family who will never forget her laughter, her lessons, or her warmth. But Esther was also a woman of tremendous ambition, speaking multiple languages. She was on a California Women's Roller Derby team (the Thunderbirds) in the sixties. She built a remarkable career as an Iron Worker, stepping boldly into a demanding field where few women of her time stood. She later pursued her calling as a caregiver, becoming a Certified LPN. Never one to stop learning, she went on to earn a degree in Psychology, where she excelled and made the Dean's List. Her path led her into being a pharmacy tech. Another testament to her lifelong dedication to understanding and helping others. She also spent time as a 21 Dealer at the Riverside Casino in Laughlin, NV. Her accomplishments were many, but her humility made them shine all the brighter.

Today, though our hearts are heavy, we also celebrate a life fully lived, a mother deeply cherished, and a woman whose spirit remains unbroken and undimmed. Esther's journey on earth.

Family:

Son and his wife: Hershel Wade and Tonja Gordon

Grandchildren: Wade, Frederick, David, and Tiesha

Son: James Allen Gordon

Grandchildren: James, Jennifer, John, Esther Marie, and Baby Shipley (deceased)

Son and his wife: Billy Jean and Fran Gordon

Grandchildren: Billie Jo, Lynette, Chad, and Brian

Son: Frederick Jerrett Horine

Grandchildren: Frederick and Jessica

Daughter and her husband: Mary Lou Courtney and Richard Robert Courtney

Grandchildren: Richard, Ronny, and Ryan Daughter and husband: Teisha Paulette Ledbetter and Mark Tracy Ledbetter

Grandchildren: Zachary Lawson, Mark, Timothy, and Sabrina

And several great grandchildren and great great-grandchildren

**Louise 'Lou' Ann Vogelsong, Lillian**

Louise "Lou" Ann Vogelsong, age 63 passed away Thursday, December 4, 2025 at 10:13 am. in Hospice, Pensacola Florida. Surrounded by friends and family.

Lou was born in Charleston, West Virginia to Jerry and Deanna Janey Akers on October 5, 1962. She lived most of her life in Columbus, Ohio. Where she graduated from Groveport Madison high school. She was a member of Ironworkers Local 172 in Columbus Ohio

She was a certified welder for AK Steel.

While employed at Delphi Automotive she met the love of her life Jeff. She was also employed by Appleton papers in Miamisburg, Ohio. Then her love of cooking led her to Sinclair Community College where she received her bachelor's degree in culinary arts. They lived in Centerville, Ohio for 19 years. Upon retirement, She and Jeff moved to Lillian Alabama to be close to the white sand beaches that she loved.

Preceded in death by: Jerry Otis Akers

She is survived by, her husband, Jeff Vogelsong and mother Deanna Janey Phillips (Bud Hindman)

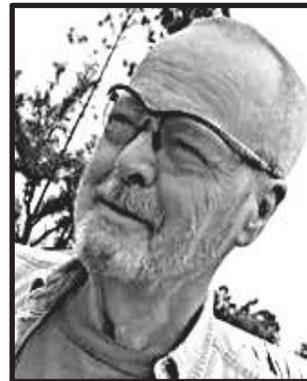
Their children, Jeffrey (Heather), Nicholas (Jackie), Leah (Travis), Jacob, and Jordan (Melissa). Her sister Robin Osborne, (Jamie) Along with many grandchildren, aunts, uncles and loving friends.

A Celebration of Lou's Life was held from Wolfe-Bayview Funeral Home in Lillian, Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

In lieu of sending flowers if people could please donate to the National Cancer Society.

**Floyd Wayne Banks, 78, Lillian**

Floyd Wayne Banks, 78, a Lillian resident, was preceded in death by his parents Alvin Banks and Opal Nora (Napier) Banks, Brothers: Richard Banks and Henry Bank, Sisters Martha Walls and Gloria Quillen. He was survived by hi sister Darona Sumpter. He was also survived by his wife of 55 years Shirley Banks and his sons Kelly Banks wife Jeri (Caplinger) Banks, Brian Beckloff wife Tammy (Smith) Beckloff. Daughters Mischelle (Beckloff) Helterbridle husband John Helterbridle and Marcy Salyers. 10 grandchildren: Logan Banks, Kelli Nicole Banks, Ryan Beckloff, Katrina Schmitz, Jacob Helterbridle, Riley Ann Helterbridle, Dustin Allender (deceased), Brian Micheal Allender, Zach Allender, and Mathew Allender as well as 11 great grandchildren. Floyd was a decorated Vietnam veteran and also served as the Commander of his local VFW post 1055 in Ravenna, Ohio. He spent his career in telecommunications for Elyria Telephone, Mid-Continent, Alltel telephone and Windstream Communications. After retiring he and his wife moved to Lillian Alabama in 2013 and enjoyed life in the gulf, going on cruises and spending their kid's inheritance at the casino. A celebration of life will be planned later.



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Scholarships available from the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay

The Optimist Club of Perdidobay (the Club) will again award two scholarships. One \$1000 scholarship toward tuition at a college/university and one \$1000 scholarship toward trade/technical school costs.



To apply, you must be a Senior in high school, plan to continue your education after high school, and live in an area zoned for Elberta High School. You do not have to attend Elberta High School. Virtual, private, and homeschooled Seniors who live in the Elberta School District are more than welcome to apply.

The deadline for submitting the application and all the required supplemental documentation is **February 20, 2026**.

Eligible Seniors should apply online using the
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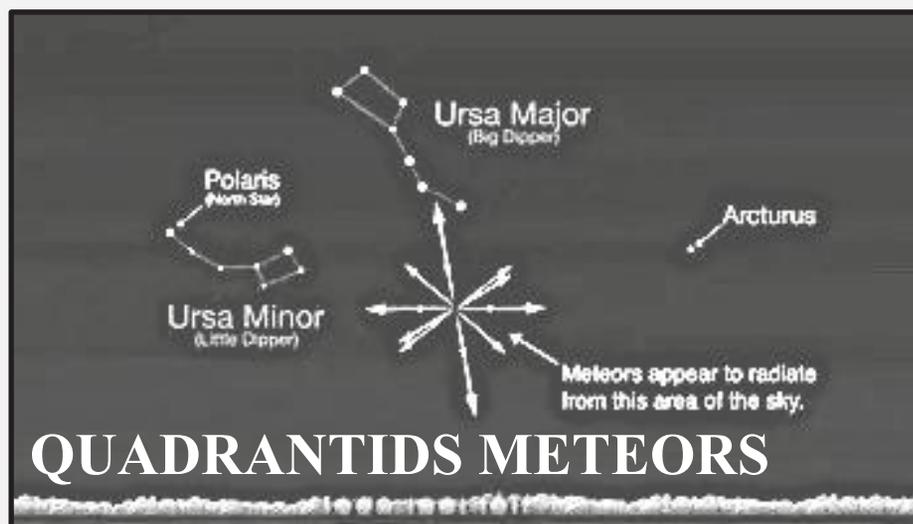
Celestial Events in January 2026 From Seasky.org

January 3 - Full Moon, Supermoon. The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated. This phase occurs at 10:04 UTC. This full moon was known by early Native American tribes as the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps. This moon has also been known as the Old Moon and the Moon After Yule. This is also the first of three supermoons for 2026. The Moon will be near its closest approach to the Earth and may look slightly larger and brighter than usual.

January 3, 4 - Quadrantids Meteor Shower. The Quadrantids is an above average shower, with up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. It is thought to be produced by dust grains left behind by an extinct comet known as 2003 EH1, which was discovered in 2003. The shower runs annually from January 1-5. It peaks this year on the night of the 3rd and morning of the 4th. Unfortunately the full moon will obscure all but the brightest meteors this year. But if you are patient, you may still be able to catch a few of the brighter ones. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Bootes, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

January 10 - Jupiter at Opposition. The giant planet will be at its closest approach to Earth and its face will be fully illuminated by the Sun. It will be brighter than any other time of the year and will be visible all night long. This is the best time to view and photograph Jupiter and its moons. A medium-sized telescope should be able to show you some of the details in Jupiter's cloud bands. A good pair of binoculars should allow you to see Jupiter's four largest moons, appearing as bright dots on either side of the planet.

January 18 - New Moon. The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun and will not be visible in the night sky. This phase occurs at 19:53 UTC. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.



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Lillian Masonic Lodge #925 Gives a Big Holiday Thanks

The Lillian Masonic Lodge #925 is expressing deep gratitude for its many blessings during this year's Holiday season. Lodge members joined communities around the world in observing Giving Tuesday the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, the International Day of Giving, and used this special occasion to reflect on the positive moments, meaningful relationships, and shared accomplishments that have enriched the lives of the Brotherhood throughout the year.

Members of the Lodge offered particular thanks for the "old guard," the longtime Brothers who have devoted decades of service to the craft and the community. Many of these dedicated members continue to face significant health challenges, yet they remain steadfast in their gratitude for their families, their Brotherhood, and the enduring opportunity to serve others. Their examples of resilience and commitment continue to inspire younger members and reinforce the values at the heart of Masonry. The Lodge also acknowledged the value of five new members who have shown exceptional dedication in learning the lectures and demonstrating strong aptitude in performing the ritual work, ensuring that the traditions of the Lodge remain vibrant and well-preserved for future generations.

During the Holiday season, the Lodge also took time to acknowledge the importance of its Lodge building and the role it plays in supporting the Brotherhood and community activities. Members spent several days working together to maintain and improve the exterior of the property, reflecting pride in their shared space and gratitude for having a facility that serves as a home for fellowship and service.

Several significant improvements were also authorized, including the

replacement of the Lodge's heating and air conditioning system. The Lodge expressed special appreciation to United Bank and its staff, particularly Loan Officer Rhonda Morris and Branch Manager Rosie Stallworth—for their thoughtful assistance in securing financial services. The loan structure allows the Lodge to move forward with the necessary upgrades while safeguarding its "Capital Improvement Fund/Rainy Day Fund," which was used to guarantee the loan and will be preserved for future emergencies.

Throughout the Holiday period, the Lodge continued its longstanding commitment to helping families in need by working alongside area churches, food pantries, and the Optimist Club of Perdido Bay to secure and distribute turkeys for the community food program. This collaboration reflects the Lodge's ongoing mission to ensure that families in the Lillian area receive support and compassion during the Holiday season.

The Lodge also gave thanks for the opportunity to uphold the Masonic principles of Charity, Hope, and Brotherhood during moments of profound loss. Several families received assistance from the Lodge this season, including support through Masonic funeral services and financial relief during times of hardship. These acts of service, carried out with quiet dignity, reaffirm the Lodge's commitment to standing by families when they need it most.

The Lillian Masonic Lodge #925 welcomes community members who are interested in learning more about Freemasonry. The Lodge meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, with dinner served at 5:30 p.m. and the general lodge meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to explore membership or simply learn more about the organization is encouraged to contact Lodge Secretary Roger Cramp at 419-355-3148.

RED HAT LADIES FIND WHO'S 'NAUGHTY OR NICE'



The Perdido Grande Dames Red Hat Ladies held their December Christmas Gathering at the Cracker Barrel restaurant in Foley. The food and service were excellent! We had lots of fun with the special activities our hostesses, Deb Pifer, Tyra Williams, and Jan Willoughby provided. Our Birthday Girls – Tyra, Waynette Brown, and Sally Chandler – wore their crowns and received ceramic baking

dishes. To win a door prize we each received a scratch off card with either 'Naughty' or 'Nice' hidden. The 'Nice' winners picked first, then the rest played the numbers game for the opportunity to win Christmas plaques or cookie treats. Ann Cox brought satsumas from her tree to share. Our January 13 gathering will be hosted by Ann Cox and Judy Wittig at Luna's in Orange Beach

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- Friday, January 9th • The Shadowcasters • 7-11 pm
- Friday, January 16th • Kelly Poole • 7-11 pm
- Friday, January 23rd • Jeri Band • 7-10 pm
- Sunday, January 25th • Jimmy Smith • 3-7 pm
- Friday, January 30th • East Side Rock • 7-11 pm

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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: THURSDAY, JANUARY 8TH • 7 PM
CIVIC & LEGISLATION MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 12TH • 8 AM
NEW MEMBERS MEETING: SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH • 3 PM
BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 27TH • 7 PM

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