



United Peninsula Association's Community Update:

Second Edition

AUGUST 2011

Russ Silver
Secretary

The Peninsula from Gulf Breeze to Navarre continues to bustle with numerous activities that United Peninsula members attend and actively participate in on your behalf.

In mid-June, UPA hosted RS&H, the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) firm that is conducting the study for the replacement of the Pensacola Bay Bridge. This project will dramatically affect traffic in both Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties on US 98 from 17th Avenue in Pensacola to Baybridge Drive in Gulf Breeze. RS&H representatives, along with attendees from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), made a short informational presentation and answered numerous questions. Also in attendance were members of the AL-FL Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) who gleaned information to aid in their long-range vision for HWY 98 and the potential for other bridges, road capacity issues, and new roadways.

Later in June, we learned of the failure of the Garcon Point Bridge Authority. FL Rep. Doug Broxson is staying on top of this evolving situation and will keep us informed at our General Meetings regarding events leading up to SRC or FDOT possibly assuming management of the bridge.

At the end of June, UPA representatives attended a Public Informational meeting held in the Community Life Center to see pictorials and hear about the resurfacing project that is planned for 13 miles of US 98 over the next two years. Commissioner Lane Lynchard told me that he is working with FDOT engineers and project managers to include additional bike path markings and signals for which SRC will provide funding. "This will allow a bike rider to travel from the City of Gulf Breeze to Navarre, cross over to Navarre Beach, proceed all the way to Pensacola Beach and back to Gulf Breeze without fear of having to ride directly on US 98," said Commission Chairman Lynchard. "Our goal is to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians on Highway 98. We have had far too many injuries and fatalities involving people walking or riding bikes along the shoulder of 98. We would like to work toward improving Santa Rosa County's portion of the loop," Lynchard added.

UPA members also attended the Redistricting hearing held in Pensacola State College's auditorium. While many people spoke negatively of the horizontal districting, I indicated that only minor tweaking was all that was necessary to best meet the needs of south Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. I stressed with each attending member of our NW Florida delegation the need for a horizontal House district that would run from Perdido Key to Ft. Walton Beach. This would keep our waterfront and tourist interests at heart. The horizontal district that I envision would include Perdido Key, Pensacola and Navarre Beaches and all of the Fairpoint Peninsula into Okaloosa County. My personal belief is that the two Senate Districts will remain very similar to what they are currently.

For comments, input, or to join our efforts, please visit www.UnitedPeninsula.org.

Don Richards, UPA President

Some of the other efforts in which UPA is actively engaged include the following:

Scenic Initiatives:

UPA members continue to work with the FDOT to gain the necessary approvals required to start the **Garcon Pointe Bridge Scenic improvements**. Paul Rollins, Don Richards and Mike Robertson have worked closely with the FDOT and Santa Rosa County personnel to clear the hurdles to get the irrigation, electrical service and plantings underway. At the time of this printing, we expect that the paperwork will be completed by the start of August and we hope to see tangible results in September. We are also starting the process of gaining approvals for scenic initiatives in **Navarre** and the area just east of the Naval Live Oaks Park (**Grand Pointe/Villa Venyce**).

Board members have volunteered to spearhead these two projects and as more information becomes available we will keep you informed. Your continued support of these projects is very important. Please direct any comments you may have to a board member and, as you speak with your neighbors and friends, tell them that UPA is pushing ahead with its Scenic Initiatives as planned.

U.S. 98 Public Information Meeting:

On June 30th Florida's Department Of Transportation representatives met with citizens in a show-and-tell about the **resurfacing project** for our very own stretch of roadway that we have grown to love and sometimes hate. We all know this as **Gulf Breeze Parkway**, better known as US 98 or SR 30 to the FDOT. In the words of FDOT, "This project will resurface State Road 30 from the Pensacola Bay Bridge to the entrance of the Gulf Breeze Zoo, a distance of 12.8 miles. Existing lanes, median crossovers, and paved shoulders will be resurfaced. Bicycle lanes (known as keyholes) will be added to right-turn lanes. New sidewalk will also be added to serve the overpass at Pensacola Beach Boulevard." Also stressed by the FDOT is that "this project does not include changes to median openings" and "the speed limit will not be changed." UPA has been told that crosswalks will be installed at all of the major

intersections where they now do not exist and proper pedestrian landing pads will be installed at intersections where they are badly needed, such as the one that serves as the entrance to Walmart. "The project includes pedestrian improvements pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These improvements consist of repairing deficient sidewalks, replacing/retrofitting non-compliant curb ramps, meeting clear space requirements and upgrading pedestrian signal features." Please tell our elected officials how you feel regarding this project. Everyone has an opinion on needed Highway 98 improvements and the FDOT is welcoming our input regarding its planned project. Please keep in mind that this is **mainly a resurfacing project** with some limited improvements.

Comments can be forwarded to:

Mr. Bill Howell, Atkins, Project Manager, FDOT District 3, 1141 Jackson Avenue, Chipley, FL 32428.

Cost is estimated to be \$17.7 million and FDOT is scheduled to accept bids during the summer of 2013. Construction should take approximately 1 year and there will be some lane closures starting in the fall of 2013. The closures will be limited to after rush hours and mainly from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.



Annual Survey Results:

Thanks for the good response to our survey questionnaire. The final results confirm what we have heard in our General Meetings.

Most members continue to strongly support our efforts regarding **Scenic Beautification** and members stressed the importance of stronger and better **code enforcement** along Fairpoint Peninsula. Also, members were very much interested in the possibility

of **consolidating our utilities**. Since we have elected officials speaking at almost every meeting, coming in fourth in the survey was **improved communications with our elected officials**, something that the UPA board has been closely involved in doing. Not surprisingly, with all the issues that we face on the Peninsula, starting a **newsletter** finished in the 7th position, but your Board of Directors felt it would be an important tool to further several of our most important issues. So, we jumped in with both feet and now you have the second edition of our Newsletter.

We hope that as you read our newsletter you will find it to be an important vehicle for information and communication. Lastly, as with all newspapers and newsletters, we need a good name for our newsletter, so we are launching a "name the newsletter" contest. Please submit your suggestions along with your name, address, email address, and telephone number. We will take the best three suggestions and let the members select the winner at the next general meeting.

Support our local Businesses:

Call Karen to help host your next party!



Karen Smith

Independent DOVE CHOCOLATE DISCOVERIES™ Chocolatier

Home: 850-934-9444

Mobile: 850-384-4098

Email: dksmith497@yahoo.com

Web site:

www.dove-chocolate-discoveries.com/karensmith



Please do not forget that Scenic Improvement Sponsorships are available in four different levels of supports.



"Help stop this kind of un-planned & un-enforced development & growth!!!"

Become a Scenic Improvement Sponsor! Sponsorships help us maintain and even expand our scenic efforts along US 98 and are available in following levels:

- 1 - Platinum - \$2,500+**
- 2 - Gold - \$1,000+**
- 3 - Silver - \$500+**
- 4 - Individual - \$100+**

2011 UPA Board of Directors:

Don Richards, President – 404-915-9394
don_richards@bellsouth.net

Paul Rollins, Vice President – 850-501-3062
Kelsor@bellsouth.net

Russ Silver, Secretary – 850-572-3530
fsu67grad@bellsouth.net

Mike Andel, Treasurer – 850-512-0272
Mike.andel@yahoo.com

Joe McPherson, Past President – 850-932-1180
bjm0543@aol.com

Dave Crossman, Director – 850-206-6917
dgcrossman@bellsouth.net

Dave Woodworth, Director – 850-939-8086
woodworthservices@yahoo.com

WWW.PENAIR.ORG
 experience it.

EXPERIENCE THE PEN AIR DIFFERENCE!



WE OFFER...

- FREE BILL PAY
- FREE CHECKING
- FREE MOBILE ACCESS
- BUSINESS SERVICES
- LOANS & MORTGAGES
- CREDIT CARDS
- ... & MORE!

PEN AIR
 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
 we get it done!
 850-505-3200

NCUA

Ask about membership. You don't have to be military to join.

Please support the businesses that are supporting our efforts to improve Fairpoint Peninsula and all of the communities on it.

Our next General Meeting will be held August 2nd at Laguna's Bar & Grill on the Pensacola Beach Boardwalk. Lagunas will provide appetizers and beverages will be provided at Happy Hour pricing. For those that want to stay a little later and have dinner, all UPA attendees will receive a 15% discount on your meals.

Please stick around and provide your thoughts and ideas with me and Darlene over dinner and a beverage.

**If you have not renewed your membership for 2012, please do so now.
 We need your support financially and physically too!**

United Peninsula Association

2011 Membership Application

Today's Date: _____

HOA, Individual, or Business Name: _____

Rep or Individual Name/s _____

Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ (H) _____ (C)

Email: 1 _____

2 _____

Individual membership \$10 each year (cumulative voting right only)

Association membership/ HOA \$35 each year (max 3 voting members per org)

(Please submit one application per voting member)

Business Membership \$50 each year (max one vote per Membership)

United Peninsula Association, UPA
PO Box 6003
Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
www.unitedpeninsula.org