



THE RUPA RELAY

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: RUPA-SSI.ORG

RUPA

P.O. Box 24318 St. Simons Island, GA 31522

TOWN HALL MEETING - JANUARY 30, 2007 PANEL DISCUSSION OF ISLAND ISSUES - 7:00 P.M SEA PALMS

Saint Simons Island residents have been faced with three projects on the County Commissioners' desks, which, if approved as proposed, would diminish the unique character of our Island. Due to the support and involvement of many RUPA members and Board members, the Demere Park and Village Oaks proposals have been "deferred" and/or put on hold for the time being. Watch and wait are the actions we can take. However, the commissioners will vote on the VILLAGE PLAN on February 1st. The following is one member's concise evaluation of the proposal.

THE VILLAGE PLAN

Don't turn Neptune Park into a concrete jungle.



The Neptune Park advisory committee (now apparently the Village Master Plan Committee) has consistently ignored the input of citizens, who have over and over expressed opposition to the proposed plans for Neptune Park and the Village. Now the committee's plan is set to go before the County Commission on February 1st at 6 pm.

(continued from the front page)

Discussion about removing the pool has overshadowed many other aspects of the plan that should receive more scrutiny. For example,

- do we really want a roof over the far end of the fishing pier in the Village? What will that cost, and how will it affect the fishermen's ability to cast their lines?
- Do we really want a concrete walkway by the water that is wide enough for two lanes of traffic running from the pier to the lighthouse?
- Do we really want a treed median on Beachview Drive..... even if it means using county right-of-way from Postell Park, and even though the vendors who use the Park for festivals say they don't want to be on the asphalt?
- Do we really want to replace our playground, built over sand, with a playground covered with rubberized matting that looks strangely like a McDonald's restaurant play area?
- And what about the current protective height restrictions in the Village? Will our one and two story shops be buried by high-rise condos like those on Ocean Boulevard?
- Do we really want to turn management of a public park over to the private sector?

\$4,000,000 was approved by voters to update and improve Neptune Park. That money is still there, minus whatever we have paid the out-of-town consultants. Let's cut our losses with these consultants and come up with another plan. For starters, let's use some of that money to build changing rooms and restrooms and add furnishings that would enhance the pool that the voters tell us they want to stay. Let's keep the pool open longer hours, and add adult only times, and lap swimming times.

There is much uncertainty in the plan the commission will be asked to approve. Does the plan still include a multi-storied parking garage? Does it still include the formation of a special taxing authority in the Village?

It is sad enough what the Village has lost with the tearing down of the New Casino, a true community gathering place. The new meeting room by the library in the Old Casino is a poor, sterile and inadequate substitute for the spacious and beautiful garden room . Let's not make matters worse in Neptune Park by approving the plan being put forward by the advisory committee. This plan, in all it's vagueness, is capable of ruining forever the charm and allure of the Village that draws people like a magnet. It is the defining landscape of St. Simons for many.

I urge the commissioners to give this plan seven thumbs down.

Glynn County Commissioners

Don Hogan, Chairman—At large, Fax 554-7596—phone 638-2052

Cap Fendig—At large, ssifun@bellsouth.net—Fax 638-5655—phone 638-2078 &638-5678

Uli Keller—District 2 Islands, keleru@glynncounty-ga.gov—Fax 634-8835—phone 634-8835

Tony Thaw—District 3 - North SSI, t_thaw@bellsouth.net—fax 638-9798—phone 634-7752 & 638-9797

Carl Johnson—District 1, Fax 265-2871—264-0856

Howard Lynn—District 4, lynnelect@bellsouth.net—Fax 264-4862—phone 265-2178 &265-5862

Jerome Clark—Distirct 5—ajclark1@bellsouth.net—Fax 265-8872—phone 265-1569

SAVING DEMERE PARK

Our County Commissioners have chosen a six acre park in a quiet residential neighborhood on Demere road, and signed a \$1 a year lease deal, for 30 years, with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Glynn County to use nearly half the park (2.86 acres) to construct a 20,000 sq ft, 2– story recreational center, along with necessary parking facilities.

The problems with this deal are not about the Boys and Girls Clubs; the problems are about how the County Commission proceeded:

1. Signed away public county land to a private entity.
2. Held only a preliminary public hearing, allowing no further community input.
3. Voted to approve the lease in a work session prior to an open meeting (legal).
4. Polled the county Youth Advisory Council on their preference for a Teen Center location, then ignored their reportedly overwhelming preference for a mainland location (the RUPA Board was lied to about their preference).
5. Ignored the fact that 80% of the potential teen users of the facility will have to be bused from the mainland.
6. Overlooked the 1981 restriction on park use to outdoor recreation only, based on the County's acceptance of \$80,000 in Federal funds for rehabilitation of six parks.

Demere Park is in litigation. The Commissioners are trying to get the restrictions on park use lifted and the Boys and Girls Clubs are looking for a new location for their Teen Center. You can help save our greenspace by contacting your representatives: local, statewide and national. We have published their contact number in this Relay.

LEGISLATORS TO CONTACT:

US Senator Johnny Isakson - 1-202-224-3643 (D.C.), 1-770-661-0999 (Atlanta), E-mail at his website: <http://isakson.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

US Senator Saxby Chambliss - 1-202-224-3521 (D.C.), 1-912-232-3657 (Savannah), E-mail at his website: <http://chambliss.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUs.ContactForm>

US Representative Jack Kingston - 1-202-225-5831 (D.C.), 1-912-352-0101 (Savannah), E-mail: jack.kingston@mail.house.gov

GA Senator Jeff Chapman – 1-404-656-0045 (Atlanta); 1-912-280-0456 (Brunswick), E-mail: jeff@jeffchapman.us

GA Representative Jerry Keen – 1-404-656-5052 (Atlanta); 1-912-634-3773 (St. Simons), E-mail: jlkeen@bellsouth.net

Thank you for your concern, participation, and support.

- Meredith Trawick - RUPA Board Member and one of six Demere Park Plaintiffs

VILLAGE OAKS

A 6.4 acre plot of land on the south east side of where Kings Way and Fairway Drive intersect has been planned for development. It is currently zoned single-family residential, but the developer is seeking a zoning change to mixed-use development. The plan proposes 22 single-family homes, 56 combined commercial and residential units, and 162 parking spaces. Residents in The Grove, Butler Mews and Fairway Drive neighborhoods are concerned that their part of St. Simons will lose its quiet residential flavor.



On Tuesday, January 4th, the developer held a public meeting to present his plan. This was the public's first look at what could significantly change a quiet part of St. Simons Island.

On Thursday, January 16th, at 6PM, the Island Planning Commission was to hold a meeting and discuss and vote on the plan. After the public reaction to the initial presentation of the development plan, the developer, Tom Smoot, has asked for the "Village Oaks application to be deferred."

The application and the proposal for Village Oaks will be presented again in the near future. RUPA will remain informed and inform and support the membership.

FRIENDS OF DEMERE PARK LEGAL FUND

On December 14th the Superior Court issued a Temporary Injunction prohibiting the Glynn County Board of Commissioners from proceeding with their aspiration to lease Demere Park to a Private Entity for \$1 per year for 30 years. We commend the action of the 6 Plaintiffs (several who are RUPA members) and encourage all Island residents to help with the costs of litigating this most important issue. All the donations to the Legal Fund will be used only for attorney and court fees related to this suit. At the conclusion of all legal action, Friends of Demere Park will provide donors, if requested, an accounting of all donated funds. Donors may also elect to be added to The Friends of Demere Park mailing list and be kept abreast with developments in any on-going legal action.

This is an urgent request to continue the fight to save this "neighborhood pocket park". If you are interested in preserving **Demere Park** as a Public Park upholding the 1979 Contract that Glynn County made with the U. S. Dept. of the Interior restricting this park only for "outdoor recreational use", please make your checks payable to:

Friends of Demere Park Legal Fund
Friends of Demere Park
650 Wilson Circle

Membership Form:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

E-mail: _____ State/Zip _____

Phone: _____

Renewal New Member

Please check desired membership level:

_____ \$25 Basic

_____ \$50 Sustaining

_____ \$100 Patron

_____ \$500 Benefactor

_____ \$1000 Life Member

Send your tax deductible contributions to RUPA,
P.O. Box 24318, St. Simons Island, GA 31522

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

RUPA has been responsible for a portion of Ocean Blvd for many years. Our portion of Ocean blvd. goes from the Coast Guard to Arnold Road. Our next pick up is Saturday, April 21, 2007.

Join us for our Adopt-a-Highway pick up.

If you are interested, call and leave a message with our Administrator at 638-3258 (Ray Colglazier)

**RUPA Board
2006-2007**

Dennis Beacham, Chairman	quesyrah@adelphia.net 607 Bellmeade, SSI	638-2927
Chuck Cansler	chuck@canslerssi.com 4335 7 th Street, EB, SSI	638-8141
Dona Colglazier	rayco@adelphia.net 210 Rivera, SSI	638-3258
Bill Gussman	bgussman@mindspring.com 101 Demere Retreat Lane, SSI	634-6335
Remington Johnston	remjohn01@bellsouth.net 203 Carnoustie, SSI	638-7563
Ellen Leigh	ellenleigh@bellsouth.net 543 Brockinton Dr., SSI	634-2642
Jack Sullivan	jandsullivan@aol.com 264 St. Andrews, SSI	634-8747
Meredith Trawick	kissmygrits@mindspring.com 305 John Shaw Rd., SSI	634-6311
Ray Colglazier, Administrator	rayco@adelphia.net 210 Rivera Drive, SSI	638-3258

“Over Development” Top Concern

In a recent survey of RUPA members the top three issues included:

1. Over development/zoning
2. Water/Sewer
3. The proposed Village plan

Other issues mentioned included:

1. Incorporation
2. Hercules pollution
3. Traffic/roads
4. Beaches
5. Natural Resources
6. Marsh Hammocks

Other issues written in:

1. Drainage
2. Zeroscaping (reducing water for grass & use of fertilizers)
3. Encourage use of natural plantings

The RUPA board thanks you for your input. We will try to address these issues in meetings, newsletters, and web site.

RUPA TOWN HALL MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 7 PM, SEA PALMS



P. O. Box 24318
St. Simons Island, Georgia
31522

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRUNSWICK, GA
PERMIT NO. 904