

POQUITO BAYOU TIMES

A Newsletter Published by the Poquito Bayou Community Association

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By now you have heard about the passing of Jerry Rush last week. Jerry's wife Mary founded the Poquito Bayou Community Association back in 1996. Jerry was always by her side helping. Several years ago, Jerry was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. He had been going through Chemo and dealing with complications. When our previous PBCA President, Gary Colsch died in early May 2019, Jerry mentioned to me after our May PBCA Board meeting and said: "Dave, you need to seriously consider taking over as PBCA President...." I knew at that point Jerry was right and accepted a few days later. I relied on Jerry's insight and wisdom to help guide me through the many challenges I've faced. I'm going to miss those conversations. This past Veteran's Day Ceremony, we honored Jerry Rush for his hard work and dedication with our community. We had a plaque made which is in front of Mary Rush's plaque. It reads:

JERRY RUSH

PBCA CO-FOUNDER - 1996

PAST PRESIDENT, EMAIL DATABASE ARCHITECT,

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

NEIGHBORHOOD FRIEND

THANK YOU FOR 20+ YEARS OF SERVICE

(President's corner cont'd on page 2)



LONGWOOD ELEMENTARY

Literacy Night was held on March 2nd via ZOOM. Even though we couldn't meet face to face for this activity, we still had 70 participants join us for the evening. It was a huge success as we also had several guest readers join us.

Our third quarter of school ends this month, and it is hard to believe that we are that close to the end of school. Our 5th graders will be listening to representatives from our feeder middle schools regarding the middle school registration process which they will be participating in real soon.

Our spring fundraiser is going strong and will continue through the end of March. Once again, due to the safety guidelines that we are having to follow, our fundraiser is being completed online. If you are interested in supporting our school, please look for the link on our website or Facebook page.

Our next School Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for April 5th, 2021 and is open to the public. Please follow us on Facebook for exciting things that are happening around the school- <https://www.facebook.com/Longwood-Elementary-School-1261954677180100/>

Jerry's funeral service will be held Saturday morning 20 March at 1130 at the Emerald Coast Funeral Home. Viewing will be at 1000.



President's Corner cont'd:

This is a very succinct snapshot of what Jerry Rush accomplished. He did a whole lot more!! My lovely wife Jane suggested that we get a plant in honor of Jerry. The colors of the plant represent life after death. We placed the plant in front of Jerry's plaque. There's a small metal box in front of the plant for letters or cards to the Rush family. I will collect them in a few days and drop them off to the Rush Family.

We're continuing to make Poquito Bayou Subdivision a better place to live. On February 25th we had our first-ever Poquito Bayou Boat Ramp Park meeting. We had over ten concerned Poquito Bayou residents/boaters in attendance. Keith Meyers led the meeting and got some valid inputs on ways in making our boat ramp park a better place. He announced plans by the County to have an extension to our boat ramp dock! Keith provided a very succinct mission statement: "Preserving our shoreline, park and boat ramp for the betterment of our community."

As I was preparing my email note to the PBCA Board, I checked the Feb 2020 financial statement for PBCA dues and contributions year to date. As of 28 February 2021, our PBCA dues and contributions is \$510 and \$735 respectively. One year ago, we had \$250 and \$275 respectively for PBCA dues and contributions!!! Dues have doubled and contributions have almost tripled. We appreciate everyone paying their PBCA dues by renewing or joining PBCA. More importantly we appreciate the extra contributions!! We have around 79 PBCA members. We're off to a good start!

We had some concerns about safety around the Leo Norred Park children's playground. Bill Miller has added new fence rails close to the playground area to close off that exit to prevent kids from running out onto Poplar Ave. In our PBCA Board meeting we discussed putting homemade wood benches around the playground area giving parents additional seating between the playground and the fence along Poplar Ave.

On March 20th we're going to have a PBCA-sponsored Roadside Cleanup. We haven't done one of these events in a while.

Mary Ann Leone is our new street director for 1-51 Poquito Road. Sally Davis recruited Mary Ann to take over her duties. We welcome Mary Ann to the board. Our sincere thanks to Sally for her many years of dedication as the 1 - 51 Poquito Road Street Director!! Sally will remain on the board as our USO Cookie Coordinator. We welcome Mary Ann to the PBCA Board!!!
Enjoy the rest of the newsletter.
Dave

Poquito Bayou Loses a True Friend of the Community

Thursday was a sad day, when it started with hearing of the sudden loss of a dear friend for so many of us, Jerry Rush. I don't know exactly how old he was, and despite his weakening illness, I was not ready for his passing. Among my feelings of loss and sorrow, there was also regret that because of Covid, our visits were reduced to telephone calls, and I was late returning one from him. So, after a prayer for eternal rest for his soul, I moved on to the many good memories of my friendship with Jerry and Mary that began when they moved into Poquito Bayou in the early 1990's.

Jerry was retired Air Force, a senior NCO with a reputation for hard work and integrity. He and Mary had been hugely involved with a community association where they lived in Hawaii, and after a short while here, they (mostly spurred by Mary but Jerry was a full-time partner) saw the need and opportunity to start one in this unincorporated part of the county to not only find solutions for troubling issues but encourage neighborliness and beautification in our 423-parcel subdivision. And the rest is history...After Mary served several terms as president, we convinced Jerry to do the same.

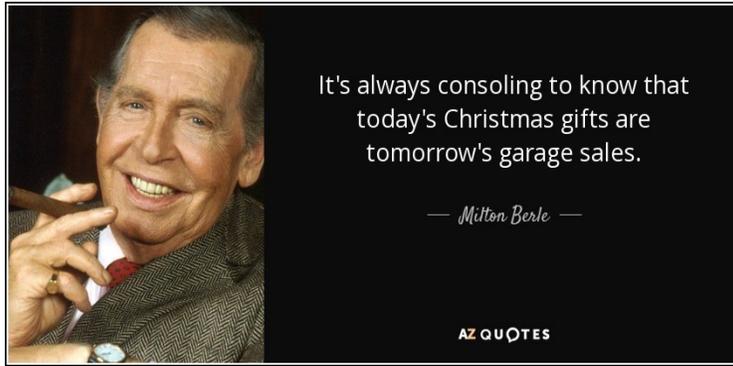
Although he planned and presided, he was a continuous worker at the park, with his teammates Lendy and Gary, built and ran an email list of nearly 400 people for continual contact, worked at all events especially playing Santa Claus for kids at Christmas at the park, and so much more. After serving as president for several terms, he became long-time membership chair and continued all his other "jobs" in PBCA as well. He also then shared more time in the broader community.

Jerry was appointed to the newly formed county Parks Committee, and advisory board to the Okaloosa County Board of County Commissioners and served until that committee's work was absorbed into a division of the Public Works department. When a USO was planned for this area of Northwest Florida at our airport but needed volunteers to get started and then operate, Jerry was one of the first, and he eventually became known as Mr. USO for serving extensive hours and responsibilities, especially the early (4:30 am) shifts for years, until his health took precedence.

Poquito Bayou has much to be grateful for, to Jerry and Mary Rush. Our hope is that we all will dedicate time and treasure to Poquito Bayou Community Association in their honor, for the greater good of our beloved neighborhood.

Pat Hollarn

Poquito Bayou Annual Community Garage Sale April 24th, 2020 – 7 am-12 noon



If you made a little dough last year, Whoop Whoop! So, let's go again! Gather your stuff, price it and set it up for the yard sale junkies to come out and peruse!!!

This year we're moving back to the beginning of April in hopes the hot-tepid weather will cooperate and stay away until the next week!! April 24th is the day, 7 am to 12 noon is the time. PBCA will sponsor an ad in the NWF Daily News that will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday, ending April 24th to invite our neighbors to COME ON OUT and see us. Sharing the date with each other tends to draw a greater number of shoppers and pickers... Everyone Wins! YAY!

For Everyone in Poquito Bayou subdivision who wants to participate.... Fill out the Below Form and get it to Nance either drop it off at 16 Walnut, text me a photo of it, or email it to nance.wendel@era-american.com and bring me \$10 for the ad and balloon!! We can take cash or a check (Payable to PBCA)! If you drop it by the house, please let me know so I can alert Rick and the cat we're having company! 😊

If you wish, fill out the PBCA Annual Membership form in this newsletter and include that \$10 with your payment to take care of both at once! I will get it to our Treasurer with all due haste!

Late Friday afternoon, I will deliver the Balloon for your mailbox and copies of the list for you to share with the shoppers denoting the addresses of participating neighbors and a summary of the items they have for sale!!

PBCA Garage Sale Coordinator: Nance Wendel, 16 Walnut 850-461-8537

PBCA Garage Sale COUPON

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ \$10 paid by _____ Cash _____ Check # _____

Summary of Items for Sale: _____

Kill 2 Birds! Combine and drop off to Nance – 16 Walnut Ave....

PBCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC. MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION YEAR 2021

Please complete this form and submit along with your \$10 dues to your Street Director or drop it off at the PBCA mailbox located at 17 Magnolia Ave (Pam Martin's house). Checks will be accepted, made payable to PBCA. You may also mail to P.O. Box 1124, Shalimar, FL 32579

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Date Paid: _____ Dues: _____ Contribution (specify area): _____ Check #: _____ Cash
\$ _____

Name: _____, _____ Spouse's Name:

(Last) (First)

Address: _____ Telephone No.: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Minor Children: Boys () Ages: _____ Girls () Ages: _____ **Please enter current E-Mail Address**
tin1@outlook.com} (If it changes, notify pcar-

Concerns: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
4. _____

Would you be willing to help with: Events for Kids _____, Baking _____, Adult Social Events _____, Leo Norred Park & Clean-Up Days _____, Garage Sales
Event _____,

Interest in Action Committees: Street Maintenance & Traffic Safety _____, Environmental Matters _____, Emergency Action & Neighborhood Watch _____
Eglin Interface _____. Are you interested in serving on PBCA Board of Directors? _____ Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training _____.

Other interests, ideas; things you'd like addressed? What are they?

(USE BACK OF FORM IF NECESSARY)

No Golf Carts in Leo Norred Park!!

Dave Hensley, PBCA President

It has been brought to my attention that someone had parked their golf cart by the children's playground area in Leo Norred Park. This is a safety issue and in addition there is possible damage to sprinkler heads. We are considered a county park and parks do have rules in general. Sec. 16-54. - Prohibited vehicle parking. **No tour buses, 18 wheelers, fifth wheel trailers, recreational vehicles (RV), etc. are permitted to park at any time in any county park, beach or recreational area.** All vehicles must fit into a standard nine feet (width) by 18 feet (length) parking space. School buses will be reviewed on a case by case basis. No vehicle is allowed to take up more than one designated parking space. Violators will be towed at the vehicle's owner expense.

Seeking Poquito Bayou Stories.

Dave Hensley

This year we've published several articles about the origins of Leo Norred Park. I wanted all Poquito Bayou residents to learn more about the history of Leo Norred Park. Now I'd like to expand the history effort to include Poquito Bayou Subdivision. For example, our house at 1 Bay Street was a Day Camp back in the 1950's and 60's. During a recent conversation with one of my neighbors, she mentioned that she lived in Poquito Bayou back in the 60's. I asked her if she remembered the Day Camp here at 1 Bay Street. She said that she did! If you grew up in Poquito Bayou back in the 60's what unique things or places do you remember about the neighborhood? Please send me your memories to my email address, pbcapresident@gmail.com. Thanks. Dave

POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes

March 1, 2021 37 POPLAR AVE

CALL TO ORDER: DAVE HENSLEY, PRESIDENT

IN ATTENDANCE: DAVE HENSLEY, BOB DAVIS, NANCE WENDEL, PATRICIA BRYANT-FLAHERTY, JACKIE SCHMID, PAM MARTIN, SALLY DAVIS, DEB FRANK, KEITH MYERS, JANE HENSLEY. SUE MYERS, KEN ROSENQUIST & LENNY EDWARDS

Minutes and financial statement reviewed and accepted. Treasurer noted we had \$600 in income (both dues and donations) and \$68 in expenses. Budget for 2021 was amended for new events. Five hundred dollars was budgeted to help cover these additional events: Mardi Gras Caravan, End of School year party, July 4th Caravan, Back to School backpack drive, Christmas Decorating. In addition, \$175 dollars was budgeted for website expenses and maintenance of domain. Motion made, seconded, and approved by all in attendance. It was mentioned that PBCA received eighty dollars in donations at the Mardi Gras event. The cost to PBCA was therefore only net twenty dollars.

Emergency Action and Neighborhood Watch-NTR Position open.

Leo Norred Park- Update from Bill Miller via text since he was unable to attend the meeting: Park update. Water is working fine; it's on four nights per week. He put up new rails near jungle gym area to block from street. Not a great fix as distance was greater than rail length. He may have to set the new posts, but we'll see. He has a receipt for \$82.42 from Hodges for posts and rails. Bill hasn't seen Nick (pressure washing guy) yet for estimate to pressure wash fence. The board discussed the following: Hold on permanent electronic sign for messages as it does not go with the park's natural appearance. One can be rented for special events. However, the present sign is rotting. Jane and Keith to inspect sign for needed repairs. Bill has enclosed several open fence areas around perimeter to help slow down kids running into the street. It was also discussed extending fence/posts to keep vehicles out of the park.

Welcome- One family welcomed in February and three more will be called on in March.

Membership-Pam Martin- awaiting numbers

Children's events -Spring Festival March 20th includes Easter Egg hunt

CERT-NTR

Boat Ramp-Keith Myers- Meeting of the newly formed Boat Ramp Park Committee. Nine residents took part in the discussion. Mission is to stop erosion of the park and improve park for the neighborhood. All are welcome March 11, at the next meeting. County is building a new dock, one hundred twenty feet west and six- and one-half foot longer than the existing dock. County has contracted with Decks and such. Construction to begin April 1. Bob Hope Village is giving us a copy of the latest impact information. Board members brought up poor water quality for swimming in past few years.

Street safety- Bob Davis- County is parking areas of road needing repair with white paint circles. No information on dates of repairs.

Street Directors- Sally Davis has found her replacement for Poquito, Mary Ann Leone.

Old business- Longwood Elementary is not allowing mentoring or any outside visitors due to COVID-19.

Request for quote on new wood fence went unanswered.

Website updated to delete registration to read. PayPal is being used to pay dues and instructions have been added on how to pay dues online. Cost to PBCA is eighty cents per ten dollars.

New business- Date for garage sale is April 24th. Nance Wendell will handle arrangements.

Kids bus stop bench has been moved, but really needs replacement. Possible volunteer construction event discussed.

Review possibility of covered area for bus stop.

Roadside cleanup is set for March 20. More trash picker tools will need to be purchased.

Abandoned properties was brought up to review at next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 706pm JFS

**POQUITO BAYOU COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION**

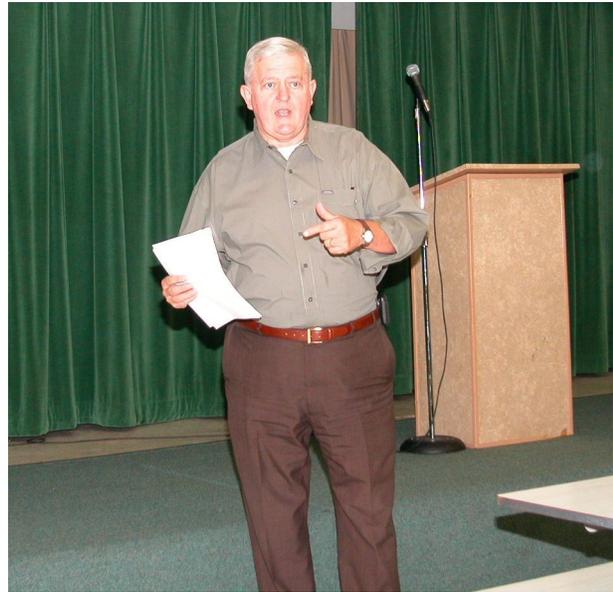
FINANCIAL REPORT

February 2021

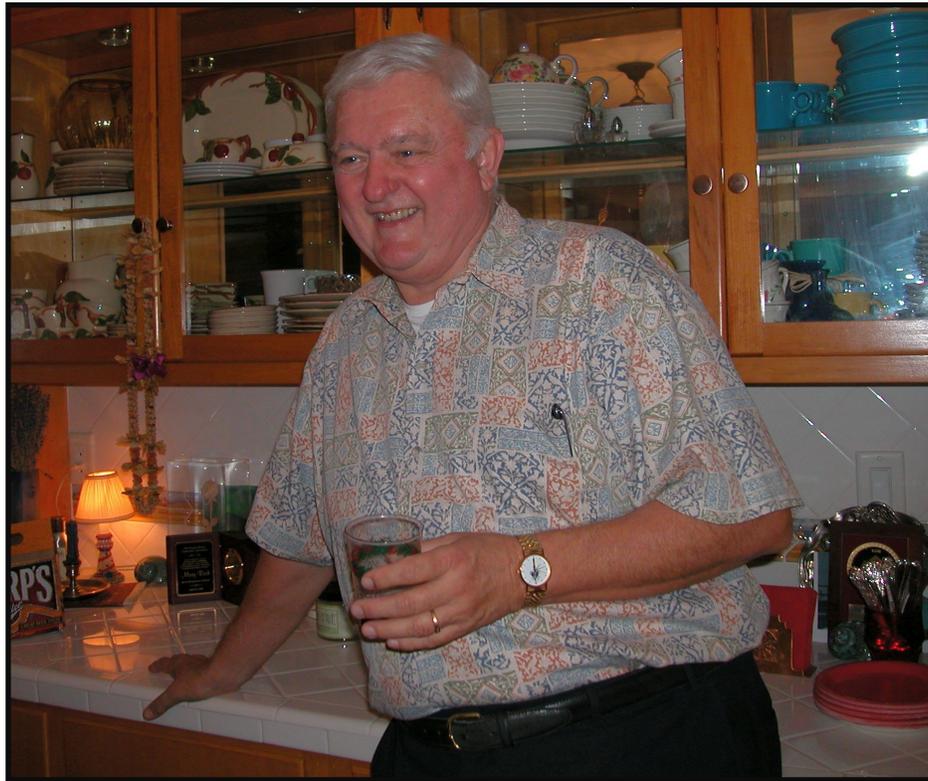
Balance Forward from January 31, 2021 **\$5,123.90**

	February 2021	Year to Date 2021
Income		
Membership Dues	\$330.00	\$510.00
Contributions	\$585.00	\$735.00
Donations for Park Well/ Pump	\$40.00	\$130.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising	\$0.00	\$120.00
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Income	\$955.00	\$1,495.00
Expenses		
Gulf Power	\$68.24	\$161.42
Postage/P.O. Box	\$0.00	\$59.00
Veteran's Memorial	\$0.00	\$0.00
Garage Sale	\$0.00	\$0.00
Candidates Night	\$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Children's Christmas Party	\$0.00	\$0.00
Project/Repairs	\$0.00	\$0.00
Leo Norred Mowing	\$0.00	\$260.00
Total Expenses	\$68.24	\$480.42

Reconciled Balance February 28, 2021 **\$6,010.66**



Jerry was always finding ways to serve his community and country.



Casually Hosting the Annual PBCA Board Christmas Party



Calling All Carpenters. We need You!

Dave Hensley

We've had some concerns about **safety** around the Leo Norred Park children's playground. We decided to approach this in an incremental fashion. First, Bill Miller has added new fence rails close to the playground area to close off that exit to prevent kids from running out onto Poplar Ave. In our March PBCA Board meeting we discussed putting homemade wooden benches around the playground area giving parents additional seating between the playground and the fence along Poplar Ave. This is where we need some handy carpenters to help in building some home-made benches. They need to be easy to build with no back. These benches will be strategically positioned around the children's playground area at Leo Norred Park. These benches will also benefit folks who come to the park to sit and watch planned activities. We do have some existing materials which include six to eight inch in diameter posts we used for the Veteran's Memorial. They're about 15 to 24 inches in length. If you're interested in joining us in an organized work day, please let contact me at pbcapresident@gmail.com or 850 582-3780. Thanks.



Spring is almost here, and the weather is warming up! Let's celebrate with an Easter Egg Hunt and Spring festivities at Leo Norred Park. Saturday, March 20, from 11am-1pm. We will have 3 egg hunts- Toddlers, Littles, and Big Kids*, along with a neighborhood wide Scavenger Hunt for tweens and teens put on by some of the parents. The Easter Bunny will be making an appearance for photos. Parents are encouraged to bring their own camera. Hot dogs, drinks, and cupcakes will be offered as a fundraiser.

*Your child can be grouped at your discretion. Suggested groups- Toddlers 0-3, Littles 3-6, Bigs- 6-10.

I do need extra volunteers this time- I need volunteers to help place the eggs before each hunt on the 20th, and I need as many neighbors as possible to place decorative eggs, bunnies, or flowers outside their home for the scavenger hunt.

Do you have something unique in your yard? Add it to the scavenger hunt list! As always, I am accepting candy, prizes, or monetary donations to support these awesome events. Email me- pbcacvents@gmail.com if you would like to help.

If you are seeing this news article, please tell a neighbor and invite a friend! The more, the merrier!
Kiki Higginbotham

YARD OF THE MONTH IS BACK!

Yard of the Month starts back up in a few weeks! We're still looking for neighbors to help judge. Contact us at halprins@cox.net, or Cathy Halprin or Marion Russell on Facebook, if you're interested. Here is the schedule for 2021. Get ready Holly and Maple! You're up for April. Good luck and happy gardening to all!

2021:	April	Holly/Maple
	May	Magnolia
	June	Hickory/Walnut
	July	Poplar
	August	Poquito 73-149
	Sept	Birch/Japonica
	Oct	Poquito 1-72

KNIFE'S EDGE RE-OPENED TO THE PUBLIC

This is the full policy for off campus visitors: Knife's Edge Cafe' is a Covid Compliant Business Partner certified by the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce.

We remain vigilant in the prevention of Covid-19. **After 10 months of our cafe' being closed to off campus visitors, we will now accept reservations for our off-campus friends to join us for lunch once again beginning Monday, 18 January.**

Reservations must be made in advance by calling the cafe' at 850-376-1916. This is necessary to get your name on the visitor's list at the gate. We are extremely excited to have you back in the cafe' but the following rules will apply as the safety of our Air Force Enlisted Village residents continues to be the number one priority of our staff.

-Masks are required for entry to the Commons building, they are highly encouraged to be always worn while you are on campus.

-It is imperative that you follow social distancing guidance..

-All guests will be screened at the Sunset gate, and anyone refusing to be screened will be denied access to the campus. Please assure all members of your party can honestly pass the COVID screening questions below...

- ◆ Have you been in contact with anyone who has or is suspected of having COVID-19? Are you experiencing any of the following? Fever (over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit)? Cough? Shortness of Breath? A recent loss of taste and smell?
- ◆ The Holly Ave gate remains closed until further notice. Please use 92 Sunset Lane, Shalimar, FL 32579 for GPS directions to the Sunset Ave gate.

PBCA Board Position Openings by Dave Hensley

Everyone possesses unique skill sets. We have several openings that your unique skill set may benefit not only the PBCA Board, but more importantly our wonderful neighborhood. For those in our neighborhood who are in the military, you need to have some community involvement for your annual performance reports. What better way to accomplish that by serving the PBCA board?

We're still looking for a Street Director for Hickory. Street Directors represent the residents on their respective streets. They are the focal point for issues that are occurring on their street. They will attend PBCA monthly board meetings to voice concerns of these issues to the PBCA board. They will conduct via door-to-door PBCA membership drives. Street Directors should coordinate with the PBCA Welcome Committee Chairperson on following up with new Poquito Bayou residents.

We're also looking for an Emergency Action Chairperson. The Emergency Action Chairperson position's primary focus is to keep the community informed of any issues arising in the neighborhood from a safety perspective. They coordinate with local public safety organizations with issues affecting Poquito Bayou. He/she submits articles to the Poquito Times that are relevant to safety-related issues affecting our neighborhood. The ideal person for this position is someone who's in law enforcement.

Finally, we're looking for someone to take over the Poquito Times Advertising. Jane Fedosky is ready to transition out of this position. This position coordinates with all advertisers with their ads for publication in the Poquito Times. This usually takes place at the end of the year. In addition, coordinate with advertisers that they pay for the advertisement space in the Poquito Times. If you have additional questions about the position, please contact Jane at DJinshalimar@gmail.com or call her at 850 651-5300.

If you are interested in any one of these positions or wish to assist in any of our PBCA positions, please call me at 850 582-3780. We love to have all these positions filled.





RISEN & RYAN, P.A.

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

436 Green Acres Road, Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32547 850 864 1951 kerya@risenandryan.com

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