



Winter Issue

Quarter 1/January 2021

Piney-Z Newsletter

Piney-Z Homeowners Association, Inc.



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Photo credits:

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Piney-Z!

Full of hope in good things to come and faith that we will have strength to face the difficulties amid the pleasures, we embark on 2021. To say that 2020 was a challenge is an understatement, but our neighbors have proven over and over that they care for one another and our city community. First, we started the year in January/February with the Scouting for Food Drive collection, sponsored by Scout Troop 118, that supports Second Harvest food bank. Look for the article in this newsletter.



Then COVID struck and neighbors reached out to make and share masks, pick up medications and food, assist with household tasks, run errands, etc. with those who are compromised. The offers to help that appeared on NextDoor and Facebook Piney Z were amazing. In early May, our neighbor Beverly Woodson lost her house in a fire and quite a number of you made donations of money/furniture/ household items to help Beverly adjust to her new normal in an apartment until her house is rebuilt. I'm pleased to report that it is in the final stages and she hopes to be back in our neighborhood soon.

When we had wind damage from the storms that bypassed us, neighbors helped neighbors with cleanup. Others reached out to provide joy through the arts: music, photography, poetry, philosophical reminders, multiple outstanding holiday light displays throughout the neighborhood. They all served to bring a smile, a reflection, a resolve. We finished the year with the CDD-sponsored Toys for Tots drive when neighbors generously donated dozens and dozens of toys for the children of struggling families.

Let's continue to shine in the coming year. Reach out to one another; show empathy and compassion; provide help and encouragement; spread those positive qualities we have found in ourselves and others.

The HOA Board of Directors continues to make strides in preserving the qualities of our neighborhood. We transitioned to on-line meetings using ZOOM last spring and continue to meet that way. We finished the last fiscal year with some extra funds due to extreme penny pinching, and in December, were able to have

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued from Page 1)

completely new lighting systems installed at all three entrances. Once the holiday lights come down, you should be able to recognize the increased visibility. In addition, a need for new/repainted signage was identified along with some repairs needed for the rusting wrought iron at the Heritage Park Blvd. entrance. Plans are in the works to get bids for those jobs this spring.

As always, we are looking for residents to volunteer for the various committees. The Standards Committee actively monitors the enforcement of the C&Rs. The Appeals Committee continues to hear residents' explanations of infractions and take decisive action when necessary. The Architectural Control Committee addresses resident requests for external changes to properties such as new roofs, pools, fences, additions, etc. There is a newly formed temporary committee to assess the climate and investigate the avenues available to change the name of our neighborhood by removing the word "Plantation" from our name. Board member Rusty Pfof researched the history of Piney-Z and we are including it in full in this edition of the newsletter. You might find it of interest as we contemplate this change in view of widening diversity, desire for inclusion, and increased awareness of painful reminders of our nation's history.

Please look for a notice later this month to participate in a community-wide survey. The information you provide will be used to guide the HOA as we revise our goals. The survey will be conducted on Survey Monkey.

Here's to a 2021 of health, hope, prosperity, understanding, and respect!

Cindy Saginario

NEW HOMEOWNERS

September – December Sales
(from the Leon County Property Appraiser's website)

Joshua Bentley
Danica Wayne
864 Eagle View Dr.

Norma Boots
1001 Landings Loop

Denise Claussen
609 Eagle View Cir.

Anthony Coniglio
Maegen Wynn
845 Piney Village Loop

Catherine Connor
863 Eagle View Dr.

Bonnie Hamilton
Cristina Hamilton
4915 Heritage Park Blvd.

David Huggins
Emma Huggins
1183 Landings Loop

Lakshmi Kumar
Shalini Golla
4716 Plantation View Dr.

Luu Nguyen
4720 Plantation View Dr.

Matthew Nolasco
Kayla McNeilly
4841 Lake Park Dr.

Latanya Salmon
4767 Planters Ridge Dr.

Linda Sousa
1001 Kingdom Dr.

Yelanda Tanner
Tracy Tanner
693 Eagle View Cir.

Ernest Tatang
Belinda Mbasohmbep
4703 Planters Ridge Dr.

Abigail Thompkins
821 Piney Village Loop

Vu Son Van
Bich Tram Nguyen
4885 Lake Park Dr.

Shanta Walters
Jerrod Walters
4840 Lake Park Drive

Joe Williams
Sharon Williams
796 Eagle View Dr.

Welcome to the neighborhood!

Piney Z History

By Rusty Pfost



HOA Board of Directors:

President

Cynthia Saginario
pineyzhao.pres@gmail.com

Vice-President

Sam DiConcilio

Secretary

Rusty Pfost

Treasurer

Kyle Kilga

Committee Liaison

Burenette Smith

HOA Website:

www.pineyz.com

Property Management:

Lewis Association Property
Management
7113-2 Beech Ridge Trail
Tallahassee, FL 32312
850-668-1173
lewis@lewispm.com

Indian times – Lake Lafayette was home to a large indigenous Indian community thousands of years before Europeans. According to the late Calvin Jones, FSU and state archaeologist, the Lake Lafayette Basin is one of the premier archaeological sites in the state. The lake is surrounded by nearly 40 Native American mounds, several of which have been excavated. One of these is on display at the Florida Museum of Natural History. Of special interest are the large midden (human debris) mounds on Lake Piney Z and the Temple Mounds at Fallschase. Native American settlements are common in the Lafayette Basin. Some significant archaeological sites on Lake Lafayette, Lake Jackson, the Swift Creek Village and the DeSoto Camp (near Myers Park where the first Christmas was celebrated in the New World), have been excavated.

Jones and his students excavated the Block-Sterns archaeological site in the mid-1970s, and more work was done in 1994. It consists of four earthen mounds, probably used as burial mounds, and an extensive associated village area. The site was occupied from at least ca. 7000 B.C. - A.D. 1600. Artifacts representing ca. 10,000-7000 B.C. and later Leon-Jefferson and Territorial periods have also been found in the general area. The mounds are similar to mounds found at Lake Jackson and Letchworth-Love Mounds State Park.



Lake Jackson Mounds – 1000-1500 A.D

The Apalachee tribe was indigenous to the Piney Z area when the Europeans arrived with the Spanish in the 16th century. The area was called Apalache and their capital was *Anhaica*, a village within today's Tallahassee city limits. The Apalachee were part of an extensive trade network that extended north to the Great Lakes and west to present day Oklahoma. The Florida tribe would trade shells, shark's teeth, and smoked fish for copper, mica, and other minerals not found in their native land.

The first contact that the Apalachee had with Europeans came on July 15, 1528, when Spanish conquistador Pánfilo Narváez and his men attempted to overpower the Florida natives. That attack was successfully repelled. In 1539, Hernando de Soto and his men landed on the Gulf Coast of Florida and traveled through the center of the state, looking for gold and cruelly killing any natives they encountered along the way. Hearing that the Apalachee might have gold, the expedition traveled west to *Anhaica*. This time, the Spanish were able to capture the Apalachee capital. They over-wintered near today's Myers Park. No gold was found, so the Spanish moved on in 1540. But they were to return.

The Spanish Era and the Missions of North Florida

– The first Spanish Franciscan missionaries arrived in Apalache in 1633, almost 100 years after Hernando de Soto had over-wintered there. By 1655 there were 16 missions established between St. Augustine and Apalache. By 1675 there were 24 missions in existence. The largest one was Mission *San Luis*, which is now a museum on west Tennessee Street. Closest to our Piney Z location was Mission *San Pedro y San Pablo de Patali* at the crest of the hill on Buck Lake Road. There exists some evidence of a small Spanish mission (Mission *Santa Cruz*?) on the hill where the ruins of the Benjamin

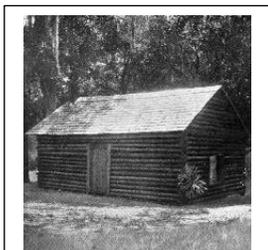


Chaires antebellum plantation “Verdura” are today, west of Williams Road and northeast of Southwood subdivision. Other probable locations of missions include near Rickards High School, off Aspalaga Road and off Armstrong Road, both near Wacissa. Apalache was the breadbasket for the Spanish in St. Augustine – the mission system was connected by a road over which goods traveled to the Atlantic coast.

The English take control – There is almost nothing left of the once extensive Spanish mission system in Florida. This was due entirely to the raids conducted by the English ex-governor of the Carolina colony James Moore and his Creek tribe Indian allies on the Spanish system of missions and the Apalachee in Florida in 1704. The English and Creeks brutally killed and tortured many of the Spanish and Apalachee, including crucifixions and burnings at the stake. Raids continued in 1705 and by 1706 the Spanish presence in Florida had been reduced to Pensacola and St. Augustine, and the Apalachee had either been killed, enslaved, left with the Spanish or exiled westward to Louisiana.

In 1763, the English gained control of Florida after the signing of the Treaty of Paris ended the French and Indian Wars. In the years after that until American independence in 1776, the southeastern colonies were hideouts for runaway slaves, renegade Indians (known as “Seminoles”, which were mainly Creeks that moved into Florida in the 18th century), as well as new colonists seeking their fortunes. Border disputes were common after 1776 as well.

The second Spanish period and sale of La Florida to the United States – After 20 years of English rule, Florida was returned to the Spanish in 1783 as part of the second Treaty of Paris which finally ended the American Revolution. Spain was by then a much weakened European power, and did not have the resources to defend Florida from continued infiltration from the newly formed United States. The First



Florida's first Capitol building, 1824, replica

Seminole War 1817-1818 was proof of Spain's weakness. The Adams-Onís Treaty in 1819 ceded Florida to the United States in exchange for settling the boundary dispute along the Sabine River in Spanish Texas. Formal U.S. occupation began in 1821, and General Andrew Jackson, the hero of the War of 1812, was appointed military governor.

Florida was organized as a U.S. territory in 1822 and was admitted into the Union as a slave state in 1845.

Of course, once a new territory, there was a need to find a centrally located place for a capital (recall that the peninsula of Florida was only sparsely settled). The two largest cities at the time, St. Augustine on the Atlantic Seaboard, and Pensacola on the Gulf Coast, were given

the task of locating a place that would be equidistant from each other to eliminate having to alternate meetings between their locations. William Simmons of St. Augustine and John Lee Williams of Pensacola set out from each location and met near the destroyed Mission San Luis, close to the old capital of *Anhaica*, renamed *Tallahassee Talofa* by the Seminoles but burned by Andrew Jackson in March 1818. The name means ‘old fields’. The site selected was near a beautiful waterfall (now Cascades Park), and the new town became the territorial capital in 1824.

Lafayette Land Grant – For services rendered to the United States during the Revolutionary War, Congress authorized \$200,000 and a complete township of land to the Marquis de Lafayette. Lafayette requested the township be in Florida since he was great friends with future Gov. Richard Keith Call. Lafayette's representative arrived in Tallahassee in 1825 and selected the first township North in Range 1 East from the prime meridian. This land grant included much of the current city of Tallahassee and Piney Z.

Lafayette was a staunch abolitionist and was disturbed at the plantation-slavery system developing in Florida. He strongly desired a free system of agriculture to be established on his lands. In March 1831 a colony of 50 to 60 Norman peasants led by three of Lafayette's friends arrived and located on a bluff overlooking Lake Lafayette. (This bluff could be right where Piney Z is located or it could be the north shore of the lake near Swift Creek Elementary School.) They planted a number of fruit trees and grew crops, including mulberry trees (there are several large mulberry trees in Lafayette Trail Park; I like to think they came from the colony). Problems with health and disease, the climate, and legal entitlement to the land quickly caused the community to fail and break up. But some of the Frenchmen did remain in the area and we have Frenchtown in Tallahassee as a legacy.

After the failure of the free colony, much of the land grant was sold off in the early 1830s, including section 35 which is where Piney Z is located. The Nuttall, Braden and Craig firm purchased a great deal of it before going bankrupt with the old Union Bank (building still on Apalachee Parkway). By 1855, the last of the lands originally owned by the Lafayette family were sold.

Antebellum Florida and Francis Eppes – In 1826 Thomas Jefferson, the grandfather of Francis Eppes, passed away. This event, coupled with the death of his father three years earlier, spurred Eppes to seek a new life in the Florida wilderness. He purchased land along Black Creek (near today's Proctor Road) in Leon County and slowly he and his wife Mary Randolph built his first plantation *L'eau Noir*. After several children and the rigors of frontier life, Mary died in 1835 and Francis sold *L'eau Noir* and moved to a house in Tallahassee where it was safer from the Indians. By 1836 he had

wife Thelma. They raised cattle and farmed pine trees – hence the name “Piney Z”. Mr. Gibson died in September 1973, leaving the Piney Z farm to his daughter-in-law Grace Gibson (her husband state senator Pete Gibson died in 1971). Grace married Sherrill Dansby in 1978 and is still a well-known businesswoman and philanthropist in the Tallahassee community. In December 1995 the land for today’s Lafayette Trail Park was purchased by the City of Tallahassee with a grant from the state of Florida and a donation by Grace Dansby. Then in 1996, Mark Conner and J.T. Williams, Jr., developers, worked with Grace Dansby to develop Piney Z Farm into the subdivision we know today. Sherrill Dansby died in 2012.



Sherrill and Grace Dansby

Environmental - In 1948, the owners of Piney Z Plantation constructed dikes to hold the water in the central part of the lake, severely impacting the hydrology and water quality of the area. Upper Lake Lafayette, which drains parts of Tallahassee through Weems Pond, is drained quickly through a sinkhole just south of Fallschase shopping center and is often completely dry, and is now isolated from the rest of the drainage basin. Piney Z Lake, the middle portion, is managed by the City of Tallahassee and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Lower Lake Lafayette is the only part of the lake still connected to the St. Marks River. Fertilizer and pesticide runoff from development all around the lake system has severely polluted its waters and caused dramatic algae growth in the warm season.



Earliest known picture of Lake Lafayette ca. 1839 from lithograph at Florida Memory (pictures)

RESIDENTIAL WASTE PICKUP SCHEDULE

The City of Tallahassee picks up trash and recycling every Monday*. Pickup of yard waste and bulk items is on Friday of **BLUE** weeks*: January 8 and 22, February 5 and 19, March 5 and 19, and April 2 and 16. *For dates that fall during holiday weeks, pickup days might be affected. To get information about holiday week pickups, go to talgov.com or call 891-4968.

Trash and recycling bins should not be put out more than 24 hours before pickup and should be taken back within 24 hours after pickup. **Bulk items and yard waste may not be put out earlier than 8 days before the next pickup.**

SCOUTING FOR FOOD COLLECTION

Once again, the HOA Board of Directors supports the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of Troop 118 who will be canvassing Piney-Z to collect canned/boxed foods for Second Harvest Food Bank. The Cub Scouts will be distributing bags on Saturday, January 30 and the Boy Scouts will be collecting the filled bags on Saturday, February 6. Please place your bags near the end of your driveway to facilitate more efficient pick up. Social distancing should be practiced as will safety precautions within the Scouts.

The troop has collected over 1000 pounds of food in the past but our generosity is needed more than ever due to the pandemic. Please participate as you are able. Thank you on behalf of Troop 118.

PINEY-Z ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Piney-Z has a private Facebook page and a NextDoor group. To join the Facebook group, search for “Piney-Z, Tallahassee, FL” on Facebook. Also, check out the “NextDoor” app, which allows you to post just in our neighborhood or in surrounding neighborhoods as well. Please note that neither of these sites is sponsored by the HOA or CDD – they are neighborhood sites. Official communications and questions for the HOA or CDD should be directed to them at their contact email addresses or phone numbers on the websites – pineyz.com and pineyzcdd.com. Both of these websites provide a wealth of information about our community.



Calendar of Events

HOA Meetings

(on Zoom until further notice)

February 16, 2021

6:30 p.m.

April 20, 2021

6:30 p.m.

June 15, 2021

6:30 p.m.

July 20, 2021

Annual Meeting

HOA Committees

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

Chair, Venkat Golla
pineyzacc1@gmail.com

Standards Committee

Chair, Dee Orgaz
pzstandards@gmail.com

Hearings Committee

Chair, Holly Snyder
pzappeals@gmail.com

Neighborhood PREP (Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness) Committee

Chair, Erick Arroyo

Piney-Z Newsletter Contact

pineyznewsletter@gmail.com

REMINDERS:

Folks who live on Eagle View Drive encircling the eagle nest preserve: Please reread your C&Rs regarding restrictions on yardwork, tree work, construction, even minor saw noise or fence installation, new roofs, pool work, loud lawnmowers or other loud activities that might impact the nesting season of the eagles. These



restrictions are in place from October 1 of each year through May 15 of the next year. All federal, state and local laws regarding the preservation of eagles allow for quite large financial penalties if the laws are broken. Even collecting a bald eagle feather could result in a fine. I've been told that an original developer of Piney-Z did incur a large fine due to disregard of the eagle nest. It is also my understanding that one of the original developers maintains ownership of that plot of land and intends to exercise his right to develop it with homes (could be multi-dwelling) should the eagles abandon the nest for a certain number of years. I believe the homeowners around the eagle preserve bought their properties with a desire to back onto undeveloped, native habitat land. You each have a responsibility to help preserve it as is. As time goes by, new homeowners move in and may not be as aware of the delicate balance that must be kept. Long-time residents, please share this knowledge with new neighbors. There are exceptions that the ACC may make when there is an emergency situation such as liabilities that arise from tree damage. The HOA sent you each an informational reminder of the C&Rs in the fall of 2020 and this article serves as another reminder. If you did not receive the fall reminder, please update your email information with Lewis Association Property Management at manager@lewispm.com. You might also check your "Spam" folder.

NOTE TO ALL RESIDENTS: In the spring/summer, look for eagle sightings in the tall pines near the pool but be careful not to sit in the "splash zone!" I've been told it's a site for eagle droppings!

Folks who walk dogs: Please pick up and properly dispose of your dog's poop whether on a neighbor's property or on the HOA-owned common area! There have been complaints especially somewhere along Eagle View and even on public land at Heritage Park! It's just showing good citizenship and respect for your neighbors to pick up after your pets



Folks who put out the bulk pick-up too early: Please post that calendar we recently received from the City of Tallahassee somewhere you have easy access to, and THEN USE IT to determine the date of the next pickup. Items must not be placed by the curb any sooner than the weekend prior to the scheduled bulk pickup.

Folks who leave their garage doors open: The C&Rs say: "All garage doors shall be kept closed except when opened for entering or exiting the garage." A common allowance is made for usage while working in the garage or the yard.

The Piney-Z Homeowners Association (HOA) is a Florida non-profit corporation formed in 1997. All Piney-Z homeowners are members of the HOA. The members of the HOA Board of Directors are volunteer homeowners who are elected by the HOA membership and serve staggered two-year terms. Board members are elected at the HOA Annual Meeting held in July.

The HOA Board of Directors is responsible for collecting assessments, sustaining the community design standards, maintaining all HOA owned property, and conducting all HOA business in accordance with the HOA governing documents and Chapters 617 and 720 of Florida Statutes.