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April 20, 2018 • Volume 2, Number 4 • “Good News You Can Use”

Groundbreaking for Friendship Oak Village

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Contractor Lee Parrish, representing Encompass, a Louisville, Kentucky, contractor and real estate developer, will have the \$4.6 million conversion of the Triton building on Railroad Street ready for University of South Mississippi students by August 15.

The Friendship Oak Village dormitory is not associated with USM other than by proximity to the Gulf Park campus. The building is located on the North side of Railroad Street across from the USM campus. The Village will provide amenities students can use while studying and relaxing, including wi-fi, cable tv, a gated swimming pool, outdoor grill, basketball court, laundry and controlled parking.

The building will have capacity for 122 students in two different room sizes and accommodate



Photo by Fred Weller

Mayor George Bass with City and Encompass dignitaries break ground on Friendship Oak Village

two students per room with additional study lounges.

John Stewart, president of Encompass Develop, Design & Construct, commented: “This project will benefit the City of Long Beach with the addition

of over 100 new temporary residents in town each year. As one faculty member said to me on Saturday, “This is a game changer for this campus.”

Stewart continued, “Encompass, because of our experience,

local presence, licenses and trust of the facility owner, was asked to partner and play the key role in the development of this project as Asset Manager. Through the process and the community’s excitement around the project, we made the decision to take up an even more permanent local role as the Operator through Encompass Housing, LLC. I am personally truly excited to have been invited to become part of the community and the great people of the Gulf Coast. We hope to see many successful students come to love this place and tell great stories of the memories at Friendship Oak Village and their time in Long Beach at the University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Park Campus.”

Encompass Housing will begin taking applications in May. Students interested in applying can request information now at www.friendshipoak.com.

Aldermen consider special use permit for RV park

By Fred Weller

Recently a California company, Golden Bay Investment Ltd, has requested the Long Beach Planning and Development Commission consider an application for a Special Use Permit. Golden Bay is asking that the Board of Aldermen grant the right to locate an RV park on an approximately eleven acre parcel bounded by Marcie and Markham Streets and facing

Highway 90. The property is currently zoned R-1 or Single-Family Residence.

One of the means to address changes in zoning regulations is a “Special Use Permit” and requires conformity to all ordinances, codes and regulations, only the “use” of the property is changed. An example would be converting a skating rink, located in a residential area, into a church.

The first step of the process is to

file an application and submit it to the City Clerk, who places it on the Commission’s meeting agenda for discussion. Regular meetings are held every second and fourth Thursdays in the City Hall Meeting Room, 201 Jeff Davis at 5:30 p.m.

The Commission held a public hearing on March 22, to allow the Golden Bay representatives and public proponents to present their viewpoints. This was followed by

public opponents, holding contrary opinions, who voiced their positions. The next period was a rebuttal from the company’s legal and business team before the Commission began discussion of the issues.

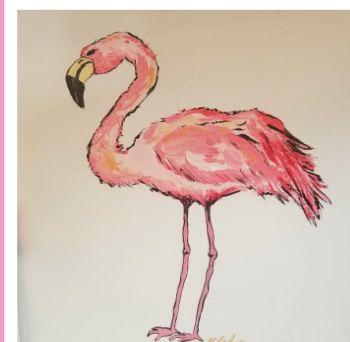
Golden Bay stated it has developed a plan to increase the tax and sales revenue to the city on property undeveloped since Hurricane Katrina. The opponents identified

cont. on page 2

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Arrest warrants dismissed if in court before May 15



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The City of Long Beach is offering a warrant clearance program to all individuals who have outstanding warrants. By coming in to clear up these outstanding warrants, the warrants will be removed, and contempt of court charges for failing to appear will be dismissed. If a court date is needed to address underlying charges, a court date will be given, and individuals will be released on their own recognizance. A bond will not be

required of those individuals who voluntarily appear.

Individuals may appear at the Long Beach Municipal Court (201 Jeff Davis Avenue, Long Beach, MS 39560) to address outstanding warrants. The program will end on May 15, 2018, at 5 p.m.

Individuals will need to bring proof of a current address and at least one (1) form of identification. If an individual would like to speak to a public defender, an appointment can be made for that opportunity.

cont. from front page

Aldermen consider special use permit for RV park

as property owners on Marcie and Markham Streets, expressing concerns of diminishing real estate values.

After discussion by the Board, a vote was taken to approve recommending a conditional permit to the Board of Aldermen and hold a workshop to examine the details of the proposal.

On April 3, the Board of Aldermen scheduled a Public Hearing for May 1, to evaluate creating a Special Use District for Golden Bay. The Aldermen may approve, deny or remand the Permit to the Commission for further evaluation.

Zoning is the process by which local governments legislatively maintain an orderly use of the land in their jurisdiction to facilitate commerce and enhance the safety and well-being of the citizens in accordance with a land use master plan.

Zoning maps and regulations

are not unchangeable. It is periodically recognized that the nature of a community will be changed by nature and/or man.

These changes can cause a need to modify regulations. A "Variance," is another mechanism but is limited to a specific change in a code or regulation as when a property line setback is requested to be changed.

On April 4, 2013, Long Beach enacted a "Comprehensive Plan" to empower the Commission to advise the Board of Aldermen on such matters affecting City Ordinances pertaining to zoning. These ordinances are 597 and 598, which amends 597 and deals with amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. These ordinances explain the responsibilities and procedures for modifying zoning regulations in the Comprehensive Plan. All modifications carry the risk of setting precedence.

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Long Beach builds bridges, not fences

Special to Long Beach Breeze

There is a neighborhood in Long Beach without borders and one footbridge. The inhabitants are from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, California, Arkansas, Minnesota and Florida. Everybody arrived post-Katrina. They came to Long Beach looking for a place to love.

Lisa Judice left Baton Rouge. Carly Schloegel and her husband Jim arrived in Long Beach from Kenner. Robin Miles settled in after departing Meridian.

Judice found Long Beach as “the first place East of Baton Rouge with a hotel and a beach.” After weekends and vacations spent in Long Beach, Judice was saying “it’s ‘when’ I get my little beach house not ‘if’.” Even the onslaught and damage wrought by Katrina did not deter Judice’s effort to find a place to fulfill the dream. There was no sense of urgency and she told the realtor, “don’t spend too much time with me, because it will take time to find the right place.”

In the summer of 2015 a notice from an online realtor caught Judice’s attention and it was “love at first sight.” The electronic ‘Ding’ was a photo of the “Sunshine Cottage,” the first built by a local devel-



Pictured (L-R) Robin Miles, Lisa Judice and Carly Schloegel

Photo by Fred Weller

oper. The builder, his wife, partner and the realtor became Judice’s first friends in Long Beach.

Judice continued to work in Baton Rouge and travel to Long Beach to spend holidays, weekends and vacations living in and furnishing the Sunshine Cottage. In February 2017, Judice retired and sold the house in Baton Rouge and moved her belongings to Long Beach.

Soon more of the cottages were built. With neighbors, a social order developed and “Thirsty Thursdays on Magnolia” were celebrated. A single impediment

to sociability was a drainage ditch that required a two-block diversion to reach certain locales.

Jim Schloegel created the footbridge, and the problem was solved. Now Judice, Schloegel and Miles can cross the “Cocktail Express” and proceed unimpeded to the social gathering of their choice. According to Judice, “the bridge will be dedicated to each neighbor, who, like me, sought a peaceful retreat and was lucky enough to find our beloved Long Beach. We have created lives from which no vacation is needed.”

Lady Bearcat players receive honors

By Andy Kanengiser

Capping off a wonderful season, the Long Beach High Lady Bearcats soccer team finished No. 2 statewide in Mississippi’s 5A division.

Shining stars on the field, Long Beach seniors Alexis Wilson and Maddie Beets recently earned first team all-state girls soccer honors in *The Clarion-Ledger*. Based in Jackson, the state’s biggest newspaper calls its selection of outstanding high school players the Best of Mississippi Preps.

Long Beach girls’ soccer coach Neil Scott is delighted to see the March 11 recognition for the two superb players at the Gulf Coast high school.

“Maddie and Alexis have worked hard to earn spots on the All-State first team,” Scott said. “They are

both very good in their respective roles on the soccer field. Off the field, they are friends along with the rest of the team.”

Nice chemistry throughout the Lady Bearcats locker room spilled over to the field. “It helped the team perform well as a collective group on the field which, in turn, helped Maddie and Alexis stand out,” Coach Scott said. “They are both surrounded

by quality teammates who helped them along the way this season.”

Both Long Beach girls recently signed soccer scholarships to attend college. Beets signed with Pearl River Community College. Wilson will join the Jones County Junior College Lady Bobcats team on the Ellisville campus next Fall.

Beets scored an incredible 37 goals in 22 games as Long Beach advanced to the 5A state finals but lost a heartbreaker to Germantown High. The daughter of Nikki Beets recorded nine assists on the year, *The Clarion-Ledger* noted.

For Wilson, it was an awesome season, too. The talented Lady Bearcats goalkeeper posted 18 shutouts in 22 games during the year. There was no resting on the sidelines for Wilson. The daughter of Aaron Wilson and Marci Wilson played every minute of every game. She led the state with a goals against average of 0.293.

While the pair of first team all-state players will soon join collegiate ranks, the future remains bright for Long Beach High girls’ soccer.



Maddie Beets

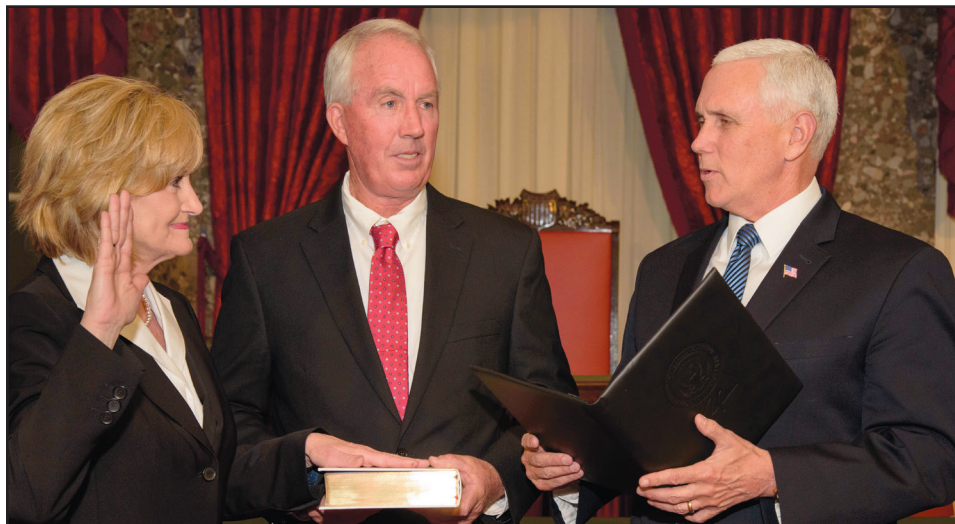


Alexis Wilson

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Hyde-Smith is sworn in as first female Senator



Hyde-Smith, Wicker and Pence administers oath

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U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.) became the first female to represent Mississippians in the United States Senate.

Hyde-Smith was sworn into office by Vice President Mike Pence, who also officiated at a ceremonial enactment of the process. Hyde-Smith was accompanied by her husband, Michael, and daughter, Anna Michael.

"It is a great honor to serve Mississippi as its first female United States Senator. I am ready to hit the ground running, and I will do everything I can to represent

the needs of all Mississippians," Hyde-Smith said. "I'm excited to work with my colleagues to advance President Trump's policies and advance the needs of our state and the nation."

U.S. Senator Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) and Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant also participated in the historic swearing-in ceremonies.

Hyde-Smith will begin work as a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

Parks and Recreation is making things happen



Photo by Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Fred Weller

Robert "Bob" Paul is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Long Beach. Although Paul's headquarters are in the City's Recreational Center, formerly referred to as the "Senior Center," Paul is at his desk for the beginning and end of the day, when emails and paperwork are handled.

Paul leaves the office in his truck to coordinate the daily work plans for the crew of two full-time and one part-time employee. The crew is supplemented by trustees from the Harrison County Detention Center when the workload requires grass mowing and at times when extra labor is needed for special projects.

The Department's work load is based on the activity schedules for the parks, with attention to the Town Green on Jeff Davis Avenue. The Town Green is used for events from weddings to a "Splash Pad" that is open from May 1 to October 1 on a "free to all" basis.

Structures at the Town Green include the "Shoofly" and a North and South Gazebo, available for a fee of \$200 - \$300 each for groups to celebrate birthdays, graduations and other occasions. Reservations for use of the facilities can be made by calling 228-863-1556.

The next promoted activity is the "Finally First Friday" concerts and classic car cruisin' on Jeff Davis. The concerts are free and are scheduled for the first Friday of every month until October.

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(All Sunday & Wednesday events are for all ages!)

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- **Adult Bible Study 9:30 a.m.**
- **Worship Service 10:30 a.m.**
- **Communion First Sunday of the Month**



Volunteers needed to make Buddy Ball successful



Special to Long Beach Breeze

By Keith Clark

Several young adults with intellectual disabilities need help to play Buddy Ball. The South Mississippi Regional Center in Long Beach has 12 young adults who play baseball every Saturday morning for an hour. Four volunteers are needed to be a Buddy to help bat, run the bases and catch the ball. The young adults play safe with lots of smiles and laughter. It's like real baseball, but the balls are soft. Cheerleaders are always welcome to sit in the stands, clap, smile and cheer for the ballplayers.

The Buddy Ball program runs every Saturday until May 26.

Games are at the Long Beach Youth Baseball fields located at 20257 Daugherty Road, behind the Long Beach Senior Citizens Center.

Buddies and cheerleaders should arrive at 9:45 a.m., and players arrive at 10 a.m. The game starts at 10:15 a.m. and ends at 11 a.m. The community is invited to come and watch some Saturday.

Buddies must complete a volunteer form at www.msgulfcoastbuddysports.org

Call Keith "Sparky" Clark at 402-203-2644 for information about the Mississippi Gulf Coast Buddy Sports.

LB team wins C-Spire C-3 coding challenge



Photo by Mississippi Business Journal

Pictured (l to r) are C Spire Systems Software Developer and team adviser Jeremy Ingle, students Maxwell Lam, Nathaniel Underwood, Alexander Baker, Michael Chan and school sponsor Andrew Huey.

Reprinted with permission of The Mississippi Business Journal

Coding team members from Long Beach High School in Long Beach, won first place in C Spire's C3 statewide coding challenge held at the company's corporate offices. As part of its Tech

Movement initiative, the company convenes the coding challenges each year to encourage and inspire high school students to pursue a degree and career in information technology and computer science. Each team member received a \$2,000 college scholarship.



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The Crowd



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The Stage

All photos by Fred Weller

LBPD talks gun ownership

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The Long Beach Police Department is committed to helping citizens protect themselves.

Everyone is urged to remember these helpful tips regarding guns:

1. NEVER leave a firearm in a vehicle.
2. NEVER leave a firearm in a vehicle overnight.
3. NEVER leave a firearm in an unlocked vehicle.
4. NEVER leave a firearm in an unlocked vehicle over night.
5. Always lock vehicles, day and night.
6. Remember to also lock the doors and windows of homes, especially when no one is there.
7. Leave exterior lights on at night.

Warmer weather allows thieves to move around more, and all citizens are needed to help protect the community.

FETCH Park has plans to firm up the opening

By Traci Bonney

The Long Beach Dog Park Association continues to move forward with events and activities to bring F.E.T.C.H. Park to an opening date in 2018.

The park's website (www.fetchparklongbeachms.com) recently launched, and the Association hosted a drawdown fundraiser at the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center, 20257 Daugherty Road. All proceeds from the drawdown will go toward building the off-leash park.

Barbara Reed, president of the Association, said the drawdown event included food, live music by Jesse Allen, dog training, agility demos and a silent auction.

Reed added that the Association has had a table at several Long Beach events.

"We have gotten a lot of interest. We participated in the city's St. Patrick's Day celebration early last month at the Town Green, where we provided information and sold drawdown tickets, t-shirts, dog water bottles and other fundraising items. We also plan on being at the Farmers' Market over the next few weeks."

The Association meeting at the Long Beach Activity and Senior Center featured Dr. Marilyn Glasser of Dog Park Concepts and Consulting. The author of Dog Park Design, Development and Maintenance, Dr. Glasser gave a community dog park presentation and question-and-answer session. Reed said it was a

great opportunity to learn and ask questions about dog parks from someone with decades of experience.

The proposed site for F.E.T.C.H. Park is a 3.5-acre tract of land near the Long Beach Senior Activity Center. The Board of Aldermen approved a motion to initiate a re-permitting process for the site with the Army Corps of Engineers. Reed said the process is underway and may take 90 days to complete. "Meanwhile, we are moving forward with the design," she said. Members of the Association recently spent

time at the park site mapping and marking the trees that they want kept intact when park construction begins.

As plans for the park continue to progress, interest has increased both offline and online.

In addition to the website, the Association has a

growing Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1324331281010649/>).

Created about seven months ago, it has increased to 214 members as of the writing of this article. Approximately 50 of those members have joined in the last month. The park itself also has a Facebook presence (<https://www.facebook.com/fetchparklongbeachms/>). Other fundraiser items can be purchased through either the website or the park's Facebook page, and donations to the park can also be made at both locations.



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- Pastor Dave Parr Grace Lutheran Church

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- Patrick Kirby, The Kirby Law Firm, PLLC.

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10,000 papers, everybody loves it, great news that we need to hear.
- Ms Mary, Hancock Auto Annex

USM Easter egg hunt 2018



All photos by Fred Weller

USM students attend this year's "Campaign School"

Special to Long Beach Breeze

Four social work students from The University of Southern Mississippi attended a two-day "Campaign School" in Hartford, Connecticut. The school prepared them for the political arena as candidates, campaign workers, volunteers or advocates for social change.

Chelsea Porter from Long Beach said she learned several tips to aid in running for office. The plan is to start after Porter receives a Master of Social Work and a Ph.D. from USM.

Porter said the tips are: "You have to ask everybody you've ever met for money, put in a spreadsheet of people that you know who would be valuable to your campaign, clean up your social media account, and communicate to others that you're wanting to run, so it won't be a shock when you do."

"But at this point," she says, "education is the priority. An end goal – and it may not be realistic – is to be governor of Mississippi. That's really big, and I'm aware I will have to start a lot smaller than that ... but anything to get my foot

in that arena."

Porter says she intends to stay and fight for change. "The idea of leaving sounds comfortable, but I didn't get here because I want to be comfortable; I got here because I want to change things. I feel like I

can be an asset to the state in terms of reform. We need so much help here, I feel like leaving would be a waste of talent and passion that I've worked so hard to gain."

That's just the outcome that Tanya Smith wanted. Smith is the director of the University of Connecticut's Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work, which hosts the campaign school. In 21 years, the school has more than 1,000 alumni.

"While not all social workers want to run for office, they can and should participate in the political system to shape the public policy

that affects our clients and communities," Smith says. "Campaign School emphasizes why the profession's training, code of ethics and commitment to social justice makes them uniquely qualified to serve in political settings."

Miranda Williams and Brian Beck are both Bachelor of Social Work students, from Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Evelyn Sullivan from Gulfport with a Master of Social Work are the other three attendees.

One wants Hattiesburg Mayor Toby Barker's job, another Gov. Phil Bryant's, and a third would like to be a legislator for her home county. A fourth is drawn toward politics but also wary of the negative connotations.

"One of the biggest takeaways from the conference was that social

workers really are qualified to run for office through what we learn," Williams says. "Who better than social workers to make policies that benefit the people we serve? Who better to fight for social justice and make sure the legislation matters for everyone and is a benefit for everyone? It's almost like it was always meant to be us, rather than lawyers, but it hasn't been represented that way."

All four want to stay in Mississippi and help change policy. "The big question of the weekend was, 'Are you leaving Mississippi?'" Williams says. "Between the four of us, it's not really an option. I have a firm belief that you can't run from your problems; sometimes you have to turn and face them."

Smith gives the new alumni's sentiments high marks. "From our perspective, we encourage social workers to lead and cultivate political power in their communities," she says. "We loved having Mississippi students here. They were a wonderful addition and brought their passion and commitment for their work and community with them."



Enjoy the library events

By Renee Rayburn

Summer is approaching, and that means Summer Reading starts. Libraries Rock! is the theme this year, and parents can begin registering their children on Monday, May 21, at 9 a.m. in the children's wing. Remember, all programs involved in the summer reading program are for children entering grades Kindergarten through grade seven. They are also FREE. Events will be posted on

the library's website, or schedules can be picked up at the library with more information. Listed below are the events going on at the Long Beach Public Library for the month of May. If you have any questions regarding the library events, please contact one of our staff members at 228-863-0711.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Renee Rayburn is the Director of Youth and Technology Services for the Long Beach Public Library.

May Library Events

Parents' Coffee Break

Tuesday, May 1 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Preschool Story Time

Every Tuesday and Thursday | 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Summer Reading Registration Begins

Monday, May 21 | 9 a.m.

Long Beach Book Club Meeting

Monday, May 21 | 1 p.m. – 2 p.m.

Summer Reading Grades K-7

Tues., Wedn., Thurs., May 29-30 | 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

CLOSED - Memorial Day

Saturday, May 26 - Monday, May 28

How Gulf Park has changed



Photo courtesy by USM Library

By Louis Elias

The interesting history of Long Beach centers around what is now USM Gulf Park. Colonel J.C. Hardy, who was the headmaster at the Gulf Coast Military Academy in Mississippi City, was the founding father of Gulf Park. Dr. Richard G. Cox was the first president. There were seven presidents of Gulf Park College, including Robert L. Johnson whose family lives in Long Beach

In 1921, Gulf Park College for Women opened its doors for high school and junior college girls to

receive their education in Long Beach. Gulf Park College operated a learning institution for fifty years (1921-1971). Women from the United States and other countries enrolled in this private college.

Horseback and swimming classes were among the extracurricular activities. Educational trips to South America were always the highlight of the school year.

Hurricane Camille in 1969, along with low enrollment, forced this college to close its doors in 1971. The beach-front property became USM Gulf Park in 1972.

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Finally, First Friday

By Fred Weller

The crowds walked and listened for the sounds of live music by Kelsey Moran from the Town Green. Yes, it was the first Friday of the month between April and October in Long Beach. The cruisers rolled on Jeff Davis as if they were on the cover of *Life* magazine. Shoppers and tourists stopped by the sidewalk merchants and stores to look and buy the wares. Families walked from place to place, talking to friends, neighbors and the occasional visitor, who smiled with the friendliness of new acquaintances.



All photos by Fred Weller

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Hi, I'm Patrick Kirby and I am an Estate Planning attorney.

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What His Clients Say!

"Patrick Kirby did an exceptional job translating my needs, wishes, and plans into a comprehensive estate plan. More importantly, he did so by listening to me with care and a very real interest in getting it all right for me. He was patient in his explanations and exacting in his drafting."
- Stephen B. Hand

"I would simply like to say a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Patrick Kirby. Like others, we were leery of having his assistance, however, he delivered on his promises. I recommend him for anyone who is thinking of making these kinds of preparations for their families."
- Thomas J. Hill



2304 19th Street, Suite 203
Gulfport, MS 39501
Phone (228)-467-2332
Patrick@GulfportEstateLaw.com

YOUR UTILITY BILL WAS HOW MUCH?! I COULD NOT BELIEVE IT!

The long hot summer months are fast approaching South Mississippi and, this year we've seen some unusual weather, so who knows what to expect. Having served Long Beach residents for the past 15 years, I am still **SHOCKED** when I'm in a new customers home and find out they pay way to much on their electric bill. I was recently in a home here in Long Beach and asked Ms. Fields, what was her average monthly electric bill. She said my bill is really low it's only \$150 per month. I had already connected and done a complete system efficiency report, so when she told me she's paying \$150 per month, I asked her if she likes giving monthly financial contributions to the utility company?

We both had a laugh and she said of course **NOT** and listed off other things she would invest the money on if there were energy savings. I explained that even though some people would be happy to have a \$150 dollar electric bill. Based on her specific situation with the size of her home and the improper FREON charge along with other minor system deficiencies she was spending around \$40 too much every month. To some people \$40 dollars per month is no big deal, however, let's put it into a perspective of the bigger picture.

Her Air conditioning and Heating system with proper maintenance technically could last another 12 years. At \$40 per month that's \$480 dollars per year and over the 12-year life of the system that's \$5760 dollars in additional utility payments. After connecting and doing a complete energy analysis of the HVAC system we routinely find homes that are paying \$60-\$120 in additional energy bills every month.

I'm sure you can think of many things to invest in, other than giving it to the power company every month.

It's important to make sure you ask any air conditioning technician that comes to your home to **SHOW YOU** a complete efficiency analysis of your system. Notice I said to show you the real-time performance of your system. Just because a system comes on and blows cold air doesn't mean that it is running efficiently.

If your Air Conditioning system has minor problems, or if you just think it's running inefficiently - we know you have options on which A/C & Heating company you call. If you decide to give **ABLE A/C & Heating** a call

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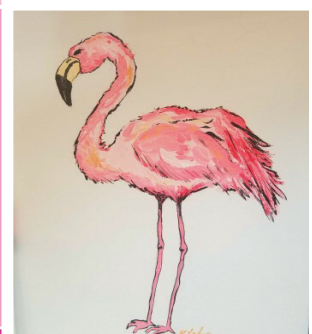
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