

Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership, Inc.

Front Porch News

DECEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

BAGDAD, FLORIDA

Your Help Needed for Lighting Program

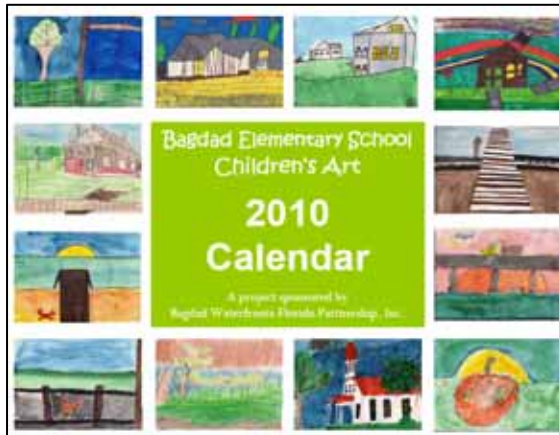
You may have noticed more street lights in Bagdad. Those lights have been provided for you by the Partnership through donations by community members like you. The lights have been on for over a year, but the bill is due and money is running short. We need your help to keep the lights on!

Whether it is \$1 or \$100, any amount will help. To donate, please fill out the form on the back of this newsletter and send any amount of money you can.

For information, call David Bailly at 626-7801 or visit www.BagdadWaterfronts.org. ■

Join us for our monthly meetings held at 6 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month at the Bagdad United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Meetings are free and open to the public. More information: (850) 981-9915 or www.BagdadWaterfronts.org.

Children's Art Calendars Support Community Projects and Bagdad School's Art Program



The Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership has a lot to celebrate as 2010 begins. On top of all other accomplishments, we have an exciting project that is ready just in time for Christmas!

We are proud to introduce the first annual **Bagdad Elementary School Children's Art Calendar**. Through a partnership with the Bagdad Elementary School, we are using children's art to raise money for community projects and to help support the school's art program. Through this project, the community can now enjoy their interpretations of local sites. There are two calendars this year with a total of 24 illustrations. We intend on creating one calendar every year with winners of the Bagdad Art Stroll's Children's Art Show.

The Partnership recognizes the remarkable efforts of Bagdad Elementary School's art teacher, Ms. Sally Miller (a Bagdad resident) and principal, Ms. Linda Gooch.

Calendars are available for a donation of \$10 each, and are offered at the following local businesses during their

normal operating hours: Old Post Office Antiques (6821 Caroline St., Downtown Milton), Copper Possum Antique Mall (7060 Highway 90, East Milton), Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce (5247 Stewart St., Milton), and the Bagdad Museum each Saturday morning in December (4512 Church St., Bagdad).

For bulk orders, please visit www.BagdadWaterfronts.org or call (850) 981-9915. After printing costs, the Partnership makes approximately \$4.00 from each calendar if a \$10.00 donation is received. At least \$1.00 of that profit is donated directly to the Art program at Bagdad Elementary School. ■

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

(See Newsletter Insert for Details)

Transportation and Open Space Master Plan Public Input Workshop

Will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12, at Bagdad Elementary School

Your Input is Important and Needed!

2009: Mill Site Park Becomes Reality

More volunteer hours were invested by Bagdad Waterfronts Partnership volunteers at the Bagdad Mill Site Park than at any other Office of Greenways and Trails' Park in Florida.



For more pictures and to view the Mill Site Park Master Plan, visit www.BagdadWaterfronts.org

Partnership's Economic Revitalization Committee Update

The Bagdad Waterfronts Partnership's Economic Revitalization and Hazard Mitigation committee has been very active in a community lighting program development as well as traffic and neighborhood safety issues. Our goal is to create a new tradition for the economy of Bagdad focused on small business that are compatible with the historic character of the village and capitalize on the recreation and natural resources of the area. We also want to enhance the historic character of the community with the use of streetscape improvements. We recently had a team of seven from Bagdad visit Millville, FL, near Panama City. We had a chance to network with this sister community. Millville was a mill town rich in history, very similar to Bagdad. Valuable information was gained about funding sources that may well be a fit for Bagdad. The Economic Revitalization committee meets monthly. The next meeting will be at 4 p.m. Dec. 9th, at the Milligan House located at the Bagdad Museum Complex on Church Street. For more information, visit www.BagdadWaterfronts.org or contact the chairman David Bailly at aerotimeinc@hotmail.com, or by phone at 626-7801 or 982-1804. ■

Bagdad and Partnership Featured in State Publication

Check it out at www.BagdadWaterfronts.org

"Beyond the mechanics of organizing and getting the work done, the (Bagdad) Partnership and its members maintain an enthusiasm and energy for the future of their village." (*Waterfronts Florida Community Case Studies*, 2009)

2009 Annual Report

“One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade.” – Chinese Proverb

Throughout history, community groups have proven there is strength in small numbers. That is certainly true for the Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership, Inc. (Partnership). With no more than 50 members, the last year has offered remarkable achievements for the Partnership and the community of Bagdad. We have enjoyed new members and we continue to celebrate our accomplishments as we enter the New Year.

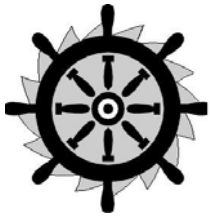
The Partnership's sole mission is to implement the goals set forth by the community during the 2006 visioning process. That year the community developed a vision plan that identified what residents want to accomplish with regard to community improvements that focus on public access to the waterfront, hazard mitigation, cultural and environmental protection, and economic revitalization. As we enter our third year as an organization, we want to reassure you that your donations to us go to worthwhile causes. In fact, every penny of your donation goes right back into the community. Your support this year has helped us accomplish so much.

- We facilitated the creation of the Bagdad Mill Site Park Master Plan in partnership with Santa Rosa County by hiring a landscape architect to develop the plan based on the park's management requirements and what the community identified as its desires for the site during the visioning process in 2006. The park, when open, will be a passive-use park that will showcase the natural beauty of Bagdad's waterfront as well as highlight the events that took place there for more than 100 years during the lumber mill's operation. The park will span the waterfront from the Pond Creek Bridge, along Blackwater River, eventually connecting with the Oyster Pile Boat Landing.
- With the help of more than 40 volunteers, we were able to plant 81 large native trees and install an irrigation system at the Bagdad Mill Site Park. The trees were planted along the future pathway of the Bagdad Heritage Trail that will line the Blackwater River and Pond Creek throughout the park. The Bagdad Heritage Trail will one day connect to the Blackwater Heritage Trail in Milton. **During 2009 more volunteer hours were invested at the Bagdad Mill Site Park than any other Florida Office of Greenways and Trails' park in the state.**
- We advocated for sidewalk construction that will connect Bagdad and Milton along Forsyth and Henry Streets. The sidewalk project will also include Main Street and Old Bagdad Highway, the pathway of the future Bagdad Heritage Trail. The funding and the project were approved by the Santa Rosa Tourist Development Council and the Santa Rosa County Commission. Construction should begin within 24 months.
- Through donations, we funded the Bagdad Street Lighting Program in areas of the community that have experienced continual crime. This project is solely funded with donations and remains our number one expense.
- We hosted a statewide meeting of the State of Florida's Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program and the Florida Main Street Program. Nearly 60 redevelopment professionals and community members from throughout Florida visited Bagdad to discuss community redevelopment issues and to learn about our successes and challenges.
- We were awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection to create the Bagdad Transportation and Open Space Master Plan, which is currently underway. With the help of our members, a local organization, and professional assistance from consultants we are matching this grant dollar-for-dollar. All residents will be invited to participate in this plan's development. This will help Santa Rosa County identify what improvements are community priorities and how those projects can be funded.
- In October, Santa Rosa County Commissioners entered into a grant proposal with us that will fund an Economic Development Study for Bagdad. This study will identify areas in the community that have business opportunity, considering our close connection with downtown Milton. We will find out if we receive this grant in a few months.
- We remain active in assisting Santa Rosa County in connecting residents to sewer service. (If you have any documentation of damages east of Forsyth Street due to flooding, please call Santa Rosa Co. at 850-981-1848.)

We close this year with great excitement and with hopes that you will continue to support us with an annual membership contribution. In the coming year we have just as many activities planned as we did in 2009. We plan to finish the Transportation and Open Space Master Plan, celebrate the Art Stroll, continue developing the Bagdad Mill Site Park, (hopefully) begin the Economic Development Study, continue seeking funding strategies for community improvements, and continue serving as an advocate for participatory planning processes related with Bagdad.

We invite you to visit our website at www.BagdadWaterfronts.org and view a recent State of Florida publication about our program and its successes while participating in the statewide Waterfronts Florida Partnership Program. Having you as a supporter reassures us – and the community – that there remains strength in small numbers. We want you to know that your contribution and participation is making a difference. As always, your donation is tax-deductible.

Thank you for your support! We wouldn't be complete without you.



Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership, Inc.

Post Office Box 801
Bagdad, Florida 32530

**Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 21
6 p.m. at Bagdad United Methodist Church**

You can make Bagdad a better place for EVERYONE!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

_____ I cannot contribute at this time, but please keep me updated!

Volunteer for a committee!

_____ Public Access to the Waterfront _____ Environmental Protection

_____ Special Events _____ Neighborhood Watch

_____ Economic Revitalization/Safety _____ Board of Directors

Membership Levels

(Check appropriate level)

- Individual (\$15)
- Family (\$20)
- Corporate (\$25)
(Non-profit or business)
- Sustaining member
(\$100, valid for 10 years)
- Other _____
(Mill Site Park, Lighting
Program, Art Stroll, etc.)

**All donations are tax
deductible.**

***Make checks payable to Bagdad Waterfronts Florida Partnership, Inc. (BWFP, Inc.)**

Mail to: BWFP, Inc. P.O. Box 801, Bagdad, FL 32530, or pay online at www.BagdadWaterfronts.org.