

Gulfport Messenger

Newsletter of the Gulfport FL Merchants Association

January/February 2009

Get Ready to Get Rescued

Gulfport is gearing up for the 5th annual Get Rescued in Gulfport, one of the most festive and popular events in our calendar. This year's event will take place on Saturday, February 28 from 11AM to 6PM. Auntie Lynda's Pet Care and Reef Dog Gifts & Grooming work hard each year to make this event a success. Co-sponsored by Gulfport Merchants Association, Get Rescued will bring together 50 non-profit animal rescue groups from throughout Florida to showcase their mission of rescuing and placing animals in loving homes, and to raise funds for the services they provide. In addition, nearly 100 food and merchandise vendors will be present offering pet-themed items and more. The event also helps to reinforce the image of Gulfport's downtown as dog-friendly. Attendees are invited to bring along leashed, well-behaved pets.

Live music will only be some of the entertainment during Get Rescued. Doggie agility contests and activities will occur in Gulfport's dog park from 1 to 3PM, including a much-anticipated "wienie-race" sponsored by a dachshund rescue group (though other breeds are invited to participate). A memorial celebration will occur at noon to honor pets that have transitioned recently. All are encouraged to bring donations of bagged or canned dog and cat food and cat litter to fill up the "Reef Dog Mobile." The donations will be distributed to rescue groups and pets' families in need.

Brochure Deadline At Hand

Wednesday, January 28 is the deadline for local businesses to submit entries for listings in "*Gulfport: the Secret Is Out*," a full-color brochure and map listing Gulfport businesses. Published by Gulfport Merchants Association, the annual brochure is widely distributed in Gulfport and neighboring communities. Listings are free to GMA member businesses. Non-members may pay a \$100 listing fee to be included. For more information or to submit listings, contact Lori Rosso at Sea Breeze Manor: 5701 Shore Blvd., Gulfport, FL 3707, phone 343-4445.

Member Profile: Domain Food & Spirits

A popular place among locals to eat, drink and gather, Domain Food & Spirits launched itself in Spring 2008, located on the corner of Shore and Beach Blvds. Domain features a charming indoor dining room as well as a spacious covered patio overlooking Boca Ciega Bay.

Owner Janice Adair is a long-time area resident with many friends in Gulfport. She was joined in ownership late last year by Fran Morris. In the weeks leading up to its opening day, Domain found many willing neighborhood friends to roll up their sleeves and pitch in to help clean, paint and renovate the premises. In fact, many of the eclectic collection of mismatched chairs, tables, china and silverware were donated to Domain by friends and family to help achieve a home-style atmosphere. The investment of time, sweat energy and dishes has helped many to feel that Domain is "our place." Friendly staff members help to make customers feel right at home.

The motto of Domain is "Come Home to Eat. Stay to Play." A menu of satisfying sandwiches, steak and seafood entrees, salads, appetizers and specials emphasizes home-style cooking. A quote by Julia Child, which sums up their food philosophy, is featured on the menu: "You don't have to cook fancy or complicated masterpieces. Just good food made from fresh ingredients." They are especially proud of their burgers, which some have called the best in town. Whole belly clams, a staple on menus at the same location for many years, remains as a weekend special at Domain. A champagne Sunday brunch will be kicked off on (Super Bowl) Sunday, February 1st, 10AM to 2PM and continue each Sunday, featuring build-your-own eggs benedicts and omelets, huevos rancheros, French toast and other favorites.

Live music and lively nightlife with home town regulars are also a drawing card at Domain and account for its growing popularity as a favorite watering hole. Yappy-hour Wednesdays on the patio highlight Domain's doggie-friendly attitude. A late-night menu is available for those who decide to "stay to play."

Newsletter Mailing List Update

This issue of *Gulfport Messenger* will be the last distributed to for-profit businesses that are not current members of the Gulfport Merchants Association. We hope the newsletter has provided a revealing look at the many activities and achievements of the non-profit GMA and that all businesses will consider supporting these successes by becoming members. If your business is not listed below, contact a GMA Board member for information on how to join.

Thanks to These GMA Members

The Gulfport Merchants Association would like to thank the following businesses which are current members of the GMA. Their support makes the continued growth and success of downtown Gulfport possible.

The Art of Massage
Art Village Courtyard
Auntie Lynda's Pet Care
Beach Life Newspaper
Bellini's
Caldwell Realty
Can San's Power of Beauty Shop
Christopher Ross ASLA
City of Gulfport
Domain Food and Spirits
Domain Home Accessories
DPA Space
Freehold Partners
The Gabber Newspaper
Gulfport Chamber of Commerce
Gulfport On The Rocks
Gulfport Technology Center
House of Renee Originals
Industrial Arts Center
Java Nirvana
Kayak Nature Adventures
La Cote Basque Winehouse
La Fogata
O'Maddy's Bar and Restaurant
The Outpost
Peg's
Peninsula Inn and Spa
Reef Dog Gifts and Grooming
Sail Away Realty
Sea Breeze Manor Bed & Breakfast
Small Adventures Bookshop
Stillwagon Studios
Thai-Rific Orchids
Yummy's

IAC Fundraiser

The non-profit Industrial Arts Center will hold a fundraiser from 3 to 6PM on Saturday, February 21st. For a \$10 admission, paid attendees will get priority seating during demonstrations by IAC instructors in glass blowing, metal working and other art forms. Drawings for art pieces by the instructors will be held. The IAC is located in Gulfport's Art Village Courtyard.

Your GMA Board Members

Mike McCue (Domain Home Accessories):
President (302-9299)
Leslie Gilchrist (The Outpost):
Treasurer (439-1485)
Lori Rosso (Sea Breeze Manor):
Board Member (343-4445)
Mary O'Malley (Reef Dog Gifts & Grooming):
Board Member (323-7007)
Michele King (Re/Max Preferred Realty)
Board Member (367-3636)
Suzanne King: Events Coordinator (322-5217)

Coming Up Soon

Sat. Jan. 24: Gulfport Goes Green
10AM-5PM
Tue. Jan. 27: Fresh Market 9AM-3PM
Tue. Feb. 3: Fresh Market 9AM-3PM
Fri. Feb. 6: Art Walk 6-10PM
Tue. Feb. 10: Fresh Market 9AM-3PM
Tue. Feb. 10: GMA Monthly Meeting
(@ Domain Food & Spirits)
5:30-6:30PM
Sat. Feb. 14: Valentine's Day
Tue. Feb. 17: Fresh Market 9AM-3PM
Sat. Feb. 21: Industrial Arts Center
Fundraiser 3-6PM
Sat. Feb. 21: Art Walk 6-10PM
Tue. Feb. 24: Fresh Market 9AM-3PM
Sat. Feb 28: Get Rescued 11AM-6PM

Something to Think About

“There is no use trying,’ said Alice; ‘one can’t believe impossible things.’ ‘I dare say you haven’t had much practice,’ said the Queen. ‘When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.’”

Lewis Carroll