



THE TOWN CRIER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 1, New Years Day
- Jan 25, A Day In the Life of Civil War Soldiers Ft Gaines
- Feb 1, Crewe De La Dauphine 1pm
- Feb 8, Island Mystics 1pm
- Feb 15, Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Run
- March 2, The 23rd Annual "Colonies of the Gulf Coast" Ft Gaines
- March 6, St Jude Bike a thon
- March DI Women's Club Annual Auction
- March DIVA Chili Cook Off
- March Gumbo Cook Off



THE "OFFICIAL" NEWS OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

In an effort to keep the citizens of Dauphin Island better informed, the Mayor and Town Council are pleased to distribute The Town Crier on a monthly basis. Our goal is to highlight council meetings and other newsworthy events. This is not intended as a substitute for attending public meetings in person. Council Meetings are usually held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 PM. Agenda meetings are usually held on the Monday before each council meeting at 5 PM and are open to the public. The council meetings for January are scheduled for Tuesday, January 7th and Tuesday, January 21st.

Even though it seems like we just finished opening our presents and taking down the Christmas tree, a new year has begun here on the Alabama gulf coast. And what better way to jump start 2014 than with a couple of Mardi Gras parades right here on Dauphin Island! On February 1, the Krewe de la Dauphine parade will hit the streets at 1pm. Always a crowd favorite, KDLD will proceed along Bienville Boulevard starting at the Sea Lab and traveling west to the condos just past the public beach. The parade will showcase a number of floats, bands and other units to delight onlookers while tossing your favorites such as moon pies, beads, stuffed animals and an assortment of other treats. Make plans to get here early as Mardi Gras starved folks from all over the region will make their way to the island for the first parade of the season. If you can't make it down for the KDLD parade don't worry, the Island Mystics will roll on the following Saturday (February 8) at the same time and route. "Throw me somethin' mister"! Ready...Get Set...GO! to the 18th Annual Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Race scheduled for Saturday, February 15 at 9am. This popular event is sponsored by the Port City Pacers and usually attracts some 300 participants. The race begins and ends at historic Fort Gaines and winds through neighborhood streets that offer a breathtaking view of Mobile Bay, salt marshes and Little Dauphin Island. Whether you come to run or watch others compete, make sure to visit the Fort as its resident blacksmith will be demonstrating his craft throughout the day. Proceeds from the race go to support Fort Gaines. Mobile County Public School officials are planning to construct a new school building at Dauphin Island Elementary to replace the aging and historic "Little Red Schoolhouse". While the community was excited to hear the news, initial plans called for the demolition of the structure once the new building was deemed ready for use. Recognizing this roughly 50' X 100' wooden building has been an integral part of the island community for over 80 years, Town officials reached out to the School Board several months ago about taking ownership of the structure. The Town of Dauphin Island later received a letter giving it first-right-of-refusal after the new facility is in place some 12-18 months from now. What does the Town intend to do with the building? Our current line of thinking is to relocate the structure to another part of the island and convert it into a heritage and arts museum. Not only would we be preserving a unique piece of island history for future generations, we would also be creating a place for locals and visitors alike to learn about our wonderful and diverse heritage here along the gulf coast. The facility would also house a variety of artwork made by talented individuals living right here in south Mobile County. Now, the challenge is to secure adequate funding to make this dream a reality and folks are working as we speak to do just that. If you'd like to see a slightly smaller version of what we intend to create with the "Little Red Schoolhouse", visit the Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council facility behind Town Hall. You'll be glad you did!

Until next time...Mayor Jeff Collier



2013 Christmas Pageant Winners!



Nearly two dozen young ladies took part in the 25th Annual Town Christmas Pageant held on December 6. In honor of the occasion, former Miss Dauphin Island contestant winners were in attendance including; Marie Tafra (2007), Christa Scarcliff (2003), Renee Johnson (1996), Heather Kossow (1989) and the very first Miss Dauphin Island... Rochelle Woods (1988). We greatly appreciate each of the past participants for helping make the 25th Anniversary extra special! Winners of the 2013 edition were as follows; **Tiny Miss** (Age 2-4) Kollyns Curtis, **Little Miss** (Age 5-8) Claire Wagner, **Sweet Miss** (Age 9-11) Ashlin Belle Lott, **Junior Miss** (Age 12-14) Carly Alexander and **Miss Dauphin Island** (Age 15-18) Tiffany Tennille Rachel. Congratulations to all of the winners and to each participant of this year's event! In addition, the Town would like to recognize those who helped make the pageant (and Christmas Parade) such a success; Mary Strickland (Chairperson), Patricia Howell Wagner (and all parents of the participants), Lighthouse Bakery, DI Real Estate, ACP Real Estate, Crowder Gulf, Distinctive Homes, Marti's Island Shoppe, South Mobile County Tourism Authority, Willow Tree Cottage, The Sand Box, Alabama Realty, Town Public Works Dept. personnel and a special thanks to St. Edmunds Catholic Church for providing use of the Hall!

Town To Bid Surplus Items

The Town recently declared a variety of items as "surplus property" clearing the way for a public bid to properly dispose of the property. Items include a number of vehicles as follows; 2006 Chevrolet Silverado Pick-Up Truck, Chevrolet Suburban, Chevrolet Cheyenne 2500, John Deere HPx Gator, Kawasaki Mule (2) and a Kawasaki Trans 4x4 / 4WD. In addition, an assortment of both large and small Christmas decorations are also available for purchase. All items will be made available for public inspection upon request. Please contact Town Hall for specific bid instructions.

Commemorative Bricks Remain Available

Most of you are probably familiar with the brick path located at the Water Tower Plaza if you've visited that area over the past few years. You, or someone you know, may even "own" a brick or two that display a special someone's name, a memorable event, catchy phrase or otherwise. Maybe you've even seen the unique walkway and thought "Geez, I'd sure like to have one or more of those". Well, you can! Additional bricks are now available for purchase for \$60 each which includes three (3) lines of text and fifteen (15) character spaces per line. Please contact Town Hall to add your name to the list for one or more bricks to preserve a memory for a life time.

Council Weighs Changes To Building Permit Ordinance

Ordinance 63-A establishes a schedule of fees on all buildings, structures or alterations requiring a building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing or gas permit as set forth in the Town's Building Codes. Permits for residential and commercial construction are currently based on \$60 per square foot which is substantially below the actual square footage costs. Therefore, consideration is being given to adjust these outdated square footage costs to \$90 for residential and \$120 for commercial structures. You can review the revised Ordinance 63-B in it's entirety by visiting the Town's website or viewing a copy at Town Hall. The Council is expected to take action on the proposal at its meeting on January 7, 2014.

Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

The 2012 Alabama Legislature enacted the State Severe Weather Sales Tax Holiday to afford residents of the State the ability to purchase severe weather preparedness items tax free during one weekend each calendar year. This year's event will take place beginning at 12:01AM on Friday, February 21 and ending at midnight on Sunday, February 23, 2014. Because the Town of Dauphin Island participates in this program along with the State, all "covered items" purchased on the island during the prescribed weekend will be exempt from 8.5% in sales tax! While you can view a list of the "covered items" that are eligible for the tax free status by visiting the State's website (Act 2012-256), many items that can help protect your home from storm damage is included on the list.



Comment On Proposed Early Restoration Projects

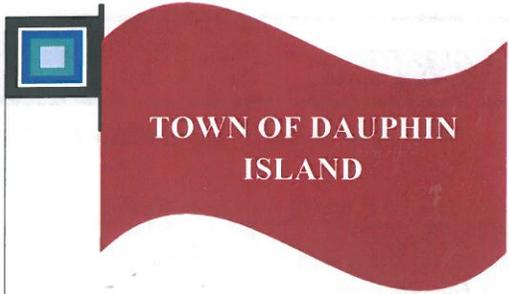
The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Trustees invite public comment on some 44 proposed early restoration projects for the Gulf Coast region. The Draft Programmatic and Phase III Early Restoration Plan and Draft Early Restoration Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (please don't let the titles scare you!) are available for public review and comment through February 4, 2014. This is the third and largest phase of early restoration to date and includes plans to restore barrier islands, dunes, marshes, shorelines, oyster beds, park enhancements and boat ramps to name a few. The three Alabama projects currently submitted include; Gulf State Park Enhancement Project (\$85.5 million), Oyster Reef Restoration in Mobile County (\$3.2 million) and Swift Tract Living Shoreline Project in Bon Secour (\$5 million +). You can view these and other projects being proposed by each of the gulf coast states by visiting www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov and you are encouraged to offer your comments. As you probably know, the Town of Dauphin Island submitted several projects for consideration following the oil spill disaster including a comprehensive shoreline restoration project, multi-year funding for the cost differential to deposit suitable dredged materials from the Mobile Ship Channel to a more beneficial location and filling of the dredged "ponds" that were dug along the island's west end (north shore) to build protective berms. In addition, design of an economic development project for the Aloe Bay area is almost complete and will be submitted in the near future. While Town officials are working on these and other important issues on a regular basis, we recommend that all property owners get involved in this critical process and support the Dauphin Island community through this public comment period. This is one more opportunity to remind all involved that our barrier island community served as a first line of defense during the oil spill (and during approaching storms and hurricanes) for the entire south Mobile County region along with the critical habitats that support our local and gulf-wide seafood industry...and it's worth protecting!

Be Part of the Team...in 2014!

The Dauphin Island community has always been blessed with a multitude of talented, caring and energetic people who choose to live, work and play here. As with most small towns, such resources prove quite valuable to the overall success of a community when focused on the public good. We see that here on the island with individuals who so generously volunteer their time to serve on Town boards and committees just to name a few. As we begin yet another year on our unique island paradise, our community needs you more than ever to get involved and help us capitalize on an abundance of opportunities in 2014. For example, the Town recently received confirmation it will be the recipient of a substantial grant to promote and advertise the island during this calendar year. This will include sponsoring new events, enhancing existing functions and partnering with other entities to showcase what the island has to offer. Maybe you'd prefer helping out with some existing events such as the July 4 Celebration, Easter Egg Hunt, relocating & preserving the historic "Little Red Schoolhouse", Christmas Pageant & Parade, Halloween at Green Park and many more. Regardless of your specific preference, you'll likely find an area of interest that will highlight your individual talents while channeling much needed energy for the good of our community. Challenge your friends to join in on the fun! For more information on how you can get involved in your community, please contact Mary Strickland at Town Hall or any of the elected officials. Let's all be part of the team...in 2014!

Docent Training for the Estuarium at DI Sea Lab

Want to share your passion for our beautiful natural resources right here in Mobile Bay and the Gulf of Mexico? Then the Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is a perfect place for you to volunteer. Visitors from around the world and down the street frequent this locally focused learning center year-round, and we need your help in making their experience as memorable as possible. Our team of dedicated marine educators and aquarists will be offering docent training on February 15 (830am-4pm) about the animals and habitats represented in the Estuarium. Pre-registration by February 8 is encouraged and appreciated. We are also looking for landscape gardener volunteers to help plant and maintain campus gardens. By volunteering, you'll pass on your love and knowledge of our lands and waters to this and future generations - and you'll have a great time doing it! For more info contact Jroy@disl.org or call 861-2141 Ext. 7545.



**TOWN OF DAUPHIN
ISLAND**

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Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

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Monday-Thursday 7:00am - 5:30pm



DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

Town Clerk/Accountant

Nannette Davidson ext 225

**Public Works Director/Bldg
Official**

Corey Moore Ext 224

Cell No 234-7466

**Building Department Admin.
Assistant**

Wanda M. Sandagger ext 229

**Business License/ Permit
Clerk/Event Planner/
Magistrate**

Mary S. Strickland Ext 222

Court Clerk

Stacy T. Mallon ext 221

Admin. Clerk /Magistrate

Joyce Wentworth ext 227

Animal Control ext 230

Chief of Police

Chief Kym Claw 861-5523

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor

Jeff Collier

Council Members

Stephen Denmark

Mary Thompson

Philip Patronas

Shirley Robinson

Clinton Collier

TOWN MEETINGS CORNER

Agenda Meetings 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 5:00pm

Town Council Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

Planning Commission Meetings-2nd Tuesday of each month 6:00 PM

Property Owners' Assoc. Meetings - Pres. Laura Martin can be reached at Islandgirl@LMA.com or visit DIPOA website.

Board of Adjustment Meetings—4th Tuesday of each month or as needed

DI Court—2nd Wednesday of each month **January 8th @ 4:00pm**

DI Traffic School **February 5th @ 5:30pm in Council Chambers**

DI Park & Beach Board Meeting-call 861-3607 for date & time

DI Water & Sewer Authority Meetings-call 861-2363 for date & time