



# THE TOWN CRIER

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Dec 5 26th Annual Christmas Pageant 7pm St Edmunds Church Hall
- Dec 6 30th Annual Christmas through the Ages—Ft. Gaines
- Dec 6 26th Annual Christmas Parade 11am
- Dec 6 Tree Lighting at Water Tower 5:30pm
- Dec 20 Bells in the Bayou - 2 & 4 mile run
- Dec 22—Jan 4 Town Hall/ Public Works closed for holidays
- Dec 25 Christmas Day
- Jan 1 New Years Day
- Jan 17 Krewe De La Dauphine 1pm
- Feb 17 Mardi Gras Day



[www.townofdauphinisland.org](http://www.townofdauphinisland.org)

## 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. 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 December are scheduled for the 2nd & 16th.

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & PARADE

The 26th Annual Christmas Pageant and Parade are just around the corner and you are invited to take part in these island holiday traditions. The Christmas Pageant will be held at the St. Edmund Catholic Church Hall on Friday, December 5 at 7pm and young ladies ages 2-18 are encouraged to participate in this popular event. Contestants will vie for top honors in the following categories; Tiny Miss Dauphin Island ages 2-4, Little Miss Dauphin Island ages 5-8, Sweet Miss Dauphin Island ages 9-11, Jr. Miss Dauphin Island ages 12-14 and Miss Dauphin Island ages 15-18. On Saturday, December 6 at 11am the annual Dauphin Island Christmas Parade will take to the streets with colorful floats, marching bands, classic cars and of course...Santa Claus! Councilwoman Mary Thompson will serve as Grand Marshal this year in recognition of her many years of service to the Dauphin Island community! The parade will begin at Cadillac Square and proceed west along Bienville Blvd. to the DI School. If you would like to participate in or receive additional information on either of these events, please contact Mary Strickland at Town Hall.

### TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY TO RECOGNIZE SEASON, LOVED ONES

Island resident and business owner Mary Scarcliff has found a way to celebrate the season, remember loved ones and support the preservation of DI School all in one unique and beautiful way...with a tree lighting at Water Tower Plaza. Trees lining this island focal point will be adorned with white lights for the holiday season and you are encouraged to sponsor a "bulb" in memory of a special friend and/or loved one. The cost is \$10 per memoriam and all proceeds will go to help relocate and re-purpose the historic "Little Red Schoolhouse". If you would like to sponsor a bulb please contact either the Lighthouse Bakery website, DI Elementary School or Town Hall to receive additional information. Placards listing the names of those being remembered/recognized will be on display near the lighted trees. The Tree Lighting ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at 5:30pm while sponsorships will be accepted until Christmas.

### DI SCHOOL COMMEMORATIVE ORNAMENTS MAKES GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!

Looking for a creative gift for that special someone on your life? How about a unique red and gold ornament depicting the historic "Little Red Schoolhouse"? A limited supply of these professionally hand-crafted items are available at Town Hall for \$15 each. All proceeds from the sale of these commemorative items will help support the relocation and restoration of the historic Dauphin Island School. Get yours today!



### ALDOT TO CONSTRUCT SECOND FERRY RAMP, ASSIST WITH RESURFACING PROJECT

The Alabama Dept. of Transportation is moving forward with plans to construct a second ferry landing at Billy Goat Hole. The new ramp will be built immediately west of the existing one and the upgrade will also include additional picnic tables and seating on adjacent grounds. In response to a request from the Town Council, ALDOT has agreed to install a handicap lift at the Town-owned concession/restroom facility and remove the expansive wooden ramp system currently in place. Work is expected to be completed well in advance of the 2015 spring season. As these improvements move forward, Mayor Collier took the opportunity to meet with the ALDOT Director recently on Dauphin Island to discuss needed repairs to Bienville Blvd. The east and west bound lanes from the 3-way stop to Billy Goat Hole are in need of resurfacing and are critical to the ferry system. The road is also part of the Alabama Coastal Connection scenic by-way. During the meeting, Director Cooper committed \$225,000 in state funds to assist with costs associated with these necessary improvements. The Town will be responsible for all costs in excess of this amount to accomplish the work and has instructed its engineer to develop plans and specifications for the project that should be completed by the fall of 2015.

### SIDEWALK PROJECT NIXED

A grant that would have constructed sidewalks along Cadillac Avenue, one block east and west of Lemoyne Drive, was rejected by the Town Council. The decision came after a public meeting with property owners and residents in the affected areas and extensive consultations with Town engineers. It was determined that a variety of physical impediments would challenge the placement of a sidewalk in this area and the results could adversely impact existing drainage issues.

### COUNCIL ADOPTS 2014-15 BUDGET

At its regular meeting on November 4 the Town Council unanimously approved the 2014-15 budget in the amount of \$2,643,350. The top three anticipated revenue producers for the current fiscal year include Sales Tax, Lodging Tax and Ad Valorem (Property) Tax respectively. The budget includes a modest pay increase for all eligible full time and part time employees. You can view the budget in its entirety by visiting the Town's website.

### SALT CREEK PARK IMPROVEMENTS COMPLETE

Hopefully, you have noticed the significant improvements recently completed at the Town-owned Salt Creek Park. In addition to a commercial grade playground set, the popular park also has a new swing set for all to enjoy. While the Town purchased the jungle gym equipment, MAECO Fabrication and Johnny's RV teamed up to provide labor and materials to construct the swing set frame. The Town expresses its sincere appreciation for this generous contribution that will provide years of fun for our island's youngest citizens.

### MAYOR COLLIER RECOGNIZED FOR SERVICE

The Mobile County Municipal Association recently recognized Mayors and Councilmembers who have served their respective communities as elected officials for over two decades. Having served the Dauphin Island community for over 26 years, Mayor Collier was among a relatively small list of individuals to be presented with a black & gold "20 Years" lapel pin. Congratulations for being honored by your peers throughout Mobile County!

### ISLAND SIGNS GET FACELIFT

Thanks to a grant by Alabama Power Company, the "Welcome To Dauphin Island" and "Birdiest Coastal City" signs received a thorough cleaning and a fresh coat of paint. These attractive wooden signs had become a bit faded over the years as a result of the harsh conditions they are exposed to all year long. The Town greatly appreciates the generous offer by Alabama Power Company that has breathed new life into these colorful and attractive markers.

### EAST END RESTORATION PROJECT

Town officials are cautiously optimistic that the proposed East End Restoration Project could be gaining traction once again. Latest efforts have focused on securing the required easements from abutting property owners in preparation for a public meeting (TBA) hosted by State Lands and ADEM officials. In the meantime, the Town will also have to request an extension on grant funds as we approach yet another "deadline" in early 2015. The project is expected to cost approximately \$5 million while nourishing nearly one mile of shoreline.

### DIHAC TO HOST CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AND SILENT AUCTION

Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council will host a Christmas Open House and Silent Auction fundraiser on Thursday, December 4 from 6 - 9 p.m. at the Island Heritage and Art Gallery, 1008 Alabama Avenue (directly behind Town Hall). The unique items to be auctioned include original art, pottery, jewelry, wood carvings, a guided fishing trip, a musical performance and a "chef-prepared" gourmet dinner for four. Door prizes at the event include a Blue Turtle metal art wall hanging by artist Frank Ledbetter, valued at \$400. Your \$10 donation at the door makes you eligible for the door prize drawings. Come enjoy food, live music and Christmas cheer. All proceeds will help support the Gallery and other DIHAC programs. For more information, send an email to [DauphinIslandArts@gmail.com](mailto:DauphinIslandArts@gmail.com), or call 251/490-0294.



### **BRYANT HIGH SCHOOL TO OFFER "ACADEMY OF COASTAL STUDIES"**

Mayor Collier attended a breakfast meeting recently at Bryant High School (in Bayou La Batre) as school officials launched a new and exciting opportunity for local high school students. Organizers of the program say the creation of an Academy of Coastal Studies will provide students with the opportunity to participate in hands-on learning activities while developing skills to carry with them well beyond their high school years. Whether their paths lead to a four year or two year institution, technical training program or directly into the workforce, the knowledge gained through coursework and field experiences with partners like Ingalls and the DI Sea Lab will ensure all are well prepared to reach their goals. Pathways available under the Academy of Coastal Studies include; Coastal Environmental Science, Fisheries Management & Aquaculture, Environmental Management-Plant Systems and Maritime & Industrial Technologies. School officials are also planning to incorporate additional course studies such as recreation, travel and tourism in the near future.

### **DI CAT ASSOCIATION UPDATE**

Volunteers with the DI Cat Association continue to make progress with its Trap, Neuter/Spay and Return (TNR) program. Since the August report, 44 additional feral and/or free roaming cats were captured and Spayed/Neutered. Of those, 14 were placed in caring homes off island. A fundraiser was held at the St. Francis Church Bazaar and the Association raised over \$400 while the group received an additional \$700 in donations. As always, DICA members urge all citizens to have their pets spayed/neutered to help control the pet population here on the island and DICA volunteers are eager to assist home and business owners that are experiencing specific issues with feral/free roaming cats. If you would like to make a contribution or serve as a DICA volunteer, please feel free to call Jennifer (251-861-2448) or Patricia (251-895-5970).

### **COUNCIL ADOPTS ZONING CHANGES**

At its regular meeting on November 18, the Town Council voted 3-2 (Mayor Collier was not present as he had a late afternoon meeting in Montgomery with Governor Bentley) to approve and adopt the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance. Some of the primary changes include; (1) creation of a Working Waterfront District (formerly Industrial-Manufacturing zoned areas) (2) creation of a Village District, (3) expanded opportunities for Bed & Breakfast facilities and (4) permits construction of piers/docks/boat lifts on unimproved properties. The proposed zoning change for a portion of the Isle Dauphine complex was delayed in order to provide DIPOA Board members additional time to formulate a desired plan for that property. The Town expresses its sincere appreciation to members of the Planning Commission (who worked closely with South Alabama Regional Planning Commission representatives) and to the many island residents and property owners who attended meetings and/or submitted comments which helped shape the final version of the Zoning Ordinance. Your collective insight and opinions were extremely beneficial to this lengthy but important process.

### **STATE/NFWF TO FUND ISLAND STUDY**

Nearly \$3.7 million from the Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund will be used to conduct a comprehensive study of Dauphin Island (and surrounding areas) including the critically important roles it plays as a barrier island. While funds will flow through the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, the up to three year study will be conducted by the Corps of Engineers and U.S. Geological Survey. Emphasis will be placed on developing restoration and/or stabilization alternatives that will optimize the island's resiliency to storm events, enhance wildlife habitat and bolster the lifespan of our island community. For those who may question the need for yet "another study", funding criteria requires that all environmental projects be based on "best available science". Therefore, a restoration project on Dauphin Island (or anywhere else for that matter) would have little to no chance of receiving required funding without a study...although there is no guarantee of funding with it. That said, the planned study is the best opportunity our region has for meaningful restoration efforts to stabilize Dauphin Island and, at the same time, provide an increased level of protection to mainland Mobile County and the adjacent fertile environs which support our seafood industry and local economy. In closing, the Town wishes to express its sincere appreciation to Governor Bentley and NFWF officials for selecting this project among dozens of others that have been submitted for similar funding!

### **BELLS IN THE BAYOU**

The South Mobile County Tourism Authority will be hosting the annual Bells in the Bayou 4-mile and 2-mile Run on Saturday, December 20 at 8am. These certified courses will showcase the industries and unique charm of historic Bayou La Batre while you run for a record...or just run for fun! Race headquarters will be at St. Margaret Catholic Church (13790 South Wintzell Avenue) and registration information is available at VisitSoMo.com, at McCoy Outdoor & Run-N-Tri in Mobile or Running Wild in Fairhope. Pre-registration fees are \$20 (\$25 day of event) for adults and \$12 (\$15 day of event) for children (age 12 & under). Please contact the South Mobile County Tourism Authority at (251) 861-8747 for additional information.

## DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

### TOWN OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

1011 Bienville Boulevard  
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

Phone: 251-861-5525

Fax: 251-861-2154

Website: [townofdauphinisland.org](http://townofdauphinisland.org)  
Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm



#### Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger

861-5525 Ext 225

#### Public Works Director/Bldg Official

Corey Moore Ext 224

Cell No 234-7466

#### Building Department Admin. Assistant

#### 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

Noelle Williams

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 on Mondays prior to Council Meetings 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. Jennifer Turner can be reached at 626-0673, email her at [tomyquazar@gmail.com](mailto:tomyquazar@gmail.com) or visit DI-POA website.

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

DI Court—2nd Wednesday of each month **December 10th @ 4:00pm**

DI Traffic School **December 3rd @ 5:30pm in Council Chambers**

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

DI Water & Sewer Authority Meetings— 3rd Wednesday of each month at 8:00am at the Authority Office, 908 Alabama Ave. (861-2363)