



THE TOWN CRIER

INCORPORATED
1988

ISSUE #182
August 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 2-3 "150th Battle of Mobile Bay" Ft. Gaines
- August 9 Conde Cavalier Fishing Rodeo
- August 16 West End Beach 1—5pm Rhythm Intervention
- August 29 Last Friday Art Night, DI Heritage & Arts Council 6-8pm
- August 30 Seagrass Festival, Rodeo Site noon to 10pm
- August 31 West End Beach Sunset Jazz Concert - Mobile Big Band Society & The Chad Fisher Group 4:45pm
- Sept 1 Labor Day
- Sept 26 Last Friday Art Night
- Oct 11 Annual Colonial Isle Dauphine—Ft Gaines
- Oct 11 Annual DI Art Trail
- Oct 18 Sunset Bridge Run
- Oct 24-25 31st Annual Renaissance Fest Gatalop 30 - Ft. Gaines
- Oct 31 7th Annual Trick or Treat at Green Park 6:00pm
- Oct 31 Last Friday Art Night DI Heritage & Arts Council
- Nov 1 Seafood, Science & Celebrity
- Nov 2 James Beard "Sunday Supper Gulf Coast" Ft. Gaines

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 August are scheduled for the 5th & 19th.

ISLAND UPDATE

Can it be that children throughout Mobile County will be returning to school shortly after you receive this issue of *The Town Crier*? Those of you my age and older will likely remember that we usually didn't head back to school until the day after Labor Day...in most years. Although many public schools will open for the 2014-15 school year on August 7, there are still plenty of great opportunities to enjoy the beautiful outdoors here on Dauphin Island both before and after school is back in session. In fact, Labor Day weekend will showcase a variety of musical talents at two different venues for your pleasure. First, the South Mobile County Tourism Authority will host the SeaGrass Concert Series at the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo site on Saturday, August 30 from noon until 10pm. Headlining an "All Americana" afternoon and evening of music during this year's event will be Jason Isbell! Nominated for Best Song, Best Album and Artist of the Year for 2014 by the Americana Music Association, Isbell honed his skills in music studios near Muscle Shoals, Alabama before touring with the Drive By Truckers in 2002. He began his solo career in 2007 highlighted with the 2013 release of *Southeastern*, an album "filled with songs of discovery...raw, open and reflective". Joining Isbell at SeaGrass 2014 will be Marc Broussard, Amanda Shires, Lisa Mills and Ryan Balthrop. Tickets are \$40 each (children Age 9 & under are free) and are available at ACP Real Estate, The First Bank (formerly Bay Bank) branches on Dauphin Island, Bayley's Corner and Airport Boulevard in Mobile. Food & beverage (including alcohol) will be available on site - no outside food & beverage allowed. For additional information please check out www.visitSoMo.com or call (251) 861-TRIP (8747). On Sunday, August 31, West End Beach will once again play host to the very popular "Sunset Jazz Series" that has taken the island by storm this summer. These delightful events combine the refreshing sounds of jazz musicians from throughout the region with the breathtaking sunsets of the Alabama Gulf Coast. The show will start at 4:45pm with The Chad Fisher Group and close with the unmistakable sounds of The Mobile Big Band Society! Parking is \$5 per vehicle (passengers included) and \$2 per person for walk/bike-ins. Vendors will be on site to provide food, beverage, rental chairs & umbrellas but you are allowed to bring your own as well. Please...No pets, glass or grills allowed. Mark your calendar as you'll definitely want to be here for this one!

You may have seen or read a number of reports lately regarding the possible widening and/or deepening of the Mobile Ship Channel to accommodate more and larger vessels coming into the Port of Mobile. If so, you may also have come away with the notion that the Dauphin Island community opposes such improvements. Let me help set the record straight. First, the Town of Dauphin Island recognizes the tremendous economic benefit the State Docks bring to areas in and around the Mobile region and the entire state. We also understand that the port relies heavily on a channel that is maintained through routine dredging practices to insure adequate depths and widths for vessels. The Port Authority recently



requested a permit to widen approximately 7 miles of the southernmost portion of the 30+ mile channel and the Corps of Engineers had suggested an Environmental Assessment (EA) be conducted in advance of such work. Recognizing that such a study had not been conducted in well over a decade, individuals and entities (including the Town) within the island respectfully requested an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) be performed instead. While an EIS takes a longer period of time to accomplish and is a bit more costly to undertake, it is a more thorough approach to the permitting process and also provides the general public with ample opportunities for input. An EIS will take a more detailed look at the potential adverse impacts to surrounding coastal regions created by a deeper and wider channel, giving planners the data and information needed to mitigate such effects. Port Authority representatives subsequently embraced the EIS recommendation and are now requesting that study review the entire ship channel for possible upgrades. Since the ship channel was originally created over 50 years ago, coastal engineers including the Corps have recognized the dredging and disposal practices are harmful to Dauphin Island but little has been done to address the situation. Simply put, the current disposal site for beach quality sand is too far south to adequately benefit the island which is exacerbating the erosion process along our shores. If you don't live on or own property on Dauphin Island why should you care? Dauphin Island is a barrier island that protects the vast environmental resources of south Mobile County including oyster beds, salt marshes (which serve as nurseries for juvenile shrimp, crab and fish) and it creates the unique blend of gulf and bay waters that drive our local seafood industry. It also acts as a first-line-of-defense for all of mainland south Mobile County during tropical storms and hurricanes and, as we all witnessed, protected the critically important and sensitive environmental areas of our region during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010. Dauphin Island also serves as a popular playground for tens of thousands of visitors each year while offering an array of recreational, historical and natural amenities for all to enjoy. So while plans continue to improve the Port of Mobile and enhance the ship channel leading to it, the only thing we ask is that Dauphin Island is not further harmed in the process. In addition, we respectfully ask the Corps to incorporate more beneficial disposal sites for all dredged materials to insure areas all along Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound are permanently protected for the continued use and enjoyment of future generations. I truly hope you agree. Mayor Jeff Collier.

PROMOTION OF ISLAND YIELDING RESULTS

Following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2010, officials with the Town of Dauphin Island recognized the serious impacts that man-made disaster caused to our environment and economy which emphasized the pressing need to return both to pre-spill condition as quickly as possible. While clean-up crews were busy removing spill debris from area waterways and shorelines, the Town was able to focus on promotional activities and marketing tools to drive tourism and promote local businesses. One such effort was made possible with the generous support of the "Eat Gulf Seafood" campaign and Lamar Sign, Co. Chris Blankenship, Director of the Conservation and Natural Resources office here on Dauphin Island, assisted the Town with a grant that provided funding to erect billboards throughout the southeast region while Tom Sirmon, with Lamar Sign, Co., was gracious enough to coordinate use of up to 20 billboards located along interstates and other heavily traveled highways to ensure maximum exposure. Although specific sign locations vary depending on availability, you'll currently see them in cities like Mobile, Pensacola, Hattiesburg, Tuscaloosa, Decatur, Birmingham, Gulfport, Jackson (MS), Montgomery, Hammond and more. We also want to recognize the South Mobile County Tourism Authority for joining us in this endeavor. The Town greatly appreciates this meaningful partnership that is helping our island community recover in a more timely fashion. Thank You!

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE "BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY" SET

Cannon blasts, re-enactors in period garb and live music await you at historic Fort Gaines on August 2-3 as the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Mobile Bay is brought to life. Witness the Naval Battle on Saturday, August 2 at 1pm and hear Stories of Matthew Brady, famous Civil War photographer, at 2:30pm inside the historic walls of Fort Gaines. On Sunday, August 3 at 10am join re-enactors for a Civil War period church service and hear Stories of Col. Charles Anderson, Commander of Fort Gaines, at 10:30am. At noon you'll have a front row seat for the siege of Fort Gaines and Surrender Ceremony at 1pm. Other activities taking place over the two-day event include blacksmith demonstrations, military drills, cannon firing and live music by the Kracker Dan Band. Admission is \$6 (Age 13 & over), \$4 (Age 5-12) and children 4 & under are free!

TOWN HALL HOURS TO CHANGE

Beginning in September, Town Hall will once again be open Monday—Friday from 7:30am—4:30pm for your convenience. As you know, the Council implemented a four-day (Mon-Thurs) work week in 2009 but as the Town continues to grow it is imperative that Town Hall remains open for business five days a week.

USCG AUXILIARY TO OFFER "SAFE BOATING COURSE" AND FREE INSPECTIONS

The USCG will be sponsoring an "America's Safe Boating" course at USCG Station Dauphin Island on Saturday, August 23. Along with the course a flare demonstration will be held, tour of the station and lunch will be provided. The cost of the course is \$25 and includes all training materials. Upon successful completion of the course you will be issued a certificate that can be taken to the DMV to apply the vessel endorsement. Course topics will include Introduction To Boating, Boating Laws, Boat Safety Equipment, Safe Boating, Navigation and more. In addition to this course, the Auxiliary is now offering "No Fault/No Penalty" Uninspected Passenger Vessels (UPV) dockside safety examinations. Successful completion of the FREE safety examination results in the issuance of a UPV Safety Decal which is good for one year. For additional information on both of these safe boating opportunities or to register please call (251) 665-4649.

COUNCIL SETS PUBLIC HEARING

As part of the ongoing process to implement portions of the revised Comprehensive Plan, the Town Council will hold a Public Hearing ("Open House" format) on Tuesday, August 5 from 5:30pm-7pm at Town Hall. Town Officials, Planning Commission Members and South Alabama Region Planning Commission representatives will be on hand to receive comments and answer questions. Substantial changes to the Zoning Ordinance are being proposed and you are encouraged to stop by **anytime** during the 90 minute forum to get better informed and share your thoughts. Some proposed changes include the creation of a Village District which, among other things, would allow for mixed use development in that area, a Working Waterfront District that would support and encourage water related commercial development and a Central Business District. A general summary of the major changes being proposed and an amended copy of the Zoning Ordinance are available for review at Town Hall and on the Town website (www.townofdauphinisland.org).

LAST FRIDAY ART NIGHTS

If you haven't had a chance to stop in for one of the "Last Friday Art Nights" at the Dauphin Island Heritage & Arts Council gallery behind Town Hall... you've really missed a special treat. In addition to the opportunity to shop for local art, see art demonstrations and visit the Heritage Gallery, you'll be treated to great food, wine, and live music and it's all FREE and open to the public! Donations are accepted and appreciated. Join us on Friday, August 29 from 6-8pm for the next event.

DI CAT ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Volunteers with the DI Cat Association continue to make progress with its Trap, Neuter/Spay and Return (TNR) program. During the past month eleven feral and/or free roaming cats were captured and (6) of those were placed in legitimate homes off island. A fundraiser was held at the Lighthouse Bakery during rodeo weekend which yielded \$180. Additional contributions of \$544 were received via other donations during July. DICA members urge all citizens to have their pets spayed/neutered to help control the pet population here on the island. As always, DICA volunteers are eager to assist home and business owners that are experiencing specific issues with feral/free roaming cats. Please feel free to call Jennifer (251-861-2448) or Patricia (251-895-5970).

Island Receives Recognition... Again!

The U.S. Gulf Coast States Geotourism Stewardship Council recently recognized Dauphin Island "for their valuable contribution to the U.S. Gulf Coast States Geotourism Program, and their support to sustaining and enhancing the unique geographical character of the region through their commitment to the environment, culture, aesthetics, heritage and well being of its residents". The program is sponsored by National Geographic.

FIRE & RESCUE AND FIRE PROTECTION

In an effort to help our first responders more effectively respond to emergencies we will be visiting Island businesses to develop an emergency "preplan". These visits will help us locate utilities, fire hydrants, points of entry and gather contact names and other useful information. This is not an inspection for code violations. We will be contacting business owners to schedule visits at their convenience. Most sessions will last less than an hour. If you have any questions feel free to email brad@dauphinisland.net or call [251-206-5626](tel:251-206-5626). Thank you for your support.

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

TOWN OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

1011 Bienville Boulevard
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

Phone: 251-861-5525

Fax: 251-861-2154

Website: townofdauphinisland.org
Monday-Thursday 7:00am - 5:30pm



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

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. Jennifer Turner can be reached at 626-0673 or email her at tomyquazar@gmail.com visit DI-POA website.

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

DI Court—2nd Wednesday of each month **August 13th @ 4:00pm**

DI Traffic School **August 6th @ 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's Office, 908 Alabama Ave. (861-2363)