



THE TOWN CRIER

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September 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug 29 Last Friday Art Night—DIHAC 6pm
- Aug 30 SeaGrass Noon to 10 pm
- Aug 31 "Sunset Jazz Concert" West End Beach, 4:45pm—7:15pm
- Sept 1 Labor Day
- Sept 20 27th Annual Alabama Coastal Cleanup
- Sept 26 Last Friday Art Night
- Oct 2-4 11th Annual Alabama Coastal Bird Fest
- Oct 11 Annual Colonial Isle Dauphine—Ft Gaines
- Oct 11 Annual DI Art Trail
- 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
- Nov 7 DIVA Annual Benefit Auction

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 September are scheduled for the 2nd & 16th.

Labor Day Weekend Activities!



Labor Day weekend is upon us and you're invited to spend it right here on Dauphin Island. Several activities are planned for your enjoyment starting with another installment of the Last Friday Art Night at the DI Heritage & Art Council gallery located behind Town Hall. These popular monthly events combine local art with good food and fellowship and admission is free! From 6-8pm on Friday, August 29 you can browse the gallery in search of that special gift or stop by the heritage room where photos and other memorabilia are on display for a trip back in time. Organizers often include music, storytelling and art demonstrations to make your experience an even more enjoyable and enriching one. For more info check out the DIHAC website or call 251-861-3300.

On Saturday, August 30 the South Mobile County Tourism Authority will host the SeaGrass Concert Series at the rodeo site from noon until 10pm. Alabama native Jason Isbell headlines an "all Americana" day of music which also features Lisa Mills (1225pm), Ryan Balthrop (215pm), Marc Broussard (415pm) and Amanda Shires (615pm). Isbell will take the stage at 730pm rounding out what should be an enjoyable afternoon and evening of music and entertainment. Tickets are available at all Mobile County branches of The First bank, at ACP Real Estate and online at <http://seagrassconcert.eventbrite.com>. Children Age 9 and under receive free admission. Food and beverages (including alcohol) will be available for purchase at each show. No outside food/beverage allowed. For additional info call the South Mobile Tourism Authority at (251) 861-TRIP (8747).

West End Beach will provide the perfect venue to close out the three days of activities with a Town-sponsored Sunset Jazz Concert on Sunday, August 31. Starting at 4:45pm and closing with another spectacular Dauphin Island sunset, be sure to join us as we feature The Chad Fisher Group and the Mobile Big Band Society! Admission is \$5 parking (including passengers) or \$2 per person for bike/walk ins. NOTE: SeaGrass attendees will enjoy FREE admission at the Sunset Jazz Concert with SeaGrass wristbands! West End Beach concert attendees are allowed to bring food & beverages but please...NO Glass or Pets Allowed.

TOWN HALL NEW OPERATING HOURS

Town Hall will once again be open Monday—Friday from 7:30am—4:00pm for your convenience starting Tuesday, September 2, 2014. Please make note of this change.



ISLAND UPDATE

All of us living along the Alabama coast recognize the importance of a vibrant and healthy environment. Just think back a little over four years ago when the Deepwater Horizon disaster shut down commercial and recreational use of our abundant natural resources and devastated economies all along the gulf coast. Every year residents, businesses and volunteers come together in an effort to give back to our coastal environment in the form of the Alabama Coastal Clean Up and you're encouraged to join hundreds of your friends and neighbors to help "get the trash out of the splash". This year's event is set for Saturday, September 20 and will kick off at 8am at various locations throughout south Mobile County including Cadillac Square here on Dauphin Island. Since the beginning of the Alabama Coastal Clean Up in 1987, more than 72,000 volunteers have helped remove over 1.5 million pounds of trash and marine debris from area beaches, marshes and waterways! To find out more information about the clean up contact Dauphin Island Zone Captain Caitlin Wessel at (251) 861-2141 or visit the Alabama Coastal Clean Up website. Let's all get together and help clean up our coastal environment...it's the least we can do. Speaking of the benefits of a healthy environment, the 11th Annual Alabama Coastal Birdfest will take place October 2-4 and you're invited to participate in this colorful and unique spectacle. As a multi-year winner of the nationwide "Birdiest Coastal City" competition, Dauphin Island is well known throughout the birding community as a globally important stop on the migratory trail for hundreds of feathered species. This year's event includes guided tours on foot and by boat to favorite birding locations all along the Alabama Coastal Birding Trail. Several new trips have also been added including sunset cruises in the Delta and Weeks Bay. For more information on this event check out the 2014 Alabama Coastal Birdfest website. The 4th Annual Dauphin Island Art Trail will be held on Saturday, October 11 from 9am-4pm and more than 50 local and regional artists will converge on the island to display and sell their work. Sponsored by the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce, the art trail will include some 17 venues throughout the island and a FREE trolley service will be on hand to help you get to all of them in a timely and convenient fashion. This is always a great opportunity to find that one-of-a-kind piece for that special someone in your life or add to the décor of your favorite room in the house. Choose from a variety of artworks including pottery, hand-made jewelry, paintings, wood workings, sculptures and much more. Admission is FREE and attendees are encouraged to have their art trail maps stamped at 10 of the 17 locations to qualify for various prize drawings! For additional information please call (251) 861-2473. While you're here, venture on over to historic Fort Gaines for the 21st Annual Colonial Isle Dauphine. Explore the grounds while hearing stories of days gone by, watch live reenactments and see a blacksmith demonstrate his craft. Fun for the entire family!

Road Resurfacing Project

If you've ventured around the island lately you should have noticed the road improvements being made on a number of streets. This is all part of the Mobile County Pay-As-You-Go Road Program which affords such work to take place with funding collected via gasoline taxes. However, the Town took this opportunity to elevate certain portions of Bienville Boulevard and Sehay St. and those costs came directly from municipal funds. The end result is that some of the island's streets and roadways are receiving a fresh layer of asphalt that should last well into the future. Additional streets have already been forwarded to Mobile County for the next PAYG cycle which will likely take place within a couple of years.



Sunset Jazz Series Adds Event

When the Town decided to sponsor a Sunset Jazz Series at West End Beach early this summer, few could have imagined just how popular these events would become. Combining jazz music with one of the most breathtaking views along the gulf coast has proven to be a big hit...so much so that we're throwing in an extra concert! On Sunday, September 28 we are proud to present **Roman Street** in concert at West End Beach and all proceeds from the event will be contributed to the relocation, rehabilitation and repurposing of the Dauphin Island "Little Red School House". The concert will begin at 6:30pm and conclude at sunset and admission is \$5 per person. Free for children age 12 & under. Attendees are allowed to bring beach chairs and food & beverage items but no glass, grills or pets allowed! As you probably know by now, the Mobile County School Board has plans to construct a new building on school grounds to replace the aging structure within the next year. Our community is extremely appreciative that such a substantial investment is being made to insure our children receive the highest degree of education possible. At the same time, we are working to protect the 84 year old building from demolition and preserve it for future generations. Let's close out the summer with some fantastic music and support a great cause at the same time. Tell all your friends and neighbors as they won't want to miss this great event!



New Playground Equipment

You may have noticed that the playground equipment at Salt Creek Park was removed to make way for a much needed upgrade. The Town Council recently approved the purchase of a new "jungle gym" complete with slides, ladders and other challenges for our youngest citizens and visitors alike. Town officials are also planning to install a new swing set at the park with the help of Johnny's RV (materials) and Maeco Fabrication (construction). Many thanks to these generous companies for their contributions in support of this project!

West End Beach Closing For Season

It's been a busy summer at the Town's West End Beach as the public park continues to attract huge crowds on a regular basis. In fact, there were a number of days this year when the parking lot was maxed out and people waited outside the gate for access. The facility offers convenient access to gulf and sound side waters, life guards, waterslide, vendors (food/beverage, rental chairs/umbrellas, sno-cones, etc.), clean air-conditioned restrooms and a front row seat to some of the most spectacular sunsets you'll find anywhere. Regular operations will terminate the day after Labor Day although the park will remain accessible for strolls along the beach, fishing and more.



State Plans Second Ferry Ramp

The Town Council was recently approached by representatives with the Alabama Dept. of Transportation (ALDOT) regarding its plan to construct a second ferry landing ramp at Billy Goat Hole. The new ramp would be located just west of the existing ramp and plans also include additional seating and shade structures for the traveling public. Town officials have met with ALDOT representatives in an effort to coordinate better use of this popular locale. Discussions are ongoing and we remain hopeful that planned improvements will also include a comprehensive look at traffic and pedestrian safety issues in this congested part of the island.

Alabama Power Company Grant

Many thanks to Alabama Power Company for funding a grant request to restore existing welcome signs here on the island. Funds in excess of \$1200 will help the Town make needed improvements to refurbish these decorative signs and protect them from the harsh environment. We appreciate the generous support!



EMA Installs New Siren

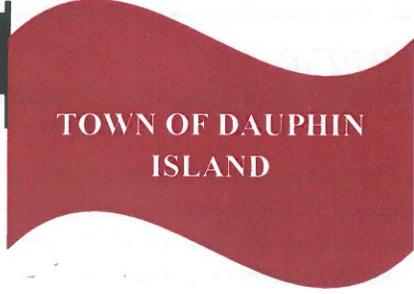
A couple of months ago we mentioned that Mobile County EMA had plans to replace the aging warning siren located near Salt Creek Bridge. That installation is now complete. This particular siren covers/serves a large area of residential and commercial properties and the DI School. The Town expresses its sincere appreciation to Mobile County EMA for helping our community with the installation of this potentially life saving equipment.

Sea Lab & Estuarium Construction Underway

Ongoing construction activities are very visible on the east end of the island as the DI Sea Lab is making improvements at two of its facilities. A new building to house additional laboratories is being built just behind (south of) the Shelby Hall complex while the popular Estuarium is undergoing an expansion as well. Work at the Estuarium will incorporate the existing "Rays of the Bays" exhibit within the facility and increase display area to provide an even more enjoyable and educational experience.

Committee Revising Proposed Zoning Ordinance Changes

Following a recent public hearing, the Town Council voted to table action on the proposed Zoning Ordinance changes and sent the document back to the Planning Commission for additional revisions. The Council received numerous comments from a large group of residents and property owners who expressed concern over certain portions of the plan. Specific areas of concern centered primarily around the proposed Working Waterfront and Village Districts and allowing duplex construction in residential areas. Members of the Planning Commission and representatives with the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission are in the process of reviewing all comments and recommendations received at the public hearing and making changes to the draft version of the plan. Once that work is complete additional opportunities for public input will be provided to our citizens. This is all part of the ongoing effort to implement the recently revised Comprehensive Plan which was created from numerous public input opportunities over an extended period of time.



**TOWN OF DAUPHIN
ISLAND**

1011 Bienville Boulevard
Dauphin Island, Alabama 36528

Phone: 251-861-5525

Fax: 251-861-2154

Website: townofdauphinisland.org

Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm



DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

**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 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 or visit DI-POA website.

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

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

DI Traffic School **October 1st @ 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)