THE TOWN CRIER
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. However, this is not intended as a substitute for attending public meetings.

COVID-19 UPDATE The town of Dauphin Island is monitoring conditions associated with Covid-19 and actively working to keep residents and local business owners informed on the latest information and guidelines. In addition to staying at home (when you can), personal hygiene, social distancing and wearing masks/face coverings remain key in “flattening the curve” and we encourage everyone to do their part! All Alabama beaches remain CLOSED following a recent order by Governor Ivey and food and beverage establishments are limited to take out and delivery only. Our Public Safety Director continues to work closely with the business sector to ensure CDC/State/County recommendations are being met while offering helpful suggestions to keep staff and customers safe. Town buildings remain closed to the public and customers are asked to conduct business via phone, fax or email until further notice. Public Meetings will go on as scheduled but “attendance” is restricted to Zoom and Facebook Live. In other news, the Town Council opted not to impose a curfew at this time, although the “Stay at Home” order by the Governor remains in place. Town Officials have taken action to reduce expenses as tax revenues are expected to take a severe hit as impacts from COVID-19 extend into the summer months. A decision was also made to remove the guest house from the rental market until further notice. We anticipate additional and updated guidelines may soon be forthcoming from the Governor’s Office as part of the statewide plan to open states and counties throughout America. Additional info will be provided as it becomes available.

Events Postponed, Cancelled In response to the Covid-19 outbreak, a number of previously scheduled events have either been postponed or cancelled. These include (but may not be limited to) “Thunder on the Bay” at historic Fort Gaines, Motorcycle Show, Sunset Cruise Car Show, DIPOA Annual Meeting, Sailboat Regatta, and St. Francis Episcopal Arts & Crafts Festival. Note: In order to follow recommended protocols related to Covid-19, the town council will make decisions regarding all upcoming scheduled events at each council meeting based upon current conditions and future projections. We encourage independent/Community event sponsors to do the same.

DIVA Plans Memorial Day Ceremony The DI Veterans Association plans to host its annual Memorial Day ceremony at Water Tower Plaza on Monday, May 25 at 11am and everyone is invited to attend. Always a patriotic and solemn occasion as we gather to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Island Citizens Provide Face Coverings Island seamstresses Lisa Sheets, Victoria Stewart and Sabrina Green (materials donated by Sharin Helm, Denise Crawford and Marna Rushing) recently pooled their time, collective talents and generosity to make hundreds of FREE face coverings for island residents! On behalf of a grateful community...thank you so much for helping everyone do their part to reduce the spread of Covid-19 here on the island and potentially save lives!

Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline and Habitat Restoration Project Governor Kay Ivey recently announced that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) has awarded nearly $24 million from its Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) to four new projects in the state of Alabama. The projects, developed in consultation with state and federal resource agencies, are designed to restore habitat and reduce risk of future harm to natural resources that were affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A $9,392,000 award under GEBF will create and protect important coastal habitat while reducing vulnerability of the only access route between south Mobile County and Dauphin Island. This project will design and install breakwaters and create intertidal marsh habitat to provide protection against future erosion and storm damage. Project activities will be co-funded through NFWF’s Emergency Coastal Resiliency Fund. A special thanks to Senator Richard Shelby for his efforts to provide an additional $4.9 million from the Emergency Coastal Resiliency Fund to assist with the Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline and Habitat Restoration Project. "The funding of these projects continues reinvestment in the Alabama Gulf Coast communities that were impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill nearly 10 years ago," Governor Ivey said. "I appreciate the work of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and our partnership with NFWF as we continue to recover and build a more resilient coast." The town of Dauphin Island expresses its sincere appreciation to Senator Shelby, Governor Ivey, Commissioner Chris Blankenship, and NFWF for their collective support to identify and fund this critically important project.

Road Paving Complete The resurfacing of selected streets throughout the community is complete and our thanks again to Commissioner Jerry Carl for including Dauphin Island in this latest round of Pay-As-You-Go funding! Streets such as Bridgeview, Island Shore, Octavia, Forney Johnston (north) and about a half dozen others are now sporting a new layer of asphalt and offering a much smoother ride. The town will apply for similar construction work in the next funding cycle.
News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council “VIRTUAL” ART GALLERY. Like many venues and small businesses in Alabama, the Dauphin Island Gallery (the “Lighthouse Building” at 918 Bienville Boulevard) is temporarily closed because of public health concerns. While our Gallery is closed, we are excited to share a new way to see and purchase art by our many member artists. To access the Virtual Art Gallery, visit DJHAC’s Facebook page, or click on the Facebook link on DJHAC’s website at https://www.dauphinislandarts.org. The Virtual Art Gallery is just a sampling of the art available at Dauphin Island Gallery. We will be adding more art to the Virtual Art Gallery from time to time, so please visit and shop with us often! Remember that all Gallery purchases help support our many programs, including free children's art education, the Dauphin Island Native American Festival, adult art classes, Last Friday Art Night (LFAN), and so much more! FRANK LEDBETTER METAL ART FUNDRAISER FOR DIHAC While you are on DIHAC’s Facebook page, be sure to check out Frank Ledbetter's fundraiser for DIHAC, featuring Frank's wonderful metal art. Frank, who is a Dauphin Island Gallery member and artist, board member, is generously donating to DIHAC all proceeds from the sale of his art on this Facebook post while the Gallery is closed. This is a great opportunity to own a piece of Frank's art while also supporting DIHAC and its programs. Our sincere thanks to Frank Ledbetter for his support! Introduction to Knife Painting Workshop with artist/educator Michele Traum has been cancelled and will be rescheduled at a later date. Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council is a charitable, non-profit organization, providing educational opportunities in the arts, and working to preserve our coastal heritage. Memberships, donations, and purchases at our Gallery help support our programs.

Arts of Dauphin Island News & Info Arts of DI is closed until further notice due to the ongoing Covid-19 outbreak. However, upon reopening, look for many new and exciting happenings at the gallery located next to town hall! Our adult and children’s classes will resume along with the always popular “2nd Sunday Open House” and of course, our collection of amazing art work created by our wonderfully talented artists. We look forward to seeing everyone again real soon!

Sea Turtles & Lighting Sea Turtles “dig the dark!” That was the catch phrase at an informational meeting recently held at Isle Dauphine. Each year from May 1 – October 31, Gulf-fronting beaches serve as prime nesting sites for a variety of these gentle creatures including Loggerhead, Kemp’s Ridley and Green Sea Turtles. Unfortunately, exterior and interior lighting can prove deadly to adult female turtles and their hatchlings. Turtles, young and old, are more secure when roaming the beaches under the cover of darkness. Excessive and bright lights on homes and businesses have caused them to become disoriented and possibly die. To address this problem, property owners are encouraged to install turtle friendly fixtures and lights. Recommended are red/amber LED bulbs, proper shielding to direct light down to ground and low mounting heights and bulb wattage. For more information and to find ways you can help, please contact Share the Beach at www.sharethebeach.com, the Sea Turtle Conservancy at www.conserveturtles.org or the Alabama Coastal Foundation at www.joinACF.org.

2020 Census...Be Counted! Latest reports from the census bureau puts participation rates for Dauphin Island currently at 20%. We can and must do much better than that! Having an accurate census count is critically important for our island community, the state, and nation and it only takes a few minutes to register. Visit 2020Census.gov today and make sure you and your family are counted!

2020 Municipal Election Info The town of Dauphin Island municipal elections will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020 (7am-7pm) and the mayor and all five council positions will be on the ballot. Individuals interested in running for a stated position must be: (1) a minimum of 18 years of age, (2) a resident of Dauphin Island for a minimum of 90 days prior to the election, and (3) a registered voter on Dauphin Island. Candidates are required to register at town hall from July 7-21, 2020, choose a position to seek (Mayor or Council Place 1-5), pay a $50 fee and fill out/sign related paperwork. Note: For more detailed candidate information please visit the Secretary of States Office website at www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes. The Mayor & Council Members each serve four-year terms and the monthly compensation for the 2020-24 term will be as follows: Mayor $5,000 / Council Member $400. Please note that Council positions DO NOT come with a pre-determined area of responsibility (ex. Police Dept., Public Works, Building Inspection, etc.). In fact, such liaison positions are not required at all. Instead, they are created at the discretion of the Mayor.

July 4 Fireworks “Up in the Air” In preparation for the annual July 4 fireworks show sponsored by the town of Dauphin Island, the council solicited bids earlier this year from companies to produce the pyrotechnics show. The initial bid was rejected as it did not meet the stated cost requirements and the item was subsequently rebid. A single bid ($20,000) was then received from J&M Displays (the same company that provided last year’s display) for consideration. Due to the uncertainty associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the council requested additional time to consider the proposal but the company required a decision be made ASAP. After ample consideration, the council voted to reject the bid. Therefore, at the present time, the annual Fourth of July fireworks show is canceled.

Borrow Pits Project Needs Your Help The town has identified a potential funding source to fill all borrow pits along the north side of the island but we need the help and cooperation of property owners in the area. These random pits were created when sand was mined to construct a protective berm along the south side of Bienville Boulevard in response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Left in place, the pits pose a potential threat for island breaching during the next big (or not so big) storm. Can you imagine a Katrina Cut-style breach (approx. 1 1/2 miles wide) occurring in a developed portion of the island? Obviously, it is a situation we’d like to avoid if at all possible. Therefore, we respectfully request favorable consideration from property owners in the affected area to provide us with a right-of-entry so that the initial survey work (only) can be completed soon. Note: You may see surveyors on site occasionally as they begin work on parcels with secured right-of-entry forms. A complete survey is needed for all pits so that the scope of the entire project can be designed, priced and submitted for approval to the funding agency in a timely fashion. With your help, filling of the upland/inland borrow pits could be accomplished within a year. Those currently in the Mississippi Sound will likely take longer as a Corps permit will be required for filling. For questions or additional information, please contact Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger.

Dauphin Island Sea Lab Our team at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab understands the challenges in this unprecedented time of virtual learning. While there is no substitute for hands-on learning, our team is offering virtual opportunities for everyone to learn about our oceans. We’ve created a page on our website dedicated to Digital Learning that is updated daily with a variety of content. Find it all at disl.edu/about/digital-learning-with-disl.
DI Fire & Rescue News  Dauphin Island Fire & Rescue recently took delivery of Engine 3, a 2020 Pierce Fire Truck! It is replacing a truck built in 1986. It can pump 1,250 gallons per minute, has a 1,000 gallon tank and many modern technologies. The $294,000 fire truck was purchased with money we collect from water meter fees and donations. It is not uncommon that we see houses damaged by fire and spreading to other houses because of large amounts of natural vegetation and rubbish catching fire. To reduce such threats, we recommend that you clear at least 10' away from the house any flammable items like gas cans, rubbish and firewood. Other helpful actions include clearing out trees and bushes, and removing any debris that could catch fire under a fire. Keep in mind that the burning of trash and debris is dangerous and illegal. Please contact the Town for information about properly disposing of debris. After 27 years of service our EMS Chief, Jessica McGarvey is stepping down for a well deserved retirement. As a firefighter and paramedic she has touched many lives when they needed her help the most. Jessica has been a community servant, a friend and a hero. We know you join us in expressing our sincere appreciation to Jessica and wishing her the very best as she gives retirement a try! If you have further questions please contact us at dauphinislandfire@gmail.com.

Town Property Acquisitions: "Buy land - they're not making any more of it", is a common expression heard on the Island. This especially rings true for Town leaders as they have negotiated three (3) purchase agreements for the strategic acquisition of privately-owned tracts to aid in or create significant restoration, access to public, and low impact development projects. These agreements were the result of multi-year negotiations to acquire fee simple title of several thousand acres of privately owned property varying from Graveline Bay (submerged lands south of the DI Airport) to a parcel on LeMoyne Drive in the heart of the "Village" where the new Community Center will be located and the new community center will be constructed later this year. The acquisitions are structured to leverage grant funding opportunities while minimizing out-of-pocket Town expenses. The various purchase agreements are described in more detail as follows: Aloe Bay Eco-Tourism Center - The 98-acre Zogby property is located just south of the Dauphin Island Bridge and directly across the street from the First Bank. In 2019, the Town acquired 93 of the 98 acres of this parcel comprising a mixture of salt marsh, upland forest, submerged tidelands, and habitat-rich shoreline meandering along Aloe Bay. This property was purchased using Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) Funds administered by the Alabama trustees. The property is planned to become an eco-tourism area with public access to the water, a kayak launch, marsh boardwalk, and educational opportunities. The project is currently being designed by a Professional Engineering firm. Public input will be sought before construction is bid. DeSoto Avenue Marina - The Town of Dauphin Island recently purchased the fenced boat yard on the West side of the Desoto Avenue commercial district, located at the terminus of Levee Street. The project is a partnership between the Town of Dauphin Island and the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) to add another boat launch to service our community. Funding new and upgraded public coastal boat launches and associated facilities were a priority of ADCNR in 2019 - and this project is being funded using Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act Funds (GOMESA) funds. In addition to the fenced area, the purchase included the old Dauphin Island Lumber yard location, bordered by Chaumont Avenue and Levee Street. A new launch is planned with direct access to Aloe Bay channel and the construction of over one acre of parking area. This launch is currently under design. How the launch will be managed will be determined after the completion of the Aloe Bay Harbor Town Feasibility Study/Master Plan. While no firm plans have been made, initial ideas suggest a free launch with a paid parking structure. Later this year, Goodwyn Mills and Cawood, Inc. and their project team, will conduct a comprehensive feasibility study/Master Plan for this area which will provide the best plan for traffic, parking, and enforcement related to the boat launch. Dauphin Ltd. Purchase - Mr. Chris DeLaney and Dauphin LTD were a large part of Dauphin Island's original development. Dauphin LTD developed several subdivisions including those along the north side of Dauphin Island. Some of these subdivisions were created by dredging submerged land to create upland parcels. In addition, the DeLaney family has been an important supporter and contributor to the Dauphin Island community and the Dauphin Island Foundation for many years. In 2019, the Town entered an agreement with Dauphin LTD in which the Town will purchase portions of the Dauphin LTD holdings at the appraised value. Upon receipt of 50% of the total appraised value of all parcels (+/- $1 million), Dauphin LTD will donate the remaining parcels to the Town. The properties involved in this complex agreement are: 412 Lemoyne & 300 Lemoyne - These commercial properties will provide much needed space for the new community center, associated parking and other related uses. 1108 Chaumont - This commercial lot will be used in association with the broader Aloe Bay projects. 418 acres of marsh around the Dauphin Island Airport and Graveline Bay and 109 acres located at the southeastern end of Little Dauphin Island near the mouth of Fort Gains channel. These privately-owned submerged lands and shorelines have the potential for numerous restoration projects such as wetland creation, bird habitat protection, and shoreline stabilization. Public ownership of these parcels is essential to leverage funding in support of these critical projects. 800+ acres along the north side of the west end from St. Stephens Street to the western end of Bienville Blvd. extending out over 3000 feet north to the Harbor Lines. This area is ideal for critical wildlife habitat protection. The property also includes over 8 acres of shoreline that will assist with ongoing efforts to fill the "Borrow Pits" that were created in response to the BP oil spill in 2010. A variety of other parcels will convey to the town as a donation upon completion of the purchases. Several residential lots on the west end (North side). With no public plans in place, they will likely be sold as surplus property. The Town would like to recognize and thank Dauphin LTD and the DeLaney Family for their patience in negotiating the agreement and generosity in donating many of the parcels to the Town!

Flood Ordinance Revisions New flood maps for Dauphin Island become effective in early June 2020. With that comes a requirement that the town adopt a revised Flood Ordinance prior to that date. At the same time, the council has been working on its own amendment to the Flood Ordinance that would change (for the better, we think) the way "Substantial Improvements" are measured on homes and businesses within the community. Flood regulations require additional compliance measures (ex. elevation, relocation, retrofits, demolition, etc.) to be taken on structures when cumulative repairs and improvements exceed 50% of the market value. While the current ordinance has no prescribed timeframe associated with the 50% threshold, the amended version offers a 10 year cycle. If approved, existing structures with varying levels (percentages) of Substantial Improvements will be reset to zero. The new 10 year clock won't start until the owner chooses to make improvements and/or repairs to the structure. At that time, a new market value will be determined and the 50% threshold will remain in place for a 10 year period from that initial work. If the threshold is not exceeded within the 10 year period the clock and percentage will once again reset to zero. Bottom Line: As long as a combination of repairs/improvements to a structure DO NOT exceed 50% of the market value within a designated 10 year period, no additional compliance measures will be required by existing flood regulations. A Public Hearing by the Town Council is set for May 6th at 6pm and you are invited to participate via Zoom or Facebook Live. Specific call-in and log-in info will be publicized in advance of the meeting. Questions and comments can be submitted in advance via email to vsandagger@townofdauphinisland.org or phone at 861-5525 x225.
Red Snapper Shootout 2020: Folks will be reeling in the big ones to raise money for a great cause at the Red Snapper Shootout 2020 taking place at Aloe Bay Boat Storage (DeSoto Avenue) on Saturday, May 23. Categories will include Red Snapper (2-fish aggregate), Cobia (heaviest fish), Slot Redfish (2-fish aggregate) and Flounder (prizes given by drawing). Note: One raffle ticket will be given for each live flounder and ALL flounder will become property of the mariculture center. Open Division and Calcutta for snapper, cobia and redfish. Scales open from 3-6pm and the event will offer food, music and raffles. Proceeds from the event will benefit Ben Dunham. He and his family are staples in the fishing community and Ben has been battling cancer for some time. We hope to offset some of the cost of his treatments by donating 50% of the open division money and 10% of the Calcutta money to Ben and his family. Visit Fishing Chaos for tickets, tournament rules and more.

Fiber Optic Status Report: About a year ago, the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) installed fiber optic cable and related equipment on the Dauphin Island Bridge to enhance services here on Dauphin Island. This move came after years of outreach and discussions with state officials and we again want to thank Governor Kay Ivey for her steadfast support and "can do" spirit to make it happen. Subsequently, the ALDOT leased the fiber to the town and the town has in turn developed its own lease documents in preparation for providers interested in offering a variety of services to our island community. The town has also contracted with Uniti Fiber to provide maintenance and repair services associated with the bridge fiber. In the meantime, Uniti Fiber (an independent contractor) recently received a permit from the Corps of Engineers to install fiber cable from the mainland (approx. Alabama Port) to the north end of the DI Bridge. This stretch of fiber will be available on the open market to interested service providers and is expected to be in place by early June 2020. Uniti has also installed similar cable from the south end of the bridge to near the Circle K in the past 30 days. You may also recall that Comcast Cable was recently awarded a $820,750 grant through the state of Alabama to be used specifically for improved services on Dauphin Island. No details or timelines are currently available on this particular project. As you can see, the town has made great strides over the past year to deliver an improved quantity and quality of services to residents and business owners alike. We will continue to pass along updates as new information becomes available.

DIPOA NEWS: At the April Board of Director's meeting held on Thursday, April 16th by teleconference, Barry Zetsch, the 2020 election supervisor made a motion and the Board approved in a 5-3 vote, to postpone the Annual Meeting scheduled for May 9th and reschedule for Saturday, June 13th. All election related activities that were scheduled to take place on May 9th will take place on June 13th. This difficult decision was made because of the uncertainty of the status of the COVID-19 virus and the state's mandate on social distancing guidelines that could impact a large gathering such as the Annual Meeting. The majority of Board Members agreed that making this decision now would more adequately allow the Board and the Election Committee to send written notice of the new date of the Annual Meeting in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution. More details will follow in the written notification. In the meantime, if you are a new property owner or are not sure the POA has your correct mailing address, please contact the POA Administrative Assistant, Melissa Taylor. You can come by the office, call (251) 861-3144, or email us at dipaooffice@gmail.com. To confirm or change your contact information. Once again, membership dues are the POA's main source of revenue. Without your support, the Board would not be able to do the things we are doing for you. If you have not paid your annual dues, you may pay in person at the POA office, mail a check to P.O. Box 39, or pay on the POA web site, with a credit card. Our office hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE TOWN EMAILS?** In order to keep our property owners, citizens and visitors better informed, the Town maintains a mass email list for the prompt and convenient distribution of upcoming events and matters of importance to our community. If you are not already on the list please contact Jennifer Ploeger at jploeger@townofdauphinisland.org.

**HURRICANE RE-ENTRY PASSES!** Check your hurricane re-entry passes to make sure they are current.

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**DEPARTMENTAL LISTING**

**Town Clerk**
Wanda Sandaguer
861-5525 Ext 225

**Bldg Official/Coastal Project Manager**
Cell No 251-234-7466/Corey Moore
Cell No 251-257-6707/Terry Sheffield
861-5525 Ext 224

**Code/Zoning Enforcement**
251 861-5525 Ext 229

**Superintendent Public Works Dept.**
Sharron Yommer Ext 230

**DUMPSTERS**
Fridays & Saturdays
7:00am until 2:30pm

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**Building Department Admin. Asst.**
Business License/Permit Clerk
Jennifer Ploeger Ext 222

**Event Coordinator/Office Asst.**
Maggie Godwin Ext 223

**Court Clerk**
Sacy Mallon Ext 221

**Admin. Clerk /Magistrate**
Joyce Wentworth Ext 227

**Animal Control**
Ext 230

**Dauphin Island Police Dept.**
Chief of Police
Chief Kym Claw 861-5523

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**TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**Agenda Meetings:** Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5:00 pm

**Town Council Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm

**Meetings:** May 6th (change of date) & 19th

**Planning Commission Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month 6:00 pm

**Board of Adjustment Meetings:** 4th Monday of each month or as needed

**DI Court:** 2nd Wednesday of each month May 13th

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

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

**Property Owners' Assoc. Meetings:** Board meets at 6pm on the third Thursday of each month, except December, at Asie Dauphine. For specific information call 861-3144.