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.

Coronavirus Pandemic Update Governor Kay Ivey extended the statewide order requiring individuals to wear face coverings/masks through March 5 when (a) within six feet of a person from another household, (b) inside indoor space open to the general public, (c) in a vehicle operated by a transportation service or (d) at an outdoor public space where ten or more people are gathered. The lobbies of town buildings including Town Hall, Public Works & Police Dept. are once again closed to public access in an effort to maintain a higher level of safety for our staff and customers. As a result, we are asking everyone to continue conducting business via phone, fax or email whenever possible. Public Meetings are taking place as scheduled and we respectfully request attendance be limited to Zoom and Facebook Live to reduce in-person crowd size. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. The town’s Public Safety Director has been in contact with local Health Department officials regarding the possibility of hosting a Covid-19 vaccination clinic here on the island. Logistics including the identification of functional on-island sites, required staffing and available volunteers to successfully host a clinic are well underway. Currently, the lack of available vaccines is the primary challenge to on-island vaccination programs. Pending authorization, the town is more than willing to host a clinic for our citizens. We will let you know when and if that happens.

Welcome Center Reopening? As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic the Little Red School House, including the Welcome Center, Lending Library, Museum and Gift Shop, has unfortunately been closed for nearly a year but tentative plans are being discussed that could reopen the popular facility in the not-too-distant future. Under the current plan, vaccination of our staff and volunteers is essential along with their collective willingness to return to duty. In addition, strict safety protocols to remain in place including the requirement to wear face coverings, limiting the number of people in the building at any one time to ensure social distancing, routine sanitizing measures, and more. Our goal is to be able to reopen the complex by April 1 but health and safety will be the determining factor as to when the general public will be allowed in. We will keep you updated on these efforts and ask for your continued cooperation.

Meeting Date Change/Public Hearing Set Although parades are pretty much a no-go this carnival season, the Mardi Gras holiday known as “Fat Tuesday” will be observed by the town as usual on February 16. This happens to coincide with a regular council meeting so a decision was made to move that meeting to Monday, February 15 at 6pm. The Agenda Meeting will also be held that same evening at 5pm. In addition, the council also set a Public Hearing at 4:40pm on Monday, February 15 to receive comments on the proposed Ordinance 10-M; An Ordinance to establish fees for various applications, licenses, and penalties for violations in the Town of Dauphin Island, Alabama, relating to business and professional licenses and regulating Ordinance 10-M and Ordinance 46. In short, this ordinance includes new fees associated with Zoning & Subdivision Applications and all Board of Adjustment applications. It also combines fees and penalties that are currently in multiple documents in one convenient “schedule of fees” package. A copy of the proposed Ordinance 10-M is available for review on the town’s website. If you are unable to attend the Public Hearing in person or via Zoom, please feel free to submit comments to Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger at wandsaggar@townofdauphinishland.org.

Have you seen or heard the latest about Aloe Bay? Last week, the Town of Dauphin Island and the project team held a week long design charrette to help develop the vision for the future of Aloe Bay. The charrette was a multi-day design workshop that allowed citizens and designers to collaborate on the plans for Aloe Bay. Over the course of last week, more than 290 people participated during one of the 15 virtual meetings or during the in-person open house meeting at the Shelby Center. The project team used all that information to refine a draft plan for the development of Aloe Bay which balances the need for economic development and maintaining Dauphin Island as a quiet, laid-back, low-scale, funky town for fishing, vacations and living. Since the charrette has completed, the project team is busy developing a summary of the week which will be shared and posted on the project website. Please visit the website (http://www.aloebay.net) to leave feedback, review information presented to the steering committee, and keep track of future project events.

Roll up those sleeves and join us for a Blood Drive! Life South will be parked in front of the Welcome Center on February 19 from 9am – 4pm. Please stop by and donate some much needed blood! 
News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council Dauphin Island Native American Living History Video – NOW AVAILABLE! This professionally produced video was filmed in November 2020 at Dauphin Island Shell Mound Park and on Little Dauphin Island. Native American life on the island in the 18th Century is presented by living historians, along with historical background and information by archaeologists Dr. Greg Waselkov and Dr. Erin Nelson. The one-hour video is available for download for $10, and proceeds benefit DIHAC’s heritage programs. To learn more about the video and how to get your copy, text a message to 251/490-0294 or send an email to info@dauphinislandarts.org. FEBRUARY GUEST ARTIST AT DAUPHIN ISLAND GALLERY. We welcome Sharon Martin as our Guest Artist for January! Visit the Gallery to view and purchase Sharon’s wonderful pastels and oil paintings. See Gallery hours below. THE NEEDS IN OUR SERVICE AREA are great and the pandemic has created a major setback for us. Please consider giving today and supporting our efforts, which include free children’s art education, the Dauphin Island Native American Festival, adult art classes, Last Friday Art Night (LFAN), and so much more! You can make a tax-deductible donation by mailing a check payable to DIHAC to P.O. Box 114, Dauphin Island, AL 36528, or donate through our website at www.dauphinislandarts.org. THERE IS A HEALING POWER TO ART, and we want to help bring that healing to our small part of the world. As we continue to practice safety measures to help in decreasing the spread of COVID-19, we are happy that the Dauphin Island Gallery (the Lighthouse building) is open to the public. The Gallery features fine art and fine crafts by 35 local artists, and is open Thursday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, and Sunday, 12:30pm-4:30pm. Face coverings and social distancing are required while inside the Gallery. DAUPHIN ISLAND HERITAGE AND ARTS COUNCIL is a federal 501(c)3 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.

Alabama Power Foundation Grants Beautify Island The entrance to our barrier island community has received a make-over as a result of a combination of two Alabama Power Foundation grants totaling $2700. First, a “Good Roots” grant covered the cost of twelve large crepe myrtle trees and ten of them were planted on either side of the guard rails at the south end of the DI Bridge. These trees will provide foliage and vibrant colors for all to enjoy. Two of the trees were planted at the Little Red School House and should serve to frame the historic building in an attractive way. A “Gateway Grant” was used to construct and install an airy and whimsical design featuring playful dolphins offering thanks and safe travels as motorists exit the island. The town expresses its sincere appreciation to the Alabama Power Foundation for its continued support of the Dauphin Island community! NOTE: Our thanks also to the Dauphin Island Business and Commerce for providing funding for a matching “Welcome Sign” that was recently installed on the opposite side of Lemoine Drive/Hwy. 193. Both signs were designed and constructed by island resident and artist Jim Oberkirch.

Graveline Bay Marsh Restoration Project Update The Town and Moffatt & Nichol are now underway with the Graveline Bay Marsh Restoration Project. The goal of the project is to restore marsh habitat and associated species that were injured by the oil spill as well as help to protect the shorelines from erosion along the Bay and prevent breaching of the Island in this vulnerable location. The project team will be conducting field investigations in coming months (winter 2021). Property owners near and south of the DI Airport may see small boats conducting bathymetric surveys, cultural resource assessments, and geotechnical sampling. Coastal engineers and scientists will use the data collected during the field investigations to develop a marsh design over the next six months to meet project goals described above and to address any stakeholder input. The Town will apply for a US Army Corp of Engineer permit in the spring/early summer which will allow for a formal public comment period; however, we encourage and welcome questions and input during these early stages of the project. Construction of the project is estimated for spring 2022. Provide input to the Town of Dauphin Island or Project Manager, David Goecker, 11 N. Water Street, Suite 20220, Mobile, AL 36602, mgoecker@moffattnichol.com, 251-378-5006.

DI Sea Lab Tidbits The Dauphin Island Sea Lab celebrates 50 years of discovery in 2021. Established by the Alabama Legislature in 1971, the DI’s programs have grown beyond University Programs to include a public aquarium, K-12 education, outreach, and professional development for educators. Join us throughout the year as we offer a variety of programs for all ages. Today’s event calendar includes Science Fridays, Ocean Explorer Saturdays, Family Camp, Excursions, and more. Reserve a spot on one of these amazing adventures today at disl.edu/events.

Council Requests Bids for Fireworks Display As with much of 2020, Independence Day looked and sounded much different than in year’s past. Town leaders canceled the annual fireworks display as Covid-19 cases spiked mid-summer and the usual large crowds were reduced to small gatherings among family and friends. A little more than five months out and the possibility of hosting our traditional fireworks show looks as bright as the July 4th sky during the opening barrage! In preparation, the town council recently approved a Request For Proposals to solicit bids for a professional display. No, it’s not too early. In fact, we usually advertise for bids around the end of the year as companies can often get booked up well in advance of special holidays. Let’s all cross our fingers and hope that the pandemic will be but a distant memory by then and we can enjoy and celebrate a traditional and “normal” July 4th.

People’s Parade Postponed At its first meeting in 2021, the town council made the tough decision to postpone the wildly popular People’s Parade. With impacts from Covid-19 increasing by the day, town officials opted to postpone the Mardi Gras parade rather than canceling it. Such action allows for further consideration to potentially reschedule the event sometime later this year. While it wasn’t a decision the council wanted to make, the group knows it is best for the overall health and safety of the parade participants and attendees. The People’s Parade will ride again.

Dauphin Island Campground Announces Yard & Craft Sale Join us for a unique Yard & Craft Sale on Feb. 13 from 9am-noon at the DI campground. Sale will be held at each camp site to promote social distancing & face coverings will be required. Open to the public. Contact Debbie at (330) 424-8844 or jeff@4442@yahoo.com for additional information.
Arts of Dauphin Island: Our wonderful gallery is located at 1101 Bienville Blvd. and is open on Thursday-Saturday from 10am—4pm. We require social distancing, masks and the use of hand sanitizer. We are very excited to announce we will be hosting, once again, our "Artist of the Month". This event will take place on the 3rd Sunday of each month starting in February when the featured "Artist of the Month" will be photographer Laurie Schaefer. Come out and meet Laurie and see her amazing photography work. She specializes in all things Dauphin Island. In conjunction with the "Artist of the Month" we will be having an Open-air Market featuring local arts and crafts. Hours will be 1-4pm. If you would like to be a vendor in our Open-air Market, please call Celia Smith at 502-767-2222 for all the details. Due to the ever present threat of Covid this event is limited to 10 vendors, so sign up early if you are interested. Vendors are required to sign a contract with the gallery as an associate member. The cost is $20.00 per tent or $10.00 per table. Our art classes, taught by Margie Delcambre, have proven to be so successful she is now teaching two classes per week! Monday's and Wednesday's. Classes are limited to 6 students per class. To sign up, please call Margie at 251-402-0266. The gallery is now in the planning stages for events for the local children so be on the lookout for our spring and summer events.

Calling All Island Women! It's been too long since we've been able to get together. We know there are a lot of new women that have moved here that we want to welcome. Come to the Arts of Dauphin Island lawn, 1101 Bienville Blvd, bring your chair and mask, Sunday, January 31, Noon -2PM. We'd like to safely meet and show you Valentine baskets available to order and have delivered — on the island! February 14! In short, a choice of baskets with freshly baked sweets, fresh flower and a tiny 'forget me not' piece of art. You'll be able to view a fabulous raffle item and buy tickets for a chance to win. Proceeds will go to "Project Backpack" an extension of Feed The Need. If you can't come on Sunday and are not on the women's club email list contact Gail at 95mr4d@gmail.com or text Celia at 502-767-2222 and we will get information to you.

DIPAInfo: The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, Feb. 18. Please plan to join us then, at 6PM on the bottom floor of the Isle Dauphine Clubhouse. We ask that all attendees follow the COVID-19 mandates and social distancing guidelines in effect at the time. The membership will be notified of any changes to the scheduled meeting by email using Constant Contact and social media. The Annual Election of Directors will culminate at the Annual Membership Meeting on May 8. Three seats on the Board will be filled. The deadline for submitting candidate biographies is 3PM February 26th. For more information, contact our office by phone, email, or come by during business hours. Ballots are scheduled to be mailed to all property owners on or about April 1st. Also included on this year’s ballot will be Constitutional Amendments, which will enable the Association to leverage available technology to notify members of the Annual and special meetings, and to utilize electronic means for members to cast their votes/proxies. These amendments are proposed in an effort to increase voter participation by making it easier and more convenient to cast your vote, as well as to save the Association time and money on mass mailings. The Annual Dues Notice is being prepared and will be mailed soon. There will be some changes to the valid period on membership cards in order to make the Association’s financial planning and management efforts more efficient. An explanation of the changes will be included in the Dues Notice. However, do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions. Our office hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 11AM–4PM. If you need information, want to submit a permit application, or want to pay annual dues, you may go to the office during business hours, contact Melissa Taylor at (251) 861-3144, or email us at dipoaoffice@gmail.com. You may also pay your annual dues and building permit fees, by mailing a check to P.O. Box 39, or you may pay on the POA web site, with a credit card. Thank you to all of the property owners who support the POA through meeting attendance, dues payments, and volunteering.

Hurricane Recovery Process Continues: As we approach 90 days post-Zeta our debris removal contractor has completed the debris clean-up and is making good progress with sand screening and removal. The monumental task of screening sand and returning it to the shoreline will likely take another 30 days to complete along with other recovery improvements. The checkpoint will remain in place when heavy equipment is in use to promote public safety and minimize unnecessary delays. As always, we appreciate your continued cooperation.

2021 Severe Weather Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday: The town of Dauphin Island is once again teaming up with communities throughout Alabama as part of the annual Severe Weather Sales Tax Holiday that will be held February 26-28. The event allows individuals to purchase certain severe weather preparedness items free of state and local sales taxes (in participating areas). Covered items ($60 or less per item) include (but not limited to): batteries, portable battery-powered radios, flashlights/lanterns, tarps, duct tape, window coverings, reusable ice, first aid kits, smoke detectors, gas/fuel tanks, etc. In addition, a single purchase with a sales price of $1000 or less is available for portable generators and power cords. For more information visit www.revenue.alabama.gov/sales-use/sales-tax-holidays or call (334) 242-1490 or (866) 576-6531.

Little D1 Study Officially Underway: Mayor Jeff Collier participated in a virtual meeting recently with Corps of Engineer officials and numerous other agency representatives to formally kick-off the Little Dauphin Island study. Initial funding for the 12-18 month study is being provided by the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF). During this time extensive amounts of data collection and modeling (ex. sediment transport, etc.) will be undertaken to determine the best course of action necessary to restore and stabilize this important barrier island. Over time, storms and wave action have severely eroded this slender stretch that provides significant protection to the north shore of Dauphin Island and the entire Dauphin Island ecosystem. The hope is this study will lead to an actual funded project to nourish Little Dauphin and reverse some of the impacts that threaten its very existence. Such a project could also provide a long-term solution to the recurring Government Cut breach that routinely restricts boat traffic in that area. Unfortunately, there is currently no identified funding source(s) to study and/or repair the breach or dredge the channel. Additional updates will be provided as more information becomes available.
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The DI United Methodist Church will be accepting candy, plastic eggs or candy filled eggs for the community Easter Egg event. We will be “egging” yards again this year for children on the Island. If you would prefer to give a monetary donation to support this event please visit our webpage www.DIUMC.org, and choose Easter Egg Hunt. If you would like to have your child’s name added to the list that we will deliver eggs to, please contact Melissa Wolff 2512957734 by phone or text. You can follow our FB page for updates.

Lights of Dauphin Island  The Chamber of Commerce is proud to report the outcome of our first year of the Lights of Dauphin Island. Participants included 60 tree sponsors and 4 home decorations. We were able to provide Christmas gifts and Christmas Dinners for 3 families. Our expenses included the cost of the 60 trees, tree posts, tree signs, the LoDI Banner, prizes for the winning houses/house decorations and Christmas gifts and dinners for the 3 families leaving us with $3,340.47 to present to Feed the Need. Based on our experience this first year, and the feedback we have received, we are planning a 2nd installment of the Lights of Dauphin Island for 2021. Please be on the lookout for details much earlier this year - we’ll begin promoting and advertising in July!! Remember, to make it successful and even bigger, we have to have plenty of time! No rushing this year. Thanks to EVERYONE for your support, we’ll be back before you know it!

Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Run  The east end of Dauphin Island will be alive with runners on Saturday, February 20 when participants of the annual Battle of Mobile Bay 5K hit the streets. Sponsored by the Port City Pacers this popular event draws runners from all walks of life and proceeds go to support historic Fort Gaines. Due to Covid concerns, this year’s event will see a reduced field with heightened safety protocols being implemented from start to finish. The race gets underway at 8:10am. For more information check out the Port City Pacers website or email Megan Moler at mmoler14@gmail.com.

Travelawaits.com Recognizes DI  Our own Dauphin Island is included in a recent article at Travelawaits.com as one of 9 Quaint U.S. Islands to Explore in 2021. Erika Leonard writes, “A visit to one of these quaint U.S. Islands will make you feel like you’re stepping back in time. The pace of life is often slower, and these islands offer an escape from the hustle and bustle of bigger, more touristy cities”. Sound familiar? Joining us on the short list is Mackinac Island, MI, Block Island, RI, St. Simons Island, GA, Amelia Island, FL and a handful of others. The website also offers an extensive list of helpful hints to tourists including: How to get there, Where to stay, Where to eat and What to do. Check out the site and see if Dauphin Island seems like a place you might want to visit...or call home!

New Website & App  The council recently approved funding for a new and improved website to be built for the Town and we’re looking forward to a more user friendly and updated site. We are also excited to be receiving our very own App! The App will be free for users and provide a great way to get updates, events, and important information to our fellow islanders! More information to follow.

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

Town Clerk
Wanda Sandogger
861-5525

Bldg Official/Coastal Project Manager
Corey Moore —cell 251-234-7466
Terry Sheffield —cell 251-257-6707

Code/Zoning Enforcement
251 861-5525

E.M.S. Director
Troy Gorlapp 251-207-9767

Superintendent Public Works Dept.
Sharron Yommer
Ext 230

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

Building Dept. / Business License & Permits
Jennifer Ploeger
Ext 225

Event Coordinator
Maggie Godwin
Ext 223

Office Assistant
Sherry Little
Ext 223

Court Clerk
Stacy Mallon
Ext 221

Admin. Clerk /Magistrate
Joyce Wentworth
Ext 227

Animal Control
Ext 230

Dauphin Island Police Dept.
Chief of Police
Chief² Kym Claw
861-5523

*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 jpoeger@townofdauphinisland.org. It’s just that easy!

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

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: February 2nd & 15th (NOTE: Feb. 15 is a Monday!)
Planning Commission Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month 5:00 pm
Board of Adjustment Meetings: 4th Monday of each month or as needed
DI Court: 2nd Wednesday of each month February 10 @ 4pm
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)
DI Property Owners’ Assoc. Meetings: Board meets at 6pm on the third
Thursday of each month, except December, at Isle Dauphine. For
specific information call 861-3144.