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 UPDATE Governor Kay Ivey recently extended the statewide order requiring individuals to wear face coverings/masks thru November 8th 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 The ABC Board rescinded its earlier decision requiring bars, restaurants and clubs to discontinue serving alcoholic beverages at 11pm. However, the 50% occupant threshold remains in place and patrons are expected to wear face coverings unless seated for service. Town Buildings (Town Hall, Police Dept. and Public Works) are once again allowing public access with restrictions as follows: No admittance to persons with flu-like symptoms or those having had a fever of more than 100.4 within the past 48 hours, limited number of people in lobby at any one time, face coverings required, and all individuals attending in-person meetings will have their temperatures checked prior to entry. The Welcome Center remains closed. We are however asking everyone to continue conducting business via phone, fax or email when possible. Public Meetings are going on as scheduled and we respectfully request your “attendance” be limited to Zoom and Facebook Live to reduce in-person crowd size. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

2020-24 Administration Swearing-In / Meetings Set Mayor Jeff Collier and newly-elected council members Gene Fox, Trey Alderman, Earle Connell, Rich Colberg and Clinton Collier will hit the ground running shortly after being sworn in on Monday, November 2. The council will gather at Town Hall for its Organizational Meeting at 5pm, Agenda Meeting at 5:45pm and Council Meeting at 6:30pm to conduct business at the group’s inaugural meetings. The swearing-in ceremony will be held at 4pm at the Little Red School House to accommodate a few more attendees. Face coverings will be required and temperature checks administered prior to entry. Facebook Live and Zoom will also be available for your convenience.

It’s Time to Fall Back! Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1 so be sure and set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Halloween. You’ll need that extra hour of sleep after walking the kiddos around the neighborhoods on Trick or Treat!

Election Day Reminder Dauphin Island voters will once again travel to the Shelby Center at DI Sea Lab to participate in the November 3 General Election. Poll workers remind you to leave parking spaces near the front door open for handicapped use while all other voters are encouraged to use the parking lot located next to the dorms. Polls will be open from 7am-7pm and a photo ID will be required to vote. All poll workers are DI residents. The Sea Lab is requiring masks for entry into the building. PLEASE VOTE!

Aloe Bay Projects Update Efforts are still underway on the Aloe Bay projects for Dauphin Island. Recently, the Steering Committee has assisted in developing an outreach strategy which is beginning implementation. Over the next few weeks discussions will begin across the community with project stakeholders and citizens. In January, there will be a design charrette for Aloe Bay and the entire community will be invited to participate and help develop the plan for how Aloe Bay will eventually look and feel. A charrette is a multi-day workshop where citizens and designers can collaborate on the vision and plans for Aloe Bay. It will be a forum to share ideas with others and gather feedback from everyone who participates. As the time gets closer to the charrette, more information will be available on specifics such as meeting times and locations. Currently, the project team is working on the Feasibility Study and Market Analysis for Aloe Bay. The purpose of this study and analysis is to understand the current and future potentials for restaurants, retail, entertainment, and other amenities as part of Aloe Bay. The findings from this study and analysis, along with community input from the design charrette, will help create the concept and program for Aloe Bay. For more information about Aloe Bay, or to register for updates from the project team and Steering Committee, please visit the project website at www.aloebay.org.

Veterans Day Ceremony Set The DI Veterans Association (DIVA) has scheduled its annual Veterans Day ceremony at Water Tower Plaza at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, November 11, 2020. As part of the program, the name of retired Navy Chief Petty Officer George H. Grant will be added to the Memorial Wall. Please plan to attend this solemn and patriotic event. Note: DIVA will not be holding its annual benefit auction this year.
News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council

FOURTH ANNUAL GULF SEAFOOD GALA - December 5, 2020 6 pm - 9 pm at Isle Dauphine Club-Enjoy an elegant four course sit-down dinner with family and friends at this year’s Gala! Gulf seafood entrée selections prepared by Chef Philip Patrons are Oysters Bienville, Shrimp Isle Dauphine, and pan-seared flounder with cream sauce. Appetizers, sides, desserts, and non-alcoholic beverages are included. Full cash bar will be available, with table service for all food and drinks. Ticket sales are limited to 100. $100 per person, with tables of 2, 4, 6, and 8 available. COVID-19 protocol will be followed. To reserve a table, send an email to info@dauphinislandarts.org or call/text 251/490-0294. COCKTAILS AND CANVASES - November 20, 2020 6 pm to 9 pm-Join artist Barbara Teare for this popular painting class! At this month's C&C, you will be painting a beautiful white heron on a canvas bag to enjoy or give to a friend. $40 including all materials. BYOB. To reserve a space, send an email to info@dauphinislandarts.org. The class is limited to 6. Face coverings and social distancing will be required during the class. INTRODUCTION TO WATERCOLORS - December 12, 2020 - 10 am - 12 pm Odie Tucker, watercolor artist and New Island resident, will lead this informative and creative class. You will learn the basics of watercolor art and create your own watercolor painting. $50 per person including all materials. To reserve a space, send an email to info@dauphinislandarts.org. The class is limited to 6. Face coverings and social distancing will be required during the class. NOVEMBER GUEST ARTIST AT DAUPHIN ISLAND GALLERY. We welcome watercolorist Herb Wiley as our Guest Artist for November! Visit the Gallery to view and purchase Herb’s wonderful watercolor art. 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 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 on its normal days and business hours - Thursday-Saturday, 10am-4pm, and Sunday, 12:30pm-4:30pm. 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.

D1 Sea Lab Tidbits

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab added a number of programs to the calendar for all ages. Science Fridays, Ocean Saturdays, Family Camp, and Excursions open the door to understanding the oceans and surrounding habitats we live near. Reserve your spot in any of these programs by visiting disl.edu. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab’s newest citizen science program, CAMEO, gives you a chance to participate in scientific research. CAMEO stands for Citizen’s Archive for Mobile Bay Estuarine Organisms. Its citizen scientists collect data on a number of common and rare fish and invertebrate species in Mobile Bay by participating in DISL’s education program (Discovery Hall) vessel-based classes for students. As a citizen scientist, you will collect data that can be used to help answer scientific questions about Mobile Bay and through participation, will also learn more about Alabama’s coastal environments. Data collected through the program will enable us to answer questions about, and understand how Mobile Bay is changing over time. To learn more, please check out our webpage. To reach us with additional questions, email us at cameo@disl.edu, or call us at 251-861-2141, 7515.

Lights of DI Update

The inaugural Lights of Dauphin Island is coming to our Island as a thank you to the community from the D1 Chamber of Commerce. Let’s enjoy an “Enchanted Island Christmas” and let the lights of the season brighten the end of our year. The trees and decorations will be lit on Saturday evening December 5 for the month. There will be a panel of judges and People’s Choice Awards given. Winners will be announced via the DI Chamber website, Facebook and Town mass email on Monday, December 7. Please get a map so you’re sure to see all participants and vote for your favorite! Contact dauphinislandfire@gmail.com for more info.

A Memorable Hurricane Sally Story

(Note: The following letter was sent by Sharon Schneider & Bert Eversole, visitors from Metamora, Indiana) We just wanted to give a huge thank you to Michael (Officer Mike Connick) and Danny (Public Safety Officer Danny Gathord) for putting their lives at risk to save ours during Hurricane Sally (they were renting a house on Port Royal Street). The worst began at 1am when we were awoken by a loud banging sound and we jumped up to find the attic door opening and slamming down. At this point, we noticed how bad things were getting with the wind blowing furiously and the door already appearing to be torn apart by the wind and waves. We got our shoes and jackets on, had cell phones in hand, ready for whatever may happen and began to discuss what to do. Things stayed the same for the next hour or so, when suddenly we heard a loud crash! We jumped up, opened the bedroom door and saw the living room ceiling falling in and the roof being torn off. The house was shaking violently, wind and rain were coming in and pieces of the roof and house were continuing to crumble. Not knowing if the house was going to keep standing, we called the island police for help. After several failed attempts to get through, we called 911. That dispatcher asked if we needed to be rescued by car or boat but not being able to see anything in front of the house, we had no idea. She was able to contact the island police and help was finally being sent, which was Michael and Danny. We had the most excruciating 30 minutes of our lives, huddled together on the bedroom floor, not knowing if they could make it to us, if so, would it be in time? Seeing the lights from the fire truck was a momentary relief. As Michael & Danny made it up the outside steps, Bert went to the sliding glass doors to remove debris that was fallen so that they could get in and struggle to open it against the force of the wind. As it opened, the wind came through the house with such force that glass shattered all over the living room floor. It so happened that the corner to make their way into the house, Michael said another piece of the roof blew off over their heads. Once inside, they assessed the situation and tried to figure out an exit strategy for the four of us, even contemplating kicking out the glass door that was bowed in. The decision was made for Danny and Bert to open the door together and go out in a four-person chain with Danny in the lead and Michael in the rear. Once we exited the house, the wind and rain were so loud and blinding that it made it almost impossible to navigate the steps down to the driveway. Getting to the bottom, we washed through knee deep flood waters to get to the fire truck, where we finally felt safe. This story has a happy ending, however if not for the bravery and sacrifice of Michael and Danny, it could have had a much different ending. We truly owe our lives to them and will forever be grateful. (Oh yeah, almost forgot to mention...the couple got engaged approximately 12 hours prior to being rescued!).

Budget

The town council recently approved its FY2020-21 balanced budget totaling $4,378,247. Leading revenue producers include sales tax ($1,191,147), lodging tax ($350,000), and ad valorem income tax ($900,000) while salaries (approx. $1.6 million) make up the largest single expense item. The budget also includes a $2.5 million increase for all full and part-time town employees. In a year cluttered with financial challenges including the ongoing pandemic and impacts from multiple tropical systems, our 2019-20 budget fared remarkably well. Hopefully, the year ahead will prove to be smooth sailing!
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Arts of Dauphin Island  The Board of Directors and artists of Arts of Dauphin Island hope that everyone came through Hurricane Sally with little or no damage to your homes and property. We were very lucky and did not suffer any damage to our Gallery. The Gallery is open Thursday through Saturday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm. We are located at 1101 Bienville Blvd. Adult art classes are held every Monday from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. There is a $10.00 charge per class and all supplies are furnished. Come join us and learn how to paint with acrylics and meet a great group of folks. Please mark your calendar for these next two FUN EVENTS. Christmas will be here before we know it so on Thursday, November 19th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm we will be hosting an adult "Paint Pouring Party. This is a BYOB and costs $30.00 per person. You will learn to "pour" paint on canvases as well as making "poured" glass Christmas Ornaments. Class is limited to 10 people. On Saturday, November 21st from 1:00pm to 4:00pm we are having a "Family Christmas Ornament" making party. We will be using reclaimed wood from Hurricane Sally for this project. This is a Family event, so load up the kids and come and have fun making one of a kind Christmas ornaments!! There is no charge for this event. Social distancing and face masks will be required at all events. Please contact Margie Delcambre at 251-402-0266 or Marsha Barnett at 251-401-0230 to reserve your spot. We are always looking for new artists and volunteers to join our Gallery Family. If you are interested in joining our gallery or becoming a volunteer call Marsha Barnett at the above number.

DIPOA Info Please join us on Thursday, November 19th at 6 P.M. on the bottom floor of the Isle Dauphine Clubhouse for our regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Directors. 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. Special thanks to POA Directors Domenic Carlucci and Richard Brewer for cutting up the downed trees in Jeffery's Park following Hurricane Sally, and to all of the property owners that helped clean up the POA Parks in their neighborhoods. We appreciate your help. The Isle Dauphine Golf Course is still being cleaned up from Hurricane Sally with the goal of reopening on November 13th. You may call 861-3167 for additional information. Our office hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 dipoooffice@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. Thanks to all of the property owners that support the POA through meeting attendance, dues payments, and volunteerism.

Town Holiday Schedule The holiday season will be upon us before we know it and the town is pleased to share its planned closings for town hall, public works and the dumpsters between now and the new year. Thanksgiving (Thursday, November 26) - Town Hall, Public Works and Campgrounds will be closed on Thursday & Friday, Nov. 26 - 27. Dumpster will be open on Saturday, Nov. 28. Christmas (Friday, December 25) & New Year's Day (Friday, January 1) - Town Hall and Public Works will be closed from Dec. 19-Jan 3. Dumpster will be open throughout this period except for Christmas and New Year's Day. Please make note of these important dates.

Graveline Marsh Restoration Project The Town has successfully secured funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (NFWF GEBF) to conduct the engineering and design phase to restore approximately 25 acres of back-barrier intertidal marsh habitat in Graveline Bay. This project was identified as a priority in the USACE Final Alabama Barrier Island Restoration Assessment Report, 2020. These back-barrier marsh ecosystems provide not only diverse habitat for fish and wildlife but can also buffer the island and inland habitats during coastal storm events. Within Graveline Bay, the USACE estimates that as much as 40% of the marsh habitat has been lost since the 1950s. Moffett & Nichol has been contracted to conduct the engineering and design phase and will kick-off the project next month. This phase will take approximately 12-months and includes public outreach, full engineering and design specifications and drawings, and permitting. This project builds upon previous restoration work by the Town of Dauphin Island and other partners to protect critically important barrier island habitats (Dauphin Island Conservation Acquisition, Little Dauphin Island Restoration Assessment, Dauphin Island Audubon Bird Sanctuary Dune Enhancement and Habitat Management Project (AL), and Restoration of the North Side of Dauphin Island Phase 1–Borrow Pits).

STAR ID Deadline Extended The Dept. of Homeland Security, at the direction of President Donald Trump, has extended the deadline for the REAL ID (called STAR ID in Alabama) until October 1, 2021, in response to Covid-19. In order to comply with the Federal REAL ID Act, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) developed the STAR ID program. STAR ID is a step beyond an ordinary driver license or non-driver identification card and it meets all the requirements of federal law. Effective October 1, 2021, every air traveler will need a REAL ID compliant license/ID (STAR ID) or another form of identification for domestic air travel (visit www.tsa.gov/travel/security-screening/identification for more info). STAR IDs are issued originally to qualified individuals ONLY at ALEA driver license exam offices (located at 3400 Demetropolis Road in Mobile). County operated license offices will continue to provide renewals/duplicates for license, ID cards and STAR ID. Additional information can be found at www.olea.gov/dps/driver-license/star-id.

Miss Dauphin Island's Online Halloween Costume Contest Our 2019 Pageant winners are hosting an online Halloween Costume Contest. To enter please join the Facebook group Miss Dauphin Island's Halloween Costume Contest and submit a picture of your costume and your age by the end of the night on Halloween. Contest is for Island residents ages 18 and under. There will be 5 winners based on age group, Tiny Treaters 4 & under, Little Treaters 5-8, Sweet Treaters 9-11, Junior Treaters 12-14, Senior Treaters 15-18. Winners will receive a special Halloween Goodie Bag!

2020....The Spookiest Halloween Ever? Although the town has canceled Trick or Treat in Green Park this year due to ongoing concerns with Covid-19, youngsters throughout the island will still have a unique opportunity to receive tasty treats at our "Boo Your Yard" project! Here's how it works. Children age 12 & under residing on Dauphin Island are encouraged to send an email to mgedwin@townofdauphinisland.org no later than noon on October 16 and submit their name (include the names and ages of all kids 12 & under in each household), address and any special instructions on where to leave the treats. Otherwise, treats will be delivered to your front doorsteps. Town staff will drop off bags of goodies to all registered children on the evening of Friday, October 30 so kids will wake up to an assortment of treats (no tricks!) on Halloween morning. Happy Halloween!
Hurricane Sally Recovery Speeds Along  The debris removal contractor continues to make good progress clearing island streets of vegetative and construction & demolition (C&D) materials. The deadline for placing such items on the right-of-way has passed and crews will be making their final passes through neighborhoods in the coming days. In the meantime, work also continues on the west end to remove sand from road shoulders and returning it to the beach (within town ROW). Thanks to our residents and property owners for your cooperation during the recovery process.

Planning Commission Changes Meeting Times  The monthly meeting (second Tuesday of each month) of the DI Planning Commission will be held at 5pm (instead of 6pm) following a recent vote by the group. Please make note of this recent change.

Comcast Rep to Update Status of Service  Ronnie Colvin, Senior Director External Affairs, is scheduled to attend the town council meeting on November 2 to update the community on the current status of improvements and estimated timeline for enhanced services. You may recall, Comcast received a sizeable state grant to supply high speed internet and other services to Dauphin Island and work is well underway to make that happen in the near future. This should be a good opportunity to hear the latest available information while getting answers to your questions regarding these new services.

Town Purchases DI Foundation Parcels  The town council voted recently to purchase DI Foundation property located at 1101 Bienville Blvd, consisting of three lots and a single-family residential structure currently being used as an art gallery by Arts of Dauphin Island. The Foundation has pledged to use the funds ($212,000) from the sale of this property to assist with construction of the DI Community Center.

A Message from DIFR  Thank you to everyone who supported our volunteers during our response to Hurricane Sally. Our volunteers provided more than 200 hours of service including medical care, search & rescue and wellness checks on our elderly. Our organization is always looking for people of any age and gender to come and meet our family. YOU CAN BE THE DIFFERENCE!

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

Town Clerk  Wanda Sandager
            861-5525      Ext 225
Bldg Official/Coastal Project Manager
            Ext 224
Cell No 251-234-7466/Corey Moore
Cell No 251-257-6707/Terry Sheffield
Code/Zoning Enforcement
            251 861-5525 Ext 229
E. M. S. Director
            Troy Gorlet 251-207-7967
Superintendent Public Works Dept.
            Sharron Yommer  Ext 230
Dumpsters
            Fridays & Saturdays
            7:00am until 2:30pm

Building Department Admin. Asst.
Business License/Permit Clerk
            Jennifer Ploeger Ext 222
Event Coordinator/Office Asst.
            Maggie Godwin               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
            Chief Kym Claw 861-5523

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: November 2nd & 17th
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 November 11 @ 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.