



THE TOWN CRIER

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ISSUE #198

December 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 3rd DIHAC
Christmas Open House
6-9pm

December 4th 27th Annual
Christmas Pageant 7pm St.
Edmunds Church Hall

December 5th 27th Annual
Christmas Parade 11am

December 5th Christmas
through the Ages Ft. Gaines

December 23rd—January
3rd Town Hall & Public
Works Dept will be closed

January 9th Krewe De La
Dauphine Parade 1pm

January 16th Island Mystic
Parade 1 pm



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. 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 December are scheduled for the 1st & 15th.

Mayor Attends 2015 Rising Tides Summit

Mayor Collier, along with 35 other elected officials representing 18 of the 23 US coastal states, attended a 3-day bipartisan summit in New Hampshire on October 23-25 to exchange experiences and potential solutions associated with sea level rise and coastal flooding. More than 123 million Americans reside within the "coastal region" of our country. These areas generate nearly half of the nation's annual GDP, provide more than 66 million jobs and \$4 trillion in wages. Therefore, the threats associated with coastal flooding, sea level rise and erosion are without question a national issue of significance. An impressive array of speakers were convened to cover a wide variety of topics including Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Director of NOAA, Larry Cocchieri, Deputy Director, US Army Corps of Engineers - National Planning Center for Coastal Storm Risk Management, Rear Admiral Jonathan White, US Navy (Ret.) and Roy Wright, FEMA Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance & Mitigation among others. While at the summit, Mayor Collier and four other participants were invited to take part in a Press Conference to share individual stories regarding how their communities are being impacted by coastal flooding. Mayor Collier also took the opportunity to stress the importance of enhanced utilization of dredge materials as one way to protect and defend shorelines from coastal threats. This issue resonated with numerous summit participants to the extent that the group chose that topic as its initial post-summit "action item" and plans to include comments from Mayor Collier in a follow-up letter to Shaun Donovan, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Currently, the Corps of Engineers disposes of dredge materials in the most economical manner. Seems to make good fiscal sense at first glance, right? However, if that agency was allowed to invest additional funds to place materials in a more (or the most) beneficial location, agencies like FEMA would realize significant savings when the next hurricane strikes the US coast. Summit participants support this change in policy and intend to send that message to OMB for consideration. We'll let you know how things proceed.

Council Taps Earle Connell To Fill Place 3 Seat

Following the untimely death of Council Member Philip Patronas in mid-September, fourteen island citizens stepped forward to fill the remaining one year of his term. Those individuals included Lori Angelo, Kay Breitenfeld, James Cash, Richard Colberg, Earle Connell III, Brandi Gilmore, Vicki Helm, Doug Houston, Lynn Johnson, Frederick Krotine, Shannon Levio, Christopher Lott, James "Mac" McLemore, Jr. and Amy Vice. After much consideration, the Council selected Earle Connell III as the Town's newest Council Member. While we express our congratulations to Earle on this well deserved accomplishment, we also want to sincerely thank the others who were willing to serve our island community as an elected official.

St. Francis Fall Bazaar

The annual St. Francis Episcopal Church Fall Bazaar is scheduled for November 21 from 9am-2pm and you are encouraged to take part in the "Bring Your Own" White Elephant Sale! Space on the church grounds is available for \$15 and you can bring your own table, chair and items to sell. While you're there, stock up your pantry or freezer with delicious baked goods, casseroles, pickles, and Wimberly Hory's Famous Chicken Salad. For more information please call 861-2552. The church is located at 401 Key Street.



Town Adopts 2015 Holiday Schedule

Town Hall and the Public Works Department will be closed on November 26-27 for Thanksgiving and December 23-January 3 in observance of Christmas and New Years. As in past years, limited staff will be available during the Christmas/New Year holiday period in order to maintain a minimum level of services. The Police Department will continue to operate 24/7 during all posted holidays.

Public Hearing Set

The Town Council will host a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 1 at 645pm (just prior to its regular Council Meeting at 7pm) to receive comments on a proposed set-back reduction for some properties on the island's West End. As written, the proposal would allow "through lot" (those lots that extend from the road to the gulf) property owners along the south side of Bienville Boulevard to construct and/or relocate homes to within ten (10) feet of the Bienville rights-of-way. Current regulations require thirty-five (35) foot setbacks. The move is intended to provide some additional flexibility for homeowners interested in building further from the shoreline. If you are unable to attend the public hearing but would like to share your thoughts/comments on the matter, please email them to wsandager@townofdauphinisland.org, fax to (251) 861-2154 or mail/hand-deliver to 1011 Bienville Boulevard, Dauphin Island, AL 36528.

Christmas Pageant & Parade Info

The 27th Annual Dauphin Island Christmas Pageant will be held on Friday, December 4 at 7pm at St. Edmunds Church Hall. As always, the popular event is open to girls age 2-18 who reside full time on Dauphin Island or attend Dauphin Island School. Age Group Divisions are as follows: Tiny Miss DI - Age 2-4, Little Miss DI - Age 5-8, Sweet Miss DI - Age 9-11, Junior Miss DI - Age 12-14 and Miss DI - Age 15-18. Applications are available at Town Hall and must be returned NO LATER than November 23, 2015 at 4pm. All participants will be invited to ride in the Christmas Parade on the following day! For additional information please contact Mary Strickland at 861-5525 Ext. 222. On Saturday, December 5 at 11am the Annual Christmas Parade will travel along Bienville Boulevard from Cadillac Square to the Dauphin Island School and you're invited to join in on the fun! Join us and Old St. Nick for a traditional Christmas Parade to usher in the season.

31st Annual "Christmas Through the Ages"

Experience a Christmas of "Days Gone By" at historic Fort Gaines on Saturday, December 5. This event is a living history day for the entire family. Come and visit with soldiers and their families dressed in period garb (circa 1700-1900) as they celebrate a non-commercial Christmas. Visiting children will have a chance to make a variety of decorative ornaments with seashells! For additional information please contact 861-6992

Looking For Unique Christmas Gifts? Shop Local!

With Christmas just around the corner we encourage all of our island residents to patronize local businesses this holiday season. Not only will you find some one-of-a-kind gift items right here on Dauphin Island, you'll also be supporting island business owners that provide a variety of services all year long and are an integral part of our community. In addition, the Town of Dauphin Island has an assortment of "Sunset Capital of Alabama" logoed items for sale including shirts, hats, towels, bags, pens and much more (see insert included in this issue of the Town Crier). Just stop by town hall during regular business hours to see what we have to offer. All proceeds from the sale of these items will support the ongoing effort to relocate and re-purpose the historic Little Red Schoolhouse.

DIHAC INFO

DI Elementary School, in cooperation with DIHAC, has formed an Art Club at the school and Gallery artists have volunteered their time and talents to teach and guide the students through art projects which are on display at the Gallery. Come take a look! DIHAC recently started a new "Art in Public Places" program by hanging local art at the historic Isle Dauphine Club. In the coming weeks, local art will be displayed at other public places on the Island. The art will be for sale and a portion of all sales will benefit the Dauphin Island Gallery. If you are interested in having local art displayed in your business on the Island as part of the "Art in Public Places" program, please contact the Gallery at 251/861-3300. DIHAC's Christmas Open House and Auction will be held Thursday, Dec. 3, from 6-9 pm at the DI Gallery (918 Bienville). This is DIHAC's main fundraiser for the year and many fantastic experiences and items will be auctioned, including a guided inshore fishing trip, party boat and gator ranch excursions, weekends at bed and breakfasts on the Island, and much more. This year's door prize is a large blue crab metal sculpture by nationally-known artist Frank Ledbetter, and valued at \$2,000. Don't miss out on the fun!

East End Restoration Project Update

If you've driven around the east end of the island lately you've likely noticed the recent progress on the East End Restoration Project. Contractors have been busy installing the rock jetties portion of the project and will likely be finished by the time you read this news. The next phase will include placement of approximately 300,000 cubic yards of beach quality sand along the nearly one mile stretch of shoreline extending west through the Bird Sanctuary. That work is set to begin by the middle of December and take approximately 30 days to complete. As always, we encourage you to obey all signage and postings in and around the construction site as heavy equipment will be in use.

Political Signs Reminder

In addition to the presidential election next November, 2016 will be jam packed with a variety of elections including municipal, county and state-wide contests. As we edge closer to the new year, we want to offer a friendly reminder to our island residents and property owners of the Town's regulations governing political signs. The Zoning Ordinance establishes regulations for political signs as follows: ALL political signs may be displayed (as described below) only after a candidate has fully registered and/or qualified to run for office, NOT to exceed 45 days prior to the election in which they are a candidate. Political signs shall NOT exceed two (2) sides with three (3) square feet per side. A maximum of one sign per candidate per lot may be placed on private property in all zoning districts and shall NOT be placed within public rights-of-way. Political signs MUST be removed within 72 hours of poll closing for the election. We respectfully request that you keep these guidelines in mind as the election cycle draws near. Thank you in advance!

Revised CBRS Maps Submitted To Congress

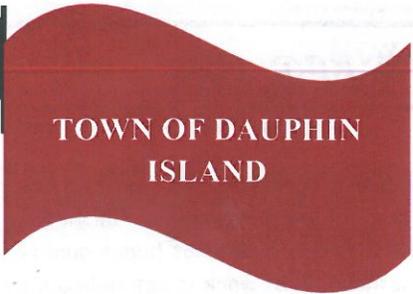
The Town recently received notification from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (F&W) that it has forwarded to Congress revised maps of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System pertaining to Dauphin Island. According to F&W, "The Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) serves as an important tool for saving taxpayers' money, keeping people out of harms way, and removing federal incentives to develop coastal barriers. The CBRA does not prohibit or regulate development, however, it removes federal incentives to build on these high risk and environmentally sensitive areas." You can view the recommended/revised maps by visiting <http://www.fws.gov/cbra/Maps/Draft-Maps.html>. There you can also read additional information about the proposed changes that will (1) remove approximately ten properties along the east side of Audubon Street (south) that were erroneously included in the CBRS decades ago and (2) add virtually all of the property associated with the Isle Dauphine complex (excluding the developed portions of the property). Other proposed changes would impact properties on the east end and public beach area near DI School. However, it is important to know that these recommended changes will only become law when and if Congress affirmatively votes on the matter.

More Trees Coming To Bienville Blvd. Medians

You may recall reading an article in a previous Town Crier announcing the Town's successful grant application to Alabama Power Foundation in the amount of \$1000. Prior to submitting the application, the Town reached out to officials with DI Bird Sanctuaries (DIBS) to receive guidance on the types of trees that might prove more beneficial to our resident and visiting bird populations. Live Oaks were recommended as they provide good nesting sites and shelter while being very tolerant of strong winds and salt water that often accompany approaching tropical systems. DIBS has also agreed to kick in an additional \$500 to assist the Town with this improvement project. In so doing, DIBS will be coordinating with the Town to actually remove several "popcorn trees" from the median and replacing the invasive species with oaks. This work will likely get underway sometime early in 2016.

DI Sea Lab Offers Holiday Perks To Island Residents

The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is once again offering Free Admission to Dauphin Island residents on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13 in recognition of the holiday season. Residents will also receive a 15% discount at the Estuarium Gift Shop - a perfect time and place to find that special something for everyone on your list! Residents must present ID or utility bill as proof of residence. Estuarium hours: Saturday, 9am to 5pm. Sunday, 1pm to 5pm. Call 861-7500 for more details. Happy Holidays from the Dauphin Island Sea Lab!



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



Sunset Capital of Alabama

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

Town Clerk
Wanda Sandagger

861-5525 Ext 225

Public Works Superintendent/Bldg Official/Coastal Project Manager

Corey Moore Ext 224
Cell No 234-7466

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

Building Department Admin. Assistant, Business License/Permit Clerk/Event Planner

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

Earle Connell

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. Domenic Carlucci can be reached at 871-307-9573, email him at domignite@yahoo.com or visit DIPOA website.

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

DI Court—2nd Wednesday of each month **Dec 9th @ 4:00pm**

DI Traffic School **Dec 2nd @ 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)

****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 Mary Strickland at mstrickland@townofdauphinisland.org. It's just that easy!