



THE TOWN CRIER

INCORPORATED

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ISSUE #188

February 2015

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 14 Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Race
- Feb 17 Mardi Gras Day Town Hall closed
- Feb 28 Rabies Clinic Town Hall 1:30-4:30pm
- Mar 7 St. Jude's Bike A Thon 8:30am—11:30am DI Water & Sewer
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 27 "Last Friday Art Night" DIHAC 6-8pm
- Mar 28 Town Easter Egg Hunt -Green Park 10 am
- Apr 4 Community Easter Egg Hunt - Cadillac Square 10am
- Apr 11 Discovery Day Dauphin Island Sea Lab
- Apr 19 Motorcycle Show, DI Elementary School
- Apr 24 "Last Friday Art Night" DIHAC 6-8pm
- Apr 25 Sail Boat Regatta
- Apr 25 Gumbo Fest

THE "OFFICIAL" NEWS OF DAUPHIN ISLAND

In an effort to keep the citizens of Dauphin Island better informed, the Mayor and Town Council are pleased to distribute The Town Crier on a monthly basis. Our goal is to highlight council meetings and other newsworthy events. This is not intended as a substitute for attending public meetings. Council Meetings are usually held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 PM. Agenda meetings are usually held on the Monday before each council meeting at 5 PM and are open to the public. The council meetings for February are scheduled for the 3rd & 16th.

Mardi Gras Holiday Schedule Changes

Fat Tuesday 2015 falls on Feb 17 this year and Town Hall and the Public Works Dept. will be closed that day. In addition, the Town Council voted to move the regular Council Meeting from that evening to Monday, February 16 at 6pm immediately following the Agenda Meeting at 5pm. Please make note of these schedule changes. Have a happy and safe Mardi Gras!

Council Mulls Full-Time Mayor Position...Again

The Town of Dauphin Island incorporated in 1988 and it has always operated with a Part-Time Mayor, at least according to the Alabama League of Municipalities and State Law. Such positions are determined by the population of a municipality along with its particular form of government. However, municipalities functioning with a Part-Time Mayor have the authority to change to Full-Time if it so desires. The Dauphin Island Council has toyed with this idea more than several times over the past decade and that subject surfaced again at a recent Council meeting. While some municipalities opt for the Full-Time Mayor position others choose to hire a City/Town Manager as an alternative to ensure that all Town business remains current. If the Council decides to shift to a Full-Time Mayor position it must do so at least six months (approx.) prior to the 2016 municipal elections and the new status would not take effect until the next Council is seated that fall. What do you think is best for Dauphin Island? Give it some thought and share your feelings with Council members as they weigh that decision over the coming weeks. As always, your input is vitally important to the future success of our island community.

Is A "Leash-less" Dog Beach In Our Future?

If some island residents get their way, man's best friend may be able to legally run free and frolic in the surf...at least in a designated section of the beach. So far, the conversation is in the very early stages but a self-appointed group of volunteers are gathering information from coastal communities throughout the country to develop a proposal that will eventually be submitted to the Town Council. Proponents suggest the island needs a site specific location for pet owners to let their dogs enjoy the beach and gulf waters without the constraint of a leash which is currently required by Town Ordinance. Others voice concerns that the animals may harm the island's bird population including their nests and associated habitats. In addition, some see keeping the dogs in a designated place difficult at best and stressed the need for pet owners to clean up after their animals if the measure passes. Please share your thoughts about this matter with your elected leaders in advance of a possible vote in the near future.



Last Friday Night Art Night(s)

The Dauphin Island Heritage and Art Council (DIHAC) is starting the new year off with new art and fine crafts to chase away those winter blues. On January 30, the first Last Friday Night Art Night of 2015 will be held at the gallery (behind Town Hall) from 6-8PM and everyone is welcome to stop in and browse for fine local art, meet new friends and enjoy a variety of foods & beverages. Organizers invite you to celebrate Mardi Gras by wearing masks, feathers and beads. The event will also include a special art exhibit by featured Artist Terri Keller. While there, check out the Heritage Room where you'll find photos and other memorabilia of Old Dauphin Island. You may even bump into a native islander and hear stories of days gone by. DIHAC is also proud to announce it has received a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts that will help with planning and research associated with the groups inaugural "Coastal Alabama Storytelling Festival", tentatively being planned for the spring of 2016. NOTE: A Last Friday Night Art Night is also planned for February 27 from 6-8PM.

19th Annual Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Race

On Valentine's Day, a cannon blast at 9AM will signal the start of the 19th Annual Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Race/Walk sponsored by the Port City Pacers. The popular event routinely attracts some 300 runners who compete on a course that winds through east end neighborhoods and finishes at historic Fort Gaines, site of the awards ceremony. Proceeds from the event will go to the preservation of the fort where the resident blacksmith will be demonstrating his craft that day. Visit the Port City Pacers website for registration information and other race details.

Summer Help Needed!

The Town of Dauphin Island is preparing for the 2015 spring and summer seasons and is putting out the call for individuals interested in working at the West End Beach. Staff needs include certified lifeguards (beach/open water certified), night security personnel, gate attendants and more. In addition, some space is available for vendors interested in providing certain services for beach patrons. The park is scheduled to open (weekends only) in April and shift to a seven day a week operation in early May continuing through Labor Day. If you have any questions or need additional information regarding these opportunities please contact Town Hall. The application deadline is February 27, 2015 at noon.

West End Parking Update

The Town Council held an informational meeting on January 21 to discuss current parking and beach access guidelines in advance of the 2015 spring/summer season. The meeting was well attended as over 50 residents, property owners and non-property owners took time out of their schedules to join in the conversation. The primary focus of the meeting involved the 30+ streets along the south side of the two-lane portion of Bienville Boulevard and whether parking/beach access could be enhanced going forward. As you can imagine, a variety of suggestions and recommendations were shared during the two-hour session and those comments have been passed along to Council members for further consideration. Many thanks to those who participated in the forum.

Controlled Burn Planned For Audubon Bird Sanctuary

The Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board (DIPBB) is working with the Alabama Forestry Commission to implement a controlled burn within the Audubon Bird Sanctuary. This burn is scheduled to occur sometime between now and the end of February 2015. This window of opportunity allows officials the flexibility to select a time that coincides with optimal weather conditions for the actual burn. The DIPBB will be closing the Sanctuary to the public as the Forestry Commission installs additional firebreaks and implements the controlled burn. DIPBB will be providing additional public notices on its Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DIPBB) while their website (www.dauphinisland.org) will have additional information about efforts to protect and create a safe, healthy, and more productive forestry.

Council Gives Nod To Bienville Boulevard (East) Resurfacing Project

The Town Council recently voted to move forward with bids in preparation for the resurfacing of Bienville Boulevard from the 3-way stop east to Billy Goat Hole (where road shifts to two-lane). The decision was made after the Director of the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) committed \$225,000 in state funds to assist with the work. You have probably noticed how this heavily used road is showing signs of wear and Town officials are hoping a new layer of asphalt could stave off more costly repairs in the future. This portion of Bienville Boulevard serves as part of the Alabama Coastal Connection (scenic by-way) and provides direct access to the state run ferry system. In addition, huge numbers of boaters rely on this stretch of highway to access east end boat ramps while visitors travel the road in route to tourist attractions located on that section of the island. If everything goes as planned and a reasonable bid is received, the work is scheduled to be completed in advance of the busy spring/summer seasons.

Rabies Clinic Scheduled

Veterinarian Ann Branch will once again provide rabies vaccinations for cats & dogs at Town Hall on Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 130-430PM. Shots are \$10 each and are good for one year. No appointment necessary... just stop by anytime between the posted hours.

Fort Gaines to host "Colonies of the Gulf Coast"

Step back in time as re-enactors in period garb allow you to experience life on "Isle Dauphine" in the 1700-1800's as a French, British and Spanish soldier. Watch as they perform drills and fire the cannon while the resident blacksmith demonstrates his craft. This family friendly event has something for everyone but stay alert...as Pirates often show up when you least expect it! See you at historic Fort Gaines on Saturday, March 7 for the 25th Annual Colonies of the Gulf Coast. AAARGGH!

GOT NEWS?

For those of you who read the Town Crier on a regular basis, we hope the articles are both helpful and informational. Copies of the Crier are distributed throughout the community at selected locations, posted on the Town's Website and mass emailed to those who have signed up for such notices. If you'd like to receive an electronic version of the Crier (and other pertinent announcements and events) please notify a Town Hall employee today. In addition, if you or your organization has a newsworthy event, we'd be happy to include such information and notice in an upcoming edition of the Town Crier. Just get us the information by the 15th of the month and we'll do our best to include it.

East End Restoration Project Update

The Town continues to make progress toward its goal of restoring nearly one mile of shoreline on the extreme east end of the island. The Corps permit was received at the end of 2014 while two of the three required easements from abutting property owners are also in hand. Following receipt of the third and final easement, a public meeting will be held on the island by ADEM and State Lands Division representatives which will then clear the way for bidding and construction of the project. In addition to the placement of sand along that stretch of shoreline, existing offshore jetties will be modified so they are positioned nearly parallel to the coastline. We remain hopeful this project can be completed by fall of 2015 barring any unforeseen delays.

St. Edmunds Catholic Church Info

With the recent passing of Rev. William Gorman, church leaders recently announced a revised schedule for weekly services as follows: Mass—Friday at 6pm, Saturday at 3:30pm and Sunday at 10:30 am. The time changes were necessary to accommodate the schedule of interim Rev. Monsignor Leonardo Guadalquiver. For further info please contact the church at 861-2352.

Dauphin Island Sunset Bridge 5K Run/Walk

Sponsored by the South Mobile County Tourism Authority, this 5K "out and back" certified course will begin and end at the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo headquarters while allowing participants to experience the natural beauty of the Mississippi Sound waters from the deck of the bridge itself. Fun for the entire family, the race is perfect for serious competitors and those just wanting to get a little exercise. The Sunset Bridge Run/Walk is set for Saturday, March 7 at 5pm and entry fees are as follows—Adults: \$25 & Children: \$15 (age 12 and under) Note-Add \$5 to posted fees for day of event entries. Entry fee includes a short sleeve race shirt (must be registered by Feb 28). Please visit the Tourism Authority website or call 861-8747 for additional information. NOTICE—Although the Dauphin Island Police Department will be on duty throughout this event, you are encouraged to plan your trip accordingly to avoid any traffic delays associated with the Sunset Bridge Run/Walk.

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

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



Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger

861-5525 Ext 225

Public Works Director/Bldg Official

Corey Moore Ext 224

Cell No 234-7466

Building Department Admin. Assistant

Business License/ Permit Clerk/Event Planner/ Magistrate

Mary S. Strickland Ext 222

Court Clerk

Stacy T. Mallon ext 221

Admin. Clerk /Magistrate

Joyce Wentworth ext 227

Animal Control ext 230

Chief of Police

Chief Kym Claw 861-5523

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor

Jeff Collier

Council Members

Stephen Denmark

Mary Thompson

Philip Patronas

Shirley Robinson

Clinton Collier

TOWN MEETINGS CORNER

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

Town Council Meetings 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm

Planning Commission Meetings-2nd Tuesday of each month 6:00 PM

Property Owners' Assoc. Meetings - Pres. Jennifer Turner can be reached at 626-0673, email her at tomyquazar@gmail.com or visit DI-POA website.

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

DI Court—2nd Wednesday of each month **February 11 @ 4:00pm**

DI Traffic School **February 4 @ 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)