



# THE TOWN CRIER

INCORPORATED 1988  
ISSUE 308 February 2025

## 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.

### TOWN COUNCIL

- Mayor  
Jeff Collier
- Council Members  
Gene Fox  
Trey Alderman  
Earle Connell  
Rich Colberg  
Shirley Robinson

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 27-30 The Forge—Green Light
- Feb 1 Krewe de la Dauphine 1pm
- Feb 8 DI People's Parade 1pm
- Feb 8 Mardi Gras Craft Market
- Feb 10 Women's Club Meeting
- Feb 15 Battle of Mobile Bay 5K
- Feb 15 Krewe of Salty Paws 10AM
- Feb 15 ADI Market
- Feb 16 M.I.S.S. Flame Lit Street Tableau
- Feb 22 Rabies Clinic 10am-Noon
- March 8 Market in Green Park
- March 8 Kite Day 11am
- March 8 DI Campground Yard & Craft Sale 9am-Noon
- March 22 Native American Experience- Ft. Gaines
- April 5 Bird Banding 8am-2pm
- April 5 Discovery Day
- April 5 Pops Concert
- April 5-9 DIBS/BCA
- April 9 Bird Banding 8am-2pm
- April 12 Easter Egg Hunt @ Green Park 10am
- April 13 Motorcycle Show
- April 19 Easter Egg Hunt @ Cadillac Square
- April 20 Easter Sunrise Service
- April 24-27 Plein Air
- April 26 St. Francis Arts & Crafts Fair
- April 26-27 Thunder on the Bay



**West End Nature Preserve** We're excited to announce the new name for one of Dauphin Island's most cherished areas: The Dauphin Island West End Nature Preserve. This stunning 838-acre area of unspoiled beach, dune, and salt marsh habitats has long been a critical haven for wildlife, including migratory and resident birds, sea turtles, and countless other coastal species. As part of the Mississippi Flyway, the West End provides essential stopover and nesting habitats for birds crossing the Gulf of Mexico. The new name reflects the area's importance as a protected space for both wildlife and visitors to enjoy responsibly. Whether you're a local or a visitor, we invite you to explore the beauty of the West End while helping to preserve it for generations to come. NOTE: The Town has hired beach ambassadors (similar to Park Rangers) that will routinely patrol area beaches and interact with visitors. Informational signage will also be installed throughout the undeveloped portion of the Island's west end to create awareness and identify active nesting areas and critical habitat. Remember dogs are NOT allowed on the West End Nature Preserve.

**Bring on the BOOM BOOM!** Dauphin Island will get the carnival season rolling when members of the Krewe de la Dauphine toss the first moon pies, beads, and stuffed animals of 2025 on Saturday, February 1 at 1pm! Spectators can expect to see some of their favorite Marvel & DC Heroes (along with a few villains thrown into the mix) as KDLD Saves the World! Serving as Grand Marshal will be Russell Cain and Russell's wife Sherry (she sadly passed away in 2024 and was a Charter Member of KDLD) is being recognized as Honorary Grand Marshal. The parade will roll down Bienville Boulevard from DI Sea Lab to the condos but get here early to grab a good spot along the route. Speaking of which, reserving of space along the parade route is limited to the day-of-event only (post- sunrise) and items such as ropes, ribbons and similar materials are not allowed. Acceptable items include lawn chairs, tents, tables, vehicles, etc. but all such items must be removed at the conclusion of parade or be subject to disposal during cleanup. As always, please only take as much space as you need. The fun continues with the uber popular People's Parade on Saturday, February 8 at 1PM and YOU can be IN the parade! For info call town hall at 251-861-5525 x222 or email [DIpeoplesparade@gmail.com](mailto:DIpeoplesparade@gmail.com). Let the good times roll! NOTE: The Krewe of Salty Paws pet parade will be held on February 15 at 10AM at Water Tower Plaza and the Massacre Island Secret Society Flame Lit Street Tableau takes to the streets on February 16 at 630PM.

**Pet Event & Rabies Clinic** Pet owners are encouraged to vaccinate their beloved dogs & cats at the town's annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Feb. 22 from 10am-noon at Town Hall. Shots are \$12. Also, a groomer will be on site to offer nail clipping for \$10. The Miss DI young ladies will be bathing dogs (weather permitting) and offering homemade baked dog biscuits and doggie ice cream for donations! "Wags & Whiskers" will be bringing some dogs that hope to find their forever home on the Island. There will also be custom pet bowls and other pet related crafts! This is a convenient one-stop opportunity to protect your pets from rabies while sharing some quality time with friends & fellow pet lovers.

**Kite Fest** Grab your kites and come out to the East End Beach on March 8 for Kite Fest! Awards and prizes will be given to the highest flying kite, biggest kite, most unique, best homemade kite and a special Mayor's choice award! Kite competitions start at Noon. However, come early because at 11am Emerald Coast Kite Flyers Club & Mississippi/Gulf Coast Quad Line Flyers will be filling the sky with some unique & acrobatic kites! The Miss Dauphin Island Young Ladies will be on site to help you tie-dye your own T-shirt (\$20 minimum donation) and Matt Erdman will be performing live! Shaved Ice Paradise & La Taqueria Tacos will be on site selling some delicious food & desserts! NOTE: Please keep off newly constructed dunes and plantings in this area.

**Market in the Park** will be having a Mardi Gras Craft Market on February 8 with Food Trucks (Shaved Ice Paradise & Frank N Lola's)! Spots are limited and for crafters that are already registered with the town. New vendors may join the market on March 8, when the regular schedule (Thursdays 9am-5pm & 2nd Saturdays 9am-3pm) starts again. For more information please email [mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org](mailto:mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org). Like & Follow us on the Market in Green Park Facebook page!

**BLOOD DRIVE - FEBRUARY 21, 2025 at the Welcome Center from 830am-530pm**



**News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council** NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The 2025 Dauphin Island Native American Experience is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Historic Fort Gaines! The event will feature members of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Seminole Tribe of Florida, and other tribes, along with living historians, interactive demonstrations, arts and crafts, and food vendors. It will be a fun day for the entire family! Admission prices are \$15 for ages 13 and older, \$10 for ages 5-12, and free for children under 5. All prices include a tour of Fort Gaines and the event. The event is sponsored in part by the Town of Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, and Mobile County Commission. NEW! Our Time – Art Classes for Active Seniors 4 Classes Available: February 7, 14, 21 and 28 – 10am-12pm. Looking for a way to express your creativity and connect with others? Our senior art class offers a relaxing space for active seniors 65+ to explore activities like watercolors and music, with the option to try new things based on the group's interests. Musical experiences will be enjoyed as available. Sessions meet each Friday from 10 AM to noon, providing a fun and flexible opportunity to enjoy the arts together. Cost: Free to residents of South Mobile County Open to active adults age 65 and older. Basic Watercolors with Artist Odie Tucker February 8 – 1PM – 3PM. Join Odie Tucker's watercolors class for adults! Suitable for all skill levels, Odie demystifies watercolor painting. Create your own paintings inspired by the provided examples and enjoy a fun, creative experience, perfect for beginners and beyond. Experience the Pottery Wheel with Potter Elizabeth Van Antwerp 3 Sessions Available: February 6 - 10AM – 1PM; February 9 - 1PM-4PM; and February 13 - 10AM– 1PM. Join Elizabeth Van Antwerp for a family-friendly pottery session! Create two pieces on the wheel! Perfect for making vacation memories with no ongoing commitment. Classes for Children: Art After School (4th - 5th Grades) with Artist Odie Tucker February 12 – 4-5PM. Odie Tucker, an experienced and engaging instructor, will guide young artists through basic techniques, encouraging them to unleash their creativity on paper. Art After School (K - 1st Grade) with Terri Baker February 18 – 4-5PM. Let your child explore the world of colors, shapes, and creative expression. Art After School (2nd - 3rd Grade) with Terri Baker February 19 – 4-5PM. In this dynamic course, young artists will discover the basic elements of art, explore various art styles, and experiment with exciting mediums. Family Studio Arts with Maggie Godwin and Marie Sisk February 26 – 11:30AM – 12:30PM. Open to parents and their children ages 2-5. In Family Studio Arts the joy of creativity intertwines with precious bonding moments where parents play an active role in cultivating their little ones' artistic talents! Through simple arts and crafts projects families come together in our cozy studio to nurture not only creativity but also the special bond between parent and child. TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE CLASSES, please visit our website at [www.dauphinislandarts.org](http://www.dauphinislandarts.org) and select your class. Please send a text message to (251) 219-0179 with any questions. Like and follow us on Facebook & Instagram.

**Dauphin Island Women's Club** Mark your calendars for our next meeting on February 10, at 5PM at the Dauphin Island Welcome Center! We're thrilled to welcome Mr. Steve Joynt, better known as *Mr. Mask*, as our special guest speaker. Steve will share his fascinating insights on the origins and traditions of Mardi Gras on the Gulf Coast. With a career that includes being the owner, editor, and publisher of *Mobile Mask*, as well as serving as the Grand Marshal of the Dauphin Island People's Parade in 2018, Steve is an expert in all things Mardi Gras. Doors open at 4:30PM, so arrive early to grab a bite, a drink, and a good seat. The meeting will begin promptly at 5PM. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn about the rich history of Mardi Gras from one of the best in the business. We can't wait to see you there!

**Game On!** Beginning in 2025, the new DI Community Center will host an afternoon Game Day each week on Tuesdays from 1-5pm (schedule subject to change) and you're invited to join in on the fun. All are invited to participate in a variety of games including Bridge (and other card games), board games (ex. Checkers, chess, trivia, etc.), and other ways to spend quality time and meet new friends!

**Battle of Mobile Bay 5K** Lace up your shoes and get ready to participate in the annual Battle of Mobile Bay 5K that will be held on February 15. A traditional cannon blast will begin the race which winds along east end streets before concluding at historic Fort Gaines. Sponsored by the Port City Pacers, this race is one of the most popular events in the area with more than 300 participants annually. It's also a significant fundraising opportunity for Fort Gaines. Check out the Port City Pacers website for registration and other bits of information.

**DI Campground Craft/Yard Sale** The annual Craft & Yard Sale at the DI Campground will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 9am-noon and all are invited to attend. Handmade items will include pine straw baskets, seashell crafts such as angels, jewelry, flower arrangements and more. Also check out our wool-felted birds, nativity scenes, various cigar box scenes of birds, hand-tied polar fleece fashion ponchos for women and kids, Swedish dish cloths, mesh wreaths, and swags. Once again we will have live music from 11am-1pm by the Country Roads Band. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the day! For more info please contact Debbie Brown 330-424-8844.

**St. Francis Arts & Crafts Fair** Our annual Arts and Crafts Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 26 from 9am-4pm. We will have over 50 artists selling their wares. The church women will be selling chicken salad, baked goods, pickles, sausage on a bun, and chicken wings along with our fabulous white elephant sale. This fundraiser allows the church women to give back to the community all year long. Entry fee to set up a booth is \$60. Any and all white elephant donations are accepted. Questions or to get an application, call or text Cissy Napper at 318- 548-4376.

**Billy Goat Hole Update** Renovation of the Billy Goat Hole boat ramps will begin soon. During this time the facility will be closed while contractors work to remove and replace existing ramps and finger piers. The new ramps will be relocated approximately 30 feet further north (away from Bienville Blvd.) to better accommodate launching activities while avoiding routine traffic. These improvements are part of the broader renovation effort that began in 2023 and is a joint project between the Town of Dauphin Island and the ADCNR Marine Resources Division. Our sincere thanks to Governor Kay Ivey for providing the necessary funding through the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) to support this project.



**Arts of Dauphin Island** Our Gallery is a 501 (3) (C) Non-Profit Organization. All donations made to the gallery are used for the purpose of supplying free art projects for the children of Dauphin Island and South Mobile County and providing low-cost, affordable art classes for adults. We are located at 1101 Bienville Blvd. and open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11am-5pm. ADI features original paintings, pottery, photography, wood working, jewelry, fiber art and much more. The Youth Arts Program is scheduled for Thursday, February 13 from 3-5pm. This event is FREE to children aged 5 - 18 and all supplies are provided. Please RSVP to [artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com](mailto:artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com), so that we have enough supplies on hand. Make sure to come out and join us at our Outdoor Market on February 15 from 10am-4pm. If you are a crafter and are interested in joining us for our Outdoor Market please contact Laurie Schaerer at 251-232-4470. Tables \$15/Tents \$25. ADI is always seeking new artists to join our gallery. If you are a local artist and are interested in joining our gallery, or if you would like to become a member or a volunteer, call Marsha Barnett at 251-401-0230.

**DIPOA News** Happy Carnival Season from the DIPOA! A big THANK YOU to all property owners who voted in the recent DIPOA election on the West Surf Beach Construction Easement. We are grateful for your participation and DIPOA is looking forward to serving you in 2025. Please reach out to Jennifer at the office for your DIPOA needs at 251-861-3144 and be on the lookout for your 2025 membership dues letter that will be mailed in March. Laissez les bons temps rouler and we hope your day is as beautiful as Dauphin Island!

**Sea Lab Tidbits** The Dauphin Island Sea Lab will open registration for summer camps and workshops on February 3, 2025. Dates and descriptions of camps can be found at [disl.edu/dhp/summer-camps](http://disl.edu/dhp/summer-camps). Registration is currently open for the Family Camp the weekend of March 28. The Family Camp is an overnight camp for families and friends to explore Dauphin Island and investigate its habitats. Our full-time marine educators guide it. Save the date for Discovery Day on April 5. Keep updated on all events happening at DISL at [disl.edu/events](http://disl.edu/events).

**Let's Light the Island Green** Historically, a candle was placed in the window of the residence to light the way home for soldiers. Today, Army families and loved ones use it as our Trainees go off to The Forge and keep it lit while they are in the final test to certify their journey and start their career as soldiers. The light reminds us at home to pray, keep them in our thoughts, and just how long this test actually takes. One of our locals, PVT Grace Eyermann with the Delta Company 3-39 Infantry, is about to undergo The Forge. How can you show your support? Donate \$10 to Dauphin Island Veterans Association and receive a green light bulb, place the green light in the lamp in your home or in the light fixture on your porch. Turn the light on during the entire 96 hours (starting on January 27) of the forge as a reminder to keep the men and women of the 3-39 Platoon in your thoughts and prayers. To buy a green bulb contact Chris & Linda Eyerma at 636-384-6205 or [ceyerermann54@gmail.com](mailto:ceyerermann54@gmail.com). You can also purchase a green bulb at Roberts Brothers, Skinner's Seafood, DI Welcome Center and the Light-house Bakery for only \$10 and, once again, all money supports our Dauphin Island Veterans Association. Go Grace!

**Musical Chair X for 2025** Join us every Tuesday and Friday from 9-10am at the Dauphin Island Community Center. This free, 10-week session runs from Tuesday, January 7 through Thursday, March 14. All ages and abilities are welcome. Enjoy the music and people while stretching, building strength, and boosting your energy. A chair will be used for seated exercise and standing support. The class will be led by Sue Fairbanks. Call or text Sue with any questions (630) 335-6034. Please bring light hand weights or water bottles.

**Bienville Beach Improvements Near** Work on the town-owned Bienville Beach (property north and south of Bienville Blvd. at Pirates Cove Street) will begin soon. The parcels north of Bienville will include a restroom and 40-50 parking spaces while the acreage south of Bienville will see construction of a new boardwalk, decorative fencing, and appropriate signage. Should prove to be another popular public access facility here on the Island!

**Drainage Repair 1200 Block Bienville Blvd.** Drain pipes under the two eastbound lanes of Bienville Blvd. (Just east of the skate park) will be replaced soon and traffic will be rerouted during construction. Motorists are encouraged to drive with caution in this area until repairs are complete.

**Let It Snow!** Although it was about a month late for Christmas, Mother Nature treated us to an historic phenomenon creating a true Winter Wonderland as more than 7" of powdery white snow blanketed the island. In less than 10 hours we saw an amazing transformation of the traditional Dauphin Island landscape into something resembling what we would normally see in the northern portions of our country. From the shorelines, to the top of the tallest pines, and everything in between, the entire island was completely covered with fluffy snow. A remarkable sight indeed and one for the record books according to local weather officials. That was fun...but let's get back to the balmy temps we're more accustomed to enjoying!

**Island Welcomes Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association** The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, Chapter 28-6 (Mobile) will roll into town on Saturday, April 5 as part of its 3rd Annual Dice Run fundraiser in support of Vets Helping Vets. The group will gather on the east end of the island starting at 9am with some 60-80 motorcycles departing at 1030am. The CVMA is a non-profit organization (501-19C) and the Town of Dauphin Island is proud to support this organization and appreciates their collective service to our great nation!

**Council Approves Mean High Tide Line** The Town Council recently adopted a designated Mean High Tide Line as part of the proposed West End Restoration Project. Now, the Alabama State Lands Division and Alabama Department of Environmental Management will host a public hearing on that same matter on March 6 at 6pm at the DI Community Center. There they will receive comments from the public on the MHTL. In related news, the vote held by the DI Property Owners' Association passed in overwhelming fashion which grants an easement to the town to construct the west end restoration project along portions of West Surf Beach. We appreciate all property owners that took part in this important vote!



**Comprehensive Plan** The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has finalized a community participation questionnaire and SARPC has created a dedicated webpage where you can access it. Public engagement is a crucial part of the comprehensive planning process, ensuring everyone's voice is heard. This collaborative effort is essential for creating a successful plan that accurately reflects the goals and objectives of residents and property owners. The result will be a fact-based plan that outlines the community's future vision, along with identified strategies and recommendations to achieve these goals. Keep an eye out for webpage launch information in early February. The Steering Committee meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6 PM to 8 PM at Town Hall, and we invite you to participate either in person or via Zoom. Please note that meeting dates and times may change, so stay informed and engaged.

**Prescribed Burn** Preliminary plans are in place for Alabama Forestry staff to conduct a prescribed burn in the Audubon Sanctuary on the east end of the island. Although no specific dates are currently available we anticipate the burns to take place in late January or early February, weather permitting. Prescribed burns are necessary to reduce underbrush (including invasive species) and ground cover that could otherwise fuel a wildfire. The Town has partnered with the Alabama Forestry Commission on this project while town staff and members of the DI Fire & Rescue will be present to monitor conditions.

**Food Trucks Are Back!** The town council has approved the Food Truck program for 2025 allowing up to two trucks per day (Mondays & Thursdays only) at Cadillac Square. The program will run from March 1-October 31. It's always nice when someone else does the cooking!

**Road Work Ahead** The east and west bound lanes of Bienville Boulevard (from the 3-way stop to Albright Drive) will soon get new striping. The existing traffic markings have faded over time and will soon receive a fresh coat of paint to enhance visibility during inclement weather and nighttime hours. This should make for safer travels going forward.

**Sunset Concerts Return** The town is once again contracting with Alabama Coasting to schedule six Sunset Concerts again this year starting in April and running through October. These events are always well attended and offer a variety of music by local and regional talent. A full schedule will be provided in the March Town Crier so be sure to look for that info.

**Spring 2025 Bird Banding Event** Join the Banding Coalition of the Americas and Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries at their annual spring bird banding event in the area across from the Goat Tree Reserve on Cadillac Ave., April 5 & April 9, 8am-2pm daily. Parking and restrooms are located at Cadillac Square 661 Bienville Blvd. Bring a chair as they co-host a family-friendly spring bird banding event on Dauphin Island. Get an up-close experience with birds as they are banded by Federally-licensed banders and safely released. Volunteers will present the birds and information about species and habitat preservation on the island. For field trips, group visits, or assistance for people with special needs; Please email [kyle@bandingcoalition.org](mailto:kyle@bandingcoalition.org) well in advance. For further details about the event, see websites: [bandingcoalition.org](http://bandingcoalition.org), [dauphinislandbirds.com](http://dauphinislandbirds.com)

**TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS**

- Agenda Meetings:** Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm
- Town Council Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **February 4 & 18**
- Planning Commission Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month 5pm
- Board of Adjustment Meetings:** 4th Monday of each month or as needed
- DI Court:** 2nd Wednesday of each month **February 12 @ 2PM**
- DI Water & Sewer Authority Meetings:** 3rd Friday of each month at 8am at the Authority Office, 908 Alabama Ave. (251-861-2363)
- 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 251-861-3144.



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

**DEPARTMENTAL LISTING**

**Administrative (251-861-5525)**

Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger Ext 225  
Accounts Payable Jodie Potts Ext 227  
Rental/Tax Clerk Ext 222

**Building Dept.**

License & Permits Wendy Crumley Ext 223  
Bldg Official Terry Sheffield cell 251-257-6707  
Bldg Inspector Wes Stumbo cell 251-207-9287

**Court**

Court Clerk Stacy Mallon Ext 221

**Town Events**

Event Coordinator Maggie Godwin [mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org](mailto:mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org)

**Community Center**

Manager Jill Pope 251-487-6110

**Police, Fire & Public Safety**

Chief of Police Kym Claw 251-861-5523  
E.M.S. Director Troy Gorlott 251-207-9767  
Fire Chief Jeremy Castile 251-206-5626

**Public Works Dept. & Animal Control**

Superintendent James Stokes 251-313-2378

**Dumpsters: Fridays & Saturdays 8AM-Noon**

1011 Bienville Boulevard Dauphin Island, AL 36528

Phone: 251-861-5525 Fax: 251-861-2154

Website: [townofdauphinisland.org](http://townofdauphinisland.org)

Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm

**\*ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE TOWN EMAILS?**

Get on the mass email list for updates on events and important information for the community of Dauphin Island!  
Please send an email to [wcrumley@townofdauphinisland.org](mailto:wcrumley@townofdauphinisland.org).

**REPORT IT DI**

For general suggestions or concerns that do not require immediate attention or are not a police matter, please email: [reportitdi@townofdauphinisland.org](mailto:reportitdi@townofdauphinisland.org) and it will be handled at the earliest convenience. To submit your request by phone, call: (251) 861-2101.



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