



THE TOWN CRIER

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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

- Dec 25 Merry Christmas
- Dec 23-Jan 3 Town Hall Closed
- Jan 1 Happy New Year 2025!
- Jan 7 Musical Chair X
- Jan 10 Blood Drive
- Jan 13 Women's Club Meeting
- Jan 18 ADI's Outdoor Market
- Jan 18 DIPOA Meeting & Easement Vote
- Jan 18-19 The Vikings of Massacre Island
- Jan 23 Bingo Night @ CC
- Jan 27-30 The Forge—Green Light
- Feb 1 Krewe de la Dauphine
- Feb 8 DI People's Parade
- Feb 15 Battle of Mobile Bay 5K
- Feb 15 Krewe of Salty Paws 10AM
- Feb 16 M.I.S.S. Parade
- Feb 22 Rabies Clinic
- March 8 Kite Day
- March 22 Native American Experience
- April 13 Motorcycle Show



West End Restoration Project UPDATE By now you should have received a ballot from the DIPOA requesting your support to provide the Town of Dauphin Island with an easement on West Surf Beach (the beachfront area extending from near Pirates Cove Street to the west end of Bienville Boulevard and adjacent to and south of the Gulf-fronting private lots) to satisfy a requirement to construct the planned restoration project. An easement does NOT change property ownership but would allow access by the town to place sand, construct and maintain an engineered beach. Quite simply, without this easement the project will NOT move forward! Therefore, it is imperative that you return these ballots at your earliest convenience to ensure at least 750 total votes are received, 2/3 of which must be in the affirmative. The Town recently held a required Public Hearing on December 11 to receive comments on the project. Specifically, placement of a designated Mean High Tide Line which is yet another requirement of the permitting process. A second Public Hearing will be held jointly by the Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources and ADEM sometime in early 2025. We will publicize meeting details when available. Town officials feel this is by far the best opportunity our community has ever had to nourish portions of the island's west end and enhance the overall resiliency of the island. Additional information on the West End Restoration Project is available on the Town website.

Christmas Pageant Crowns Miss DI & Court Keeping with tradition, the 2024 Miss Dauphin Island Christmas Pageant assembled 25 of the island's best and brightest young ladies to compete for top honors in seven categories. The results were as follows: **Teeny Miss DI** Maylise Sisk, Runner-Up Hadley Goldman **Tiny Miss DI** Olivia Dority, Runner-Up Delaney Weaver **Little Miss DI** Vivian Stacy, Runner-Up Claudia Tinsley **Sweet Miss DI** Jenna O'Brien, Runner-Up Lilly McLester **Junior Miss DI** Isabella Roberson, Runner-Up Gracie Britt **Miss Dauphin Island** Emma Griffin, Runner-Up Miranda Pennington. The new **Spirit of DI Award** went to Savannah Wyers, **Best Dressed** Camille Grimes, and Olivia Dority & Lilly Griffin took home the two **Miss Congeniality** titles. Congratulations to all of the participants and winners of this year's pageant! Thank you again to the local businesses that sponsored this event; Cooley Construction, Beachfront Rentals & Sales, Mobile Fence Company, Dauphin Island Real Estate, Lighthouse Bakery, and Milton's Honda & Acura Shop. This event would not have been possible without your generosity!

Recycle Your Christmas Tree The Town of Dauphin Island encourages you to recycle your live, undecorated trees again this year. Feel free to deposit trees in the roped off area near the Bienville Blvd./Pirates Cove Street intersection or place trees roadside at your home and contact the Public Works Dept. for pick up. Deadline is January 15. Residents and property owners of parcels containing beach and dune areas are encouraged to take the trees and place them strategically within their property to spur dune growth and enhance wildlife habitat.

Carnival Season is Near Dauphin Island will officially kick off the Mardi Gras season here along the Gulf coast when the Krewe de la Dauphine rolls along Bienville Boulevard on February 1 at 1pm! The Town-sponsored People's Parade is set for February 8. As you prepare for these two fantastic parades please remember that reserving space along the parade route is limited to the day of event (beginning at sunrise) and ropes, ribbons, and other similar materials are not allowed to mark areas. You are allowed to place tents, vehicles, lawn chairs, etc. to claim space but items must be removed at the conclusion of each parade or be subject to disposal during the post-parade clean-up process. But why just sit on the sideline when you can actually be IN the People's Parade? Check out the town website for specific details and make plans to participate in this unique event.

The Vikings of Massacre Island You'll want to visit historic Fort Gaines on January 18-19 as Viking warriors invade Massacre Island to claim it for Daneland. They are sure to be a rowdy bunch as they raid, pillage, and fight their way to Valhalla. Get up close and personal with all of the action!

Market in the Park is taking a break for winter. We will resume market days after it warms up again. Please Like & Follow us on the Market in Green Park Facebook page for the start up date!

BLOOD DRIVE - Jan 10, 2025 at the Welcome Center from 830am-530pm



News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council Registration required to attend. 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. Tickets will go on sale in December. The event is sponsored in part by the Town of Dauphin Island, Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, and Mobile County Commission. Muddy Mondays with Potter Elizabeth Van Antwerp - January 6, 13, 20, and February 3 @ 1-4PM. Treat yourself to three hours of pure, hands-on joy each week as you explore the world of clay. Experience the thrill of hand building, the art of wheel throwing, and the creativity of decorating your own unique pieces. Art For All - Art Classes for Adults with Disabilities. January 10 and 24 - 10-11:30AM. "Art for All" instructed by artist Carolyn Greene, is an inclusive arts education program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, fostering creativity and skill development in acrylics, graphics, watercolors, and more. NEW!! Our Time - Art Classes and Musical Experiences for Active Seniors. January 17 and 31 - 10AM-12PM. 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. Cost: Free to residents of South Mobile County. Open to active adults age 65 and older. Basic Watercolors with Artist Odie Tucker January 18 - 1-3PM. 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. January 9 - 10AM - 1PM, January 19 - 1-4PM, and Thursday January 23 - 10AM-1PM. Join Elizabeth Van Antwerp for a family-friendly pottery session! Classes for Children Registration required to attend. Preschool Studio Arts with Terri Baker: January 8 and 22 - 1-2PM. Ages 3-5. In this imaginative class, little ones will explore the joy of self-expression through various artistic activities. From finger painting to simple crafts, this class is designed to spark creativity and lay the foundation for a lifelong love of art. Art After School (K - 1st Grade) with Terri Baker January 8 - 4-5PM. Let your child explore the world of colors, shapes, and creative expression. Students will be guided through fun and age-appropriate art projects, fostering a love for creativity for your little Picassos. Art After School (4th - 5th Grades) with Artist Odie Tucker January 15 - 4-5PM. 4th and 5th graders will discover the magic of painting with watercolors. 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 (2nd - 3rd Grade) with Terri Baker January 22 - 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 & Marie Sisk January 29 - 11:30AM - 12:30PM. Our classes invite children aged 2-5 and their caregivers to embark on a heartwarming journey of connection and exploration. 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. Join us for a delightful experience where laughter, learning, and love flourish at Family Studio Arts! TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE CLASSES, please visit our website at 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 The Dauphin Island Women's Club is excited to invite you to our next monthly meeting on Monday, January 13, at 5pm at the Dauphin Island Welcome Center. This month, we're thrilled to host Dana Taylor, owner of Anna's Seafood, as our guest speaker. She'll be sharing insights on the "Reef to Table" concept and treating us to her famous Oyster Gumbo! This meeting is open to all ladies, both on and off the island—you don't need to be a member to join this meeting. However, if you'd like to become one, our annual membership is just \$35, supporting local charities as part of our 501(c)(3) mission. Come early to enjoy delicious snacks, beverages and some social time! We're also hosting Mardi Gras Bingo Night on Thursday, January 23 at 5pm at the Dauphin Island Community Center. Arrive early to grab food, beverages, and your bingo cards—it's going to be a night full of fun, laughter, and surprise entertainment! Please note, no personal beverages are allowed, and the event is for ages 16 and up. We can't wait to see you at these exciting events!

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!

Sea Lab Tidbits The Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab offers everyone a weekend deal this fall. Children under 14 years old are free on Saturdays and Sundays with a paying adult through the holidays. Summer camp dates are set for 2025. Registration opens on February 3, but you can see when camps will be offered at disl.edu/dhp/summer-camps. Mark your calendars for Discovery Day on April 5, 2025.

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.

Council Adopts Driveway Ordinance The town council created a policy several years ago to encourage homeowners along and south of Bienville Boulevard on the island's west end to elevate driveways in an effort to reduce salt water intrusion during high tide and storm events. That move has proven beneficial but not all driveways have been elevated to the recommended height of 6' above the centerline of Bienville Blvd. As such, the town council recently adopted an Ordinance that will require compliance and better protect these low-lying areas from future flood events.



Arts of Dauphin Island We, the Board of Directors and Artists of Arts of Dauphin Island, would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! 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, January 9 from 3-5pm. This event is FREE to children ages 5-18 and all supplies are provided. Please RSVP to artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com, so that we have enough supplies on hand. Make sure to come out and join us at our Outdoor Market on January 18, the 3rd Saturday of the month, 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 Warmest Wishes from the DIPOA. Election ballots have been mailed to all Property Owners for the upcoming DIPOA election. Vote today on this important topic regarding the West Surf Beach Construction Easement. More information about the election can be found on the Association's website at dipoa.org/vote. Contact Jennifer at the office if you have any questions about your packet, need a replacement ballot, or need to update your membership information on file. Join us for a special meeting and election on Saturday, January 18 at 11am in the lower level of the Isle Dauphine Clubhouse. We look forward to receiving your returned ballot and we hope your day is as beautiful as Dauphin Island.

Double Red Flag Ordinance Adopted Now that the town has put in place the Beach Safety Flag Warning System similar to many other coastal communities along the Gulf coast, Public Safety Director Troy Gorlott recently recommended that the Town Council adopt an ordinance that prohibits entry into Gulf waters during double red flag conditions. The ordinance (1) specifically prohibits voluntary entry into Gulf waters (immediately south of the island) when waters are closed (Double Red Flag conditions), (2) holds parents/guardians responsible for knowingly allowing juveniles (under age 16) to enter waters under these conditions, and (3) authorizes appropriate staff to patrol and enforce these regulations via verbal warnings and/or written citations. The ordinance does not apply to individuals securely attached by a leash to a surfboard (see ordinance for surfboard specifications). We are hopeful this new ordinance will lessen the need for first responders to put themselves in harms way and help save lives.

Memorial Walls Get Facelift Next time you pass or stop by Water Tower Plaza take a moment to check out the brand new Memorial Walls created by the DI Veterans Association. They are indeed a fitting tribute to those Dauphin Island veterans that are no longer with us. Kudos to DIVA members and volunteers behind the wonderful transformation including; Brad Jones, Justin Turvey, Jim Thomas, Phil Davison, Al Ahola, Justin Ishee (equipment), Daniel Caldwell (MJ Electric) and the DI Water Authority. Good job by all!

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 Eyer mann 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 Eyer man at 636-384-6205 or ceyer mann54@gmail.com. You can also purchase a green bulb at Roberts Brothers, Skinner's Seafood, DI Welcome Center and the Lighthouse Bakery for only \$10 and, once again, all money supports our Dauphin Island Veterans Association. Go Grace!

Projects Progress It seems good things are happening everywhere you look here on Dauphin Island and that trend will continue into 2025. Work on the first of two living shoreline projects in Aloe Bay is underway including initial placement of rip-rap for the near shore breakwater system. The new eco-tourism area at Eldorado Street is taking shape with two new boardwalks, street/sidewalk construction, kayak launch, and new restrooms (arriving soon). Work will soon get underway at the new Bienville Beach (aka Mid-island Park) Boardwalk/parking lot/restrooms located at the Bienville Blvd./Pirates Cove Street intersection. The new restrooms at Cadillac Square should be nearing completion by the time you receive this news as well as closure of the breach in Little Dauphin Island opposite Billy Goat Hole. Speaking of Billy Goat Hole, DCNR recently opened bids on replacement of the boat ramps and finger piers while installation of new hdcp. ramps and elevator at the concession stand/restrooms are about to get underway. Finally, the historic Fort Gaines parking lot upgrades including resurfacing, striping, and new parking bumpers should be completed by early 2025.

Flood Ordinance Public Hearing & Meeting Change The town council has set a Public Hearing on Monday, January 6 at 430pm to receive comments on proposed amendments to Flood Ordinance 55B. This change is specifically related to Mobile Homes & Manufactured Homes and associated wind load ratings per FEMA regulations. Written comments should be emailed to wsandagger@townofdauphinisland.org. prior to the meeting date. Also, the Council Meeting previously scheduled for Jan. 7 has been changed to Jan. 6 at 6PM immediately following the Agenda Meeting at 5PM.

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.



Dauphin Island Foundation News The Dauphin Island Foundation is a non-profit dedicated to enhancing the island community and its natural environment. The Foundation raises initial funds and supports essential initiatives like the Dauphin Island Medical Clinic, Dolly Parton Imagination Library for early literacy, Two Pines: Maritime Forest Project for habitat restoration, Dauphin Island Community Center, island bike path, and the Welcome Center at Little Red School House. Our mission is to facilitate communication and collaboration between island entities such as the Town of Dauphin Island Government, Chamber of Commerce, Water and Sewer Authority, and Property Owners Association. With those connections, the foundation fosters partnerships that work together to enhance island life through thoughtful projects centered on our rich natural, community, and historic assets. Founded in 1991 with the help of Auburn University's Economic Development Institute, the Foundation has always been a grassroots effort supported by local volunteers and resources. Look for more info about these community projects here in the Town Crier in 2025! For more information, to get involved, or donate, please contact us at (251) 861-3800.

Comprehensive Plan The Steering Committee is diligently finalizing a community participation questionnaire, and your input is vital. We strongly encourage all permanent residents, property owners, and interested parties to contribute, as this feedback is crucial for the success of the project. The South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) is also in the process of creating a dedicated webpage for accessing the questionnaire once it is available. The survey results will serve as the cornerstone for developing the Comprehensive Plan for 2040. The Steering Committee meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6 PM to 8 PM at Town Hall, and we invite you to be part of this process in person or via Zoom. Please keep in mind that meeting dates and times may change, so stay informed and engaged.

Controlled Burn Preliminary plans are in place for Alabama Forestry staff to conduct a controlled 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 early 2025. Controlled burns are necessary to reduce underbrush and ground cover that could otherwise fuel a wildfire. The town will publicize the burns when the schedule is known.

Human Trafficking Month January is Human Trafficking and Prevention Month and nearly 25 years after passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, an estimated 27.6 million people are subjected to human trafficking globally, with cases reported in every U.S. state and territory, including throughout Alabama. Every individual, family, community, and organization can help raise awareness, prevent trafficking, and support survivors by learning how to take action. The town council recently adopted a Proclamation in support of this cause.

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Agenda Meetings:** Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm
- Town Council Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **January 6 & 21**
- 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 **January 8 @ 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)		Building Dept.				
Town Clerk	Wanda Sandagger	Ext 225	License & Permits	Wendy Crumley	Ext 223	
Accounts Payable	Jodie Potts	Ext 227	Bldg Official	Terry Sheffield	cell 251-257-6707	
Rental/Tax Clerk		Ext 222	Bldg Inspector	Wes Stumbo	cell 251-207-9287	
Court		Town Events				
Court Clerk	Stacy Mallon	Ext 221	Event Coordinator	Maggie Godwin	mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org	
Community Center		Police, Fire & Public Safety				
Manager	Jill Pope	251-487-6110	Chief of Police	Kym Claw	251-861-5523	
Public Works Dept. & Animal Control		E.M.S. Director			Troy Gorlott	251-207-9767
Superintendent	James Stokes	251-313-2378	Fire Chief	Jeremy Castile	251-206-5626	

***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.

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 and it will be handled at the earliest convenience. To submit your request by phone, call: (251) 861-2101.



1011 Bienville Boulevard Dauphin Island, AL 36528
Phone: 251-861-5525 Fax: 251-861-2154
Website: townofdauphinisland.org
Monday-Friday 7:30am - 4:00pm