



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

- Nov 28 Happy Thanksgiving
- Dec 1 DI Art Gallery Christmas Open House
- Dec 6 Miss DI Christmas Pageant 7PM
- Dec 7 Christmas Market
- Dec 7 Christmas Parade 11AM
- Dec 7 Lights of Dauphin Island
- Dec 11 MHTL Public Hearing 6PM
- Dec 12 Movie Night
- Dec 14 Lights of DI Dash
- Dec 14 Boat Parade 5PM
- Dec 15 Night of Hope Christmas Music Celebration
- Dec 15 Lights of DI Scavenger Hunt & Gift Wrapping
- Dec 15 Movie Night
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas
- Dec 23-Jan 3 Town Hall Closed
- Jan 1 Happy New Year 2025!
- Jan 10 Blood Drive
- Jan 18-19 The Vikings of Massacre Island
- 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

More Movie Nights We are excited to offer you some fall and winter movies at the DI Community Center (CC). Here is the remaining line up: Thursday, Dec 12 @ 6PM – Polar Express Movie Night, wear your PJs, and enjoy hot chocolate & cookie decorating (the first 100 people) (CC); Sunday, Dec 15 @ 530pm – It's a Wonderful Life (CC). Movies will include free popcorn and chairs will be provided. Drinks & candy are available for \$2 each, please bring cash. However, you are welcome to bring your own snacks and seating like bean bags, blankets, or anything you find comfortable. We hope to see you at the movies during the holidays!

Christmas on the Island The holidays are fast approaching and Christmas on Dauphin Island is always a special time of year. Stop by the Dauphin Island Art Gallery, located at 918A Bienville Boulevard, for a **Christmas Open House** on Sunday, December 1 from 1230-430pm. Enjoy free gift wrap and light refreshments while you're there! The **35th Annual Miss DI Christmas Pageant** will take center stage at the Community Center on December 6 at 7pm. This year the popular event will see the addition of a Teeny Miss DI category for ages 2-4 and a Spirit of DI award that's open to all participants. On Saturday, December 7 join Santa Claus and your friends and neighbors for the **DI Christmas Parade** that gets underway at 11am at Cadillac Square. If you want to join the parade please be at Cadillac Square no later than 10am. You'll also want to stop by Water Tower Plaza on December 7 at 530pm for the **Lights of Dauphin Island Christmas Tree Lighting** ceremony. Always a colorful and joyous spectacle to experience! The DI Chamber of Commerce is hosting **The Lights of DI Dash** (fun run/walk) on December 14 at 10:30-11:30 AM at Water Tower Plaza. This is a great way to get together and show your Christmas spirit by dressing up in Christmassy attire such as an Elf or Reindeer or come in a group with matching shirts. Don't forget to have your picture taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus after the run! Later that day festivities will shift to area waterways as the always popular and colorful **Christmas Boat Parade** gets underway at 5PM at Billy Boat Hole. Decorated vessels will then travel west along the Island's north shore to DI Marina. On December 15 from 1-3PM, join in on the fun at the **2nd annual Christmas Tree Ornament Scavenger Hunt!** Come see how many trees you can correctly match to the clues. First and Second place prizes will go to the person/group who solves all the clues in the shortest amount of time. On December 15 from 1-3PM, **Gift Wrapping** for donations will be available at the Welcome Center. Just bring all your gifts with a "To and From" on them and let us take care of the rest. Remember at each event the DI Chamber of Commerce will be taking donations for Feed the Need. Some items we are hoping to collect are large cans of hearty type soups (beef/vegetable, chicken vegetable), instant potatoes, canned vegetables (spinach, greens, peas), bags of dried beans (black eye peas, lima), canned fruit, canned yams, boxes of stove top dressings, canned ham, shelf-stable milk, cranberry sauce, any type of items to help with making a holiday meal. Visit the town website for additional info on all of these holiday family events. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Christmas Musical Celebration Please join Dauphin Island Baptist Church for their Night of Hope Musical Celebration—December 15, at 6:30PM in the DIBC Worship Building. The night will feature a live nativity, a combined Children's Choir, and the DIBC worship team. The lead singers will be Lee Schansberg, Carley Fulmer, and Katie Schansberg; and the combined children's choir will be children from First Baptist Church Irvington and DIBC. Together they will sing classic Christmas carols and worship songs as we celebrate the hope that Jesus' birth represents.

Market in the Park Stop by Green Park every Thursday from 9am-5pm and every second Saturday from 9am-3pm to see what the island has to offer! The holidays have changed the market schedule a bit. The week of Thanksgiving the market will be held on the Wednesday before, Nov. 27. The Christmas Market will be Dec. 7. This event provides an outlet for local farmers, crafters, and island businesses to promote their products, rentals, services, and more. The fee is \$20 for crafters (business licenses required for businesses) and the money goes towards the Miss DI scholarship fund. If you would like to be part of the market please email mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org.



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



News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council Like & follow us on Facebook & Instagram and subscribe to our newsletter at www.dauphinislandarts.org to stay up to date on these and other events! 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 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. **Muddy Mondays with Professional Potter Elizabeth Van Antwerp** January 6, 13, 20, and February 3 @ 1-4PM. Cost: \$265/person for 4-class series. Give yourself something to look forward to on Mondays! Join us for "Muddy Mondays," our exciting new 4-week pottery class led by the talented Elizabeth Van Antwerp. 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. The class structure will be 3 consecutive Mondays (3 hours each), followed by a week's break for firing your pieces, and then a final 4th class after the break to decorate them. Reserve your spot today and make time for creativity and connection! Class fee includes all materials and firings. **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. After a very busy and successful year, our art education programs are taking a break for December and will start up again in January. Stay tuned through our newsletter, website, Facebook and Instagram for January class information. Happy holidays to all!

Dauphin Island Women's Club Ladies of Dauphin Island, mark your calendars for a festive evening you won't want to miss! Our December meeting is happening Monday, December 9, at 5PM at the Dauphin Island Welcome Center, and it's open to all women of the island—not just members. Come early to grab some refreshments, enjoy a beverage (including wine and a delightful Wassail), and snag a great seat with your friends. This Christmas-themed party will be packed with fun, including games, a cookie exchange, and plenty of delicious food. It's the perfect opportunity to socialize, celebrate the season, and meet some wonderful women from our community. So, grab a friend (or two!) and join us for an evening of holiday cheer. We can't wait to see you there!

Sea Lab Tidbits The Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab offers a weekend deal this fall for everyone. Through the holidays, children under 14 years old are free on Saturdays and Sundays with a paying adult. 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 April 5, 2025 for Discovery Day.

Aloe Bay Living Shorelines Work to construct two separate living shorelines in Aloe Bay is currently underway. One project will be located at the west end of Eldorado Street (near the wastewater treatment facility) and the second project will be constructed along Desoto Avenue between Ladnier Landing and the DI Airport. The town secured funding from GOMESA and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation ECRF to design, permit, and construct the projects that will protect over 2000 feet of shoreline and create five acres of quality habitat.

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.

Fort Gaines Parking Lot Improvements The East End of the island has seen a host of upgrades over the past couple of years including new restrooms, replacement of fishing pier, roadway & parking enhancements, and more. While all of these improvements were much needed and look great, the parking lot at historic Fort Gaines now sticks out like the proverbial "sore thumb" with its outdated asphalt, numerous potholes, and aging curbing. However, help is on the way! Thanks to the generous support from Mobile County Commissioner Randall Dueitt the parking lot is about to get a major facelift to include resurfacing, striping, new parking bumpers/curbs, and more! The Town greatly appreciates Mobile County's willingness to cost share with us on this necessary and meaningful project!

Games People Play The town has received interest from island residents to establish a weekly "Game Day" in the New Year at the Community Center. Current thinking is that residents, property owners, and guests would come together (ex. Tuesday 1-4pm) to enjoy each other's company and participate in a variety of games such as cards, dominoes, board games, and the like. Watch for more info and let us know your thoughts!

Little Dauphin Breach Repair Impacts from recent storms opened a significant breach in Little Dauphin Island across from the ferry landing at Billy Goat Hole. Since that time northerly winds and wave action have only served to widen the gap. However, according to Corps officials, help is on the way. A dredge and other equipment will be arriving soon and work will begin to close the breach in relative short order. Boaters are encouraged to proceed with caution in the area during this time. You may also recall that the entire Little Dauphin Island is in line to receive a significant nourishment project within the next year that should restore much of the north shoreline that has been lost to erosion over the past few decades.

West End Restoration Project Update With the East End project complete we can now turn our full attention to replicating that feat along portions of the west end of the island. As the search for funding continues our coastal engineers are finalizing specifications in preparation for submission of the environmental permitting process to construct the project. The Town Council is also preparing to host a Public Hearing on December 11 at 6pm at the DI Community Center to receive comments on the proposed permanent Mean High Tide Line which is another required step in this complex process. Zoom will be available for those unable to attend in person and written comments can be submitted to wsandagger@townofdauphinisland.org. Residents and property owners along the west end are strongly encouraged to follow the progress of this restoration effort.



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, December 12 from 3-5pm. ADI will be hosting a Christmas Party for the children and chaperones as well as creating one of a kind resin and bead filled oyster ornaments for their Christmas trees. 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 for all. Our Outdoor Market for 2024 will be the 3rd Saturday of the month, December 21 from 10am-4pm. We have several new crafters who have signed up for this market, the last of the year and the best time to buy that one of a kind Christmas gift that you have been searching for. 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 Yuletide greetings from the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association! Continuing holiday traditions and sharing fun are a great part of Island life. The DIPOA is hosting a gathering at Pass Drury Park to view the Dauphin Island Christmas Boat Parade on Saturday, December 14 at 5pm. Join us for Fun, Family, & Fellowship! We hope you enjoy all the quiet wonders this season brings with Joy and Peace. As we transition to a quieter time on the Island, DIPOA is working on a number of maintenance and improvement projects during the Fall season, and we are seeking volunteers to help. Do you have a heart to serve? Are you looking for an area to give back to your community? Join like-minded volunteers that wish to pour some love into OUR Association and it's beautiful properties. We are seeking individuals that would like to invest their time & talents for the betterment of Dauphin Island. If you are interested in serving on one of our volunteer committees, please reach out to Jennifer Perry at 251-861-3144 or office@dipoa.org. Every effort counts and there are many areas and ways to contribute. Contact Jennifer today for a role that fits best for you and stop by our office at Isle Dauphine for a coffee and sweet treat.

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee Off & Running Dauphin Island's initiative to develop a new Comprehensive Plan is a crucial step in shaping the community's future. This process aligns with standard urban planning practices and will help guide the island's development between 2030 and 2050. Here are some key points about the announced Comprehensive Plan development: The Comprehensive Plan will empower the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop and enact ordinances and regulations for Dauphin Island, as well as serve as a vision document to guide the Planning Commission and Town Council on development decisions. The planning process emphasizes community participation and input from all permanent residents, property owners, and other interested parties and will be critical to the overall success of the project. A survey will be distributed in December to collect opinions and data on the community's vision for the future of our island. The process is designed to be transparent, ensuring that all voices are heard. Residents and property owners are encouraged to share their thoughts on current conditions and preferred improvements. This feedback will help ensure the Planning Commission is moving in the desired direction. Therefore, all are requested to complete the survey when it becomes available. The survey results will serve as a starting point for developing the Comprehensive Plan. The Steering Committee is currently meeting weekly on Wednesdays from 6-8pm at Town Hall and you can keep up with their progress in person or via zoom. Note: Meeting date and times are subject to change. More to come.

Council Sets Multiple Public Hearings Residents and property owners are encouraged and invited to attend upcoming public hearings as follows; Monday, December 2 @ 4pm - Ordinance 108: An ordinance to enhance the resilience of the west end of Dauphin Island and reducing impacts caused by routine saltwater flood events through the elevation of private driveways in the area. Monday, December 2 @ 445pm - Ordinance 109: An ordinance establishing the beach safety flag warning system prohibiting entry into Gulf waters during double red flag warning. Note: These hearings will be held at Town Hall. Wednesday, December 11 @ 6pm - West End Beach Nourishment Project public hearing regarding the establishment of a designated Mean High Tide Line. Note: This meeting will be held at the DI Community Center. Zoom links will be provided for each of these events. Written comments should be sent to wsandagger@townofdauphinisland.org.

West End Update Did you know Dauphin Island is a Global Important Bird Area? Recognized by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Dauphin Island is vital for shorebirds, waterbirds, and wading birds as a key Gulf of Mexico stopover. To keep the undeveloped portion of the West End a safe haven, we must all play a part in protecting these habitats! Remember to: (a) Watch your step—many bird species nest in the dunes, grassy spots, and open sandy beach areas. (b) Keep the beach clean and free of trash. (c) Leave pets and other large animals at home to avoid disturbing wildlife. Together, we can help increase bird populations for future generations to enjoy! The Town of Dauphin Island has also launched a new Beach Ambassador Program as part of the West End Bird Conservation Management Plan. These individuals will routinely patrol and monitor the far west end to ensure compliance and share helpful information with beachgoers. Watch for additional information as we approach the spring and summer seasons.

Aloe Bay Improvements Work is progressing nicely on the eco-tourism project at the west end of Eldorado Street. The site will offer two observation boardwalks, kayak launch, restrooms, and parking. A living shoreline will also be constructed in this area to defend against future erosion and harmful wave action. A second living shoreline will also be installed between the new Ladnier Landing boat launch and DI Airport as part of the broader Aloe Bay improvements.

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.



Alma Bryant Academy of Coastal Studies During this season of giving please consider supporting the Academy of Coastal Studies at Alma Bryant High School through your generous contributions. While monetary donations are always welcome, these talented high school students seeking careers in the field of hospitality & tourism (Restaurant, Food & Beverage) are also in need of new/used clothing items such as white dress shirts, ties, black pants/dresses and similar apparel for special events, job interviews, and more. Food items including cake/brownie mix, evaporated & condensed milk, cans of fruit filling, brown sugar, and more are always handy to have in stock. Local businesses are also encouraged to partner with the school to offer internships, job shadowing, and work experience opportunities. For more information about these worthwhile programs and how you can help please contact Ms. Jacobs at lhjacobs@mcpss.com or Ms. Amy Reynolds (Career Coach) at ahreynolds@mcpss.com.

Don't Be "Up the Creek" We've all probably noticed the huge uptick in alternative watercraft ownership along the Gulf coast including canoes, kayaks, and Stand-Up Paddle-boards. They're everywhere or so it seems. While it's refreshing to see people enjoying the vast natural resources in a more environmentally friendly manner these vessels can sometimes end up in the lost & found bin, especially those without identification. Well, the Coast Guard Foundation provides identification stickers (or create your own) to help reduce such occurrences and you are encouraged to attach one to each of your watercraft. Including your name and contact info will significantly increase the likelihood of the item being returned to the rightful owner.

What's In A Name? Now that the town owns the undeveloped portion of the island's west end and recognizing this 10-mile expanse of land serves as critically important habitat for a variety of birds & sea turtles, it was recommended we give it a name to properly identify the area in perpetuity. After much wrangling with a variety of suggested titles the Town Council ultimately decided to go with "West End Nature Preserve". This designation (along with appropriate signage) will remind beachgoers to be mindful when enjoying the sugar white sands and glistening waters to "leave only footprints" and watch their steps to avoid nests and other sensitive areas. Please also remember dogs are PROHIBITED on this portion of Dauphin Island!

What's In A Name 2.0? The sandy beach area and cove immediately east of the Pelican Pub was for many years owned and managed by the DI Park & Beach Board until January 2022 when that entity became part of the Town of Dauphin Island. Over the past few years island elected leaders, following a recommendation by members of the DI Veterans Association, began naming/renaming area parks and other facilities in recognition of some of the families that resided here during the pre-bridge (pre-1955) era. Some of those include Sprinkle Skate Park, Collier Court, and Ladnier Landing. Adding to that list the Town Council recently opted to name the sandy beach area along Desoto Avenue "Patronas Park". A ribbon cutting ceremony and dedication will be held in the near future. Watch for the announcement!

Dog Park Update After multiple years of planning, discussions, and fundraising, the Town Council recently decided to move forward with construction of a dog park. The facility will be located between the Skate Park and basketball court on Bienville Boulevard immediately west of Narvaez Street. Finding an appropriate site was a major challenge and while this isn't the best location it should serve as a good "starting point" for our canine friends to run and interact with dogs. Work should begin in the near future so keep an eye on our progress!

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Agenda Meetings: Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm

Town Council Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **December 3 & 17**

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 **December 11 @ 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

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

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.

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.

