Dauphin Island
Sunset Capital of Alabama

THE TOWN CRIER

INCORPORATED 1988
ISSUE 272 February 2022

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
Clinton Collier

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jan 21 Free CPR Class 7PM
- Jan 29 KDLD Mardi Gras Parade 1PM
- Jan 29 Mardi Gras Boat Parade 530PM
- Jan 31 Agenda Meeting 5PM
- Feb 1 Council Meeting 6PM
- Feb 1 Grief Counseling 10AM
- Feb 5 People's Parade 1PM
- Feb 8 Planning Commission 5PM
- Feb 12 Krewe of Salty Paws Parade 10AM
- Feb 13 Massacre Island Secret Society 630 PM
- Feb 14 Agenda Meeting 5PM
- Feb 15 Council Meeting 6PM
- Feb 28 Agenda Meeting 5PM & Council Meeting 6PM
- Mar 1 Mardi Gras Day
- Mar 5 Battle of Mobile Bay 5K 830AM
- Mar 5 Campground Yard/Craft Sale 9AM-2PM
- Mar 8 Planning Commission 5PM
- March 12 WWII Living History @ the Fort 9AM-5PM
- Mar 13 Daylight Savings Time
- Mar 14 Agenda Meeting 5PM
- Mar 15 Council Meeting 6PM

Covid-19 Update All municipal building lobbies and the Welcome Center remain open to the public. Face coverings are strongly recommended and individuals are asked to social distance. However, we continue to encourage business be conducted via phone, online, mail, fax, etc. whenever possible to limit indoor crowds. Covid trends and conditions will be monitored going forward and safety protocols will be adjusted as necessary. Dauphin Island has the highest per capita Covid immunization rate among all municipalities in Mobile County at more than 75%!

Park & Beach Merger It's official! As of January 1 the Dauphin Island Park & Beach is now part of the Town of Dauphin Island's new Parks & Recreation Dept. (along with previous town-owned parks and related facilities). Sherry Cain will serve as the Dept. Head and can be reached at 251-861-3607. Once again, we appreciate the assistance and support provided by Senator David Sessions, Rep. Chip Brown, County Commissioner Randall Dueitt, the Park & Beach Board and staff and others for bringing these two groups together for the good of our barrier island community!

Carnival Season is Here! Once again, Dauphin Island will kick-off the carnival season with two traditional parades, a Street Tableau and an event that's literally "gone to the dogs"! Here's the official line-up along with some pertinent info so you won't miss out on any of the fun: **Krewe de la Dauphine** - Celebrating its 30th anniversary, KDLD will officially throw the first Moon Pie of the 2022 Mardi Gras season as the talented group takes to area streets on January 29 at 1pm. Look for some 50 units in this year's parade featuring colorful floats, multiple bands, marching units and more as "KDLD Visits the Circus". King Kenny (PaPa) & Queen Vickie will reign over the festivities along with Grand Marshal Brad Cox, long-time Fire Chief for the island! **People's Parade** - Next up is the wildly popular People's Parade that is set to roll down Bienville Blvd. on Feb. 5 at 1pm. Here's your best chance to experience what it's like to actually be *IN* a Mardi Gras parade! Sponsored by the town of Dauphin Island, this year's People's Parade Grand Marshal (in keeping with tradition) will be Ricky & Bonnie Pickett's Float "Gilligan's Island", winner of the 2020 Parade Best in Show! The Parade Committee is accepting applications thru January 24 from Dance, Equestrian & Performance Groups, Foot Marchers, Trailered Boats & Floats, Bands, all types of vehicles and more to participate. Note: ALL parade units MUST be decorated and the Committee reserves the right to review and approve all requests (some entries require a nominal fee). Visit the town's website for details. **Mystic Krewe of Salty Paws** - Dogs of all shapes, sizes, breeds and colors will be front and center at the Krewe of Salty Paws parade on Saturday, February 12 at 10am at Water Tower Plaza. Sponsored by the DI Chamber of Commerce this unique and fun event is a fundraiser for the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF). Entry Fee is $10 and prizes for Best Group, Most Creative & Best Theme Representation will be awarded. ARF reps will be on hand to assist with on-site adoptions and opportunities to volunteer. Visit the Mystic Krewe of Salty Paws Facebook page for more info. **Massacre Island Secret Society** - An official request from M.I.S.S. Madam Chairwoman was recently received at town hall (and approved by the Town Council) to host the 2nd Annual Massacre Island Secret Society Street Tableau on Sunday, February 13 at 630pm. It read in part, "In our effort to entertain, regale, and delight the citizens of Dauphin Island, the 2022 Street Tableau event will highlight the periods of island history, folklore, and its mystic beginnings resurrected from the past by costumed members in a flame-lit Street Tableau". Laissez les bons temps rouler!

Campground Yard/Craft Sale DI Campground is the place to be on Saturday, March 5 from 9am-2pm for the annual Yard/Craft Sale. There will be lots of items to choose from including shell jewelry/crafts and household items - scrubbies, crotchet-topped towels and baby items, microwave bowl holders and dish cloths - wool felted birds, nativity scenes and various cigar box scenes of birds - hand tied polar fleece fashion ponchos for women and kids, Swedish dish cloths and island wooden decorations - yard art -RV parts - Dish TV parts and lots more. All are welcome and face coverings are required. For more info please contact Debbie Brown at 330-424-8844.

Dumpster Schedule Change Town dumpsters will be closed on January 29 & February 5 for the Mardi Gras parades. However, dumpsters will be open on the Thursdays and Fridays prior from 8am-noon. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Meeting Schedule Change Due to the Mardi Gras holiday (Fat Tuesday) on March 1, the Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, February 28 at 6pm. The Agenda Meeting will be held at 5pm that same day. Please make note of this change.

News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council DIHAC is excited to announce the **2022 Dauphin Island Native American Festival**, planned for 9am-5pm on Sat., March 26, at DI's historic Indian Shell Mound Park. A celebration of the cultures that existed in the AL coastal region in the 1700s through the early 1800s, the Festival will feature live storytelling and authentic hands-on demonstrations of Native American lifeways, foodways, recreational activities, and arts and crafts. Tickets are $10 ages 5-12 & $15 ages 13 and up. Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.dauphinislandarts.org. Tickets will also be on sale at Indian Shell Mound Park the day of the event. **Community Open Pottery Studio** Each Thurs. 10am-12pm! **NEW - Pottery Studio Membership:** $50/6 months plus $9/pound of clay Non-Members - $12/pound for clay. Clay prices include glazing, two pottery firings, and use of pottery tools in the Art Studio for the pieces you create. We can ship your completed pottery for an additional fee. The minimum age is 15. **Experience the Pottery Wheel** – Drop-In Wheel Experience Sat., January 22, 11am – 3pm. Join professional pottery instructor LeaAyn Shurley for this fun experience with clay! It is designed for everyone in the family, and all ages are welcome. Each guest will complete two pottery pieces on the wheel. Each piece will be glazed by us and ready for pick up 3 to 4 weeks after the class or shipped to you for an additional fee. This is a great way to try out the pottery wheel and make some vacation memories without an on-going commitment for classes. No appointment or experience needed...just swing by and have some fun! Cost: $35/person – all materials provided. Shipping is extra. **Beginning Throwing on the Pottery Wheel with Professional Potter LeaAyn Shurley** – Thurs., February 10, 17, 24, and March 3 –12:30pm – 2:30pm This four (4) class series is designed to improve your skills, or try something you have always wanted to do by learning to throw clay on the pottery wheel! Students will learn the basics of how to center, throw, and glaze clay. Cost: $150/person for all four (4) classes - materials and firings provided. **Watercolor Painting Class with Artist John Halliday** Saturday, February 26 – 10am – 12pm. Participants will create their own watercolor paintings based on examples provided at the class. Cost: $50/person - all materials provided. Limited to 6 students. Face masks are required. To register for any of the above classes, send an email to classes.dauphinislandarts@gmail.com or send a text to (251) 610-6984. MORE ART CLASSES ARE BEING PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY! To sign up for our email and receive class notices, send an email to info@dauphinislandarts.org. Also, please visit our Facebook page to track our classes and events.

WWII Living History Event Come and experience a day in the life of a WWII soldier. The soldiers will be doing drills throughout the day; there will also be authentic camping. March 12 at Fort Gaines 9AM-5PM. See you there!

Tag, You're It! Gray FishTag Research is an international and fully interactive fish tagging program powered by the world's largest network of fishing professionals consisting of approximately 10,000 charter boat captains and mates. All data collected is being analyzed and used for scientific purposes and shared with any and all interested parties at NO cost. Gray FishTag is supported by a host of Official Research Centers including Dauphin Island's own Sicklefin! As part of their continued commitment to marine research and conservation, Sicklefin has been chosen for the third consecutive year to be one of 11 worldwide research centers for the non-profit organization. In addition, Sicklefin is also working with Mississippi State University on depredation research for Red Snapper. Congratulations to Sicklefin on the good work they are doing in support of our fisheries!

Council Approves Wetlands Moratorium The town council has placed a six month moratorium on the issuance of permits that include the filling, grading, clearing, building, or other land disturbance of designated wetlands within the Town of Dauphin Island. This should allow ample time to amend the existing Wetlands Ordinance and provide property owners with additional options for required mitigation. Currently, mitigation must be accomplished within the town limits at a 2:1 ratio. That requirement has proven to be impractical if not impossible to achieve and more options are needed going forward. Dauphin Island is blessed with an abundance of natural resources including wide varieties of flora and fauna that support a diverse ecosystem and desired quality of life. We have an opportunity to help protect these valuable environmental sites while affording property owners with meaningful mitigation options. Public hearings will be held at the appropriate time to receive comments on any proposed ordinance revisions.

Battle of Mobile Bay 5K The Port City Pacers will host the annual Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Run on Saturday, March 5 at 830am and all are encouraged to participate. The race starts and finishes at historic Fort Gaines and the course winds along various streets throughout the island's east end. The race has proven quite popular in recent years drawing more than 500 participants! Proceeds from the event go to help support Fort Gaines. For additional information please visit the Port City Pacers website.

Water & Sewer Memo Every Dauphin Island property owner should have received a Customer Information letter within the first few weeks of 2022 from DI Water & Sewer regarding a variety of matters deemed important to maintaining good water & sewer operations. Of particular concern is the use of "disposable wipes" (and other items) and those items entering the sanitary sewer system. Although some of these items are marked as "flushable" there are currently NO wipes on the market approved for DIWSA sewer use. Rental property owners are encouraged to post such message in each unit to inform visitors of this issue. Other recommendations centered around pre and post storm events. For example, properties with docks/piers connected to water service should be disconnected in advance of approaching storms and hurricanes. Same is true for irrigation meters. DI Water & Sewer continues to do a remarkable job providing dependable service under challenging circumstances and, at the same time, responding to increased demands. Let's all do our part to ensure water & sewer services continue to flow smoothly!

Spring Plant Sale Preparations are already underway for the annual Spring Plant Sale & Give-Away. This year's event is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 16 from 9am-noon in front of Green Park. This town-sponsored event includes multiple vendors offering an assortment of plants, trees and more along with FREE plants for all property owners! Funds from the town's Tree Mitigation Program will be used to purchase items such as Sand Oaks, Sweet Bay Magnolias, Bottlebrush, Bald Cypress, Sea Oats, and other varieties. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this popular event.

Arts of Dauphin Island Come fall in Love with the ARTS OF DAUPHIN ISLAND located at 1101 Bienville Blvd. ADI's Art Instructor, Margie Delcambre will host Adult Art Classes in February every Mon. & Wed. from 10 am to Noon at a modest cost of $10 per class. Classes fill up quickly, so call Margie at 251-402-0266 to reserve your spot. Need an entertaining night out to explore the artist in you? Bring your favorite beverage & friends to ADI's "SIP & PAINT" Thur., Feb. 3 from 6-8pm. Registration deadline for this fun event is February 1. You will leave at the end of the night with your work of art having made new friends & memories of a great time! For your "SIP & PAINT" reservation, call Margie at 251-402-0266. Join us at our Gallery for ADI's Sunday Art Market on Feb. 20 from 1-4pm. If you are an artist or craftsman interested in participating in the Sunday Art Market, please call Celia Smith at 502-767-2222 or Laurie Schaerer at 251-232-4470 for details. Vendors are required to sign a contract with the Gallery as an associate member & are responsible for all State & Local taxes. The cost is $20/tent or $10/table. Sunday Art Market, where shopping for that unique gift for someone special is made easy! We love celebrating Unseen Senses Art with Susan & Phillip Waldrop, ADI's February Artists of the Month. Susan grew up in Nashville & received her degrees from UT Knoxville. She retired from Middle Tennessee State University in 2015.Talk about longevity & love as we embrace Valentine's month...Susan & her husband Phillip of 40 years are part time residents of Dauphin Island & able to pursue their fulltime art passions that they share at ADI. Susan continues to be in awe of the magnitude & magnificence of the world, especially the Gulf Coast. As a connoisseur of color, the beauty of beaches, sunsets and the amazing ecosystem are reflected in her stunning paintings which may be purchased at ADI's Gallery. Photography and jewelry have become Phillp's retirement passions. Being a resident of Tennessee for almost 30 years has resulted in an interest in indigenous stones and minerals & their metaphysical meanings. Hence, jewelry comes naturally as he cuts, polishes & designs pieces that have both meaning & beauty. Phillip's jewelry is also available to purchase at ADI. ADI's Gallery is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10am—4pm during the winter months. ADI is home to artists with talents that include original paintings & prints, intriguing photos, detailed carvings, creative resins, custom pottery, skillfully designed jewelry and much more. We are now accepting new artist applications to our gallery that offers premium space to display their fine talent. If you're interested or know of an artist who would thrive with the support of our ADI Gallery, please contact Marsha Barnett at 251-401-0203. Do you have an artistic soul & love surrounding yourself with original art? Come volunteer at our friendly, community driven Arts of Dauphin Island Gallery. Such a wonderful way to spend some time here on our island. Contact Marsha Barnett for more info.

DIPOA News The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Thursday, February 17, 2022. Please plan to join us at 6PM on the bottom floor of the Isle Dauphine Clubhouse. The membership will be notified of any changes to the scheduled meeting by email using Constant Contact and social media. The DIPOA Dauphin Island Christmas Boat Parade is now the Christmas and Mardi Gras Boat Parade! The parade was cancelled at Christmas due to weather. Participants, viewers, and island residents will be able to enjoy a boat parade Saturday, January 29, 2022 in conjunction with the first Mardi Gras parade of the season, the Krewe de la Dauphine. It begins at 5:30PM parading from Billy Goat Hole, along Government Cut, known as "The Ditch", entering the bays and coves on the north side of the island all the way to Dauphin Island Marina. The DIPOA will have a viewing site at the DIPOA Pass Drury Park on Audubon, with a tent, lights and refreshments. Paraders can meet up for post parade gumbo and refreshments at a tent site at Dauphin Island Marina. If you want to sign up to participate in the parade, please contact Board member Dennis Knizley at DJKnizley@hotmail.com, cell phone 251-751-8100, or office at 251-432-3799. **DIPOA 2022 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.** This year the terms of three of our Directors are coming to a close and their seats will be filled at this year's Annual Election on May 14th. Interested candidates should declare their intent to run for these seats in accordance with the instructions under the "What's New" tab on our website, dipoa.org, or call our office at the number below. Interested parties must declare candidacy no later than 3 P.M. on Friday, February 25, 2022 by submitting their biography in person at 100-C Orleans Drive, by mailing to PO Box 39, Dauphin Island AL 36528, or via email to dipoaoffice@gmail.com. Our office hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs, and Friday from 11AM to 4PM. If you need information, want to submit a permit application, or want to pay annual dues, you may go to the office during business hours, contact Melissa Taylor at (251) 861-3144, or email us at dipoaoffice@gmail.com You may also pay your annual dues and building permit fees, by mailing a check to PO Box 39, or you may pay on the POA web site, with a credit card. Thank you to all property owners who support the POA through meeting attendance, dues payments, and volunteerism.

What is FEMA's 50% rule? The 50% Rule is a regulation of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that prohibits improvements to a structure exceeding 50% of its market value unless the entire structure is brought into full compliance with current flood regulations. What types of structures are regulated by the 50% rule? (a) The 50% rule applies to all structures including those constructed prior to Mobile County adopting the flood insurance rate maps in 1974. (b) New Construction: Substantially improved structures must meet the floodplain management regulations and Base Flood Elevation at the time the permit IS approved. (c) Non Compliant-Structures built prior to 1974 may remain as is UNLESS they are substantially improved. These structures must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Will permits be issued for substantial improvement ? Absolutely, provided the plans demonstrate the entire structure is being brought into full compliance. A contractor estimate must be submitted for the value and reviewed by the building department prior to building permit being issued. Town of Dauphin Island uses the Mobile County Tax Assessors rates for market value of the structure only. An independent appraisal may be used as well. However, it must meet certain FEMA requirements.

Paving the Way As part of the Mobile County Pay-As-You-Go road resurfacing program, several island streets will soon receive a new layer of asphalt to improve driving conditions. The list includes; Quivera Street, Polaris Street & Port Royal Street (north of Cadillac Avenue), Sandpiper Street, Mallard Street and the short section of Cadillac Avenue east of Pascagoula Street to Salt Creek. Work should be completed prior to the busy summer season. Our thanks to District 3 Commissioner Randall Dueitt for including island streets in this round of the PAYG program!

Musical Chair X for 2022 Join us every Tuesday & Thursday from 9-10am at the Baptist RMC at 910 Desoto. This free, 10-week session runs from Tuesday, January 4 - Thursday, March 10. 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.

Pine Bark Beetles The island is experiencing an uptick in Pine Bark Beetle infestation primarily as a result of impacts caused by recent storms and hurricanes. Pine Beetles primarily attack damaged or stressed trees and can quickly kill otherwise healthy trees in a matter of days. Drought, construction activity, lightning, and storm/wind damaged trees are most susceptible to beetle infestation. Property owners are encouraged to routinely monitor trees in and around their homes for the presence of beetles. Identifying traits include Pitch Tubes (white/yellowish popcorn-like globs of dried resin) on the bark of pine trees, red sawdust in bark crevices and at the base of trees, and browning and/or loss of foliage. Unless caught and treated early, removal of infected trees is the best way to stop the spread. Please contact our Building Inspection Dept. before removing any trees. For more info check out the Alabama Cooperative Extension System website.

Two New APPs Available The town of Dauphin Island's App is now available! Please download it for FREE to stay informed on town events, meetings, updated emergency information and all things Dauphin Island! Mobile County now has a new mobile alert system as well! By texting MOBILEALERT to 226787 anyone can register to receive information, emergency alerts or other important messages.

Bereavement Support Group Encompass Hospice Care is pleased to offer a Bereavement Support Group for residents of Dauphin Island. For those who have walked the journey of grief, we look forward to establishing a caring community that is specific to the needs of those coping with the loss of a loved one. Meetings will be held at Town Hall the first Tuesday of each month at 10am. NOTE: The group will NOT meet on March 1 as that is Mardi Gras Day. For additional information please call 251-666-2399.

Let There Be Light You've probably noticed the decorative street lights on LeMoyne Drive and one block east and west on Bienville Blvd. have been in disrepair since Hurricane Sally blew through our area in 2020. Many of the fixtures were damaged or destroyed by 100+mph winds that impacted the island for multiple hours. Although the bid for repairs was let in the spring of 2021, replacement parts proved hard to get taking some 6-8 months for shipments to arrive. Repairs are now complete and your nighttime travels along these roadways should be a bit brighter!

Little Billy Goat Hole and East End Beach Access Improvements The Dauphin Island Park and Beach Board, in partnership with the Town of Dauphin Island, is implementing improvements to the Little Billy Goat Hole Boat Ramp area and East End Beach access area. At Little Billy Goat Hole, there will be maintenance dredging of the boat basin; repair of the rock/riprap jetty; upgrades to existing timber boat docks framing and decking; steel sheet pile repair; and parking lot repairs. For the East End Beach access, the road will be improved around the fort and the parking lot will be expanded. Expect that this part of the island will have limited access during construction this winter. We appreciate your patience as we improve this part of the island for all residents and visitors.

Free Books for Kids! The Dauphin Island Foundation is proud to partner with **DOLLY PARTON'S IMAGINATION LIBRARY** to provide specially-selected, age-appropriate, high-quality books each month to registered children from birth to age five. These books are personalized with the child's name and mailed directly to the child's home to create a gifting experience that makes books exciting. Go to www.imaginationlibrary.com to register or contact Terri Kirkman tkirkman56@gmail.com for more info.

Dauphin Island
Sunset Capital of Alabama

1011 Bienville Boulevard
Dauphin Island, Alabama 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?** In order to keep our property owners, citizens and visitors better informed, the Town maintains a mass email list for the prompt and convenient distribution of upcoming events and matters of importance to our community. If you are not already on the list please contact Jenny McLester at jmclester@townofdauphinisland.org. It's just that easy!

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

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

Administrative

Town Clerk
Wanda Sandagger
251-861-5525 Ext 225

Admin. Clerk /Magistrate
Joyce Wentworth Ext 227

Court

Court Clerk
Stacy Mallon Ext 221

Parks & Recreation Dept.

Director
Sherry Cain 251-861-3607

Public Works Dept.

Superintendent
Sharron Yommer Ext 230

Animal Control Ext 230

DUMPSTERS
Fridays & Saturdays
8AM—Noon

Building Dept.

Business License & Permits
Jenny McLester Ext 222

Bldg Inspector
Terry Shefflield Ext 224
cell 251-257-6707

Code/Zoning Enforcement
Jenniffer Ploeger Ext 223
cell 251-293-9633

Town Events

Event Coordinator
Maggie Godwin mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org

Dauphin Island Police Dept.

Chief of Police
Chief Kym Claw 251-861-5523

Public Safety

E.M.S. Director
Troy Gorlott 251-207-9767

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Agenda Meetings: Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm
Town Council Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm
Meetings: February 1 & 15 & 28
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 9 @ 4pm
DI Water & Sewer Authority Meetings: 3rd Wednesday 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.