



THE TOWN CRIER

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.

INCORPORATED 1988

ISSUE 290 August 2023

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor

Jeff Collier

Council Members

Gene Fox

Trey Alderman

Earle Connell

Rich Colberg

Clinton Collier

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 27 Market in Green Park
July 27 FREE Family Movie Night
July 28 FREE Family Movie Night
July 28 Last Friday Art Night
July 30 Sunset Concert
Aug 3 Meet the Teacher
Aug 3 Market in Green Park
Aug 3 FREE Family Movie Night
Aug 4 FREE Family Movie Night
Aug 5 Back to School Summer Splash 12-4PM
Aug 5 Battle of Mobile Bay
Aug 10 Market in Green Park
Aug 10 FREE Family Movie Night
Aug 11 FREE Family Movie Night
Aug 11-13 Reggae Weekend
Aug 12 Market in Green Park
Aug 13 ADI Open House
Aug 17 Market in Green Park
Aug 20 Movie at the Fort
Aug 24 Market in Green Park
Aug 25 Blood Drive
Aug 25 Movie at the Fort
Aug 31 Market in Green Park
Sept 9 Hurricane 5K & Fun Run
Sept 3 Sunset Concert 530PM
Sept 7 Market in Green Park
Sept 9 Market in Green Park
Sept 10 Movie at the Fort
Sept 14 Market in Green Park
Sept 16 Cars & Crafts Show
Sept 16 Coastal Clean Up
Sept 16 & 17 Massacre Island
Sept 21 Flu Clinic
Sept 22 Movie at the Fort
Sept 24 Pops Concert 5PM

Free Family Movie Nights Sponsored by our good friends at Greer's Markets, FREE Family Movie Nights are held on Thursdays & Fridays at dusk at West End Beach and attendees are encouraged to bring beach chairs, blankets and bug spray (just in case). Here's the remaining 2023 summer schedule for your viewing pleasure; 7/27 Moana, 7/28 Wall-E, 8/3 Toy Story, 8/4 The Little Mermaid, 8/10 Ella Enchanted, 8/11 Lilo & Stitch. A great way to make lasting memories with friends and family here on the Sunset Capital of Alabama!

2023 Sunset Concerts Sponsored by the Town of Dauphin Island, Sunset Concerts offer an assortment of music genres and a relaxed vibe all within historic Fort Gaines. Admission is \$5 (children 12 & under receive free admission) and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and a laid-back attitude! Here is the remaining 2023 Sunset Concert schedule; 7/30 Ryan Balthrop & Slide Bayou (6pm), 9/3 Symone French and the Trouille Troupe (530pm), and 10/15 Roman Street (430pm).

Back to School Summer Splash Sponsored by the Town of Dauphin Island, this popular event will be returning this year on August 5 from noon- 4pm at Water Tower Plaza (our thanks to DI Water & Sewer for providing use of the site) and will offer inflatable water slides, a sprinkler pad, and kiddie pool! We will also have a foam party! The foam cannon will start at 230pm and last an hour. Kona Ice will be on site for some yummy ice cold treats! The first 100 kids get a free snow cone! There's something for all ages, so get your family & friends together and let's make a SPLASH! Free admission.

Battle of Mobile Bay Commemorative Day The well-preserved ramparts of Fort Gaines have guarded the entrance to Mobile Bay for more than 160 years. The August 5 event highlights Fort Gaines' integral role in the Battle of Mobile Bay. The cannon will fire every 45 minutes to honor the soldiers that fought and died in this pivotal battle along with other related period activities. Come and experience a living history day for the entire family.

It's Reggae Weekend, Y'all! Dauphin Island again welcomes local and regional Reggae artists to the 7th Annual Reggae Weekend! Our big days will be at Green Park on August 12 (11am-5pm-ish) and August 13. Music will be provided by New Orleans Reggae greats "Ambush Reggae Band" (fresh off their NOLA Jazz Fest performances) along with Birmingham favorite "Culture Dread." Friday, Tony Bowers on the steel pan will be playing at The Carriage from 6-9pm. Caribbean D.J. "Rich Music" will be spinning great Calypso, Reggae and Soca tunes on Saturday with DJ "Trini Fresh" selecting on Sunday along with "Culture Dread". Our special guests on Sunday are the Mobile Alabama Africatown Drummers (with audience participation)! There will be food trucks on site at Green Park along with other food, beverage, and related vendors. This year there will be newly designed Dauphin Island Reggae themed T-shirts and posters! Pirates Bar and Grill will host "Ambush Reggae Band" on Saturday evening till 9 pm. Sunday come hear the steel pan Island music of Tony Bowers at Islanders Restaurant from noon til 3pm. Expect food and drink specials from participating local bars and restaurants along with some great Reggae music. All music events are FREE. Many thanks to our generous sponsors including Micro-Comm, Dauphin Island Medical Group, AllState Insurance and The Carriage! Join us for some casual fun, laid back Island hospitality and get your vibe on with a variety of Reggae bands and musicians. Follow us on Facebook under "Dauphin Island Reggae Weekend 2023".

Mobile Pops Concert Rescheduled After two postponements earlier this year due to the threat of inclement weather, the annual Mobile Pops concert has been officially rescheduled for Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 5pm at Water Tower Plaza. As usual, concert-goers will enjoy FREE admission thanks to the following generous sponsors; DI Chamber of Commerce, DI Foundation, DI Women's Club and Town of Dauphin Island. The list of tunes for this concert will be published when available. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, snacks and bug spray (just in case). Please make note of this new concert date and we'll see you at the Pops!

Cars & Crafts Show The Dauphin Island Annual Car Show is September 16 and this year we want our local crafters and artists to join in on the fun! The Cars & Crafts show will be held in Cadillac Square from 10am-3pm. Along with Cars and Crafts, we will also have food trucks, live music, and a blow up for the kids! REGISTER on our website now to get the early registration discount!

BLOOD DRIVE – August 25 at Welcome Center 930am-530pm





News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council LAST FRIDAY ART NIGHT! July 28, 6-8PM Join us as we celebrate the arts! There will be an art demo by artist Kirsten Mallon, open mic with local musicians, and food & drinks. "LFAN" is open to the public. DIHAC is a non-profit charitable organization, and your donations at the event are needed to help pay the expenses. Thanks in advance! The children's classes listed below are free of charge to children living in DIHAC's nonprofit service area (Dauphin Island, Coden, Bayou La Batre, Grand Bay, Theodore, Irvington, St. Elmo). See costs for nonresidents associated with each class. Preschool Studio Arts with Professional Artist John Halliday Tuesdays August 1, 8, 15, & 22 – 10-11AM. Ages 3-5. John will teach students how to paint with watercolors, oil pastels, acrylics, and more. Spark creativity and encourage your child's artistic side with these fun classes! Limited to 8 students. A parent or guardian must accompany 3-year-olds during the classes. Cost: \$60 for nonresident students. **Beginning Throwing on the Pottery Wheel** with Professional Potter LeaAyn Shurley Thursdays August 3, 10, 17, & 24 – 12:30-2:30PM. Students will learn the basics of how to center, throw, and glaze clay. Cost: \$150 – all materials & firings provided. **Sterling Stackable Rings** with Vaughn Millner August 18 – 6-9PM. Using a small torch, students will learn to create two sterling, stackable, textured rings. Students will be introduced to soldering, tools, fueling and lighting the torch, and other basic metalsmithing techniques. At the end of the workshop, students will take home their rings and be prepared to create an at-home set-up to make more! Cost: \$140 – materials provided. **Basic Watercolors Painting** with Professional Artist Odie Tucker Saturday August 19 – 1-3PM. This fun class is open to all levels of art experience. Odie takes the mystery out of watercolors painting! Participants will create their own paintings based on examples provided in each class. Cost: \$50 – materials provided. **Guitar and Ukulele Lessons** with Instructor Graham Smith Fridays August 4, 11, & 18 – 12:30-3:30PM. The lessons are for adults and children aged 6 and older. Cost: \$105 for three (3) 30-minute private lessons. **Experience the Pottery Wheel** with Professional Potter LeaAyn Shurley August 20 – 1-3PM. Join LeaAyn (owner of Moonstruck Pottery) for this one-time fun experience with clay! It is designed for everyone in the family! Each guest will complete two pottery pieces on the wheel. Each piece will be glazed by us and ready for pick up 3-4 weeks after the class or shipped to you for an additional fee. Cost: \$40. **Community Open Pottery Studio** with Professional Artist LeaAyn Shurley Thursdays August 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 – 10AM -12PM. Ages 15 and older-No appointment required. This is an opportunity to practice the skills you learned in a previous hand-built pottery class. Cost: \$12/lbs of clay, \$9/lbs of clay w/ membership. Clay prices include glazing, two pottery firings, and use of pottery tools. TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE CLASSES, please visit our website at www.dauphinislandarts.org and select your class. You may also send a text message to 251-490-0294.

Market in the Park is Back Stop by Green Park every Thursday from 1-5pm and every second Saturday from 9am-2pm to see what the island has to offer! This is to provide an outlet for local farmers, crafters, and island businesses to promote their products, rentals, services, and more. The fee is \$20 with a current DI business license or island address 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.

Town Hosting Multi-Vaccination Clinic The town of Dauphin Island is partnering once again with Semmes Pharmacy to host a multi-vaccination clinic at town hall on Thursday, September 21 from 8am-noon. Vaccines available that day include flu, pneumonia, tetanus, Covid, RSV, hepatitis, and shingles. To register go to www.townofdauphinisland.org/fluclinic. It's that simple!

6th Annual Massacre Island In 1711 the Pirates stormed Mobile Bay and attacked the Island that was once called Massacre Island because of a huge pile of human skeletons that was discovered by Pierre Le Moyne. On September 16 & 17 come and see the Pirates as they pilfer and pillage Isle Dauphine and fight against Spanish and British Galleons. Who knows, you may even find a pirate's treasure!

Movies at the Fort Free movies at Fort Gaines will be featured on the following dates: August 20 – Where the Crawdads Sing, August 25 – Grown Ups, September 10 – Top Gun Maverick, September 22 – Cinderella (Come early for a meet and greet with Cinderella!), October 1 – Grease (dress up as your favorite T-Bird or Pink Lady!) Movies start at dusk. Bring your chairs, blankets, and snacks.

Hurricane 5K & Fun Run The Port City Pacers invite you to lace up your shoes and join them for the annual Hurricane 5K & Fun Run taking place on the east end of the island on Saturday, September 9 at 8:10am. The race celebrates the recovery and reconnection of Dauphin Island with the mainland following the devastating impacts caused by Hurricane Frederic in 1979. The run starts and ends at DI Sea Lab while traversing east end streets through multiple neighborhoods. Proceeds from the event go to support DI Fire & Rescue and the DI Sea Lab.

Get the Trash Out of the Splash! The annual Alabama Coastal Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, September 16 from 8am-noon and individuals, clubs, organizations and more are encouraged to volunteer a few hours to rid our coastal environs of trash, litter and other debris. Green Park (next to Ship & Shore) will serve as the host site for the Dauphin Island clean up registration, supply distribution, and dumpster location. A special thanks to Christa Russell (crussell@disl.org) for serving as our Team Captain this year! Volunteers are encouraged to register online via the town website (townofdauphinisland.org/coastalcleanup). Let's all have fun as we "Get the Trash Out of the Splash"!

Council Sets Public Hearing The Town Council will host a Public Hearing on Monday, July 31 at 430pm to receive comments on proposed changes to Ordinance 60-H and amending 60-G Roofing Requirements. The revised regulations would enhance building codes that would qualify under the Fortified Homes program, providing heightened protection and reduced insurance premiums. Note: To receive premium discounts property owners must contract with a licensed professional to certify Fortified construction. If you are unable to attend in person please consider joining virtually via Zoom or Facebook Live or submit questions/comments in writing to the Town Clerk.



Arts of Dauphin Island Our Gallery is located at 1101 Bienville Boulevard. We are open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11am-5pm. ADI features original paintings, pottery, photography, wood working, jewelry, fiber art and much more. Our Sunday Afternoon Open House will be August 13 from 3-5pm. Local musician Ken Harrelson will be performing music and our "featured artist" of the month will be Photographer Laurie Schaerer. Laurie's amazing talent with a camera is phenomenal! From capturing our native foxes romping in the dunes; to beautiful sun sets and moon risings. So, come out for Sunday Afternoon Open House and see these amazing works of art for yourself. Our August Youth Arts Program is scheduled for August 10 from 3:30-5pm. Diedra Sanders, a member of our gallery, is teaching the August Youth Art Program and she has asked us to keep her project a SECRET. All supplies are provided and it's FREE to children aged 5-18 (younger ones might need help from their guardian). If any adults would like to join in the fun, we ask for a \$10 donation that is used for The Youth Arts Fund. Please RSVP to artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com, so that we have enough supplies on hand. We have suspended our Sunday Art Market for August and September because of the heat, but we will be resuming the Market in October and moving the Art Market to Saturday instead of Sunday. If you are a craftsperson or artist and are interested in participating in our Sunday Market, please contact Laurie Schaerer at 251-232-4470 for details. Vendors are required to sign a contract with ADI as an associate member and are responsible for all State and Local taxes. The cost is \$25/ tent or \$15/ table. ADI's Adult art classes are full at this time, but follow us on Facebook for any openings we may have in the future. The cost is \$10/lesson, all supplies included. 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, please call Marsha Barnett at 251-401-0230.

DIPOA News The DIPOA Board is gearing up for many improvements to owner properties. Join us and be an active member. Please attend the monthly meetings to keep up with all that is happening. The third Thursday of each month we meet on the Lower Level of the Isle Dauphine, 100 Orleans Dr. You can also attend via Microsoft Team. Make certain you have your email address and other contact information on file with our office to get easy access to Teams. Did you know that the DIPOA owns and controls nearly 500(a) beachfront, historical buildings, pocket parks, and an 18-hole waterfront golf course and recreational property? While property owner dues of \$150 annually are not mandatory, they do help provide funds for maintenance and improvements. Only with paid dues, do you receive a membership card. With this card are many benefits including free play at tennis courts, free admission to Isle Dauphine Beach for card holder and four guests, free admission to Pirates' Pool, discounts for food and shopping, health and beauty, entertainment, and services from many businesses on the island. Membership to DIPOA is automatic once you purchase property on the island; however, to be certain that we have your proper contact information, please contact Brandi, the Office Administrator (251)861-3144 or email office@dipoa.org. We welcome volunteers! If you would like to share your expertise, services and/or time in any way, please call the office or email to Volunteer@dipoa.org.

Sea Lab Tidbits The newly renovated Alabama Aquarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab is open to visitors! The renovations include a deeper connection to current research conducted by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab faculty and students and a fresh perspective on the Alabama Watershed. The Aquarium reopened on Monday, July 10 with a ribbon cutting. Alabama State Representative Chip Brown and Dauphin Island Mayor Jeff Collier joined DISL Executive Director Dr. John Valentine, DISL Foundation Executive Director Helene Hassell, and Aquarium Educator Mendel Graeber to cut the ribbon. We hope to see you soon! You can purchase tickets at disl.edu/aquarium.

Zoning Ordinance Update The Town Council met recently to make what should be the final edits and revisions to the draft Zoning Ordinance in preparation for a Public Hearing. The group has held multiple meetings during this process and the next step will be to provide a clean copy for review by the general public and set a formal Public Meeting at an appropriate time. Currently, we anticipate hosting such a meeting prior to November 1. Proposed changes in the draft version of the Zoning Ordinance will be highlighted in red for ease of identification by the reader.

Short Term Rentals; It's the talk of the town! For more than a year the subject of short term rentals has worked its way into almost every topic of conversation. The original proposal submitted by the Planning Committee would phase out short term rentals (over a prescribed period of time) in what was considered "traditional residential neighborhoods" primarily on the island's east end while allowing similar rentals in other parts of the island to maintain business as usual. As you might imagine this idea generated a wide variety of reactions from residents and property owners and otherwise caused a stir of emotions on both/all sides of the issue. The Zoning Ordinance (which includes the proposed short term rental regulations) was subsequently approved by the Planning Commission and passed over to the Town Council for final approval. For the past 6-8 months the Council has held numerous meetings to review and revise the entire Zoning Ordinance in preparation for its presentation to the general public at a required Public Hearing prior to a vote of the Council itself. The current version of the document contains most of the original recommended short term rental regulations although it would not phase out units in certain portions of the island. Instead, rental property owners/managers would be required to adhere to enhanced regulations or be subject to fines, penalties, and loss of license for one year. Requirements currently in the draft proposal include (but not limited to); occupancy & parking limits, adherence to the "Good Neighbor Policy", identifying a local "point of contact" to respond promptly to calls/complaints, etc. Note: The town has established a 24/7 Complaint Hotline 251-313-4019 to report issues related to rental properties or you can submit such reports online via the town website (click on Rental Hub). The Town Council recognizes and appreciates the tremendous amount of input we've received from interested parties regarding the broader Zoning Ordinance review process and, in particular, feedback specifically related to short term rentals. Our community will be stronger having had these healthy conversations!



Two New APPs Available The town App is now available! Please download it for FREE to stay informed on 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.

Welcome Center Offers Music Stop by the Welcome Center every Friday from 130-330pm as local musicians get together for a relaxing afternoon while playing some of your favorite tunes. The events are free to the public. Bring your instrument to join in on the fun or sing along with those in attendance. Either way you're sure to have a good time!

USACE Pass Drury and Little Dauphin Island Update: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Mobile District has completed the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) analysis to repair the breach at Pass Drury. A contract will be awarded for construction in late June with construction anticipated to begin in Fall 2023. Construction is estimated to take approximately 60 days. The USACE, along with project partners, continue to evaluate the effectiveness of a permanent breach at Pass Drury as part of the restoration of Little Dauphin Island. Design of the permanent breach and restoration activities is scheduled to commence Summer 2023.

GOMESA Funding Announced Governor Kay Ivey selected Gulfquest Maritime Museum as the backdrop for announcing the latest round of GOMESA funding totaling more than \$67M and Mayor Jeff Collier was in attendance representing the Dauphin Island community. In the package, the Town of Dauphin Island received \$1,250,000 for West End Beach Nourishment Engineering Design & Planning while DI Water & Sewer received \$3,246,455 for a Water and Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Our sincere thanks to Governor Ivey and Commissioner Chris Blankenship for funding these critically important projects for our barrier island community! GOMESA funds come from offshore oil and gas industry revenues and are reinvested into the two coastal counties in Alabama; those most impacted by the industry itself.

Name That Beach! The town council recently solicited public input to assist with the official naming of two public beaches and the response was overwhelming. More than 60 individuals submitted a variety of catchy and creative names for consideration and we greatly appreciate the energetic participation. Keeping with the theme of beaches being named in part for their respective locations on the island (ex. East End Beach, West End Beach, etc.) the council selected "Middle Beach" (submitted by Greg Pennington, Irene Hawkins, and Brandi Perkins & Neal Horton) for the public beach next to Dauphin Island School and "Bienville Beach" (submitted by Christine Carll and Sharon Helm) for the new public beach access planned at Pirates Cove Street. Once again, we thank each of you for taking part in this process.



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

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
James Stokes 251-313-2378
Animal Control

DUMPSTERS
Fridays & Saturdays
8AM—Noon

Building Dept.

Business License & Permits
Jenny McLester Ext 222

Bldg Inspector
Terry Sheffield cell 251-257-6707
James Brown cell 251-234-7466

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

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: August 1 & 15

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 **August 9 @ 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.

*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 jmcles-ter@townofdauphinisland.org. It's just that easy!



HURRICANE RE-ENTRY PASSES!

Check your hurricane re-entry passes to make sure they are current.