



THE TOWN CRIER

INCORPORATED 1988
ISSUE 296 February 2024

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

Feb 7 Council Workshop 9AM
Feb 7 Council Special Meeting 2PM
Feb 10 Market in Green Park
Feb 12 Women's Club Meeting
Feb 13 Daddy/Daughter Valentine's Dance
Feb 16 Blood Drive
Feb 17 Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Run
Feb 17 ADI Outdoor Market
Feb 24 Pet Event/Rabies Clinic
March 2-3 WWII Living History
March 9 Market in Green Park
March 9 Kite Fest 11am
March 9 Stargazing Event
March 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 16 DI Campground Crafts Sale 9AM-1PM
March 23 Easter Egg Hunt at Green Park 10AM
March 30 Easter Egg Hunt at Cadillac Square 10AM
March 31 Easter Sunrise Service at Ft. Gaines
April 6 Mobile Pops Concert
April 6 Discovery Day- DISL
April 6-10 Bird Banding
April 14 Motorcycle Show



DI Community Center Officially Open! A Grand Opening and Official Dedication ceremony for the island's new Community Center was held on January 19 with a combination of great food, music, and fellowship! Although the project took multiple years to complete the building is an asset that will serve our barrier island community for years to come. A plaque will be mounted inside the building recognizing those making significant contributions to the project as follows; **Platinum** - Dauphin Island Foundation, The Christopher Fund, The Neely Fund, The Southland Fund, Jerry Carl & The Mobile County Commission, Randall Dueitt & The Mobile County Commission, The Chris C. DeLaney Family, The Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce, Bill & Pat Edwards, Town of Dauphin Island **Gold** - The Rear Admiral William Hart Stewart Family **Silver** - ExxonMobil, The Lawrence Trotter Family **Bronze** - Dauphin Island Real Estate, Dauphin Island Women's Club, Rich Colberg & Sandy Miller, Carolyn Golson, Billy & Eva Nell Golson, James & Carol Gross, Patricia Kerr, Terri Kirkman & Karen Wilson, Jimmy & Beth Lyons, Don & Dena McKee, Cissy Napper, The Sand Box, D. A. Urquhart, Jr., An Anonymous Donor. Again, our heartfelt thanks to these generous donors and the many others who contributed to this worthwhile project!

Daddy/Daughter Valentine's Dance This fun event is hosted by St. Edmund's Community Outreach to raise money for St. Jude's Childrens Hospital, therefore a donation will be collected at the door. Come enjoy cupcakes, punch, and get ready to cut a rug! The Daddy & Daughter Valentine's Dance is Tuesday, February 13 from 6:30-8pm at the St. Edmund's Parish Hall. Limited to Father's, Father figures, and their daughters (ages 3-12) please. Call 251-370-2340 for info.

Battle of Mobile Bay 5K Run Lace up your shoes and get ready to participate in the annual 5K run sponsored by the Port City Pacers. The popular race will take place on February 17 at 830am and the course winds along multiple streets on the east end of the island. Proceeds will go to support historic Fort Gaines. For more information contact Megan Moiren at mmoiren14@gmail.net.

WWII Living History Event Make plans to visit historic Fort Gaines on March 2-3 and experience a day in the life of a WWII soldier. Reenactors in period garb will be performing drills throughout the day and showcasing authentic camping demonstrations. Always a fun and educational experience for the entire family!

Pet Event & Rabies Clinic Pet owners are encouraged to vaccinate their beloved dogs & cats at the town's annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, Feb. 24 from 10am-noon at Town Hall. Shots are \$12. Also, Glamour Paws Grooming will be on site to offer nail clipping for \$10. The Miss DI young ladies will be bathing dogs (weather permitting) and offering homemade baked dog biscuits and doggie ice cream for donations! Wags & Whiskers will be bringing some dogs that hope to find their fur-ever home on the Island. There will also be custom pet bowls and other pet related crafts! This is a convenient one-stop opportunity to protect your pets from rabies while sharing some quality time with friends & fellow pet lovers.

Stargazing Event Planned The Town of Dauphin Island is excited to co-host a star gazing event with the Mobile Astronomical Society on March 9 at the East End Beach. We ask that participants arrive 30 minutes BEFORE dusk as headlights coming into the parking lot will ruin the sky for viewing. Please note this is a weather permitting event. If the sky is not clear the event will be rescheduled for April 6. There will be professional telescopes set up to look through and telescopes connected to cameras for viewing. The society will be providing amazing views of Jupiter, Saturn, Orion constellation with greater Orion Nebula, Andromeda Galaxy, Pleiades Star Cluster, and so much more!! For more information about the Mobile Astronomical Society please visit mobileastronomy.org.

Council Sets Workshop, Special Meeting A Public Hearing was held on January 10 to receive comments on the most recent proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and the council has scheduled a Workshop Session on February 7, 2024 at 9am to review the input and determine whether any additional changes are needed in advance of a final vote on the measures. A Special Meeting of the Town Council will follow that same day at 2pm. Both meetings will be held at town hall and are open to the public.



News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council Like & follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter at dauphinislandarts.org to stay up to date! To register for any of the following classes, please visit our website at www.dauphinislandarts.org and select your class. You may also send a text message to 251-490-0294 or view our events on Facebook. **Classes for Children** Please note that our nonprofit service area is South Mobile County (Dauphin Island, Bayou La Batre, Coden, Theodore, Grand Bay, Irvington, St. Elmo), and classes are free to children (preschool - 5th grade) residing within these areas. Registration required to attend! **Preschool Studio Arts** with Terri Baker Feb. 14 & 21 – 11:30AM – 12:30PM. Ages 3-5. From finger painting to simple crafts, this class is designed to spark creativity and lay the foundation for a lifelong love of art. Limited to 8 students. One parent or guardian may accompany 3-year-olds during the classes. **Art After School (4th - 5th Grades)** with Artist Odie Tucker Feb. 7 – 4-5PM. Discover the magic of painting with watercolors. Limited to 10 students. **Art After School (K - 1st Grade)** with Terri Baker Feb. 14 – 4-5PM. Students will be guided through fun and age-appropriate art projects, fostering a love for creativity for your little Picassos. Limited to 10 students. **Art After School (2nd - 3rd Grade)** with Terri Baker Feb. 21 – 4-5PM. In this dynamic course, young artists will discover the basic elements of art, explore various art styles, and mediums. Limited to 10 students. **Classes for Adults Art For All** - Art Classes for Adults with Disabilities with Carolyn Greene Feb. 2 & 9 – 10– 11:30AM. “Art for All” is an inclusive arts education program for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Basic Watercolors Painting** with Odie Tucker Feb. 10 – 1 – 3PM. This fun class is open to all levels of art experience. **“Songwriting for Non-Songwriters”** with Singer/Songwriter/Poet Mike Turner Feb. 17 – 10AM – 4PM & Feb. 18 – 1–5PM. Got a tune rattling around in your head? Let Mike teach you how to turn them into song in this 2-day workshop! We’ll cover music genres, lyrics, rhymes, song structure, melody & where the music comes from, and the “business” of songwriting. Cost: \$50 – materials provided. **Adults & Children Piano Lessons** with Emma Holm Feb. 2, 9, & 16 – 4–7PM. Open to ages 6 and older. Cost: \$105 for three (3) 30-minute private lessons. **Guitar & Bass Lessons** with Jake Reosti Feb. 6, 13, & 20 – 4– 7PM. Open ages 6 and older. Cost: \$105 for three (3) 30-minute private lessons. **Community Open Pottery Studio (Drop In)** Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 – 12:30 – 2:30PM. Ages 15 and older. Cost \$12/lbs. of clay, \$9/lbs. of clay w/ membership (optional). Last Friday Art Night is still taking a Winter Break. See you in the Spring!

Market in the Park Stop by Green Park every Thursday from 11am-5pm and every second Saturday from 9am-2pm to see what the island has to offer! This event provides 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.

Dauphin Island Women’s Club With the cancellation of our last meeting due to weather, we will present our exciting topic this month... “Glisten” a time of renewal for the mind, body and soul. Come join us on Feb. 12 at 5PM and hear various local Fitness and Health coaches share what is available to us on the island and learn techniques to becoming an even better YOU in 2024! Come in your active wear if you like or just come as you are and bring a friend to join the fun. We will have our fabulous cookbooks available, “Cooking on the Coast” so bring \$25 cash or check. DIWC is offering a SCHOLARSHIP to a high school senior who lives full time on the island. Applications are available at the Welcome Center or can be emailed to you by sending a request to connieroan66@gmail.com. Applications are due by March 25, 2024. See you at the Welcome Center, 5PM, February 12!

Musical Chair X for 2024 Join us every Tuesday & Thursday from 9-10AM at the Baptist RMC (910 Desoto). This free, 10-week session runs through Thursday, March 7 and all ages & abilities are welcome. Enjoy the music and people while stretching, building strength, and boosting your energy. A chair will be used for seated exercises and standing support. Call or text Sue Fairbanks with any questions at (630) 335-6034. Please bring light hand weights or water bottles.

Can You Hear Me Now? Access to reliable WiFi service is about to get a boost at East End and Middle Beach (West End Beach already has service). The town council recently contracted with Micro-Comm to install the necessary hardware and insure ample service is available to support the new parking payment system. The upgrade will also provide enhanced access for beachgoers and support emergency response capabilities.

Kite Fest Grab your kites and come out to the East End Beach on March 9 for Kite Fest! Awards and prizes will be given to the highest flying kite, longest kite in flight, biggest kite, most unique, best homemade kite and a special Mayor’s choice award! Kite competitions start at Noon. However, come early because at 11am Emerald Coast Kite Flyers Club will be filling the sky with some unique & acrobatic kites! The Miss Dauphin Island young ladies will be on site to help you tie-dye your own T-shirt (\$20 minimum donation) and there will be an array of fun beach games to play! Shaved Ice Paradise & La Taqueria Tacos will be on site selling some delicious food & desserts!

Councilman Clinton Collier Steps Down Council Member Clinton Collier has resigned from his position on the Town Council citing health issues. He was first appointed to the council in 2004 where he has served the Dauphin Island community for 20 years. We know you join us in thanking Councilman Collier for his dedicated service and wish him the very best in his future endeavors. The Town Council will be responsible for appointing someone to the vacant seat in the near future. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Campground Crafts Sale Stop by the DI Campground on Saturday, March 16 from 9am-1pm and check out the assortment of handmade crafts for sale including seashell crafts such as angels, jewelry, flowers and more, wool-felted birds, nativity scenes, and various cigar box scenes of birds. You’ll also find hand-tied polar fleece fashion ponchos for women and kids, Swedish dish cloths, mesh wreaths and a whole lot more! Enjoy live music 11am-1pm. For more info contact Debbie Brown at seashell44432@yahoo.com.

Food Truck Program Tweaked For the past two years food trucks have been permitted to set up in Cadillac Square on Mondays & Tuesdays from March-October and that has proven to be quite popular with our residents and visitors alike. This year the council, in response to public input, is changing the food truck days to Mondays & Thursdays. As in the past only two trucks are allowed on any given day on a first-come basis. Please make note of this change.



Arts of Dauphin Island Our Gallery is a 501(3)(C) Non-Profit Organization. All donations made to the gallery are used for supplying free arts classes for the children of Dauphin Island and South Mobile County. We are located at 1101 Bienville Boulevard and open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am-4pm. ADI features original paintings, pottery, photography, wood working, jewelry, fiber art and much more. IT'S VALENTINE TIME!! The **Youth Arts Program** is scheduled for February 8 from 3:30-5:00pm. ADI Board members will be helping the children create a very special Valentine gift for friends and loved ones. 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 towards The Youth Arts Fund. If your family is vacationing on the Island, and we are hosting our children's art classes, we would be more than happy to have your children join us! Please RSVP to Artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com, so that we have enough supplies on hand. Although we have suspended our monthly Open Houses for the time being, the gallery will still be showcasing an artist each month; February's artist will be Allison Cristy. Allison creates beautiful works of art including glass mosaics, sculptures and stained glass sun catchers. All of Allison's works are one of a kind and very unique. Our next **Outdoor Market** will be on February 17 from 10am to 4pm. If you are a craftsperson or artist and are interested in participating in our Saturday 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. The cost is \$10/lesson, all supplies included. ADI is always seeking new artists to join our gallery. If you 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.

Sea Lab Tidbits The Dauphin Island Sea Lab wishes everyone a happy new year! Summer camp registration opens on February 1 and University Programs is currently enrolling for the 2024 Undergraduate/Graduate Summer Session. Mark your calendars for Discovery Day on Saturday, April 6. Keep up to date on what's happening at disl.edu/events.

DIPOA News The DIPOA is a non-profit corporation that serves all property owners of Dauphin Island. Its primary function is to assist in the application of the restrictions and covenants governing your property. The Association maintains a file for each permitted property owner. The Association's constitution is available. From the webpage you can pay permit fees and dues. We recommend you visit our website at www.dipoa.org for more information. The DIPOA maintains a property owners' list. The office requests that you provide the address of the property just purchased as well as your correct mailing address, phone number and email address. Two important reasons to have contact information is so we can provide you with ways to attend monthly meetings and to provide you with ballot and election information. Did you know the Association provides live video from Dauphin Island North and South facing cameras? Thank you to all owners at Holiday Isle for allowing these cameras to be mounted atop the condominiums. The Southern camera provides views every five minutes during daylight hours beginning at 8am until sunset. The Northern camera provides views of the Sound, the DI Bridge, and East and West ends of island. You can enjoy our sunsets live!

Car Tag Renewals Made Easy How would you like to renew your car tags without leaving the island? A new partnership between the town and Mobile County License Commission is going to make that possible in the near future! Final preparations are underway to install a self-service kiosk in the town hall lobby that will allow you to quickly and conveniently renew vehicle tags (decals only) with ease. Watch for additional details.

Let's Take the RIP out of Rip Currents! Annie Dinkel, a member of Youth Leadership Mobile, is organizing a project to build storage boxes that will hold courtesy loaner life jackets of all sizes in an effort to reduce drownings due to rip currents. These stations will be placed along the three public beaches on Dauphin Island. She is collecting gently used or new life jackets in any size as well as money to help with the construction of the boxes with any remaining funds being used to purchase more life jackets. Money & life jackets can be brought to Town Hall or the Welcome Center of Dauphin Island. Checks can be made to Ann Dinkel with notation in the "For" section saying "DI life jacket project." Any questions can be directed to ANNDINKEL06@GMAIL.COM.

East End Restoration Project Update Mobilization of dredge and related equipment is nearing completion and work on the East End restoration project is about to start! Approximately 1.1 million cubic yards of beach quality sand will be placed along 1 1/2 miles of shoreline from the far east end thru the mid-point of Desoto Landing. In addition, dunes, vegetative plantings, and sections of sand fencing will be included to create a more resilient project. During construction, beachgoers and boaters in this area should exercise caution and avoid work areas whenever possible. Construction is expected to take at least several or more months to complete.

Dauphin Island Bird Banding The Banding Coalition of the Americas (BCA) and Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries (DIBS) is co-hosting a banding demonstration on Dauphin Island April 6-10 (8am-2pm) and you're invited to attend. This is a unique opportunity to observe and learn about migratory birds that stopover on the island and see a variety of them live and up close. The banding sessions will be held at the Goat Tree Reserve (corner of Cadillac Avenue & Grant Street) but please park at Cadillac Square (661 Bienville Blvd) & walk to the banding site. There will be signs to designate where the events will be occurring & admission is FREE! For more info go to <https://www.dauphinislandbirds.com/> or <https://www.bandingcoalition.org/events>

Rental License Renewal Period Extended Due in part to a pending decision by the Town Council regarding the most recent proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, the deadline for Rental License renewals is extended through Friday, March 1, 2024 at 4pm (CST). However, late fees/penalties will apply after January 31. This extension only applies to rental properties previously licensed in 2023. Any rental license submitted after the March 1, 2024 deadline will be subject to the established renewal process as a NEW rental license application. Please contact our office at 251-861-5525 x222 for additional information.

Planning Commission Meeting Change In an effort to avoid potential scheduling conflicts associated with "Fat Tuesday" & Valentine's Day, the upcoming meeting of the Planning Commission has been moved to Thursday, Feb. 15 at 5pm. Please make note of this change.



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 and singing some of your favorite tunes. The events are free to the public. Bring your instrument to join the fun!

Town Creates ReportItDI Hotline For the past year the town has contracted with a company called Granicus to assist with the overall identification & management of rental properties here on the island. As part of its services, Granicus also provided a 24-hour hotline to receive reports/complaints specifically about rental units. While that system seemed to function well for rental property issues, we also saw the need for our citizens to have access to a broader reporting system that could serve as a clearinghouse for all matters of importance. The new 24-hour ReportItDI phone number is 251-372-4326 and should be used when reporting NON-EMERGENCY items. Please make note of this new temporary number. A permanent number will be forthcoming.

Resurfacing Projects Coming The upcoming Pay-As-You-Go road resurfacing program includes multiple streets on Dauphin Island including; General Anderson, Longfellow, Lockenbie, Lavigne, LaMothe, Lafitte, Lafayette, Buchanan (Conde north), Ft. Tombecke, and Chaumont (Lackland to LaVente). Currently, there isn't a specific schedule for the work but we should see paving getting underway by spring. Our thanks to Commissioner Dueitt and Mobile County for partnering with the Town of Dauphin Island on these important improvements!

Political Signs Guidelines With the primary elections coming up in early March political signs will likely start popping up in neighborhoods near you real soon. While we encourage you to participate in the political process by supporting your preferred candidates, the town sign ordinance establishes a variety of rules to help manage numbers, sizes, placement, time periods, and related issues with signs throughout the election cycles. As such, political signs are not allowed on town right-of-way/property. To view all of the sign regulations please visit the town website. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

St. Francis Arts & Crafts Festival Mark your calendar for the annual Episcopal Church Arts & Crafts Festival on April 27. Shop more than 50 arts & crafts booths, sample delicious eats & treats, and bargain hunt at the White Elephant Sale! For info contact Cissy Napper at 318-548-4376.

Eggs Galore! Our youngest island citizens are gearing up for the annual Easter Egg Hunts that will be held on March 23 at Green Park and March 30 at Cadillac Square. Both events start at 10am and all are invited to these festive holiday experiences.

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Agenda Meetings: Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm

Town Council Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **February 6 & 20**

Planning Commission Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month 5pm (**Note: Next meeting is Feb. 15**)

Board of Adjustment Meetings: 4th Monday of each month or as needed

DI Court: 2nd Wednesday of each month **February 14 @ 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
Magistrate Joyce Wentworth Ext 227
Rental/Tax Clerk Jenny McLester Ext 222

Court

Court Clerk Stacy Mallon Ext 221

Parks & Recreation Dept.

Director Sherry Cain 251-861-3607

Public Works Dept. & Animal Control

Superintendent James Stokes 251-313-2378

Building Dept.

License & Permits Bailey Hogue Ext 223
Bldg Inspector Terry Sheffield cell 251-257-6707

Town Events

Event Coordinator Maggie Godwin mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org

Police & Public Safety

Chief of Police Kym Claw 251-861-5523
E.M.S. Director Troy Gorlott 251-207-9767

Dumpsters: Fridays & Saturdays 8AM—Noon

*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 email Jenny McLester at jmclester@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) 372-4326.



1011 Bienville Boulevard Dauphin Island, AL 36528

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

Website: townofdauphinisland.org

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