



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

- May 2 National Day of Prayer
- May 2 Cocktails with Critters
- May 6 Public Hearing 445PM
- May 7 Public Hearing 5PM
- May 10 Mother's Day Hats, Tea, & Paint Event
- May 11 Market in Green Park
- May 12 Happy Mother's Day
- May 13-17 Heroes Week
- May 17 Blood Drive
- May 18 Summer Reading on the Ramp
- May 18 ADI Outdoor Market
- May 23 Movies on the Beach
- May 24 Movies on the Beach
- May 26 Sunset Concert
- May 27 DIVA Memorial Day Ceremony
- May 30 Movies on the Beach
- May 31 Movies on the Beach
- May 31 Last Friday Art Night
- June 1 Blacksmith Demo
- June 6 Movies on the Beach
- June 7 Movies on the Beach
- June 8 Market in Green Park
- June 13 Movies on the Beach
- June 14 Movies on the Beach
- June 14 Dancing with Daddy
- June 15 Native American Experience
- June 20 Movies on the Beach
- June 21 Movies on the Beach
- June 27 Movies on the Beach
- June 28 Movies on the Beach
- July 3 Movies on the Beach
- July 4 Fireworks Display



Mother's Day Hats, Tea & Paint Event Mothers, Daughters, & Aunts it's time to put on your fancy hats & enjoy a tea party with a splash of paint! This new event is fun for all ages and will be held on May 10 at 630pm at the DI community center. It is a reservation only event, please reserve your spot by emailing Maggie Godwin at mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org. As of now, there is no availability, however there is a waiting list. Artists from Arts of Dauphin Island & Dauphin Island Art Gallery will lead you in painting a beautiful picture on canvas while you sip tea (other beverages will also be available) and enjoy fresh baked treats with your family/gal pals.

New Reading Program for Children Announced "Summer Reading on the Ramp" kicks off on Saturday, May 18 at 9:30am at the Welcome Center. Come join the fun and listen to Marie Sisk and Karen Tafra read their new book, "Benny the Blenny." A book signing will follow. Bring your favorite beach towel to sit on, and be ready to enjoy stories that will make you laugh and think. You will also learn about our summer reading incentives. All other Reading on the Ramp days will be held on Wednesdays in June and July at 9:30am at the Welcome Center. While the target audience is pre-school thru Grade 3 ALL children are welcome and encouraged to attend!

2024 Sunset Concerts Schedule Announced! The always popular Sunset Concerts are about to get underway and the Town of Dauphin Island is excited to announce this year's line up; 4/28 The Street Folks (Tribute to Jimmy Buffett), 5/26 Symone French and the Trouille Troupe, 6/30 Johnny Hayes (former American Idol finalist), 7/28 Ryan Balthrop, 9/1 Rebecca Barry & Bust, and 10/13 Roman Street. All concerts will be held at historic Fort Gaines and admission is \$5 per person (free admission for children 12 & under). Bring lawn/beach chairs and blankets for seating.

FREE Family Movies on the Beach Once again our friends at Greer's Markets are sponsoring Family Movie Nights that will be held at East End Beach this summer. The schedule is as follows; 5/23 Lilo & Stitch, 5/24 Finding Nemo, 5/30 Kung Fu Panda, 5/31 Toy Story, 6/6 Princess & the Frog, 6/7 Tangled, 6/13 Rio, 6/14 The Lost City, 6/20 Splash, 6/21 Megamind, 6/27 Encanto, 6/28 Just Go With It, 7/3 JAWS!, 7/5 JAWS!, 7/11 Cast Away, 7/12 The Goonies, 7/25 Frozen, 7/26 Teen Beach Movie, 8/1 Moana, 8/2 The Little Mermaid, 8/8 Soul Surfer, and 8/9 Wall-E. All movies begin at dusk (weather permitting). Bring beach chairs, blankets, and bug spray (just in case). See you at the movies!

Memorial Day Ceremony The Dauphin Island Veterans Association will host its annual Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 27 at 11am at Water Tower Plaza and all are invited to attend. The group will be adding the names of Robert C. "Bob" Campbell, III and John Watkins to the Memorial Walls that day as well. Join us as we recognize and pay tribute to our fallen service members. Always a patriotic and solemn ceremony.

Heroes Week The Dauphin Island community will be showing its appreciation to our Police Officers, Dispatchers, Firefighters, Public Safety Officers, EMT's and other EMS staff during the week of May 13-17 in honor of Heroes Week and you can join in on the well-deserved celebration. Last year we were able to provide cases of water, food, and other needed supplies for our Heroes and we would appreciate your support again this year in ensuring our first responders know our community cares. Donations can be made to the Dauphin Island Foundation Police Dept. Fund and are tax deductible. Generous donors will have their names added to a banner that will be displayed at the police department to recognize each contribution. In addition, the town council will be hosting a special appreciation luncheon for all town employees on Friday!

National Day of Prayer Come join our Island Churches for National Prayer Day, May 2 at the Water Tower Plaza at 6PM. Let's pray for our nation, state and local government and elected leaders!

Yoga & Dance on the Island Two new Instructors have started offering classes at the DI Community Center. The first is Yoga with Terri Kirkman every Monday, Thursday, & Saturday 9-10am. The class is \$5/person/class. Even if you are new to yoga this class makes it very easy to follow along with as she has been teaching yoga for 25+ years! A professional ballroom dancer will be offering a 4 week series where you can learn salsa/rumba, chacha/swing and more. Dance classes will be Thursdays from 7-8pm and \$15/person/class. Great for beginners or more advanced dancers.



News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council 2024 Dauphin Island Native American Experience June 15-9AM-5PM at Historic Fort Gaines. Join tribal members from the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the Mississippi Choctaw Band of Indians, the Florida Seminole Tribe, and others for a rich educational event showcasing traditional culture and history. Enjoy social dancing, singing, storytelling, crafts like canoe carving and pottery-making, activities like stickball, and more, along with traditional attire displays. Ticket prices: \$13 for ages 13 and up, \$7 for ages 5-12, free for children 4 and under. Admission includes a self-guided tour of Fort Gaines. Advance tickets available online at www.dauphinislandarts.org. Tickets will be available at the gate on the day of the event. This event will occur rain or shine.

Last Friday Art Night May 31 – 6-8PM. We invite you to come celebrate the arts featuring an art demo, art displays, open mic with local musicians, food, and drink! “LFAN” will also be a fundraiser to help cover the costs of the monthly events May – October. TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE CLASSES BELOW, please visit our website at www.dauphinislandarts.org and select your class or send a text message to (251) 219-0179. Be sure to like and follow us on Facebook and subscribe to our newsletter. **Summer Art Camp**- Join us June & July for exciting classes designed to inspire young artists. **Art After School** (4th & 5th Grades) with Artist Odie Tucker May 1 – 4-5PM. Students will discover the magic of painting with watercolors. Odie, will guide young artists through basic techniques, encouraging them to unleash their creativity on paper. **Preschool Studio Arts** with Terri Baker May 8 & 15 – 11:30AM-12:30PM. From finger painting to simple crafts, this class is designed to spark creativity and lay the foundation for a lifelong love of art. **Art After School** (K - 1st Grade) with Terri Baker May 8 – 4-5PM. Students will be guided through fun and age-appropriate art projects, fostering a love for creativity for your little Picassos. **Art After School** (2nd - 3rd Grade) with Terri Baker May 15 – 4-5PM. In this dynamic course, young artists will discover the basic elements of art, explore various art styles, & experiment with exciting mediums. **Family Studio Arts** with Maggie Godwin May 29 – 11:30AM – 12:30PM. Our classes invite children ages 2-4 and their caregivers to embark on a heartwarming journey of connection and exploration. Through simple arts and crafts projects families come together in our cozy studio to nurture not only creativity but also the special bond between parent and child. **Art For All** - Art Classes for Adults with Disabilities with Artist Carolyn Greene May 3 & 10 – 10-11:30AM. The goal of the program is to bring people of all abilities together to express their creativity and develop their skills in a variety of art mediums including acrylics, graphics, watercolors, and more! **Basic Watercolors Painting** with Artist Odie Tucker May 4 – 1-3PM. Participants will create their own paintings based on examples provided. Even if you are new to art, you will enjoy this creative experience. **Sterling Stackable Ring** with Vaughn Millner May 11 – 9AM-1PM. This 4- hour workshop will provide an opportunity to learn & apply basic metalsmithing skills. **Introduction to Couples and Wedding Photography** with Photographer Katy Highland Friday May 24 – 4-6PM. **Guitar, Bass, and Ukulele Lessons** with Professional Musician Jake Reosti May 7, 14, and 21 – 4-7PM. **Experience the Pottery Wheel** with LeaAyn Shurley 3 sessions available: May 9 – 10AM-1PM, May 19 – 1-4PM, and May 23 – 10AM-1PM. Designed for everyone in the family, and all ages are welcome!

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! 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.

Dauphin Island Women's Club We enjoyed a fabulous April Meeting with Kathryn Twilley sharing great travel tips near and far. As always, we had a great time of sharing and enjoying meeting together. We will have a date change next month from our regular monthly meeting. May 18th, noon at the COMMUNITY CENTER will be the time & location for our annual Fashion Show, “SPRING INTO STYLE”. We are going to have a delicious assortment of Appetizers and Desserts from our Local Cookbook, “Cooking on the Coast”. We are selling them out fast so if you would like one bring \$25 to the Welcome Center or to the meeting. Bring friends to the Fashion Show, this is open to all ladies. We are asking a \$10 Donation at the door and if you would like to sport a nice hat or fascinator... it is encouraged. We will also introduce our new Officers for the New Year of 2024-2025, and meet two of the selected Scholarship students as they receive their \$1,000 checks from the Women's Club .. Let's Celebrate!

Welcome Center Needs You Tired of sitting around the house? Interested in meeting new people visiting our island community? If so, volunteering at the Welcome Center might be the thing for you! Open Monday-Saturday from 10am-4pm, the former Little Red Schoolhouse offers a Lending Library, Museum, Gift Shop, and is a great place to spend time with friends and make new ones. Stop by every Friday for the always popular jam session featuring local musicians and join in the fun! Contact the Welcome Center 251-861-5524 for additional information.

DI Community Center Open for Business The island's new Community Center is now fully operational and is available for your next event. Featuring a large auditorium with stage, cater kitchen and meeting room, the facility is perfect for gatherings of 50-500. Contact Community Center Manager Jill Pope at jpope@townofdauphinisland.org for additional information.

Share the Beach May 1st is the official start of the 2024 sea turtle nesting season! You will see our Share the Beach volunteers out patrolling the beaches early every morning. They will be wearing bright green volunteer shirts. If you see any of our volunteers, please greet them, and feel free to ask questions! Also, please fill any holes and remove all trash and beach equipment when you leave the beach for the day. If you're on the beach at night, please use turtle friendly red light flashlights. Keep all lights on your home off that face the beach (or close curtains and blinds). Finally, if you see a mama turtle on the beach, do not approach it. Call and report her to our hotline, 866-SEA TURTLE. Thank you for your help in making Dauphin Island a safe place for our mamas to lay their eggs!

Ladnier Landing Dedication Join us for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Ladnier Landing boat launch facility on Desoto Ave. May 3 at 5pm! Our sincere thanks to Governor Kay Ivey, Commissioner Chris Blankenship, & the Department of Conservation & Natural Resources for their collective support in creating additional public access amenities here on the island! Light refreshments will be served.



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 11am-5pm. ADI features original paintings, pottery, photography, wood working, jewelry, fiber art and much more. Our featured **Artist of the Month for May** will be water colorist Joe Sheffield. Joe is known extensively throughout the Southeast for his amazing watercolors and his ability to capture the everyday world around us in bold and vibrant colors. You do not want to miss the opportunity to come by and see for yourself Joe's beautiful work. "MAY IS FOR MOTHER'S DAY" and children, under the direction of Board member Sandi Miller, will be creating a Mother's Day Flower arrangement as gifts for their moms. The **Youth Arts Program** is scheduled for Thursday, May 9 from 3-5pm. All supplies are provided and it's FREE to children ages 5-18. If your family is planning to vacation on the Island, and we are hosting our children's art events during your stay, 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. Our **May Outdoor Market** is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 from 10am-3pm. Among our vendors you will find: Driftwood Christmas trees, homemade soaps and candles, original art work, sea glass jewelry and much more. 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 we may have in the future. 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 Summertime at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab offers a variety of ways to learn for all ages. Only a few spots remain in some day camps. There's also our excursions along the beach or in the salt marsh or on our Research Vessel in Mobile Bay. Get connected to what's happening at disl.edu/events. Don't forget Cocktails with the Critters at the Bluegill Restaurant on May 2 from 6-9PM!

DIPOA News PROPERTY OWNERS: HAVE YOU RECEIVED TWO IMPORTANT MAILINGS FROM THE POA OFFICE? 1. Dues letters should have been received. Dues are \$150 and cards for discounts at participating island businesses are being mailed to those who have paid their dues. 2. The Election packet, including form to update owner information, and the Ballot for voting to fill three positions on the Board should have been received. Along with the ballot are instructions in handling the ballot and an updated information sheet for property owners. If you are a Dauphin Island property owner and have not received the above mailings or have questions concerning same, please contact Jennifer in the POA office or visit the office located at 100 Orleans in Isle Dauphine, 251-861-3144. The mailing address is PO Box 39, DI, AL 36528; web is www.dipoa.org. Regular Board meetings are held at 6PM the 3rd Thursday of each month, except December, Lower level of Isle Dauphine. Prior to each meeting or special meeting, an invitation to join the meeting will be sent by email. You can attend in person or access online and learn more about the association, the properties included in the association and the value of membership. Get involved by attending meetings & volunteering. Extra workforce is valuable to accomplishing all the tasks needed to keep up the properties.

Public Hearings Set The Town Council will host a Public Hearing on Monday, May 6 at 445pm to receive comments on Ordinance 107, "An Ordinance Establishing Participation in the Pay-As-You-Go Program". Each year, Mobile County offers municipalities an opportunity to submit a list of streets for resurfacing and that action requires an ordinance approved by the Town Council. Such improvements are made possible by a special gas tax earmarked for such infrastructure improvements. The town appreciates the longstanding partnership with Mobile County that helps keep our roads in good shape. A second Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 5PM regarding Ordinance 33; Nuisance Property Violations—1214 Biloxi Avenue & 140 Hernando Street. All meetings are open to the public.

Council Adopts New Parking Decal Process For years the town has issued blue decals/stickers to residents and property owners at the Police Department. That program is now going to be administered through town hall and the process has been streamlined to make it more user friendly. In addition, eligible residents/property owners can now purchase (\$5 each to help cover cost of decal and administration of program) a decal for each of their owned vehicles (no longer limited to two) including golf carts and the like. The new circular decals, similar to the previously issued square blue stickers (which will remain valid until lost, etc.), offer free parking at the town's three public beaches and any permitted parking areas on west end side streets. Applicants will need to provide driver's license, proof of vehicle registration, and more depending on status of residency (full-time, part-time, etc.).

East End Restoration Project Update The beach nourishment project on the island's east end is complete. The more than 1 million cubic yards of sand is now in place, dunes have been shaped/constructed, and fencing & signs installed. The only remaining component is the planting of vegetation which is expected to occur over the next couple of months. In the meantime, it is imperative that we avoid walking or playing on the dunes while enjoying the new beach! Maintaining a significant dune field with ample vegetation is key to preserving this fragile coastal environment for future generations. Please help us ensure that happens!

More Projects on the Way! Although the Graveline Bay Marsh Restoration Project was completed just over a year ago, mounds within the 60 acre tract will soon be receiving additional plantings of juvenile marsh and related vegetation. Last year's drought caused some of the original plantings to fail and this effort will repopulate the mounds with new plants. The Dauphin Island Sea Lab has conducted the required monitoring of the project during the first year. Two Aloe Bay Living Shoreline projects are awaiting environmental permits. Once received, work will begin in the area between Ladnier Landing (new boat ramps on Desoto Avenue) and the DI Airport and also at the wastewater treatment facility near the west end of Eldorado Street. The Dauphin Island Causeway Restoration Project is progressing quite well with construction of the rock breakwater. Eventually, the area between the road and breakwater will be filled with dredge material and planted with a variety of vegetation. This project is expected to offer an increased level of protection for the roadway itself while enhancing critical habitat for a variety of species. Work also continues on plans for the Dauphin Island Beach Nourishment Project--West End restoration (approx. from the two lane/four lane portion of Bienville Blvd. west to West End Beach). Although funds have been secured for design and permitting, efforts to identify construction funding are ongoing.



Construction Zones Aplenty Residents and visitors of Dauphin Island will be encountering active work zones throughout the island as a number of projects get underway in the coming weeks. The town council recently approved several bids including repairs and upgrades to the Bike Trail, multiple drainage improvements (3-way stop, Bienville Blvd. east near ferry ticket booth, Hernando @ Bienville, and more), and shoreline restoration and eco-tourism projects along Aloe Bay —west end of Desoto Avenue and Eldorado Street. Please drive with caution and/or avoid these areas during construction if possible.

DI School News The DI Elementary Book Fair is open to the community from 9am-1pm on May 2. May 23 is the last day for students this school year. DI Elementary School wants to recognize our wonderful 5th grade students who will be moving on to Middle School next year. Congratulations to Brayden Barbour, Natalee Beale, Garner Billante, Kinsley Burrell, Ava Cleveland, Jase Freeman, Brody Goldman, Greta Graeber, Grace Hammack, Isabella Nelsen, Paisley Stacy, Emmett Vinson, and Cecil Weaver. A celebration program will be held on May 22, 2024, at the Shelby Auditorium. Congratulations boys and girls! The DI Elementary Faculty and Staff want to say a huge thank you to our parents and the DI Community for making the 2023-2024 school year great! Your support makes our school the best school in the Mobile County School System. DI Elementary is accepting student transfers for the 2024-2025 school year. If you have any questions, call the school at (251) 861-3864.

Public Restroom Upgrades Planned Restrooms located at Middle Beach and Cadillac Square are slated for replacement and a new restroom will also be installed at East End Beach in the near future. These heavily used facilities were overdue for an upgrade and it looks as though most of the construction will be completed in time for the peak summer season. The town is also exploring the possibility of installing a restroom near Salt Creek Park that would service the entire area including the Skate Park, basketball court, and pedestrians traveling along the bike trail. More later.

Council Approves Beach Clean-Up Stations It's a fairly common practice along most beaches and soon the three public beaches here on the island will join that list. What is it? Beach Clean-Up stations that simply provide buckets (suspended from a post) that beach goers can take with them to collect trash. Buckets can then be emptied into a trash receptacle prior to returning them for future use. Although many already collect trash during their visits to area beaches this new system should make that task even more convenient.

National Safe Boating Week The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary reminds all boaters to improve boating safety skills in preparation for the upcoming summer season. National Safe Boating Week is May 18-24. Officials want to remind us that on average more than 2,000 people are injured in boating related accidents each year and some 600 die from their injuries. Alcohol use remains the number one contributing factor leading to boating accidents. Kill switches and life jackets have proven to save lives! All boat owners are encouraged to take boating safety courses and adhere to recommended guidelines to reduce and/or eliminate operator error. Please make sure your next boating adventure is both enjoyable and SAFE!

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Agenda Meetings:** Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm
- Town Council Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **May 7 & 21**
- Planning Commission Meetings:** 2nd Tuesday of each month 5pm
- Board of Adjustment Meetings:** 4th Monday of each month or as needed
- DI Court:** 2nd Wednesday of each month **May 8 @ 2PM**
- DI Water & Sewer Authority Meetings:** 3rd Friday of each month at 8am at the Authority Office, 908 Alabama Ave. (251-861-2363)
- DI Property Owners' Assoc. Meetings:** Board meets at 6pm on the third Thursday of each month, except December, at Isle Dauphine. For specific information call 251-861-3144.



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

DEPARTMENTAL LISTING

- | | |
|--|---|
| Administrative (251-861-5525) | Building Dept. |
| Town Clerk Wanda Sandagger Ext 225 | License & Permits Bailey Hogue Ext 223 |
| Magistrate Jodie Potts Ext 227 | Bldg Inspector Terry Sheffield cell 251-257-6707 |
| Rental/Tax Clerk Jenny McLester Ext 222 | Bldg Inspector Wes Stumbo cell 251-234-7466 |
| Court | Town Events |
| Court Clerk Stacy Mallon Ext 221 | Event Coordinator Maggie Godwin mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org |
| Parks & Recreation Dept. | Police & Public Safety |
| Director Sherry Cain 251-861-3607 | Chief of Police Kym Claw 251-861-5523 |
| Public Works Dept. & Animal Control | E.M.S. Director Troy Gorlott 251-207-9767 |
| Superintendent James Stokes 251-313-2378 | 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