



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 298 April 2024

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor
Jeff Collier
Council Members
Gene Fox
Trey Alderman
Earle Connell
Rich Colberg
Shirley Robinson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 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 Stargazing Event
- April 6-10 Bird Banding Demo
- April 8 Women's Club
- April 13 Plant Sale & Giveaway 9am-Noon
- April 13 Market in Green Park
- April 13 ADI Outdoor Market
- April 14 Motorcycle Show
- April 20 & 21 Thunder on the Bay
- April 26 Blood Drive
- April 26 Last Fri. Night Art
- April 27 St. Francis Arts & Crafts Festival
- April 28 Plein Air
- April 28 Sunset Concert
- May 2 National Day of Prayer
- 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 26 Sunset Concert
- May 27 DIVA Memorial Day Ceremony

Stargazing Event Planned The Town of Dauphin Island is excited to co-host a star gazing event with the Mobile Astronomical Society on April 6 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. 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. Please note the access road will close prior to dusk to prevent light pollution for this event, so it is very important to arrive on time!

Hippity, Hoppity, Easter's on its Way! The DI United Methodist Church Community Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 30, at Cadillac Square from 10am-Noon. The Easter Bunny will be hopping around for pictures and there will be many eggs to find! Let's celebrate Easter at the Fort with a Sunrise Service on March 31 at 630am. Attendees will receive free admission from 6am to 7am and are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

Spring Pops Concert Set Enjoy the enchanting sounds of the Mobile Pops on Saturday, April 6 at 5pm at Water Tower Plaza. This annual concert is always a big hit and, thanks to our generous sponsors including D.I. Women's Club, D.I. Chamber of Commerce, D.I. Foundation, and Town of Dauphin Island, the event is FREE to the public! This year's theme is "Fantastic Places" and will include arrangements from Jurassic Park, Mt. Everest, Overture to Orpheus, How To Train Your Dragon, Hobbits Dance, and many more of your favorites. Bring chairs, blankets, and bug spray (just in case).

Plant Sale & Giveaway Sponsored by the town of Dauphin Island, the annual Plant Sale & Giveaway will be held on Saturday, April 13 from 9am-noon at Green Park and all are invited and encouraged to attend. In addition to vendors on site offering a plethora of indoor and outdoor varieties, the town will be giving out FREE plants to island residents and property owners on a first-come basis. All we ask in return is that you plant them here on the island and nurture them going forward. The Tree Mitigation Fund is used to purchase a variety of different types of plants, trees, shrubs, etc. in an effort to maintain a healthy and attractive environment. Note: Sign-in for free plants will begin at 8am and any remaining plants will be up for grabs (no limit per customer) at 11am!

Vrrooom...Motorcycle Show Coming The 27th Annual Vintage Motorcycle Show will be held at Green Park on Sunday, April 14 from 10am- 4pm. Presented by The Mobile Bay Vintage Motorcycle Club, this year's show offers multiple vintage classes including; American & Japanese over/under 350cc, European, British, Three Wheeler, Scooter/Mini Bike, Unrestored Original, Competition, and Cafe Racer/Custom. Registration (\$10 per bike) 10am-1pm, Judging 1-2pm, and Awards Ceremony 3pm. Food trucks featuring Shaved Ice Paradise, La Taqueria, Size Matters BBQ and live music by The Southern Fire Band will be on site. Event T-shirts, patches, koozies, and more will be available to help raise money for upgrades to our town playground! FREE admission! Come enjoy a great event for a great cause!

Thunder on the Bay! Come spend the entire day with us here at historic Fort Gaines as we observe the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Mobile Bay on April 20 & 21. Fun for the whole family! There will be celebrations throughout the day with cannon firings, soldiers dressed in period uniforms, tacticals, and mock Battles. Sponsored by the 6th Alabama Cavalry and the Alabama Division of Reenactors. Admission: Ages 13 and up \$10, Ages 5-12 \$5.00. FREE admission for Children 4 and under. Note: The East End Beach parking lot and Little Billy Goat Hole Launch will be CLOSED April 18-21 for this event!

St. Francis Arts & Crafts Festival More than 50 local and regional artists and craftsmen will be selling their unique and creative wares at the annual Arts & Crafts Festival at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Saturday, April 27 from 9am-4pm. While checking out the vast array of artwork don't forget to sample some of the delicious foods that will be available that day as well. Tasty treats including their famous Chicken Salad (grab a pint or enjoy a sandwich!), assorted baked goods, delicious pickles, sausage on a bun, and more! Stop in and browse the White Elephant Sale where treasures await. This annual fundraiser allows the church women to give back to the community all year long. For info call or text Cissy Napper at 318-548-4376.





News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council 2024 Dauphin Island Native American Experience, June 15 – 9AM-5PM at Historic Fort Gaines. Advance tickets will go on sale online April 1 through our website. Tickets will also be available at the gate on the day of the event. Last Friday Art Night Returns, April 26 – 6-8 PM! Art After School (4th - 5th Grades) with Artist Odie Tucker, April 3 – 4-5PM. Preschool Studio Arts with Instructor Terri Baker, April 10 & 17 – 11:30AM – 12:30PM. Art After School (K - 1st Grade) with Instructor Terri Baker, April 10 – 4-5PM. Art After School (2nd - 3rd Grade) with Instructor Terri Baker, April 17 – 4-5PM. Family Studio Arts with Maggie Godwin April 24 – 11:30AM – 12:30PM. Art For All - Art Classes for Adults with Disabilities with Artist Carolyn Greene April 5 & 12 – 10-11:30AM. Basic Watercolors Painting with Artist Odie Tucker Saturday April 6 – 1-3PM. Guitar, Bass, and Ukulele Lessons with Musician Jake Reosti April 2, 9, and 16 – 4-7PM. Piano Lessons with Emma Holm, April 5, 12, & 19 – 4-7PM. Experience the Pottery Wheel with Potter LeaAyn Shurley April 14 – 1-4PM. Community Open Pottery Studio (Drop In) April 4, 11, 18, and 25 – 12:30-2:30PM. TO REGISTER FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE CLASSES, 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.

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 Did we not have such a great time hearing the first hand stories by Master Metal Artist, Frank Ledbetter?!! It was a fabulous evening and thank you, Frank. Dauphin Island residents love your art! April 8th, we will have our next meeting at the Welcome Center, 5PM. Our special guest will be Brisma Fermin with Carnival Cruise line. She will share with us the many journeys Carnival takes out of our Port City and nearby Ports. Let's have a ship cruise theme to bring in the Spring.... "Cruise-wear". Looking forward to another fabulous time with friends. Ahoy!

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.

For the Birds! Spring migration season is here and dozens of bird species will once again stopover on the island to rest and refuel before continuing their journeys north. To ensure ample food sources are available for our feathered friends, the town is partnering with Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuaries (DIBs) and will suspend regular mowing along selected roadways to allow seed-bearing plants to thrive. Informational signs will be posted in designated areas to remind us why the grass isn't being mowed as often as usual. This period usually extends into mid-May. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience.

Council Taps Shirley Robinson to fill Place 5 Vacancy As the late, great Yogi Berra once said, "It's deja vu all over again" as some twenty years ago Clinton Collier was appointed by the town council to fill the same vacant seat when Ms. Robinson (then Shirley Westfall) stepped down to care for her ailing husband. Now, two decades later, the council selected Robinson from eleven other candidates to serve out the remaining 1 1/2 year term following the recent resignation of Councilman Clinton Collier. We want to express our sincere appreciation to the following residents for their willingness to serve our island community by submitting their names for consideration as an elected official; Greg Burks, Vincent Coda, Suzanne Dumas, Cynthia Freeman, Charlie Gray, Patricia Kerr, Ricky Pickett, Vicki Robinson, Chuck Scott, Lt. Col. Richard White, and Lynn Wildberger. Thank You!

Chief Comments As your Police Chief, I am proud to lead a team of highly caring professionals that take pride in serving the community of Dauphin Island! I am equally proud to announce our newest officers including Stephen Jerkins (FT), Gregory Evans (FT), Ryan Bice (FT), Gilbert Bailey (FT), Walter Camoosa (FT), and Jeffery Boddie (Temp.). The Police Department is only as strong as its officers and civilian staff and Dauphin Island is fortunate to have some of the finest public servants in the county! Through their dedicated hard work, we will continue to maintain the town of Dauphin Island as a unique, fun, and safe beach town for all to enjoy. We look forward to working with these new officers to protect and serve our community. Please take time to welcome them next time you see them out patrolling our streets.

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. Please reserve your spot by emailing Maggie Godwin at mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org. 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.

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 Thursday!

*****VISIT THE TOWN WEBSITE FOR INFOMARTION ON NEW PARKING REGULATIONS!*****



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. Make sure to stop by the gallery and check our "Artist(s) of the month" for April featuring the husband and wife duo, Phillip and Susan Waldrop. Phillip creates a variety of beautiful earrings, bracelets and necklaces using semiprecious stones and metals. Susan's amazing works in oil will brighten up any space in your home. She uses bright and bold colors and each piece tells a story of its own. "April shows bring May flowers"! The Youth Arts Program is scheduled for Thursday, April 11 from 3:30-5pm. The children will be painting, stamping and planting a variety of seeds in terracotta pots. 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 classes during your stay, we would be more than happy to have your children join in the fun. Please RSVP to Artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com, so that we have enough supplies on hand. Our April Outdoor Market is scheduled for Saturday, April 13 from 10am-3pm. Among our vendors you will find: Driftwood Christmas trees, homemade soaps and candles, original artwork, 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. 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 Discovery Day is back at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab on Saturday, April 6 from 10am until 2pm. The event is free and open to the public. The lab-wide open house showcases the Sea Lab's various research, education, and outreach programs. It's an opportunity to tour marine science laboratories where cutting-edge research is conducted on oceanography, marine biology, and coastal ecology. Thanks to the support of WPML and FOX10 News, the Alabama Aquarium will offer free admission to everyone under 18 and half-price admission to adults and seniors. For more information about Discovery Day at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, visit disl.edu/events.

DIPOA News The Board would like to welcome Jennifer Moore Perry as Manager and Project Coordinator for the POA. Jennifer, her husband Chris, and their Portuguese water dog, Rocky recently moved to the Island. Jennifer grew up in the Fowl River/Mon Louis Island area, and graduated from Spring Hill College with a degree in Finance and Economics. Each island property owner should have received the letter concerning membership dues at the address provided. Permit fees and membership dues can be paid through return mail, online or at the POA 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 scheduled meeting or special meeting, an invitation to join the meeting will be sent by email. You can attend in person or online. We have plans for upgrades to our facilities as well as continuing with maintenance. Through attending meetings and on the web, you can learn more about the association, properties included in the association and the value of membership. Get involved by attending meetings and volunteering your expertise. Extra workforce is valuable to accomplishing all the tasks needed to keep up the properties.

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! Other events include; **Spring Migration Birding Field Trips** at Shell Mounds & Sto's Woods (bring binoculars, bug spray, and water) Saturday, March 30 & Saturday, April 13 at 9am & 4pm, **Alabama Ornithological Society Spring Meeting** on Dauphin Island (visit www.aosbirds.org) Friday-Sunday, April 19-21. DIBS t-shirts and caps will be available at all events! For more info go to <https://www.dauphinislandbirds.com/> or <https://www.bandingcoalition.org/events>

It's Spring Cleaning Time As the weather warms and days get a bit longer, now is the perfect time to do some spring cleaning and sprucing up our properties. To help with these tasks, the town provides free use of dumpsters for residents/property owners every Friday & Saturday from 8am-noon. Let's all roll up our sleeves and keep our island looking good!

Gone to the Dogs! Everywhere you look these days you see people out with their pets enjoying island life. While our barrier island community prides itself in being dog friendly, it also expects pet owners to act responsibly at all times. That starts with ensuring your pets are properly restrained and/or leashed and that you clean up after your pet. Town Ordinance 81 encompasses the entire island and covers a wide variety of pet ownership guidelines to keep your furry friends healthy and safe and prevent them from becoming a nuisance when out in public. It's also important to always clean up after your pet. The town has installed stations throughout the island complete with plastic bags and trash receptacles to help with this task. Remember, dogs are NOT allowed on the island's far west end including West End Beach and points west as this is prime nesting habitat for threatened/endangered birds and sea turtles. So as you enjoy island life with your family and pets, please make sure you do so in a responsible manner. That way everybody wins!

New Restrooms Arriving Soon East End Beach and Middle Beach (next to DI School) will soon be home to new pre-fab concrete restrooms. The units will be delivered fully assembled and set into place at each of these public beach locations in advance of the busy summer season. Just the latest in a string of significant improvements being made by the town.

Plein Air Dauphin Island 2024 Fifty artists from the southeast region will be painting on location around the island and in the Bayou La Batre area, with fresh works for sale in the gallery throughout the weekend. Come meet the artists and watch them create! Join us for the awards presentation on Sunday, April 28 at 130pm at the Dauphin Island Gallery. The event will be judged by prominent Plein Air painter John Guernsey of Marietta, GA including a \$1000 Best In Show Award sponsored by our local Greer's Market!



Car Tag Renewals Made Easy How would you like to renew your car tags without ever leaving the island? A new partnership between the town and Mobile County License Commission has now made that possible! A self-service kiosk has been installed in the town hall lobby that allows you to quickly and conveniently renew vehicle tags (decals only) with ease. Available during regular business hours.

Let's Dance Beginner Line Dancing classes began on February 26 at 130pm at the St. Edmunds Center (821 Cadillac Avenue) and you're invited to join in on the fun! Classes will be held every other week. No charge...just a donation for the church to open it's doors to the community.

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.

East End Restoration Moving Along The long-awaited restoration of the easternmost mile of the island got underway nearly a month ago and the contractor is making tremendous progress despite challenging weather conditions and mechanical breakdowns. At the writing of this news the beach construction is near the Sandcastle/Surf Club Condominiums (and moving west) having started at the far east end of the island south of Fort Gaines! When complete the project will consist of more than 1.1 million cubic yards of beach quality sand (including strategically placed dunes), sand fencing, and coastal vegetation that will be planted later this summer. In the meantime, please keep off newly created dunes and planted areas.

DI Elementary News Congratulations to Mrs. Asti Weaver for being named DI Elementary Teacher of the Year! Mrs. Weaver teaches math & science to 4th & 5th Grade students. Spring Break (no school) is April 15-19. The DI Elementary Book Fair is scheduled for April 30-May 3 and children from the community are welcome to visit the Book Fair on May 2 from 9am-1pm!

Blacksmith Demonstrations at Fort Mark your calendars for an interesting and educational event at historic Fort Gaines on Saturday, June 1. Watch as blacksmiths demonstrate their talent and discuss the amazing history of the craft. More info to come.

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.

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Agenda Meetings:** Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm
- Town Council Meetings:** 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm **April 2 & 16**
- 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 **April 10 @ 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