

Surset Capital or Alabama"

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.

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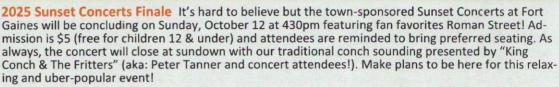
> TOWN COUNCIL Mayor Jeff Collier **Council Members** Gene Fox Trey Alderman Earle Connell

> > Rich Colberg

Shirley Robinson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct 12 Sunset Concert 430PM Nov 3 Swearing-In Geremony & Organizational Meeting



Fort Gaines Fall Festival Fundraiser The fun is returning on October 18! Pumpkin patch, pumpkin pie eating contest, bounce house, petting zoo, face painting, paint-a-pumpkin, plus lots of tents to visit to play games and taste special treats! Like to decorate for Fall/Halloween? Get signed up for a 10x10 tent space for only \$20 and join in on the fun! Decorate your tent and let your creative juices flow! An award will be given to the best decorated tent! You can hand out candy, offer games, make it a walk thru tent, SO many fun things to do! Also, don't forget to sign up for our food competitions! Let's see who has the best Fall treats (dessert), ooze (drinks), and brew (soup, chili, gumbo, etc.)! You can sign up for 1 or all 3 categories! Winners receive a trophy and the ultimate bragging rights! Registration forms are online at townofdauphinisland.org/registration. All money raised will go to help support historic Fort Gaines!

Swearing-in Ceremony Set The newly-elected Mayor and Town Council will officially be sworn in on Monday, November 3 (5pm) at the DI Community Center and all are invited to attend. A reception including an assortment of tasty finger foods and beverages will be provided following the swearing-in ceremony. The council will also host an Organizational Meeting at 6pm and is open to the public. The 2025-29 officers will include; Mayor - Jeff Collier, Council Place 1 - Suzanne Dumas, Council Place 2 Trey Alderman, Council Place 3 - Jennifer Latour, Council Place 4 - Hayden Sisk, Council Place 5 - David Cleveland. Please join us as we celebrate our next administration!

Dauphin Island Art Trail The 11th Annual Dauphin Island Art Trail sponsored by the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce has taken on a new face this year. The event will be held in ONE location in historic Cadillac Square Park instead of being at individual businesses as in the past. This year, there will be FOUR categories: Juried Arts, Crafts, Culinary Arts & Literary Arts. There are also 2 Children's Art Booths sponsored by local businesses for the students from classes at the island's two art galleries. Shop with over 85 artists this year under the canopy of majestic oaks in this historic park that was once the site of the capital of the Louisiana Territory. Have lunch at one of the 4 Food Trucks, including "Cousin's Lobsters" & "Isle Dauphine Oysters" grilled & more! Admission is free. Parking on location will be limited due to the number of vendors. However, you can ride the free TROLLEY transporting people from Green Park to Cadillac Square Park throughout the day. Spin the "Wheel of Commerce" for coupons & prizes from local businesses. As in the past, there is still an ART TRAIL with 7 stamping stations around the park to have your map stamped and qualify to win great prizes awarded throughout the day. This is the largest show yet and so much for the entire family! Hours are 9am-4pm on Saturday, Oct. 11 so make plans to attend! For information, check out the Facebook page or visit www.dichamber.org or contact event coordinator Dena McKee at 251-861-2473.

DI Bridge Repairs Starting Soon ALDOT recently announced the DI Bridge major rehabilitation project will officially get underway on September 30 with completion anticipated by early 2029. Motorists should expect daily lane closures in the work zones including one-lane signalized flagging operations during closures. Drivers are urged to slow down and follow posted signs. ALDOT appreciates everyone's patience and attention to safety while crews make these important improvements. Cost of repairs will exceed \$33M.

Haunted Bike Ride Join us for the annual Haunted Bike Ride for a "paw-some" cause on October 25 benefiting the Animal Rescue Foundation (ARF)! This 5-mile Halloween-themed bike ride begins at Green Park at 6pm (riders should arrive at 5pm for judging of decorated bikes and costumes) and travels past some of the island's most haunted sites before returning to Dority's for the post-ride festivities including live music by Coastline Band, raffle drawings, ARF merchandise table, and some ghoulishly good fun! Riders must be 21 years of age or older and participants will be awarded prizes in the following categories; Scariest Costume, Most Creative Costume, Best Group Costume, and Best Decorated Bicycle. Tickets are \$25 per person (includes Bike Ride & after party) and are only available through Eventbrite beginning August 30. NO onsite registration and participants are limited to 400. A howling good time awaits!

Trick or Treat On Halloween night from 5-7pm, kids can enjoy strolling thru the lighted trees & stopping at many spots throughout the park for some trick-or treating! Island residents and businesses are encouraged to sign up for a spot in advance so we can be sure to get you a good location along our lighted pathway! Please email mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org to register and plan to bring your own table!

BLOOD DRIVE— October 10 @ the Welcome Center from 830am-430pm

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News From Dauphin Island Heritage and Arts Council Make sure to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram, and subscribe to our newsletter at www.dauphinislandarts.org to stay updated! Experience the Pottery Wheel with Elizabeth Van Antwerp: Oct. 13 & 20 @ 10:30AM - 12:30PM. Guests of all ages can create two wheel-thrown pottery pieces. Art After School with Terri Baker- K-1st Grade: Oct. 8 -4-5:00PM. - 2nd-3rd Grade: Oct. 15 – 4-5PM. Students will explore the building blocks of art through colors, shapes, and imagination. Art After School with Odie Tucker 4th-5th Grade: October 29 - 4-5PM. From brushstrokes to color blending, students will explore creative expression on paper and discover the joy of painting through a fun, colorful adventure. Family Studio Arts with Maggie Godwin & Marie Sisk Oct. 22 - 11AM-12PM. For ages 2-5 and their caregivers, this playful arts class invites little hands and big hearts to explore colors, textures, and imagination together with their families. Learn to Crochet with Heidi Sunday: Oct. 12 & 19 - 2-3PM. You'll learn basic stitches, how to read patterns, and get access to online video review and helpful resources. Raku Pottery with Kevin Russell: Oct. 25 - 10AM - 2PM & Oct. 26 - 10AM-4PM. Participants will glaze and fire two bisqued pieces while exploring Raku's bold colors, textures, and surface patterns. Open to all skill levels, this hands-on experience blends expert instruction with Kevin's infectious energy for an unforgettable weekend. Our Time with Carolyn Greene: Oct. 3. 10. 17, 24, 31 - 10AM - 12PM. Looking for a way to express your creativity and connect with others? Our senior art class offers a relaxing space for active seniors 65+ to explore activities like watercolors and music, with the option to try new things based on the group's interests. Basic Watercolors Painting with Odie Tucker: Oct. 18 - 1-3PM. Participants will create their own paintings based on examples provided in each class. Register for any of the classes above at www.dauphinislandarts.org or by visiting our Facebook events page. For questions, text (251) 207-3101.

Market in the Park Join us every Thursday 9am-5pm & 2nd Saturdays 9am-3pm at Green Park! No Saturday market will be held in October due to the Art Trail. This market provides an outlet for local farmers, crafters, artists, and island businesses to promote their products, rentals, services, and more. For more information please email mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org. Like & Follow us on the Market in Green Park Facebook page!

Share the Beach Litter Patrol Join the Share the Beach Litter Patrol team and help keep Dauphin Island litter free. Join for the year or while on vacation. We earn funds for all hours patrolled that help buy supplies for our Sea Turtle program. https://forms.gle/bb8VcDAWPbxPC5qL7 or call (251) 861-1014 for more information. Alabama Coastal Foundation has partnered with Planet Green for lnk Cartridge recycling. Simply drop off used lnk cartridges to the Welcome Center or Town Hall and we will properly disposed of them.

The Dauphin Island Women's Club The Dauphin Island Women's Club is thrilled to invite you to our October 13 meeting on the lower level of Isle Dauphine! Doors open at 4pm for social hour, with the meeting beginning promptly at 5pm. This month we have a very special guest speaker, Daniel Scarcliff, who will share the fascinating history behind our very own Sand Island Lighthouse—an evening you definitely won't want to miss! Pirate's Bar & Grill will have an open cash bar & DIWC will provide light refreshments. This meeting is open to all members, husbands, friends, and neighbors, so bring someone along if you wish...the more the merrier! Then mark your calendars for October 23 when we'll be hosting our Oktoberfest Bingo at the Dauphin Island Community Center—doors open at 4:30pm! Enjoy a lively evening filled with German brats, warm pretzels & cheese, entertainment surprises, and of course, the chance to win some BIG prizes! Best of all, proceeds go to scholarships for our Dauphin Island high school seniors, so come on out, have fun, and support a great cause! Please note this event is 16+ and no outside beverages are allowed. DIWC Memberships are only \$35 for the season, so come and join our DIWC family, we would love to have you! Follow us for all the latest updates at www.facebook.com/diwcevents.

Fall Bird Banding Returns to Dauphin Island! Join researchers from Alabama Audubon and DCNR to see migrant birds up close before they continue their southward migration. Bring your cameras and enjoy unparalleled access to the researchers and their work, with upclose-and-personal views of some amazing birds in the bird sanctuary (211 Bienville Blvd.). They will be in the "banding area" that is shown on the kiosk maps (30.249765, -88.082771) from 7am-3pm October 13-17 and from 7am-Noon on October 18th.

Fort Gaines Hosting Events You'll want to be here for the 41st annual Renaissance GATALOP hosted by the Society of Creative Anachronism on October 25. The Baron of Osprey will present life in the Middle Ages including knights in armor as they storm the castle and perform melees and sieges. Visit with Lords, Ladies, Artists, and Medieval Merchants during this popular event! On November 8, experience the Fall Campaign WWII Living History event. Be there as soldiers in period garb reenact drills throughout the day, demonstrate authentic camping and more!

Lights of Dauphin Island The Lights of Dauphin Island is back and the Dauphin Island Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to join in the holiday magic! Businesses, individuals, churches, social clubs, and neighborhoods—this is your chance to be part of something truly special. Sponsor and decorate a tree that reflects your unique style, and help us light up our island with festive cheer while supporting local charities. Early bird until Oct. 12 is \$125. After Oct. 12 \$150. Register on the event page to sponsor your tree!

DI Sea Lab The Dauphin Island Sea Lab invites you to our underwater pumpkin carving with the scientific diving team on Thursday, October 23 at 10 am. It's a chance to learn about the program and check out the teams underwater skills. Also the Marine Environmental Awards Luncheon will be held at The Battle House Hotel on Tuesday, October 28. ADCNR Commissioner Chris Blankenship will be the keynote speaker. For details on all events visit www.disl.edu/events.

Miss Dauphin Island Christmas Pageant Applications are now online at www.townofdauphinisland.org/registration for the annual Christmas Pageant! Girls from ages 2-18 are welcome to participate. Reminder you must be a full time island resident to participate.

Veterans Day Ceremony Join the DI Veterans Association on Tuesday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day here on Dauphin Island. The event will be held at Water Tower Plaza at 11am and is observed annually to honor ALL individuals who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, both living and deceased, and to recognize their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the nation's common good. During the ceremony DIVA will be adding two names to the Memorial Walls including William (Bill) Dubey (U.S. Marine Corps) and J. Stephen Foster (U.S. Merchant Marines). Please plan to attend this patriotic and solemn ceremony.

Island-Wide Yard Sale The Island-Wide Yard Sale will once again be sponsored by the St. Edmund Altar Society. The list of addresses participating will be distributed from St. Edmund Hall at 8am on the day of the event, November 8. To be included in the list, fill out an application which may be obtained at the Welcome Center beginning October 13. Applications, along with a donation of \$5 to defray printing expenses, must be turned in to the Welcome Center by 4pm on October 31. No late entries will be accepted.

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Arts of Dauphin Island ADI is located 1101 Bienville Blvd. and we are open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10am-4pm. If you're visiting our beautiful island and want a special memento of your visit to paradise, or you need that one-of-a-kind gift for that special someone, this is the place! ADI features local and regional artists providing original paintings, pottery, photography, wood working, jewelry, fiber art and much more. October 9 is the date for our Children's monthly Art Program. The children will be learning the art of Cartography. They will be drawing a map of our beautiful Dauphin Island, adding their own personal touches and referencing points that interest them. We have LIMITED SPACE so please sign up early! RSVP to artsofdauphinisland@gmail.com, so that we have enough supplies. Don't forget to mark your calendar and join us on October 18 for our 3rd Saturday Outdoor Market. If you are an artist or crafter and are interested in joining us this fall for our Outdoor Market please contact Dierdre Sanders at 442-465-8662. Tables are \$15 and Tents are \$25. Don't forget to save the date!! ADI's HOLLIDAZZLE Fund Raiser will be held on November 15, 2025, place and time to be announced later in the year. ADI is 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. Our Gallery is a 501 (3) (C) Non-Profit Organization. Donating to ADI helps support our efforts to supply free art projects for the children of Dauphin Island and South Mobile County.

Autumn Wishes from the Dauphin Island Property Owners Association As we transition to a quieter time on the Island, DIPOA is working on a number of maintenance and improvement projects during the Fall season, and we are seeking volunteers to help. Do you have a heart to serve? Are you looking for an area to give back to your community? Join like-minded volunteers that wish to pour some love into OUR Association and it's beautiful properties. We are seeking individuals that would like to invest their time & talents for the betterment of Dauphin Island. If you are interested in serving on one of our volunteer committees, please reach out to the office at 251-861-3144 or office@dipoa.org. Every effort counts, and there are many areas and ways to contribute. Contact DIPOA today for a role that fits best.

Pet Blessing Join us at St. Francis Episcopal Church on Sunday, October 5 for the Blessing of the Pets. The event will be held at Noon and you are asked to bring your leashed pet or a picture. A donation of \$5 will support the local SPCA. Enjoy refreshing snacks & drinks while you're there!

Middle Beach Parking & Access Improvement Project Work will be getting underway soon on the planned parking lot and beach access improvements at Middle Beach (next to DI School) and construction is scheduled to be complete prior to spring 2026. Drainage issues in front of DI Elementary School will also be addressed within this project. During this period the park will be closed to traffic and we encourage you to utilize one of three other Town-owned public beaches. A majority of the nearly \$2M cost for the project will be paid for with GOMESA funds (approx. \$1.7M) with the town potentially picking up the difference. Note: The Mobile County School Board and/or Mobile County may assist with funds specific to the repairs supporting the school.

Update on Other Island Projects Here's the latest update on the status of multiple island projects; East End Beach & Dune Restoration-Construction Complete. Post-construction monitoring to continue through 2027. DI Beach Nourishment (West End)- Engineers continue working toward final project design while the permitting process moves forward and we await word on potential funding. EPA Barrier Island Water Quality and Stormwater Management- Currently eight (8) undeveloped parcels on the east end of the island have been acquired in support of wetland creation/protection measures. Graveline Bay Marsh Restoration- Construction complete. Aloe Bay Living Shorelines- Construction complete. Post-construction monitoring will continue through 2026. USACE Programmatic Beneficial Use Permit-A long-term programmatic permit for the beneficial use of sediments from USACE dredging activities is being persued. The permit will ensure that the pending Memorandum of Agreement with the Corps can be implemented to sustain the many investments and improvements on and around our barrier island community. Billy Goat Hole Boat Launch- Work is ongoing to replace the boat ramps and finger piers while construction will start soon to create a new handicap ramp and install an elevator at the Concession Stand and restroom complex. Improvements to the parking area were completed about a year ago. Christopher Blankenship Eco-tourism Area & Kayak Launch- Construction Complete. Taylor Harper Hiking & Biking Trail Improvements (East End to Pirates Cove St.)- Construction Complete. Aloe Bay Harbor Town - Work to begin soon to replace seawall and construct an elevated boardwalk (Putt-Putt west to Patronas Park). Next phase expected to take place in mid to late 2026 and include streetscape improvements along Desoto Avenue from LeMoyne Drive west to Levert Street. Wastewater Treatment Facility (DIWS)- Work is now underway and construction could take 2+ years to complete.

Homeowner Citrus Workshop Join us on October 22 at the Dauphin Island Community Center (change of venue!) from 3-5PM to learn how to successfully grow and care for citrus trees in your own backyard. This free workshop will cover many aspects of citrus care including planting, fertilizing, pruning and managing diseases. You can register for this workshop at https://www.aces.edu/go/5297. Space is limited so register early. This workshop is provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service through Auburn University.

St. Francis Episcopal Church Fall Bazaar It's that time of year again and you'll definitely want to stop by the St. Francis Episcopal Church for the annual Fall Bazaar on November 8 from 9am-2pm! Browse the white elephant yard sale, check out the many arts & craft vendors on site, sample their delicious chicken salad sandwiches, scrumptious sausage on a bun, hot & spicy pickles, and tempt your tastebuds at the bake sale featuring homemade pies, cakes, and holiday goodies! Interested in setting up a booth on the church grounds at 401 Key Street? A 12x12 space is only \$30 and no pre-registration is required. Donations of yard sale items are being accepted. Please call Cissy Napper at 318-548-4376 and someone will meet you at the church to help you unload. All proceeds go to support local charities.

S'mores on the Shores Campfires, live music and all of the makings for s'mores will be the scene at the East End Beach on Saturday, November 8 from 5-7pm. Families are encouraged to bring their blankets, chairs and join in on the fun while relaxing on the beautiful white sand of Dauphin Island. This event is sponsored by the Town of Dauphin Island and admission is free!

Medical Clinic Fundraiser Set Dauphin Island Medical will be hosting a fundraiser to FUND the FUTURE: ONE SCAN AT A TIME! Tessie O'Quinn, our trusted health-care professional, is hoping to raise enough money to purchase a much-needed ultrasound machine. There will be many local Island auction items, fun fundraising games, a band, and homemade gumbo, sides, and desserts! The event will be held on Sunday, November 2 from noon-4pm at Dority's. Please come out and support this important fundraiser to help keep our community clinic healthy and growing into the future!

Reading on the Ramp is a program for children ages 6 and under. Two age appropriate books are read then discussed over themed snacks! We also complete a themed craft that the children can take home! Every Wednesday at 9:30 AM. Reading on the Ramp is at the Welcome Center, a great place to check out a book and learn about the island!

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Paving the Way Selected streets throughout the island will soon receive a new layer of asphalt thanks to our friends at Mobile County and the Pay-As-You-Go road program. The work is expected to take place sometime during the next 45-60 days and will include the following streets; DeSoto Avenue (LeMoyne to Key), Buchanan (Bienville to Conde), Chenault (Albright to Alvarado), Alvarado, Albright, and the following streets will only be paved between Bienville Blvd. and Cadillac Avenue including Pascagoula, Pelican, Penalver, Penicault, Pensacola, Perdido, Pirates Cove and Port Royal. Please avoid these areas when you see construction in progress.

County Provides Worn Flag Retirement Box Do you have a worn, tattered, torn, or faded U.S. (or other) Flag? If so, stop by the town hall lobby and deposit it into the box for proper disposal. Flags should be folded respectfully before being placed into the container. The Mobile County Sheriff's Office will be responsible for proper disposal of worn flags. NOTE: A similar collection box is located at the Welcome Center and those flags are collected by members of the American Legion Post 250.

Sunset Sizzle Coastal Cookoff CANCELED We regret to report the Sunset Sizzle Cookoff scheduled for October 5 featuring the "Best of Hall's Sausage" has been canceled due to a destructive fire at the factory. We wish Hall's the very best as they recover from the damage and hope to partner with them again in the future.

Congressman Barry Moore Offers Public Assistance The Town of Dauphin Island recently partnered with Congressman Barry Moore's office to provide in-person assistance at town hall on the second Tuesday of each month from 9am-11am. A representative will be on hand to help citizens with federal agency issues related to IRS, SSA, VA, Passports, etc. and no appointment necessary. This new service will continue throughout 2025.

Council Approves FY2025-26 Budgets The Town Council recently adopted FY2025-26 budgets totaling nearly \$9.6M including General Fund \$7,165,200 and Enterprise Fund (Parks & Rec) \$2,434,191. Top revenue producers include Lodging Tax (\$2,6M), Sales Tax (\$1.5M), Ad Valorem (\$900k) and Campground (\$850k) while Salaries (\$3.3M) make up the largest single combined expense. This year's budget includes an across-the-board pay increase of \$1 per hour for all full and part-time employees and also covers the anticipated health insurance premiums increase for 2026! Both budgets are available for review on the town's website.

News From the Fire Chief It is with great pleasure that I bring to you notification of our latest ISO score of 5. This is the first survey by ISO since 2015 which resulted in the same score. DI Fire & Rescue will host a public meeting at the Community Center (small room) on October 8 at 6pm to further explain the importance of this rating and what it means for our department and the town. Safety Tip of the Month; Use safe grilling practices. Do NOT cook under a house or on a porch! Keep all exits accessible for use, review your home fire plan with your family, and identify where your safe meeting space is located outdoors in case of an emergency.

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee has completed the merging of the first two chapters of the Town's policy document, laying a solid foundation that will be the basis for planning the future of our island. Your valuable feedback from the survey and the public engagement event has directly shaped this vision of the future, helping us create a plan that truly reflects our community's aspirations. We invite you to stay engaged and explore the website for more information, available on the town's main page under "DI PROJECTS." Together, we can build a future we can all be proud of!

TOWN & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Agenda Meetings: Mondays prior to Council Meetings at 5pm

Town Council Meetings: 1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm October 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 October 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)

Wanda Sandagger Town Clerk

Accounts Payable Jodie Potts Rental/Tax Clerk Gina Bush

Stacy Mallon

Ext 225 Ext 227 Ext 222 Building Dept.

License & Permits Wendy Crumley

Bldg Official

Ext 223 Terry Shefflield cell 251-257-6707

Town Events

Event Coordinator

Ext 221 Maggie Godwin mgodwin@townofdauphinisland.org

Community Center

Court

Court Clerk

Jill Pope Manager

251-487-6110

Police, Fire & Public Safety
Police Chief Mathew Emlich

E.M.S. Director Troy Gorlott Fire Chief

Mathew Emlich 251-861-5523 251-207-9767 Jeremy Tousinau 251-610-6827

Public Works Dept. & Animal Control Superintendent James Stokes 251-313-2378

Dumpsters: Fridays & Saturdays 8AM-Noon

1011 Bienville Boulevard Dauphin Island, AL 36528 Phone: 251-861-5525 Fax: 251-861-2154 Website: townofdauphinisland.org

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

*ARE YOU SIGNED UP TO RECEIVE TOWN EMAILS?

Get on the mass email list for updates on events and important information for the community of Dauphin Island! Please send an email to wcrumley@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) 861-2101.

