

November 20, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

The time has come to give thanks! It is with much sincerity and appreciation to say "thank you" to anyone and for any reason. This gesture is also one of the most difficult for many people to perform, but now is the time. "Thank You, Orange Beach" and those of you farther away for your support in reading the past years worth of stories, ideas and quips along with a calendar full of events. **Thanksgiving!** Our founding fathers have been thankful along with the Pilgrims, explorers and native Americans so it is our turn centuries later. Our community has so much to be thankful for and each person knows deep down how they feel about our city and area. The people are the heart of any community and we have some great people in Orange Beach. We are thankful for what God has provided each of us. Celebrate Thanksgiving this week with family and friends. Remember city services will be closed for Thanksgiving on Thursday and Friday.



Bring the kids and grandkids out to Orange Beach City Hall on Monday, November 27 at 6pm for the official Christmas Tree Lighting. The event is a great family fun time to begin the holiday season, as Santa is expected to arrive via firetruck following a few carols and the flipping of the switch by Mayor Pete Blalock. More activities and fun things to do are planned while waiting for Santa in his new sleigh this year. We hope to see you there!



Santa arrives at City Hall in 2005 to a rush of youngsters

Should you experience a loss in water pressure or some possible discoloration in your water, the Orange Beach Fire Department is testing hydrants for the next few weeks to better serve you. This is an annual check to maintain hydrants and water lines so don't be alarmed.

Speaking of safety and serving the community, a new asset is now in the OBFD arsenal of equipment to protect the town. This week OB Truck One rolled into action. The apparatus is referred to as a "quint" which is a truck that can perform both engine and ladder company operations on a fire scene or rescue response. The "Quint" has these five basic functions, 1. water 500 gallons, 2. ladders for ground use, 3. aerial ladder reaching 77 foot high, 4. pump, 5. hose. The Truck One's 77 foot ladder makes it ideal for protecting our growing residential and retail structures in the community

which are often two story properties on pilings making it more inaccessible with ground ladders. It is also equipped to respond to EMS calls and motor vehicle accidents along with any other emergency in the city's jurisdiction. A unique feature is the front bumper has the "jaws of life" hydraulic cutter inside the bumper area. "The addition of this unique vehicle is a true asset to the department and is designed to serve the citizens of our community well for many years to come" adds Fire Chief Forney Howard. He notes "thanks to the foresight of the leadership of the city, we can now respond more effectively to a variety of calls with this apparatus manned from Station One."



OBFD welcomes Truck One to the city



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Orange Beach, Alabama

The time has arrived to get busy on that shopping list as Christmas and the gift giving season is upon us. Annually chambers of commerce around the country stress "shopping locally" to support local merchants and retailers. The campaign is underway once again here on Pleasure Island so be sure to make the effort and stay in town. It is estimated that for every single dollar spent here in Orange Beach, that as much as forty cents stays right here and re-circulates through other businesses and ultimately back to your neighbors and yourself through jobs and wages. Keep it in your mind this year and have a great time doing that Christmas shopping.



Upcoming events! The Nautical Night of Lights Boat Parade has been RESCHEDULED for Saturday, December 2nd. The boats will parade from Lulu's at Homeport Marina at dusk and travel east down the Waterway till it reaches the Orange Beach Marina on Terry Cove Harbor with an after party at Calypso's. To register your boat or find out more, call Michelle Brown, chamber of commerce at 968-6904. The Bear Point Civic Association will hold its annual Christmas Open House on December 9, 2006 from 6 to 8 p.m. at its facility on Bay La Launch Avenue. The event will highlight a visit with Santa and his Elf for the children, refreshments, decorations and door prizes. Please come celebrate the season with us! Everyone is welcome to attend according to Judy Moore at 981-5734.

Public input and visioning is always a critical tool in planning for growth and this was evident last week as over 200 residents came to the Bear Point Neighborhood Improvement meeting held at the Orange Beach Recreation Center.



Crowded, yes as know one had any idea such a turnout would come with the level of interest and opinion. Jim Lawson, Director of Community Development for the city stated, "having such a great response and quality input to our thoughts and early recommendations was a good sign that we are making progress in creating quality improvements in the neighborhood planning stage."

Residents and property owners from Bear Point packed the Rec Center to see plans and ideas in forming a neighborhood plan to enhance the overall feel and flow of this part of the City of Orange Beach.



*Photos by
Renee Smith*

Input from the citizenry is critical to a successful plan and implementation. Over 200 interested people attended the session on a Monday night.



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Toys, Toys, Toys! Every kid wants them but some may not get them so now is the time to help out as the Toys for Tots Golf Clinic will be held at the Orange Beach Golf Center on Saturday, November 25th.

Grades 1-5 will begin at 9am and grades 6-8 will begin at 11am. Price of admission to the clinic is one new toy. This effort is presented by the Orange Beach Parks and Recreation Department in conjunction with the John Baas Golf School. For more information call 981-GOLF today. The Starlight Theatre in partnership with the City of Orange Beach Recreation Department presents Annie, Jr. on December 8th and 9th at 7pm at the Orange Beach Recreation Center. Many local up and coming actors and actresses will perform so be sure to give them your support. For info or tickets call 752-1336.



The dealing and shuffling is a huge problem around Orange Beach. Too much competition to be exact as the Senior Activity Center is home to many great activities including "Bridge". Call 981-3440 to find out whats happening this week and during the holidays. Here are the Bridge scores for Tuesday 14th: 1st: Barbara Martin; 2nd: Joe Grimes; 3rd: Dolores Howell; and for Thursday 16th: 1st: Chuck Ogle; 2nd: Kate Withers; 3rd: Joanne Thompson.

The Alabama-Mississippi Bays and Bayous Symposium is scheduled for November 28-29 at the Arthur Outlaw Convention Center in Mobile, Ala. The two-day event will feature scientific presentations on water quality, living resources, habitat management, natural hazards and coastal development in Alabama and Mississippi. Speakers will include National Geographic's Sylvia Earle, Orrin Pilkey, Professor Emeritus at Duke University, Nancy Rabalais, Director of the Louisiana University Marine Consortium, Frank Muller-Karger, Director of the Institute for Marine Remote Sensing at the University of South Florida. The symposium is hosted by the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium, the Alabama Center for Estuarine Studies and the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Laboratory. "The scientific and applied information that will be available can be used by scientists, policy-makers and citizens." This will be the first program directed at a better understanding of the Alabama and Mississippi coastal environment. To register go to: <http://ambbs.mobilebaynep.com> or contact Tiffany England at (251) 431-6409 or Shonda Borden at (251) 438-5690.



Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what's going on by sending your community news to obecon@gulftel.com and be sure to log onto www.cityoforangebeach.com and register to receive the weekly newsletter online which has much more detail and color photography on other events.



NAUTICAL
"NIGHT OF LIGHTS"
Lighted Boat Parade

Presented by:
The Alabama Gulf Area Coast Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, December 2, 2006

5:00 p.m.

AWARDS!

(Judging based on combination of Creativity, Lighting, Music, Crew Attire)

1st place 2nd Place 3rd Place

Parade will assemble at LuLu's at Homeport Marina
and end at Calypso Joe's at Orange Beach Marina

\$25 Registration Fee

For information and to register contact:
The Alabama Gulf Coast Area Chamber of Commerce
251-968-6904