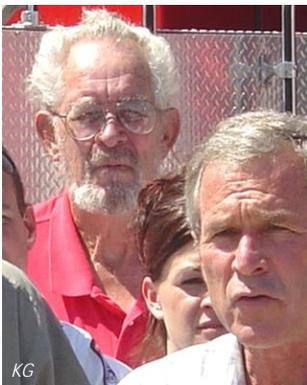


December 25, 2006

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

The phrase Merry Christmas shared among coworkers has rung through the halls. A neighbor delivering a box a warm, homemade cookies or that little envelope with a special card or message and maybe even for some a bonus. Whatever your case, we hope you enjoyed this week with family and friends and had safe travel to visit those outside of our island. Merry Christmas one more time from all of us around Orange Beach City Hall and throughout the country as we welcome our winter visitors, aka, snowbirds to town.

The City of Orange Beach Mayor/ Council and employees invite the public to attend a reception honoring William C. "Bill" Silvers, Public Works Director on his retirement after more than fifteen years of service. Silvers was involved in the early years as the City of Orange Beach was incorporated and has left a legacy in the many facilities, build-



ings, parks and streets of Orange Beach. His hands on involvement with every project made sure that the city was getting quality products at the best investment. A reception will be held on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at City Hall in the Council Chambers following the Committee of the Whole meeting. Silvers will officially pass the keys to Tim Tucker who will be named Public Works Director at that time. The public is invited to say thanks for the dedication and service Mr. Silvers has given the City of Orange Beach. We will miss you Bill and hope you enjoy the great Northwest.



*Residents of Orange Beach enjoy the holiday in many ways but even without the snow of a cold winter day, we can still make snowmen. . . Or at least a sandman. Here Wes and Caleb show off their handywork on our white, sandy beaches.*



*Many commemorative plaques in the city have the name Bill Silvers listed as he saw many buildings completed in his tenure.*

There were big lights, small lights, and some bright lights and colored lights but most of all the Orange Beach Garden Club was pleased to see so many lights as they judged the night of December 18<sup>th</sup> for "Light Up Orange Beach" which encourages residents to get those lights on for the holidays. The Club recruited some professional lighting judges who also spent several evenings cruising town to find the best display and expressions of the residents tastes and personality. It is never easy to judge such an undertaking and there are always tough choices to make but we applaud all who lit their homes this Christmas and to everyone who made the spirit of Christmas just a little bit brighter in Orange Beach.



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Orange Beach, Alabama

The Orange Beach Garden Club members are pleased to announce the winners for the "Light Up Orange Beach contest" which were awarded a sign in the yard: Residential Division First place is Bob and Terry Barnett at 29416 Canal Road; Second Place is Hampton and Melissa Hubbard at 27369 Cove Drive; Third



One of the many homes decorated in Orange Beach!

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Place is Ken and Kelly Grimes at 3404 Majestic Court. Honorable Mention awards receiving a Certificate of Merit are Fred Cook at 4799 Washington Boulevard; The Family at 27186 White Marlin Drive; John and Cathy Giannini at 4799 Easy Street; Angela Holliman at 27224 Marina Road; Helen and Jim Hamilton at 32618 Sandpiper on Ono Island; Robert and Rosanna Lester at 26751 Magnolia Avenue; Eddie and Melissa Moody at 25800 Bonita Place. The Winner of the Commercial Category is the Bear Point Civic Association Clubhouse off Bay LaLaunch Drive; Honorable Mention receiving Certificates of Merit for the

Commercial Category include, Orange Beach City Hall; Phoenix On the Bay and the Phoenix Units on the Gulf; The Wharf; and Sportsman Marina and Bayside Grill. The Club wishes to thank the judges Ed Carroll, Joni Blalock both on the city council and Jeanne Franz of the Gulf Shores Women's Club. Special thanks to Linda Tucker on compiling the information.



3rd Place in the Light Up Contest

More beautiful lights were seen at the Bear Point Marina as many vessels docked there were decorated for the second annual Bear Point Marina "Deck The Docks" Lighted Boat contest. Organized by Patti Link and others at the marina, the effort drew spectators and residents from throughout the community to view the wonderfully decorated boats. Winners of the contest include First Place to "Banana Wind" captained by Mitch and Marsha Bradley; Second Place to



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"What Habit" captained by Sandy and Randy Presthus; Third Place to "Sarita Sea" captained by Barry and Alice Brothers; Honorable Mention to "Dolphin Queen" captained by Mike and Laurie DeAngeles. Find out more at [www.bearpointmarina.com](http://www.bearpointmarina.com)

The Orange Beach Senior Activity Center bridge scores for Tuesday December 19th: 1st: Gene Grant; 2nd: Oliveth Archer; 3rd: Wilson Pierce and for Thursday December 21st: 1st: Roseanne McGillvary; 2nd: Chuck Ogle; 3rd: Fran Grouby.

Remember you can play bridge on Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30pm-3:30pm at the Center. Find out more about the holiday schedule by calling 981-3440.



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Remember to ring in the New Year in a safe manner. One way is to stop by the Wharf's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual New Year's Eve Celebration set for December 31<sup>st</sup> from 8 pm until 12:30 am. The event is new to the city and will be a street party on Main Street & Wharf Parkway. It's free to the public with entertainment provided by the Tip Tops beginning at 8pm. Fireworks, lasers, music and more will count down the New Year. For more information log onto [www.thewharfal.com](http://www.thewharfal.com) for details.

Plan to reminisce on Saturday, January 6 at the Orange Beach Senior Activity Center for an Orange Beach Historical Open House as we Remember Orange Beach – A Gathering. Organized by Margaret Childress Long and Michael D. Shieler, authors of the popular book "The Best Place To Be – The Story of Orange Beach". Everyone is invited to come and share their old photos of early settlers, founding families & descendants, places, boats, events, ancestral stories, family histories, and memories that make up the unique history of Orange Beach.

The City of Orange Beach Relay For Life team is gearing up for the annual Big Yard & Craft Sale to be held on January 20th at the Orange Beach Community Center. Booth space is \$25 for an indoor table and guaranteed shoppers. For info call Jeanne Fitzgibbons at 981-1524. Just a reminder that City of Orange Beach services will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2007 for New Years. Take care of any business prior to those days and Have a Happy New Year!



OB SWIM Team

Santa supports the OB Swim Team



Santa made plenty of appearances in Orange Beach this year but a special arrival at the Aquatics Center was a nice treat. Right: Police Capt. Gina Lee spread a little holiday cheer around town delivering some candy. Below: City Marquee sent greetings for Christmas and New Years during the season.



Photo by Sheree Duke



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