

January 1, 2007

by Ken Grimes, Jr.

Another year has passed and many memories were made while many just faded away. As 2006 came to an end this weekend it was a special time to bring the closing of this chapter in the history of Orange Beach. Most will remember the skyrocketing gas and fuel prices during the year as a gallon of gas went above three dollars and for a drive in tourist market like our community, we still survived. The real estate market came to a standstill after several years of record sales. It appears the market is sparking back into activity but much is yet to be determined along the coastline as insurance availability and premium costs fluctuate. A good storm season passed and it was needed by everyone in the region as recovery from Ivan is basically complete, two years later. Local ties to American Idol Taylor Hicks brought more exposure to Pleasure Island as the media stayed in touch weekly with grandmother Joni Hicks here in Orange Beach. She is so proud and gleams when Taylor's success is mentioned. Congrats Joni! No matter what your memory of 2006, I hope it was a good year for you.



Now let's talk about the new year. What are your new years resolutions for 2007? Some people tell me they don't make resolutions because they never stick to them so I said then set some short and long term goals. "Lose Weight!" A resolution that's true but try making it more real by saying lose five pounds during January and ten pounds by the end of February. Hey fifteen pounds gone by the end of March is my target which would make the water recreation pictures this Spring a whole lot more pleasant. "Save More Money!" Easy to say hard to do once you dip your hand in the savings jar a few times when you need a little cash. Put a little aside each week, \$5 here, \$20 there can add up in six months to a year. By years end you can set the goal of a nice vacation or special treat for yourself or family. Keep in mind that this financial advice is free and you get what you pay for. Be goal oriented in the coming months but be sure to write them down and stick to what is important to you.

The torch of Public Works Director was officially passed from Bill Silvers to Tim Tucker last week as the Orange Beach City Council named Tucker as the head of the city's infrastructure unit. A retirement reception was held in honor of William C. Silvers following the regular council work session. Many friends, co-workers, residents and family members gathered to celebrate the accomplishments and commend Silvers for a productive career in the city. Mayor Pete Blalock and the city council presented a commemorative plaque topped off with an appreciative hand shake.



*Mayor Pete Blalock and the City Council presented a commemorative plaque to William C. "Bill" Silvers on his final day as Director of Public Works prior to retiring. Tim Tucker was named the new Director of the department*



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Orange Beach, Alabama

Bringing Christmas cheer to many children and families in Orange Beach is a top goal of the Orange Beach Ladies Fire Auxiliary and the Toys for Boys and Girls Program. According to Auxiliary President Kim McConnell here are the results of this years effort: Distribution of food and toys was on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>. Names and information on children for the effort are received from Orange Beach Elementary School counselor - Fran Drake, along with area churches, local businesses and Orange Beach residents. The Auxiliary maintains a detailed database on recipients and prospects. The 2006 Campaign gave out 40+ Family Food Baskets with a Ham for their Christmas Dinner. Another 13 baskets for local elderly shut-ins were distributed which included the food items. The Auxiliary was able to assist 103 children in South Baldwin County with toys, clothing, school uniforms and shoes. "Each year with the love and support of our local residents and businesses, the auxiliary is able to assist the families in our area. We all realize what it was like to be a child on Christmas morning and hope that our efforts make sure that every child in South Baldwin County know that joyful feeling. We could not do all that we do each year without our community involvement" adds McConnell. The Ladies Auxiliary wishes to thank Brett Robinson Real Estate management and employees for their continued generosity, which once again were the main contributor. "Thanks" also goes out to The Wharf, First Gulf Bank, Colonial Bank, Christian Life Church, Alabama Credit Union, Winn Dixie, Bruno's, Tacky Jacks and all the citizens of Orange Beach for their over-



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whelming support of our Christmas Toys for Girls and Boys program. If you would like to find out more about the Christmas program for next year or about the Ladies Fire Auxiliary, call Kim McConnell at 978-6664 or 981-2842.



Members of the Alabama Credit Union present toys to the Orange Beach Fire Department for the Christmas 2006 Program for Boys and Girls. Left to Right Elizabeth Cole, Samuel Jackson, Keith Kyte, Chance Ard, Diane Hall, Josephine Rhodes, Jean Pruet, J.T. Cox.

Notice to the public as temporary changes will be in effect while the Alabama Credit Union moves into their new Orange Beach office at 24254 Canal Road. The move will take place from January 15<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> as they relocate from the modular building to the new permanent building During that week, these temporary changes will be in effect: • No Credit Union Service Centers transactions will be conducted at the Orange Beach office. Credit Union Service Centers transactions may be conducted at the Foley of-

ice (404 S. McKenzie Street), however. • All transactions at the Orange Beach office must be conducted at the drive-up windows. If you'd like to conduct an in-lobby transaction, please visit the Foley office. Your account access via ACU*iBranch* (at [www.AlabamaCU.com](http://www.AlabamaCU.com)) will remain available, as will toll-free calls to Call24, the credit union's electronic telephone teller system (800-817-2255). And, Alabama Credit Union's Member Care Center will receive your calls and loan requests during business hours at (888) 817-2002. Loan requests may also be made online at [www.AlabamaCU.com](http://www.AlabamaCU.com). Alabama Credit Union's Area Branch Manager Elizabeth Cole and her staff apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience during their move to the long-awaited new building. Cole promises, "when you visit our new spacious office, you'll know the improvements are worth the temporary inconvenience!"





Remember to mark your calendar for 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. Shipler, authors of the popular book *“The Best Place To Be – The Story of Orange Beach”*. Come and share your 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. Everyone is invited to attend.

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.

Congratulations to Tara Smith, as the faculty of Orange Beach Elementary has selected her as the 2006-2007 Teacher of the Year. Students have enjoyed the creative and inviting learning environment in Mrs. Smith classroom for the past six years. The students, teachers, and staff would like to thank Mrs. Smith for her dedication to our students and school. Remember that students are still out of school this week so watch for bikes, scooters, and more fun in the streets and neighborhoods when driving around. Here’s to a great school year in 2007!



Got some news around Orange Beach? Let us know what’s going on by sending your community news to [kgrimes@cityoforangebeach.com](mailto:kgrimes@cityoforangebeach.com) and be sure to log onto [www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com) and register to receive the weekly newsletter online.



Members of the Silvers family celebrate the mile-



A purple holiday sunset from Bear Point Marina—2006



Employees of Public Works say 'Best Wishes' to Mr. Silvers' after a reception in his honor