



# City of Orange Beach

Life is better here

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2011

Edited by Angela Bateman

### MAYOR

Tony Kennon

### CITY COUNCIL

Joni Blalock

Pattisue Simpson

Edward Carroll

Brett Holk

Jeff Silvers

### CITY

### ADMINISTRATOR

Ken Grimes

### CITY CLERK

Cathy Constantino

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- April COW Meetings, 5pm 4/12, 4/26
- April Council Meetings, 5pm 4/5, 4/19
- May COW Meetings, 5pm 5/10, 5/31
- May Council Meetings, 5pm 5/3, 5/17

### Join Us For Easter Services

There are several services to choose from here in Orange Beach Easter weekend. All the area churches have an open door policy and would love for you and your family to join them.



### BEACH SUNRISE SERVICES

Pleasure Isle Ministerial will be hosting a nondenominational Easter sunrise service at Alabama Point, East Side at the Perdido Pass Bridge. The service will begin at 6:30am. Bring your chairs.

Romar Beach Baptist Church will also be hosting an Easter sunrise service at 7:00am at 23370 Perdido Beach Blvd. Bring a folding chair, park in the parking deck and walk out on the beach.

### CHURCH SERVICES

#### Christian Life Church

Good Friday Night of Worship & Communion Service, 6:30pm, April 22, Sunday Easter Services, 8:30am & 10:30am, 25550 Canal Rd, 251-967-4840,

[www.christianlifechurch.tv](http://www.christianlifechurch.tv)

#### 1st Baptist Church of OB

Sunday Easter Service, An Easter Musical presented by the Celebration Choir, 10:30am, 4773 Bay Circle (corner of Canal Rd and Bay Cr), 251-981-4288,

[www.firstbaptistorangebeach.com](http://www.firstbaptistorangebeach.com).

#### OB Presbyterian Church

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 6pm, Sunday Easter Service, 10:00am, 26640 Canal Rd, 251-981-4220,

[www.orangebeachpresbyterian.org](http://www.orangebeachpresbyterian.org).

#### OB United Methodist

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 6pm, Sunday Easter Services, 8:30am & 10:30am, 28751 Canal Rd, 251-981-6751, [www.orangebeachumc.org](http://www.orangebeachumc.org).

#### Romar Beach Baptist

Good Friday Service, 7pm featuring The Glorymen & Gladheart, They will also have a Saturday concert at 7pm. Sunday



Sunrise Easter Service, 7:00am, Easter Service in the sanctuary, 9am featuring the Glorymen, 23370 Perdido Beach Blvd, 251-971-8400, [www.romarbeach.org](http://www.romarbeach.org).



#### St Thomas by the Sea Catholic Church

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass, 8pm, Easter Sunday Masses at 8am, 10am and 12pm, 26547 Perdido Beach Blvd, 251-981-8132, [www.stthomasbythesea.org](http://www.stthomasbythesea.org).



## Bear Point Civic Association Hosts Annual Egg Hunt

Bear Point holds this event the Saturday before Easter, April 23. Parents and children are welcome for a cookout lunch and bake sale while waiting for the big egg hunt to begin. Prizes will be awarded to the child in each age group who

finds the most eggs. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks and baked goods will be on sale beginning at 11am. The big hunt begins promptly at 1pm. Everyone is invited to come. This annual tradition in Orange Beach is a big time!

Visit [www.bearpoint.org](http://www.bearpoint.org) for more info. 5681 Bay La Launch Ave.

The Easter Bunny will be on hand for pictures. Two adult and two children's Easter baskets will be raffled.



## Breakfast With The Bunny



Join the good folks at Christian Life Church for Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, including Krispy Kreme doughnuts, juice, coffee, inflatables and Age Appropriate Easter Egg Hunts.

The event runs Saturday, Apr 23 from 9am to 11am and is located at 25550 Canal Rd, For more info, call LeeAnna at 251-967-4840 or visit [www.christianlifechurch.tv](http://www.christianlifechurch.tv).

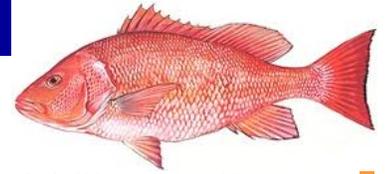
## Let Your Light Shine Egg Hunt

For Preschool - 6th graders, The First Baptist Church of Orange Beach is hosting an Easter "Let Your Let Shine Easter Egg Hunt" on Friday, April 22. Participants bring a flashlight and a bas-

ket for a fun time of hunting eggs at night on the church lawn beginning at 7pm. Please call 251-981-4288 for more info. They are located at 4773 Bay Circle (corner of Canal Rd).



## Snapper Season Closing Date Still Undecided, Opening Date is June 1



By David Rainer, Outdoor Alabama

April 22, 2011 - Orange Beach, AL (OBA) - Gulf anglers only got half the answers they were looking for recently when the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met at Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach.

The council affirmed the opening day of red snapper season as June 1. However, due to the closure of most of the Gulf during last year's oil spill disaster, there may be additional fish available for the recreational quota, although that is not a certainty.

Bob Shipp, chairman of the Gulf Council and head of Marine Sciences at the University of South Alabama, said the governors from the five Gulf States have asked NOAA Fisheries to consider the impact of the oil spill on the recreational red snapper fishery, which fell short of last year's quota by about a million pounds.

"The governors asked that the underage be rolled over into this season," Shipp said. "It's not quite that simple. The stock assessment people have to look at it and rerun the numbers and see what impact that would have, not only for this year, but also on the stocks in the ensuing years. So, if nothing changes, the season will likely end in late July.

"If we do get some additional poundage, the council will have the option for a fall weekend season like we did last year. Or we could roll it over and have a spring weekend season in 2012."

Shipp said during the public testimony period, he felt the charter boat industry would prefer the additional fishing opportunity be rolled over into the spring.

"I think they would prefer to have the additional fishing in the spring rather than the fall," he said. "They really miss having the spring season. With the fall season, there's hunting and football and a lot of other things going on. I feel sure spring is preferred."

Although the total allowable catch for the recreational sector was raised slightly, Shipp said the recovery of the red snapper fishery has caused an increase in the size of the fish being caught, which means the recreational sector will reach its poundage quota with fewer fish. Shipp has pushed for a quota based on the number of fish caught instead of poundage, but NOAA Fisheries said the Magnuson-Stevens Act does not allow for such a change.

Capt. Johnny Greene, who operated the Intimidator out of Orange Beach and also sits on the Gulf Council, said projections from NOAA Fisheries indicate the red snapper season would last from 45-55 days, which makes a different approach to the season more appealing to the charter industry. That different approach is called "Days at Sea," which would give the for-hire sector a certain number of days to catch their red snapper.

"The 'Days at Sea' program seemed to be well-received," Greene said of the public hearing. "It's probably one of the few options we have that wouldn't get into a real bloody allocation battle between private boat fishermen and charter boat guys. The way I understand it, if the recreational sector gets a 50-day season, the for-hire sector could get 45 days that they could use whenever they choose. Since there is a very limited number of charter boats in the grand scheme of things and all the regulator agencies know who the charter boats are, this will give charter boats the flexibility to sell a trip when available instead of being confined to a small season that opens in June and closes in July.

"I think it's a neat idea and I hope it can be expanded because of the flexibility. But we need to be careful because when NOAA Fisheries sets a season they do factor in a number of things like bad weather. The neat thing is if we had a hurricane or bad weather during snapper season, you wouldn't necessarily lose that trip. You would just reschedule for another time. Or a party boat could set up a 'Snapper Saturday,' where they would go snapper fishing every Saturday if there were enough days available. It's forward thinking. I hope it gains some momentum. I really want to look at this."

Capt. Randy Boggs, who runs the Reel Surprise out of Orange Beach, said he's certainly willing to try a new approach to red snapper season.

"A charter boat 'Days at Sea' program and a head boat IFQ (individual fishing quota) would certainly bring relief to the charter industry," Boggs said. "That would give us more days to fish and we could scatter the days out throughout the year and not have to suffer through the hurricane season. That would certainly give us some relief."

However, Boggs said as more people enter the recreational fishery, the pressure on the fishery resource will continue to rise.

"As the numbers in the recreational fishery grow, there's no relief in sight on a longer red snapper season," he said. "The projection I've seen is the season is going to be shorter. They're going to release more fish, but the season will get shorter because the fish are getting larger. And as the recreational sector has grown, there's more people out there, spending more time out there. As they release more fish, they're caught in a shorter number of days."

The Gulf Council, which will determine the closing date of snapper season at its June meeting in Key West, also let stand a motion approved last fall that would close amberjack season June 1 through July 31 to ensure recreational anglers would have other fish to pursue after snapper season is over.

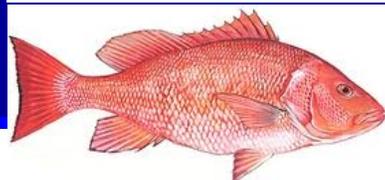
"The intent was to try to have some type of trophy fish open year-round," Greene said. "The highest landing period for amberjack is June and July, so we have to give up something. As a council, we decided to shut down amberjack during the red snapper season to defer amberjack season into the fall so perhaps some people, who enjoyed a great fall season last year, will come back to the Gulf Coast and do some fall fishing again this year."

Greene also said that the interest in Gulf fishing has rebounded somewhat since impact of the oil spill continues to fade.

"The phone is ringing and people are inquiring about the how things are looking," he said. "The biggest problem we have right now is that fuel is up about \$1.40 since the first of the year. We're having a hard time dealing with that."

Boggs said that a few people are asking about the oil and he's tried to assure the callers that he has seen no lingering impact.

"From what we've seen, the fish are healthy," Boggs said. "The slime coats on the fish are good. We haven't seen any fish with lesions. We fish straight south of Perdido Pass. We went out (last Thursday) and caught and released several red snapper while we were fishing for vermilion snapper and the fish had a beautiful slime coat. The fish appear to be perfectly healthy. I was also relieved to see several four- to six-inch red snapper come up in the chum, so there's a new crop of fish coming on. I was proud to see that. I have great hopes for the future."



## Upcoming Activities at the Orange Beach Public Library

### Library Closed for Easter

The Library will be closed in honor of the Easter holiday Friday, April 22, 2011 through Sunday, April 24, 2011. The Library will reopen on Monday, April 25, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

### Facebook for Beginners

If you're new to Facebook or just having a little trouble managing your wall, join our computer class Monday, April 25th from 9:30 until 10:30. Instructor Daria McDonald will give a general overview of Facebook, then help attendees create an account, locate and add friends, and upload pictures and video. This class is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Maria at 981-2923.

### Summer Family Movie Night Series Begins May 5

The Orange Beach Public Library summer family movie series begins Thursday, May 5, at 6pm with the 2010 film, *How to Train Your Dragon*. The film runs 1 hour and 38 minutes and is rated PG for sequences of intense action and some scary images, and brief mild language. Family Movie Night is free and open to the public. Popcorn will be provided, but attendees should bring their own drinks.

For more information on all the library has to offer, call 981-2923 or visit the library's website:

[www.orangebeachlibrary.org](http://www.orangebeachlibrary.org)



The City of Orange Beach recently purchased the Conference Center located at the Wharf. The City made the purchase after two open houses held at the facility where input was solicited from citizens and business owners.

The purchase price was \$1.6 million, with an anticipated additional \$500,000 needed for improvements and furnishings. Mayor and Council are also negotiating with adjacent property owners to lease space for additional parking. The facility will be used for conferences, expos, trade shows, meetings, parties, balls, weddings and other various events.

The Center can hold around 2,000 people theater style and 1,500 banquet style.

The City is currently working on the rental agreement, policies and procedures and fee structure. That is planned to be in place by mid-May.

For more information, please contact Angela Bateman, [abateman@cityoforangebeach.com](mailto:abateman@cityoforangebeach.com) or 251-981-6629

## USCG Auxiliary Hosts Safe Boating Course in May

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel will teach a Safe Boating Class on Saturday, April 14, 2011 from 7:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be at the Orange Beach Community Center on Canal Road. The Course covers Boating Laws, Navigation, Boat Trailering, On-the-Water Rules of the Road, Basic Knot Tying, and Boating for Hunting, Fishing,

and Waterskiing. This U. S. Coast Guard approved course meets Alabama Boat Operator's License requirements and many U. S. Insurance Companies offer a discount on boat insurance for completing the course.

The cost is \$35 per person or \$45 for two members of same family sharing a book. Cost

includes course book and handouts; donuts, coffee and o.j. on arrival and a lunch later in day.

Contact John Griggs at (251) 955-1443 for more information.



## Parks & Recreation Summer Camp Registration Ongoing

Orange Beach Parks & Recreation is proud to host a variety of 2012 Summer Camps.

The many activities include Day Camp, Sail Camp, Art Camp, Tennis Camp, Golf Camp and a

variety of swim related camps at the Aquatics Center.

For more information on these programs, and to find out all that the Orange Beach Parks & Recreation Department has to of-

fer, check out the website, [www.obparksandrec.com](http://www.obparksandrec.com).



## Orange Beach Wine Festival

Sample dozens of varietals from regions around the world, from the spunky Australian Shiraz to the buttery chardonnay of Napa Valley. Hors d'oeuvres provided by Cobalt Dining, The Sunset Corkroom and Cosmos' Restaurant and Bar. A retail wine tent will be available for

purchasing wines by the bottle or the case. Waves of Wine will be displaying classic and luxury cars from the area. Musical entertainment will be provided on the main stage throughout the day with three local bands to accentuate the experience, with a stage overlooking beautiful Perdido Bay. Outcast Charters will be escorting you on

a trip around the bay make sure you enjoy a ride on the hourly wine cruises departing from the marina at Caribe Resort. **Admission: \$45.00 plus tax.** Your ticket buys your drinks, live music, car show entry and boat ride.

Visit [www.orangebeachwinefestival.com](http://www.orangebeachwinefestival.com).

## Amphitheater to Host Stellar Concert Series

For the biggest entertainment on the coast, look no further than The Amphitheater at The Wharf. Located at The Wharf resort in Orange Beach, AL you will find the 9,500 capacity Amphitheater beautifully situated among scenic wetlands.

The Amphitheater provides patrons with a unique, affordable opportunity to see their favorite concert or event.

With concerts ranging from the Beach Boys to Styx to Kenny

Chesney, there is something for everyone this summer at the Amphitheater at the Wharf. Visit [www.amphitheateratthewharf.com](http://www.amphitheateratthewharf.com) for schedule and ticket info.



## CONTACT INFO

City Hall  
251-981-6979

Mayor's Office  
251-981-6810

Adult Activity Center  
251-981-3440

Aquatics Center  
251-974-7946

Art Center  
251-981-2787

Camp Building  
251-974-2336

Community  
Development  
251-981-2610

Finance Department  
251-981-6096

Fire Department  
251-981-6166

Golf Center  
251-981-4653

Justice Center  
251-981-2444

Library  
251-981-2923

Police Department  
251-981-9777

Recreation Center  
251-981-6028

Public Works  
251-974-5681

Tennis Center  
251-974-6387

[www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com)

City of Orange Beach...Life is Better Here...

# Circle of Hope through a Day of Prayer



## Community Wide Prayer Service Brings Hope for Future



The Reverend Michael Bonham, organizer of the event, along with Ministers and representatives of nine other area churches raised the spirits of worshippers during the Circle of Hope Day of Prayer on



Wednesday, April 20. The Community Prayer Service followed an overnight prayer vigil that began at midnight, April 21, the one year anniversary of the oil spill that devastated our area, both environmentally and economically. While people are still struggling along the Gulf Coast, signs of recovery are appearing. As the sun set, the names of the eleven people who lost their lives during the explosion were read and in remembrance, eleven balloons were



released into the air.

Even as the evening fog rolled in, the ministers made the con-

nection between the Easter theme of resurrection and the rebounding of the Gulf Coast.

Pastor Paul Smith of Romar Beach Baptist Church assured the audience that "Our God is bigger than any oil spill!"



# 2011 RECYCLING DATES

Every Other Wednesday

Blue zone begins Jan 5

Grey zone begins Jan 12

## January

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## July

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## August

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## September

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## October

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## November

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## December

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