



# City of Orange Beach

A L A B A M A

Life is better here

## COMMUNITY NEWS

Volume 3, Issue 5

June 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

- June COW Meetings, 5pm 6/14, 6/28
- June Council Meetings, 5pm 6/7, 6/21
- July COW Meetings, 5pm 7/12, 7/26
- July Council Meetings, 5pm 7/5, 7/19



## Fireworks and Festivities to Choose From July 1st—4th!

Lucky for the residents and visitors of Pleasure Island, there are five big fireworks displays and lots of other activities planned for the Independence Day weekend and Holiday.

**The Amphitheater at the Wharf**, in Orange Beach, will host firework extravaganzas on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> this Independence Day holiday. All shows begin at 9:00 p.m. each night and are free to the public. Sponsored by the City of Orange Beach and Red Mountain Entertainment, each show will be synchronized with patriotic music. The public is invited to attend the show at The Wharf but they can also watch the fireworks from across the island.

As a prelude to the three nights of fireworks, The Wharf will present the amazing Laser Spectacular featuring the music of Pink Floyd on Friday July 1<sup>st</sup>. In its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the show has all the excitement of a live concert with multi-screen video projection and state-of-the-art laser technology, all choreographed to one of the greatest bands of all time. General admission tickets for the Laser Spectacular are only \$10.00 in advance and \$15.00 day of show. Kids 12 and under get in free with a ticketed adult!

On Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, The Wharf will step back in time with The Fab Four: The Ulti-

mate Tribute, a group that has risen far above every other Beatles tribute band due to the precise attention to detail. With un-canny note-for-note live renditions of Beatles' songs, The Fab Four will have the whole family rocking along. General admission tickets for The Fab Four are only \$15.00 in advance. Limited reserved seat tickets are also available. Kids 12 and under get in free with a ticketed adult!

Fireworks shows each night on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> are open to the general public at no charge and begin at 9pm.

**The Perdido Beach Resort** will be hosting the Annual Fireworks Gala and Barbecue on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6pm-10pm. Call 251-981-9811 for ticket info or visit

[www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com). Of course, those wishing to only view the fireworks may catch the show free of charge from any public beach access point in Orange Beach.

Several exciting events will be occurring on July 4. The **City of Gulf Shores** will begin its fireworks show at 9pm, the fireworks are to be shot from the end of the Gulf State Park Pier, should be visible from any public beach access point in Gulf Shores and is free of charge. You can tune to Sunny 105.7 on your car radio to hear patriotic tunes while the show is going on. Call 251-968-1172 for more info.

**The Bear Point Civic Association will celebrate Independence Day weekend** with a big cookout, live auction, raffle, bake sale, and children's beauty contest on Saturday, July 2, 2011. Activities will begin at 11 a.m. with admission free to the public. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase catfish, hot dogs and gumbo, buy baked goods, buy raffle tickets for great prizes, and to bid on items in the live auction at 1:30pm. The beauty contest for children to age 16 will begin at noon. There will be a \$5 registration fee for the beauty contest and dress is casual. For more information call 981-3197.



**GULF STATE PARK FIRE UPDATE (as of 6/28/11)**  
**Forestry Officials are working diligently with local crews to control and contain the wildfire in the Gulf State Park. At this time, there has been no damage to persons or property. Less than 10% of park property has been burned at this time. There are no road closures and no evacuations have been ordered. However, the Backcountry Trail has been closed. The beachfront, accommodations and businesses, has seen no impact other than occasional smoke.**  
**Crews will continue controlled back burning to rid the fire of fuel. Crews are also watching for any spot fires that may arise.**  
**For updated information, visit [www.cityoforangebeach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com) or [www.orangebeach.com](http://www.orangebeach.com).**

### Adult Activity Center Stays Busy in Summer



#### 100 Years of Naval Aviation

The Orange Beach Adult Activity Center took a trip to the Naval Air Museum to view the recently opened new addition to the museum as well as the IMAX film "Born to be Wild". Pictured are Denny Denton; Patsy Heliin; Oliveth Archer; Carolyne Crosby; Jean-

nine Newsome; Eileen Strittmatter; Brenda Schmidt; Lou Crisler; Nancy Chaney; Linda Kious; Mike O'Rourke; Lois Brown; Donna Kincaid; Mel Chaney; Jack Rowland; Marty Springer; Michael Springer; Deloris Covey.

#### Hank Aaron Museum

The Orange Beach Adult Activity Center also recently took a trip to The Hank Aaron Museum in Mobile. Pictured are Mike O'Rourke, Ruth Bishop, Lou Crisler, Linda Kious, Margaret Smith and Denny Denton.

#### Blueberry Picking

After a morning of blueberry picking at Hillcrest Farms in Elberta the Orange Beach Seniors stop for a sweet treat at the Krispy Kreme in Foley. Pictured are: Jack Rowland, David Christensen, Helena Gaignard, Margaret Smith, Bernice Parello, Linda Tucker, Carolyne Crosby, Jennifer Purton and Patsy Heliin. For information on the Orange Beach Adult (Senior) Activity Center please call (251) 981-3440.



### Continuing Camps at OBPR, Football Registration

The Orange Beach Parks & Recreation Department is currently conducting Pre-Registration for Youth Football. Pre-Registration began on June 6 and will run through July 15. During this time Athletic Coordinator Will Collins is collecting names and contact information for Orange Beach youth who are interested in playing football this fall. No registration fees are being collected at this time.

Those wishing to pre-register can stop by the Orange Beach Recreation Center or call Will Collins, 251-747-7877.

The Orange Beach Tennis Center is holding kids tennis camps during the remainder of the month and throughout July. The instructor is nationally ranked Melanie Lewis of Pensacola, Fla. Lewis, a high school senior who is being recruited by several colleges, has instructed kids for three years.

Sessions are held Monday through Thursday, with beginner and intermediate levels from 8:30-9:45 a.m. and advanced from 10-11:15 a.m. Sessions will be held this week, June 27-30, July 11-14, July 18-21 and July 25-28. Rainout days will be held on Friday. Cost is \$80 per two-week session, \$50 for a one-week session or \$15 for a single day. Enrollment is first-come, first-served and there is a limit of 12 students per class. Participants must be

Check Out the Orange Beach Parks & Recreation Website to find out what is going on at the Adult Activity Center, Golf Center, Rec Center, Special Events & More!  
[www.obparksandrec.com](http://www.obparksandrec.com)

### Movie Night at OB Public Library

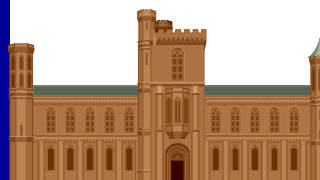
**Movie Featured:**  
**Night at the Museum...**  
**Battle of the Smithsonian**  
**July 7, 5:30—7:00pm**

When the Museum of Natural History is closed for renovations, the museum pieces are moved into federal storage at the famous Smithsonian Institution. It houses the world's largest museum complex with more than 136 million items in its collections. After stealing a security guard's ID badge, Larry

Daley slips into the Archives of the Smithsonian, where Kahmunrah, an evil Pharaoh, comes to life with the reestablishing of The Tablet as a magical force in the museum. It brings the old exhibits and new exhibits to life, and in conflict with each other.

Run Time: 1 hour 45 minutes  
Rating: PG, for mild action and brief language

Bring your own drinks and theater snacks, the library will provide the popcorn. This event is free and open to the public, no registration is required.



ORANGE BEACH  
PUBLIC LIBRARY  
251-981-2923  
26267 Canal Rd

**HOURS**  
Mon, Tues, Fri 9-6  
Weds, Thurs 9-8  
Sat 9-3

Visit [www.orangebeachlibrary.org](http://www.orangebeachlibrary.org) for more info on all the programs your Library has to offer.

## Council Honors Linda Whitlock, leaving Chamber President and Rich Nolte, Superior Police Officer

**Whitlock Honored:** On May 31, 2011, Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Linda Whitlock was honored for Distinguished Service by the Orange Beach Mayor and City Council. She was recognized for “enhancing the City of Orange Beach by going above and beyond all expectations in acting as an Ambassador for the City”.

“Linda Whitlock is a great partner to the City of Orange Beach. Her leadership of the Chamber during last summer’s economic disaster (due to the BP oil spill) was tireless, inspiring and impressive,” stated Mayor Tony Kennon.

Many at the Council also bid Ms. Whitlock a fond farewell as she will be leaving our area at the end of June to return to California.



**Nolte Honored:** At the Orange Beach City Council meeting held June 7, 2011, Sergeant Rich Nolte was recognized by Mayor Tony Kennon, Chief Billy Wilkins and Council members for “selfless and exceptional performance”. Sgt. Nolte was instrumental in the rescue, on May 26, 2011, of four fishermen whose boat had capsized off-shore. The men had been stranded in the Gulf of Mexico for 22 hours. Following his instincts, he kept up the search after initially being unable to locate the boat. He single handedly operated the Marine Police Vessel while in high seas, located the men and brought them ashore where the received much needed medical attention. “Sgt. Nolte deserves recognition for this rescue. It is an honor to work with Rich and he serves the City of Orange Beach and its citizens and visitors very well,” commented Orange Beach Chief of Police Billy Wilkins. Attached pictured left to right: Councilmember Pattisue Simpson, Councilmember Jeff Silvers, Mrs. Nolte, Councilmember Brett Holk, Sgt Nolte, Mayor Tony Kennon, Councilmember Joni Blalock and Councilmember Ed Carroll.



Attached pictured left to right: Councilmember Brett Holk, Councilmember Pattisue Simpson, Councilmember Jeff Silvers, Ms. Whitlock, Mayor Tony Kennon, Councilmember Joni Blalock and Councilmember Ed Carroll.



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 City is currently seeking bids on the purchase and installation of movable break out walls that will allow the facility of be subdivided into five sections.

The Orange Beach Event Center can hold around 2,000 people theater style and 1,200 banquet style.

The City is currently working on the rental agreement, policies and procedures and fee structure.

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

## USCG Auxiliary Hosts Last Safe Boating Course of the Season

The U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel will teach a Safe Boating Class on Saturday, August 13, 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 Trailing, 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.



## 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.cityoforange  
beach.com](http://www.cityoforangebeach.com)

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

## Big Red Snapper Rise to the Occasion

By DAVID RAINER, reprinted from weekly column in *Outdoor Alabama*, [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com)  
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



For a long time, the prevailing theory on snapper fishing was that you had to drop the bait down to the bottom to get a bite. However, it has become apparent that method only rarely produces big fish now that the red snapper population has rebounded dramatically.

"I think it's because the amount of fish has changed," Captain Kelly said of the change in fishing techniques. "When I started out as a teenager, we did just like that. We dropped it to the bottom and came up a few cranks. Now, the population of snapper is so great, we were in 120 feet of water and marking fish 20 feet under the boat. We caught them the other day swimming around the boat; I mean nice fish right under the boat." Kelly said after the charter industry rebuilt its artificial reef system destroyed by Hurricane Ivan, the fishing has been getting better and better. "Since about 2007, it really took off," he said. "I'd say it's doubled every year. I tell my family each year, 'The fish are going to be bigger next year; the fish will be bigger next year.' We started out in 2006 on this trip keeping 18- to 20-inch fish and we've progressed all the way to this year's 15-pounders. We threw back 10-pound snapper all day long."

Kelly said even on his four-hour trips, he can catch a limit of snapper without any problem. "I mean nice ones, seven-eight-pounders," he said. "And that's without getting to anything fancy in my (coordinates) book. We could have limited out on the first spot with 10-pounders. We could have been finished in 20 minutes."

This time last year, Kelly had no idea the future would hold such good fishing, especially during the height of the Deep-water Horizon oil spill. Like a good many of the charter captains, Kelly worked in the Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) program. Unlike some, he said he's been treated fairly by BP.

"We worked for 76 days and BP paid me everything I asked for," he said. "I think they're trying to make it right. There are naysayers, but I don't think they had their paperwork in order. I followed it to a T. I provided 1099s, bank records and the letters of employment they asked for. I know there are some people that do, but I don't have any complaints."

It's the stigma of the oil spill that's still hurting the charter industry, Kelly thinks, especially with the debate over whether the lesions found on snapper caught this spring are related to oil contamination.

"I can tell you we have caught zero fish with lesions," he said. "It's the style in which I fish. With the two studies, Bob Shipp said they were fine. What they didn't tell you in the other study (done by Jim Cowan of LSU) was that this guy went out and caught every single fish on that wreck. We, as recreational fishermen, are not going to see that diseased fish. If you've ever had an aquarium, if you have a sick fish, it goes to the corner of the aquarium and doesn't eat. I don't know how many thousands of pounds of snapper we've caught this year and we've yet to see any lesions, any sores. So the probability of the recreational angler seeing it is pretty slim."

"We've been begging for common-sense management," he said. "That's all we want. A 48-day season with the snapper we have is unreal. On opening day, I had a trip with mostly kids and we limited out with 8- to 10-pound snapper. I never went faster than 8 knots and never was more than 14 miles offshore. Ten years ago, I would have had to run 35 miles and burn I don't know how many hundred of gallons of fuel to do that. It just doesn't make a lot of sense."

"Our six-hour trips are very popular in the summer and it's able to produce a large amount of fish, something we didn't see five years ago. For us to catch 10-pound snapper on a six-hour trip five years ago was rare. Now it is very common. And I expect it to continue to be very commonplace."

Kelly said the charter boat industry is quickly undergoing a transition from corporate entertainment to family adventures. "And the good thing with the snapper population like it is, if somebody insists on catching big fish, we don't have to run 40 or 50 miles to catch what we did on this trip."

Visit [www.fairwaterfishing.com](http://www.fairwaterfishing.com) or call Kelly at 251-747-3126 for information on charter trips on Fairwater II, which can accommodate up to 22 passengers. Capt. Tom Ard runs sister boat, Boll Weevil, for up to six passengers.

You can also visit <http://www.obfishingassn.com/> for general information or more fishing charters to choose from.

## Snapper Season Ends July 19, 12:01am!



**July is Bicycling Month  
In Orange Beach!**

**Informational Display  
at OB Public Library  
During the Month of July**

**Educational Session  
At OB Adult Activity Center  
July 12, 9:30am**

# 2011 RECYCLING DATES

Every Other Wednesday

Blue zone begins Jan 5

Grey zone begins Jan 12

## January

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## February

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## July

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## August

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## September

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## November

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## December

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