Orange Beach Quality of Life Investments

Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach with 10,000-square-foot fine art gallery, Hot Shop and Clay Studio. It has grown into a truly special wedding destination.
Mayor Tony Kennon

On behalf of the Orange Beach City Council and all of our staff, I’d like to introduce the 2019 Annual Report. In this report you’ll find it was a year of firsts for the city, with many quality of life improvements for our residents as well as visitors. The new Orange Beach High School and Middle School started classes, with a new school building to open in 2020; the Fire Department, backed by the City Council, put two new ambulances into service; the new “Expect Excellence” program continued to expand opportunities for our younger students; and a major capital facilities program of construction began with facilities for our residents’ quality of life and city services. "Life is Better Here" ... and now we say Go Makos!

Orange Beach City Council

Annette Mitchell
Place 1
Mayor Pro-tem

Jeff Boyd

Jerry Johnson
Place 3

Jeff Silvers
Place 4

Joni Blalock-Costo
Place 5

The City of Orange Beach is a Class 8 Alabama municipal corporation, incorporated in 1984. Legislative authorities are vested in the City Council, which is comprised of six elected members, including the Mayor. The City Council is responsible, among other things, for passing ordinances and resolutions, making public policy decisions, adopting the budget, appointing boards, commissions and committees, approving contracts, authorizing real estate transactions, awarding bids, selling property, and hiring the City’s department heads and City Attorney. City Council members serve four-year terms.
Dear Orange Beach Citizen,

Many major projects began and accomplishments were made in 2019.

Historic and game changing, we saw Orange Beach Middle and Orange Beach High School welcome students for the first time with the new mascot “The Makos”. Baldwin County Board of Education selected Dr. Robbie Smith to lead the middle school and Dr. Erika McCoy to take the helm at the high school. While students attended classes in temporary facilities near the OB Elementary School and on the Recreation Center campus, the new school building on Canal Road progressed significantly and will be open for the Fall 2020 school year. In Fall 2019, the students accomplished many firsts, including football games at the Orange Beach Sportsplex, theatre competition, a new band and more. The community support for the schools’ inaugural year was outstanding, especially with the formation of the Makos Academics, Arts and Athletics Club (MAAAC) and will only grow from here. Mako Grit was established!

Thanks to the investment and vision of the mayor and City Council, public safety in the city improved considerably in 2019 as the Fire Department launched EMS service with two new ambulances and the department also welcomed two new fire engines. The importance of this quality of life investment cannot be understated. Additionally, the city partnered with USA Health to bring its Emergency Physician residency program to the city with soon-to-be ER doctors riding along with city paramedics. Our public safety to the community continues to be second to none.

A critical infrastructure improvement in 2019 included the start of the long-awaited widening of Canal Road to five lanes between William Silvers Parkway and Alabama 161. This major capacity increase was long overdue. Many quality of life additions started in 2019 or were approved such as the new gymnasium at the Recreation Center, new Coastal Resources building, new Public Works building, new 24/7 Adult Fitness Center, and new Performing Arts Center at OBHS.

In April, a longstanding dream and vision of mine came to reality when all city departments and our entire elected body pulled together and brought the beach to Montgomery for “Orange Beach Day.” The special event held inside the Alabama Statehouse showcased the city to state officials and ensured they know that Orange Beach is the steward of Alabama’s beaches. As host to over 6.4 million visitors each year, Alabama’s beachfront is the first impression that many have of the state. The event at the statehouse included highlights of all city resources that are utilized to keep our city and the state’s beaches and waterways beautiful and clean for all to enjoy. The primary goal was to build relationships with legislators, cabinet staffers and to showcase Orange Beach, Alabama.

For the state, 2019 was also its 200th anniversary of statehood. To mark the occasion, the city created a special Christmas ornaments and also unveiled new historic markers on Bay Circle and at City Hall, with plans for four more in the city. Once complete, there will be a total of 10 historical markers in Orange Beach.

Please know that you can reach out to us anytime on any subject and we can offer help and assistance. The elected body and employees of the City Orange Beach are working hard to make sure our lifestyle matches our motto of "Life Is Better Here.”

Ken Grimes, Jr., City Administrator
2019 IN REVIEW

First-ever OBMS vs. GSMS football game, Oct. 24, 2019 at Orange Beach Sportsplex

USA Health and City of Orange Beach press conference announcing emergency medicine partnership, June 4, 2019

Ceremony for new engines, Sept. 17, 2019

New ambulances unveiled, May 21, 2019

City celebrated Alabama’s 200th birthday with commemorative ornaments

Meet & Greet OBMS and OBHS principals and athletic director, March 22, 2019

Retiring Fire Chief Justin Pierce recognized by City Council, June 4, 2019

OBHS Theatre students perform “The Last Mile,” Nov. 2, 2019

Community Cookout, Nov. 16, 2019

Winter Wonderland at Sportsplex trailhead, Dec. 20, 2019

Orange Beach Mardi Gras parade on Fat Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Annual Christmas tree lighting at The Wharf

Annual Seafood Festival, Feb. 23, 2019

Fire and police awards night, Nov. 4, 2019. Firefighter of the Year Tyler Newkirk, Officer of the Year Michael McBrayer, and OBPD Employee of the Year Karen Keith.

Town Hall meeting at Event Center on October 1, 2019

Congratulations Recruit Class 19-01!

OBFD: Firefighter I/II Recruit School Graduation Ceremony, May 16, 2019

2019 Annual Report | City of Orange Beach | www.orangebeachal.gov
Under the leadership of Finance Director Ford Handley, the Finance Department strives to provide the citizens, employees, and customers of the City of Orange Beach with quality financial management, financial reporting, and cost-effective acquisition of goods and services for the City consistent with local, state, and federal laws and governmental accounting and regulatory requirements.

In 2019, the Finance Department:

- Continued to use MyGovHub to allow for utility consumers to pay for their services online with no convenience fees. Since implementation, there has been an increase in online payments each month.
- Began tracking all EMS payments for the ambulance service provided by the City.
- Worked with all departments and created portals to accept online registrations for activities such as sail camp, recreational ball teams, and the Expect Excellence program.
- Implemented an investment policy for reserve funds to continue to build the reserve in case of a storm or natural disaster.
- Saw the first full year of additional 2 percent lodging tax, resulting in $6,518,303 in increased revenue to be spent on projects like Canal Road widening, the Wolf Bay Bridge design and other school-related projects. (Excluding the new 2 percent lodging tax, major revenues were up $2,270,155 over 2018.)

Additionally,
- The Foley Beach Express Bridge saw 4,825,598 individual vehicles pass through the gates, which was an increase of 349,557 individual vehicles from 2018.

The Finance Department has 11 full-time employees.

### Revenue and Expenses - 2015-2019 - City of Orange Beach

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>General Fund Revenues</th>
<th>Operating Expense</th>
<th>General Fund Debt</th>
<th>Capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>$34,796,627</td>
<td>$23,014,237</td>
<td>$3,658,722</td>
<td>$2,718,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$49,426,401</td>
<td>$27,607,758</td>
<td>$4,871,750</td>
<td>$2,181,293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$38,914,148</td>
<td>$26,464,781</td>
<td>$4,867,250</td>
<td>$7,760,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$47,553,342</td>
<td>$29,147,371</td>
<td>$4,754,520</td>
<td>$7,741,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$51,378,097</td>
<td>$31,310,436</td>
<td>$4,736,224</td>
<td>$15,700,81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Revenues and expenses from enterprise funds are not included, and 2016 revenue includes $10 million from BP oil spill settlement.*
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Under the management of Director Kit Alexander, the responsibility of the City of Orange Beach Department of Community Development is to assist and serve citizens and developers with the land development process in order to ensure quality development for the City of Orange Beach. The Community Development Department is comprised of the following divisions: Planning and Zoning, Building Department, and Code Enforcement.

**Plans Examination & Permitting**
- Number of new single-family residential dwellings—235
- Number of new commercial developments—17
- Number of new multi-family developments—1
- Number of commercial tenant build-outs—19
- Total number of permits—2,947
- Total amount of permit revenue—$1,724,193
- Total number of inspections—3,706

**Planning Commission**
- Total # of Planning Commission cases—64
- Total Planning Commission revenue $35,722

**Board of Adjustment**
- Total # Board of Adjustment cases—5
- Total BOA revenue—$500

**Wireless Telecommunication**
- Total # wireless telecom submittals—5
- Total amount of wireless telecommunication revenue—$2,000

**Code Enforcement**
- Number of logged complaints—536
- Public nuisance notifications—68* (*95% brought into compliance by property owners; 5% by the city)

**BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS - 2010-2019 - CITY OF ORANGE BEACH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Permits</td>
<td>742</td>
<td>745</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>1,129</td>
<td>1,283</td>
<td>1,419</td>
<td>1,599</td>
<td>2,125</td>
<td>2,199</td>
<td>2,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspections</td>
<td>1,066</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>1,756</td>
<td>2,075</td>
<td>2,956</td>
<td>3,091</td>
<td>3,121</td>
<td>3,706</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Graph showing permits and inspections over years.*

[Image: Hammock Dunes, Phoenix Orange Beach II]
Year 2019 was another record year for the number of permits issued. The City of Orange Beach experienced a surge in single-family residential development; both redevelopment in existing neighborhoods and in newly established subdivisions.

Geographic Information Systems
In 2019, GIS provided drone surveillance and aerial photography progression reports for the following:

- Orange Beach Middle and High School Construction
- Public Works Facility
- Sportsplex improvements
- Significant weather events
- Sidewalk projects
- Beach activities
- Emergency response
- Perdido Pass

New school site, March 2019 compared to December 2019

New Public Works site in December 2019
In 2019, under the leadership of Chief Justin Pearce, who retired in June, and then Chief Mike Kimmerling and Deputy Chief Jeff Smith, the Orange Beach Fire Department accomplished the following:

- The Department successfully managed 34 fires: including 15 structure fires, 1 vehicle, 1 vessel.
- Rolled out transport EMS service starting May 28th with 2 new ambulances. Total EMS transports for 2019 was 644.
- In conjunction with the University of South Alabama, OBFD became a clinical rotation site for the Emergency Physician residency program. Two resident physicians spent time at OBFD.
- Fire Department daily minimum staffing is 16 personnel per day. This number encompasses the following minimum station/apparatus staffing:
  - Station 1: Engine 1: 3 personnel; Rescue 1: 2 personnel; Battalion Chief: 1 personnel
  - Station 2: Engine 2: 3 personnel; Rescue 2: 2 personnel
  - Station 4: Engine 4: 2 personnel
  - Station 5: Truck 5: 3 personnel
- The Department was fortunate enough to receive a Port Security Grant for a new Fire Boat thanks to Battalion Chief Bruce Nelson and Nicole Woerner from Coastal Resources. Council approved accepting the grant and funding the 25 percent match. The boat is scheduled to arrive November 2020.
- The Department received its new ISO PPC rating. We improved to a rating of 2/2X. This is a significant positive change for the Department and the community.

ISO 2 Rating

New OBFD fire engines and ambulances on display at Seawall Park at Alabama Point alongside the Perdido Pass.
In 2019, the Fire Department:

- Continued to provide CPR to the public as requested.
- Participated in the school lunch program each Friday at OBES, where firefighters would each lunch with the students.
- Performed free blood pressure checks each Wednesday at the Senior Center.

Training (19,099 hours in 2019)
(This does not reflect individual training outside the department.)
- EMT, Advanced EMT, and/or Paramedic school
- Critical Care Paramedic
- Open Water Diver (Basic SCUBA certification)
- “Captain’s School” for operators of Fireboats

Certification Classes Conducted/Hosted:
- Firefighter I/II
- Attendees included Orange Beach, Gulf Shores, Spanish Fort, Prichard, Chickasaw
- Fire Inspector I
- Hazardous Materials Technician
- Apparatus Operator - Aerial
- Rescue Technician: Rope I
- Rescue Technician: Rope II
- Live Fire Instructor
- Marine Firefighter
- Fire Investigator
- Fire Officer III
- Fire Officer IV

Added non-certification classes and training:
- Emergency Vehicle Operator
- Emergency Care Provider
- Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response
- Presentation on Current Trends in Structural Firefighting, based on NIST/UL studies

Fire Marshal’s Office / Fire Prevention
Programs implemented completed:
- Beachside Addressing - Incorporated the requirement for beachside address signage as part of the International Fire Code adoption. These have been required for all condos facing the Gulf of Mexico that are located on Perdido Beach Boulevard. These were produced and placed in 2019 and have been very effective in allowing emergency callers to identify the actual E-911 address from the beach-side.
- Emergency Pool Phones - Took a stance to remove auto-dialers from emergency pool phones. This autodialing feature has historically been a source of excessive false emergency notifications.

Surf Rescue
(Staffing: 2 full time, 2 part time, 18 seasonal lifeguards)
- Rescued or assisted 198 distressed swimmers from the Gulf of Mexico
- 29,676 preventative actions performed by lifeguards, including actions like rip current education, severe weather warnings, and dangerous marine life notifications
- 159 public assists performed by lifeguards on the beach
- Beaches are covered with 5 lifeguard towers, 2 portable towers, 5 SUVs, 2 beach trucks, and 2 PWC
- Increased minimum training for rookie lifeguards to 60 hours
- Hosted a Junior Lifeguard Program with 12 participants
- 2nd year Lifeguard Garrett White voted Lifeguard of the Year by his peers
2019 was a busy year for the men and women of the Orange Beach Police Department.

- The department responded to 18,406 calls for service in the city and police jurisdiction.
- The department added two more School Resource Officers (SROs) to protect the students at the city’s new Orange Beach Middle and High School.
- The department continues to upgrade its equipment with a new server and CAD system and an all new camera system for the Justice Center. The server and CAD allow for faster response times and a better access to data so we can provide the citizens and guests the best service and protection possible.
- The department was honored to host multiple public meetings to interact with our citizens and guests.

Some of the department highlights from 2019:

- 12 more graduates from the Citizens Police Academy
- 5 community outreach lunches, including National Coffee with a Cop
- Kids Night Out success
- Kids Christmas Party saw the department’s largest turnout yet
Under the guidance of Court Director Renee Gardner, Orange Beach Municipal Court has jurisdiction over misdemeanor traffic cases, misdemeanor criminal cases and violations of municipal ordinances that occur in the city limits or the police jurisdiction of the City of Orange Beach.

In 2019, the Orange Beach Municipal Court collected a total of $1,496,166.64 in fines, court costs, and restitution.

There were:
- 2,112 traffic cases filed.
- 832 non-trafficking cases filed.
- 104 ordinance violation cases filed.
- 174 parking tickets filed.
- 901 warrants issued.
- 549 felony warrants issued.
Under the management of Director Tim Tucker, the City of Orange Beach Public Works Department is comprised of the Street, Landscaping and Refuse Divisions. The Street Division maintains the streets, rights-of-ways, drainage and beaches within the City of Orange Beach. The Landscaping Division maintains all city property grounds including the sportsplex, golf course, recreational parks and welcome areas. The Refuse Division keeps all of the rights-of-ways clear of trash and debris. Refuse also assists property owners in disposing of vegetative yard debris, household debris including appliances and furniture. Residential garbage and recycling is collected by a private contractor. The Public Works Department plays an integral role in emergency management and disaster recovery.

2019 Public Works Accomplishments:

**City Shop**
- Shop completed 1,416 repair orders with total of $350,485 in parts and supplies

**Street**
- Site work at temporary middle/high schools
- Site work at our new facility saving the city over $500,000 in contractor charges
- Resurfaced 5.5 miles city streets
- Expanded outfield for baseball (Field 2)

**Maintenance**
- Ongoing maintenance at city facilities

**Refuse**
- The four knuckle boom trucks and the leaf vacuum covered 58,000 miles of city streets making 16,768 stops at residences
- Collected over 3,100 cubic yards of C&D and over 30,000 cubic yards of vegetation
- The ROW buggies continue to run 7 days a week keeping shoulders clean
- Replaced 380 damaged garbage cans and delivered 256 new cans

**Landscape**
- Continue to have beautifully maintained properties

**Custodial**
- Continued excellent work at facilities, events and beaches

**Sportsplex**
- Maintained and prepped field for 1500+/- teams. Created first football field for Orange Beach Makos.

**Golf Course**
- Maintained for over 18,000 rounds of play

**Special Projects**
- Completed shoreline stabilization and boardwalk project at the Coastal Arts Center on Wolf Bay
Under the management of Director Jeff Hartley, the City of Orange Beach Utilities (Sewer) Department’s wastewater treatment facility operates with 25 lift stations that transfer all domestic and commercial waste to a 10 million gallon-a-day treatment plant. The collection system is comprised of low pressure and gravity lines, mostly in the corporate city limits of Orange Beach. Other areas supplied by the treatment facility are low-pressure lines to Ono Island and the Mifflin Creek region.

In 2019, the City of Orange Beach Utilities Department:

- Refurbished two lift stations.
- Completed new equipment storage and shop buildings at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Installed 254 sewer taps.
- Relocated portions of a major transmission line as part of the ALDOT widening of Canal Road.
- Completed new sewer main from the Winn-Dixie lift station across Gulf State Park.
- Installed new magnesium hydroxide tank and feed system at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Relocated field operations office to the wastewater treatment plant.

![Wastewater Yearly Average](chart)

![New magnesium hydroxide tank installation](image)
Under the management of Director Desiree Blackwell, the Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach campus overlooks scenic Wolf Bay and offers many artistic experiences with a breathtaking view.

The stunning 19,000-square-foot fine art gallery features a spacious two-story building displaying works by Gulf Coast artists. The Coastal Arts Center essentially contains four small businesses in one: a glass-blowing facility; a pottery studio; a fine art gallery with an education center; and wedding corporate event rental space. Each of the divisions experienced growth and overall sales were up significantly, including remarkable fine art sales, which reflect both the quality of the featured artists as well as the market desire for art. From 2013-2019 the arts center has seen an increase in traffic volume, art and educational sales, special events, class offerings and rental bookings.

2019 Coastal Arts Center Highlights:

- Hosted a total of 35 weddings and corporate events, meeting the annual goal.
- Maintained a ranking at 4.9 on Google ratings and 5.0 on Trip Advisor ratings.
- Worked with Baldwin County Youth Advocacy Program to host three spring workshops and a week-long summer camp for at-risk children.
- Re-branded the Listening Room series to the Acoustic Arts music series and offered multiple concerts.
- Created a weekly homeschool art class and expanded the adult art class offerings.
The Coastal Arts Center was selected again by the Orange Beach Welcome Center to have The Hot Shop artists create an additional permanent glass art installation for the Welcome Center lobby. The new work is featured on two different wall areas and includes a sea turtle family and a sand dunes landscape with native birds.

Earned a ranking of #39 in the U.S. by the national festival industry magazine “Sunshine Artist” on their Top 200 nationwide list. The Festival of Art was also voted as the “Best Art Festival” in the state of Alabama by the readers of the luxury magazine “ALABAMA”.

For a second year in a row received a record number of artist applications for the Festival of Art.

Created the first “Locals Art Day” to be hosted annually each August, which will feature only local artists and activities.

Hosted the first joint artist reception for wood artists and enjoyed a very successful turnout of 200+ guests.

Was proud to post a fine art sales increase over 2018 by $35,000, while facility rental revenue increased by $28,000.
The Orange Beach Public Library - led by Director Steven A. Gillis until his retirement on Nov. 1, 2019 and then Director Jonathan Darby - serves the citizens of Orange Beach (census population 6,114) and the surrounding area. It is a member of the Baldwin County Library Cooperative and serves a seasonal population of “snowbirds” who are heavy users of library resources. Website: www.orangebeachlibrary.org.

- There were over 3,500 (increase of around 500) Orange Beach Public Library cards used between October 1, 2018 and the end of September 2019 (state fiscal year). With a full-time resident population of around 6,100, this huge level of activity indicates the value our visitors place on the library with over 53% being locals! That’s about 25% of the local census, which has used the library during the last year. These numbers do include some County residents and people who work in, but do not live within the Orange Beach city limits. We treat our greater area as “locals” in nearby Baldwin County. Over 1,000 new cards were created in our 2019 fiscal year. Some of these are replacements for long-lost cards due to deleted accounts, but most of these are patrons joining the library for the very first time, indicating a distinct pattern of growth.
- The rapid change in technology demands that the library constantly evaluates the infrastructure we provide. We must position ourselves to respond quickly to changes to meet the increasing needs of our community. With our newly built computers, little updates were needed. Instead a focus on staff cross training took place for 2019.
- In 2019, the library added $29,075 in new print materials, $7,896 in electronic materials, $3,516 in audio books, $1,816 in DVDs, and $7,732 on the hotspot program.
- The library continued to conduct a patron satisfaction survey every 3 years. The current survey took place in July-August 2019 with 995 responses. In this survey, the overall satisfaction rating from patrons was again over 97%, with 88% claiming they were very satisfied with our customer service (up 2% over 2016).
- The Orange Beach Public Library was the first library in the state to be recognized for the achievement of library standards by the Public Library Division of the Alabama Library Association at the Blue Ribbon level (1996). We are once again proud to be the recipient of the highest standards award, now called “the Gold Standard,” for our 2014 service year. This was the first time that the Library has applied for and received recognition for these standards since the original award in 1996. Currently, since our statistics are all higher, we are confident we still meet these standards, and have chosen not to reapply for this award.
- LIBRARY BOARD: Karen Clark, Treasurer; Sharon Ramirez, Chair; Sherry Brandler, Secretary; Joni Blalock, Council Liaison; Fred Gateh, Vice-Chair
- Patricia “Patti” Underwood passed away in 2019 and will always be remembered by the library family and our community. She served the library as a staff member for 20 years and then a member of the library board from February 2015 until her death in August 2019.
Originally established as a division in 2004 under Community Development with two staff members, Orange Beach Coastal Resources became a standalone department in 2018. Under the management of Director Phillip West, 11 full-time and 30 part-time and seasonal staff are committed to preserving and maintaining the local beaches, shorelines, trails and wildlife, which so greatly enhance our quality of life and sustain the local tourism-based economy.

ADMINISTRATION

- As a newly formed independent city department in 2018, Coastal Resources worked throughout 2019 to select a location and design a new permanent building for the administrative offices. Construction began in winter of 2019 and is expected to be completed fall of 2020. This new location has a marina and will also house the Waterways and Shoreline Enhancement Program operated for many years.
- Processed two and issued two Coastal Construction permits for construction on the beach that included 10 cottages and one swimming pool totaling over $6,000 in fees. Facilitated the permitting of Phoenix Gulf Towers I and II with USFWS and Brett Robinson Construction; received $19,000 in beach mouse mitigation fees.
- Partnered with U.S. Fish & Wildlife to co-host two Sea Turtle Lighting Workshops, educating over 120 participants.
- Submitted and are awaiting on U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service incidental take permit to facilitate permitting on undeveloped lots on Alabama’s “Perdido Key.” This enables us to permit projects much more quickly on Alabama’s “Perdido Key,” while still protecting these areas.
- Over $1.5 million in RESTORE NRDA Projects grants were awarded in 2019 with an additional $2.94 million anticipated in 2020.
  - Initiated the Lower Perdido Bay/Perdido Pass Navigation Project Hydrodynamic Modeling and Sediment Budget Study.
  - Initiated the Restoration Alternative Analysis: the Nature Conservancy requested that the City of Orange Beach facilitate this $446,822 study.
  - Initiated the Gulf Coast Wildlife Recovery & Interpretive Center: Feasibility, Planning and Preliminary Design Project.
  - Initiated the expansion of the Orange Beach Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center Project.
  - Started the Coastal Alabama Sea Turtle Facility Project.
- The Governor of Alabama awarded the City of Orange Beach a GOMESA Grant in the amount of $1.3 million to mitigate marine debris in Orange Beach waterways for a period of five years; this will include the purchase of a marine debris recovery vessel and a recycling facility as well as funding for personnel to implement the program keeping Alabama’s shorelines in Orange Beach as clean as possible.
- Coastal Resources was awarded the 2019 Governor’s Award in the Coastal Cleanup Category.
- Director Phillip West continued to serve on the following boards: Editorial Board for Alabama Wildlife Magazine; Board of Directions for the Central Gulf Coast Chapter of the American Shore and Shore and Beach Preservation Association; Board of Directors for the Alabama Trails Commission; Board of Directors for the Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism and Sustainability; Steering Committee for the Paddle the Gulf Initiative.
- Over 61,500 personal interactions with the public for 2019 - department wide.
COASTAL RESOURCES

BEACH AND INLAND WATERWAYS
- Beach ambassadors continued education and outreach to beach visitors on the Leave Only Footprints program via 50,897 public interactions.
- Relocated 3,356 tents, filled 1,805 unsafe holes, and made 2,092 stops for glass on the beach.
- Operation Clean Sweep (nighttime beach cleaning) crew removed 6,218 chairs, 1,960 umbrellas, 527 tents, 2,604 boogie boards, and 1,672 floats that were abandoned on our beaches. The City was able to surplus nearly 5,000 boogie boards (2018 and 2019) to be recycled for a gain of $1,500 and saving 200 cubic yards of landfill space.
- Totals in 2019 - 33,165 lbs. of trash, 66,720 lbs. of metal, and 23,007 lbs. of recyclables were removed by staff from our beaches.
- Waterways and Shoreline Enhancement Program recovered and removed approximately 83,718 lbs of trash and marine debris from the local waterways.
- Hosted seven volunteer cleanup efforts in various beachfront locations and on Robinson, Bird and Walker Islands.

WILDLIFE
- The Orange Beach Wildlife Center had over 800 animals (440 birds, 350 mammals, 40 reptiles) processed through the state and federally-permitted rehabilitation center. The center received over 1,000 calls in 2019.
- The 2019 Gulf Coast Wildlife Symposium consisted of three full days of training courses which drew attendees from throughout the region and beyond from as far as Colorado, Wisconsin and Virginia. Speakers included the nationally-renowned Mr. Ed Clarke of Wildlife Center of Virginia.
- The successful internship program continued in 2019 and led to young professionals taking the following positions: two interns employed at professional rehabilitation centers, one employed as a veterinary technician at a veterinary hospital, one returning to school to pursue a veterinary technician degree, and one intern was placed and hired with Alabama Audubon.
- **Public Outreach**
  ◊ Wildlife Wednesdays on the trail for 9 weeks - averaging 10-15 guests per session (total outreach 112)
  ◊ Sea, Sand and Stars (Summer) - approximately 8 shows for the public and averaging 50-60 guest (total outreach 440)
  ◊ Sea, Sand and Stars (Fall) - presented curriculum based programs for every class at OBES - more than 500 school children in 24 classes
  ◊ Presented animal programs during Trail field trips for OBES kindergarten classes as well as GSES 1st Grade classes.
  ◊ Also presented animal programs during Trail field trips with the Senior Center and other community groups.
  ◊ Numerous education ambassador animals were showcased: Izzy the otter, JB the Great Horned Owl, Luna Belle the striped skunk, Walter the Scarlet Macaw, Perdido the gator, Crush the box turtle, Babs the goat, as well as snakes.
WILDLIFE

- The Alabama Coastal Bird Stewardship Program started in 2018 and is thriving due to our partnership with Alabama Audubon, which provided funding for a conservation position to promote public outreach, education, and communal support as well as ordinance enforcement.
  - 10 total nesting sites in Orange Beach including rooftop colonies.
  - As many as 115 breeding pairs at one nesting site.
  - Successful hatchings at all sites.

WIND AND WATER LEARNING CENTER

- Rebuilt the pier with synthetic decking & added covered boathouse for the program’s safety vessel.
- Hosted 10 weeks of successful Sail Camps for over 200 local youth.
- Selected Brady Keesee of the Auburn University Sailing Team as new Head Sail Camp Instructor.
- Initiated discussions with Orange Beach Middle/High School to form a Sailing Team with the goal of facilitating Sail Camp graduates and Sailing Team members to receive collegiate scholarships for sailing skill and expertise.

BACKCOUNTRY TRAIL

- Featured by REI on Instagram with over 84,000 likes and shares.
- Selected on Rootsrated.com as #1 on their "7 Glorious Camping Spots in Alabama."
- Completed Hidden Lake Trail and Park near the Sportsplex.
- Added a beautiful heavy timber frame multi-use pavilion at Hidden Lake along with a variety of swings and benches around the lake.
- Added an overflow parking lot at our heavily utilized Cotton Bayou Trailhead.
  - Added a Bobcat Skid Steer and multiple attachments for dedicated trail maintenance saving staff hours and improving effectiveness on numerous tasks.
  - Started planning and construction of the unfinished bathroom facility at Rosemary Dune Trailhead.
  - Hosted Winter Wonderland at the Sportsplex Trailhead with over 1,500 in attendance as a community family friendly event.
  - Engaged the public for 2,320 interactions which include answering inquires, helping lost trail users, equipment assistance, medical assistance, providing maps and all other questions along the trail.
PARKS & RECREATION

Under the direction of Ken Grimes, the City of Orange Beach’s Parks and Recreation facilities are made up of the Sportsplex, Recreation Center, Aquatic Center, Tennis Center, Adult/Senior Activity Center, Golf Center, Indian & Sea Museum, Camp Sunshine, Expect Excellence and concessions/vending.

SPORTSPLEX & ATHLETICS

The 45-acre Orange Beach Sportsplex includes five baseball fields, 4 softball fields, 3 soccer fields, two sand volleyball courts and two trailheads.

In 2019:

- The south soccer field was converted to a football field to serve as the home field for OBMS/OBHS football. Improvements included additional seating, a press box, a sound system, and Makos signage. This field will serve as the football field through the 2020 football season.
- Small additions were made to the regulation size baseball and softball fields to serve as the home field for OBMS/OBHS baseball and softball. Custom Makos windscreens, signage, backstop padding and on-deck circles were also added to the fields.

Orange Beach Sportsplex

ORANGE BEACH ATHLETICS - YOUTH SPORTS PARTICIPANTS - 2016-2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sand Volleyball</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Football</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 Annual Report | City of Orange Beach | www.orangebeachal.gov
ADULT/SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
Amenities include arts and crafts, game room, multi-purpose room, and a screened porch overlooking Wolf Bay. Programs are offered throughout the year by professional staff.

2019 participants, total: 10,684 individuals
Fitness Classes: 2,316
Cards/Games: 6,131
Trips/Lectures, Arts & Crafts: 1,666
Blood Pressure Checks: 331
AARP Tax Service: 240
Facility Rentals – 52

AQUATICS CENTER
The Orange Beach Aquatics Center is dedicated to serving the community needs with a facility that includes a 25-yard outdoor heated pool, an 11 1/2 foot diving well with a 1 meter board, tube slide, and a 25 x 25 foot wading/children’s pool with spray features and a slide. Programs are designed for all.

2019 FACILITY USAGE
- Member: 6,471
- Daily Passes: 2,687
- Total: 9,158 (*15 punch cards)

2019 PROGRAMS
- Swimming lessons: 150 total, made up of 56 private, 38 group, 27 Camp Sunshine, 6 Kid’s Plus, 23 Infant Swimming Resource
- Dive-In Theater: 12
- SCUBA: 84 total, made up of 62 with Down Under Dive Shop, 22 independent instructors
- Summer Camps: 256 total enrollment, made up of 105 from Camp Sunshine, 85 from Expect Excellence, 28 from Kid’s Plus, 21 from South Baldwin Christian Academy, 12 from Orange Beach Surf Rescue’s Jr. Lifeguard Program, 5 from OBHS Swim Team
- Classes: Water Aerobics: 2,298 participants, Lifeguard: 6; CPR & First Aid: 13
- Rentals: 10 birthday parties and 212 locker rentals.

2019 FACILITY REPAIRS
- Repairs to Kiddie Pool tile
- Repaired laterals in sand filters

CAMP SUNSHINE
- 2019 After School Program - 96 children
- Summer Camp - 120 children
- Home School - 30 children (average)

GOLF CENTER—STATS
- 10,860 rounds of golf played
- Paid rounds - 7,594
- Member rounds - 3,266
RECREATION CENTER

The City of Orange Beach Recreation Center has two gymnasiums, a fitness room, multipurpose rooms, an academic classroom and an art room, along with four portable classrooms.

- 2019 was a year of continued growth trends in all aspects of the Orange Beach Recreation Center, including existing programs, new program development, general attendance and membership.
- The Orange Beach Recreation Center underwent a major addition in 2019 with the building of a second gymnasium.
- Programs continued to increase throughout the year of 2019 with 47 class offerings during the Expect Excellence After School Program. Some of these included Culinary Arts, Paint Art Live, Science & Discovery, Ballet, Jazz Dance, and Book Club & Creative Writing. There were 498 students enrolled in the program.
- 2019 saw the creation of Orange Beach Community Theatre, a performance extension of Expect Excellence theatre classes. The inaugural season featured three performances: Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka, American Fairy Tales, and The Violinist.
- Special events abounded with our fifth annual Culinary Camp at the Community Center and our third annual Gingerbread Jam at the Event Center.
- Increase in overall usage with 114,644 total recorded entrances in 2019.
- Increase of memberships with a total of 2,823 members in 2019.

RENOVATIONS

- Construction of a second gymnasium commenced, and multi-purpose room 2 became the Orange Beach Mako athletes’ weight room.
EXPECT EXCELLENCE

In 2018, Mayor Tony Kenion and the City Council began “Expect Excellence,” a new program geared at after-school training in academics, arts and athletics. The program is going strong and continues to grow. Under the continued direction of Jonathan Langston, Expect Excellence serves students in third grade and up at no cost. This early exposure to students will build on future opportunities for students.

Programs that are offered throughout the week include:

- Academics: homework lab, remedial and advanced studies, strategy games, ACT preparation, morning and evening athlete tutoring, and robotics & coding.
- Arts and Enrichment: culinary arts, visual arts, advanced visual arts, graphic design, civics & citizenship, creative writing, communication skills, behavior & etiquette, ballet, hip hop, and jazz dance.
- Theatre arts include: introductory and intermediate theater, acting, playwriting, costume & makeup design, improvisation and set & tech design
- Music arts include: voice, guitar, piano, drums, percussion, introduction to music, choir, and rock ensemble.
- Athletics: speed, strength and agility, baseball/softball, soccer, volleyball, basketball, flag football, tennis, martial arts, fitness games, and track & field.

SCHOOL COLLABORATION

- The Orange Beach Middle and High School facility construction began in 2019. Students attended classes in portables north of the Tennis Center, while the Recreation Center hosted an athletic training room, health science classes, art classes, physical education classes, volleyball practices and games, basketball practices and games, and assemblies.

ORANGE BEACH INDIAN & SEA MUSEUM

The museum on John Snook Drive houses local artifacts and memorabilia from the city’s early days. Families of early fisherman donated supplies and collectibles that makes all visitors mindful of early challenges & achievements.

2019 visitors: 2,126 people from all over the U.S. as well as Wales, Poland, Ghana, Italy, Venezuela, Columbia, Vietnam, Netherlands, among others.
RENTAL FACILITIES: EVENT CENTER / COMMUNITY CENTER

Under the guidance of Angela Bateman, the Orange Beach Event Center features 18,000 square feet of rentable space and can be configured in a variety of ways to serve various sized meetings, exhibits and receptions. The Event Center can accommodate from 25 to 2500 people. The Community Center is a 5,000-square-foot facility that can accommodate approximately 300 people and is available for meetings, events and parties.

In 2019:
- **Event Center**: hosted 109 events, was in use 252 days with 46,625 attendees. Varying functions; 44 meeting/conference/expo; 26 social balls/weddings; 4 miscellaneous/entertainment; 16 sporting events; 6 religious, 6 GS/OB school activities, 7 City of Orange Beach functions.
- Upgraded microphone package
- Over 50 percent of event attendees were from out of town.
- **Community Center**: hosted 155 events, was in use 256 days with a variety of community functions, mostly meetings and social events, including civic and school events.
- **Special Events**: Produced 5 large community events: Orange Beach Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Parade, Orange Beach Seafood Festival, Orange Beach Police Kids Night Out, Baldwin Pops on the Lawn, Orange Beach Tree Lighting. Attendance ranged from 400 (Kids Night Out, Baldwin Pops, tree lighting) to 12,000 (Seafood Fest) to 40,000 estimated (Mardi Gras).
- Installed Historical Marker at Bay Circle.
- Moved Coastal Alabama Chamber Boat parade from the second Saturday of December to the second Friday to accommodate more Christmas events.
- Permitted over 30 Special Events that occurred in city.

The major accomplishments for the Division is providing excellent customer service while operating with a staff of 4 full-time, 2 part-time. Staff is tasked with repairing rather than replacing. Coordination and communication is the key as booking dates are in high demand. Working to maximize bookings while maintaining a working calendar for all.
LOGISTICS

The Logistics Division is under the Administration Department and provides support, assistance and technical services to citywide events produced by all departments. Under the direction of Chris Litton, Logistics provides audio/visual, tents, barricades, labor, video production and general repairs citywide. The Logistics Division began as two men and a truck and has grown into a unique team.

In 2019, Logistics assisted with set up and ran all audio/video for the following events:

- Coastal Arts Center “Acoustic Arts” performances
- Orange Beach High School / Middle School pep rallies and football games
- Coordinated a U.S. Navy fly-by for the inaugural OBMS football game between Gulf Shores and Orange Beach
- Historical Marker dedications
- Gulf Shores High School graduation at The Wharf Amphitheater
- Seafood Festival and Car Show
- Festival of Art
- Mardi Gras parades
- Cruising the Coast Alabama Car Show
- Town Hall meeting
- Christmas Tree Lighting at The Wharf
- Orange Beach Fire Department 25th anniversary celebration
- Relay For Life Full Moon Paddles
- Orange Beach Police Department “Kids Night Out” outreach event

Projects Logistics either completed as a whole or assisted with:

- Coordinating with Operation Reconnect to facilitate military families reuniting right after deployment to stay in donated beach accommodations.
- Maintaining the Turtle Toy boxes for the Leave Only Footprints Program on the public access beaches in the City.
- USA Health / Orange Beach Fire Rescue partnership press conference
- National Day of Prayer
- Coordinates and hosts the city’s Youth Shooting Sports Events and had more than 150 children attend in 2019.

- Created video content for a multitude of city events and promotions.
- Managed inventory lists of all city vehicles and heavy equipment.
- Coordinated with Beach Express to provide all city vehicles transponders for toll bridge access.
- Built sets for school theater and Expect Excellence Performing Arts / Community Theatre productions.
  ◦ Provided audio/video for the “Willy Wonka” and “American Fairy Tales productions
- Orange Beach Day … Took Orange Beach to Montgomery.
- Managed all city flags: lowered and replaced when necessary
- Improved audio/video in Council Chambers to accommodate special requirements for council and other meetings.
DIRECTORY

- **ADMINISTRATION | CITY HALL | MAYOR’S OFFICE**
  4099 ORANGE BEACH BLVD. (MAIL: P.O. BOX 458)
  251-981–6979 | INFO LINE at 251-980-INFO (4636)

- **ART CENTER | 26389 Canal Road**
  251-981-ARTS (2787)

- **AQUATIC CENTER | 4853 Wilson Blvd.**
  251-974-SWIM (7946)

- **CAMP SUNSHINE (After School Program) | 4951 Walker Lane**
  251-974-2336

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | 4101 Orange Beach Blvd.**
  251-981–2610

- **COASTAL RESOURCES | 4101 Orange Beach Blvd.**
  251-981-1063

- **COMMUNITY CENTER | 27235 Canal Road**

- **COURT / JUSTICE CENTER | 4480 Orange Beach Blvd.**
  251-981–2444

- **DOG PARK | 27920 Canal Road**

- **EVENT CENTER | 4671 Wharf Parkway**
  251-981-6629

- **FINANCE DEPT. | 4151 Orange Beach Blvd. | P.O. Box 1159**
  251-981–6096

- **FIRE DEPARTMENT | 25853 John Snook Drive**
  251-981–6166
  Surf Rescue Daily Beach Report, 251-981–SURF (7873)
  Fire Station No. 1 | 25855 John Snook Drive | 251-981–2636
  Fire Station No. 2 | 27280 Canal Road | 251-981–2635
  Fire Station No. 4 | Ozo Island | 251-980–5147
  Fire Station No. 5 | 4550 Main Street at The Wharf

- **GOLF CENTER | 24401 Canal Road**
  251-981–4653

- **LIBRARY | 26267 Canal Road**
  251-981–2923

- **MARINE POLICE**
  251-981–8540

- **MUSEUM | 25850 John Snook Drive**
  251-981–8545

- **POLICE DEPARTMENT | 4480 Orange Beach Blvd.**
  251-981–9777

- **RECREATION CENTER | 4849 Wilson Blvd.**
  251-981–6028

- **SENIOR CENTER | 26251 Canal Road**
  251-981–3440

- **SEWER PLANT | 23908 Canal Road**
  251-974–5216

- **SPORTSPLEX | 4389 William Silvers Pkwy.**
  251-981–6626

- **STREET DEPT. / PUBLIC WORKS | 4400 William Silvers Pkwy.**
  251-923–5858

- **TENNIS COURTS | 4851 Wilson Blvd.**

- **WILDLIFE CENTER**
  Wildlife calls dispatched by Orange Beach Police, 251-981–9777

- **WIND & WATER LEARNING CENTER | 26233 Canal Road**
  251-974–7245

**MISCELLANEOUS NUMBERS**
Baldwin EMC | 251-968–7585
Beach Express | 251-968–3415
Chamber of Commerce | 251-968–6904
Clark Mobile Gas | 251-974–5432
Tourism Bureau | 251-968–7511 or 1-800-745–7263
Gulf State Park | 251-948–7275
Orange Beach Water Authority | 251-981–4233
Post Office | 251-981–5510
Welcome Center | 251-974–1510 or 1-800-982–8562

2019 Annual Report | City of Orange Beach | www.orangebeachal.gov