City of Orange Beach Update
WINTER 2021

City Administrator
Ken Grimes, Jr.
“Welcome to Orange Beach, Alabama”

MAYOR TONY KENNON
City Council: Jerry Johnson, Joni Blalock, Annette Mitchell, Jeff Boyd, Jeff Silvers
2020 CHALLENGES

• COVID-19 - Beaches closed March 19 to April 30, 2020 due to COVID-19 precautions. Businesses reduced to take-out only for most of spring. Reopened with limited capacity (6-foot distancing) and mask mandate.

• Hurricane Sally makes landfall on September 16, 2020, exactly 16 years to the day of Hurricane Ivan’s landfall in 2004.
Empty beaches on March 25, 2020 during what usually would be a busy Spring Break...
CITY RECOVERED IN RECORD TIME

REBUILDING PARADISE
POPULAR AREAS DAMAGED BY SALLY
OB WATERFRONT PARK
PIER DAMAGED BY SALLY
SEAWALL PARK
AT ALABAMA POINT
Resilient Community and Progress Continues

NEW ORANGE BEACH MIDDLE / HIGH SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPENED IN AUGUST
Decades of effort and hard work finally came to fruition on Monday, August 10, 2020 when Baldwin County Board of Education officials joined Orange Beach leaders, as well as state and county officials, to celebrate the opening of the new Orange Beach High and Middle School. It is a “game changer” for the city.

The school is two stories, covering 130,000 square feet on Canal Road. The school mascot is the Mako shark. Go Makos!
• The project is a partnership between the Orange Beach City Council and the Baldwin County Board of Education. While the school will greatly benefit from the center, it will be a facility for the entire community.

• The 35,000-square-foot center will include a 710-seat main theatre, a black box theatre that can seat around 175 for intimate performances, and dance classroom. The total cost of the Performing Arts Center is $10.9 million with the Board of Education covering $1.41 million for the band and choir room portion of the building and the city portion under $10 million.

• The building contractor is Sharpe Construction and designed by McKee & Associates, expected completion in May 2021.
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

December 2020

Main stage seating area

On main stage

Black box theatre
ORANGE BEACH HIGH / MIDDLE SCHOOL
NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

With the city's donation of the 40-acre property for the construction of the new Orange Beach High / Middle School and Performing Arts Center on Canal Road, the Public Works Department will be moving from William Silvers Parkway to a site off the Foley Beach Express, behind Columbia Southern University and Baldwin EMC.
NEW PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY

• Construction is expected to be complete in early 2021. Sun Coast Building won the contract to build the structure with a low-bid of $1.18 million. The rest of the work such as electric and plumbing, were bid and awarded separately. Public Works crews are handling the interior build out. The project budget is $3 million.
• Designers included Sawgrass Engineering, Stewart Engineering & Construction and Industrial-Commercial Fire Protection.
• This new public works facility brings all aspects of the department under one roof for the first time since the city was incorporated.
• With the city’s donation of the 40 acres for the new school, the city’s utilities (sewer) department also had to move out of its office building and warehouse.

• The new buildings are at the sewer plant site, which is located southwest of the Sportsplex, will be open by early 2021.

• McCollough Architecture designed the office building and the contractor is M. W. Rogers Construction Co., which won the contract with a low bid of $621,000.
For Mako school athletics, the former utilities office building, which is now part of the school campus, will be renovated to serve as a temporary field house.

The renovation will include the addition of a workout room and locker rooms. The estimated city-funded construction cost is $450,000.

The building is located on the southeast corner of the campus, near the back entrance to the school.
NEW COASTAL RESOURCES OFFICE
The new headquarters for Coastal Resources is nearing completion on Cotton Bayou. Coastal Resources keeps our beaches and waterways clean, enforces Leave Only Footprints, operates the Wildlife Center and handles maintenance of the portion of the Backcountry Trail in Orange Beach.

The building will be finished by early 2021. It is located near Sportsman Marina, south of the dog park on Canal Road East.
NEW COASTAL RESOURCES BUILDING

- Marina improvements next to the new building will house Coastal Resources vessels and fire response vessels, and eventually research vessels from Auburn University.
- McCollough Architecture designed the building and the contractor is Phil Harris Construction, which won the contract with a low bid of $1.01 million.
NEW 24/7 ADULT FITNESS CENTER
NEW 24/7 ADULT FITNESS CENTER

- On the Recreation Center campus, a new 24/7 Adult Fitness Center is under construction.
- The new 17,400-square-foot adult fitness center will include a main open-space weight/cardio room (10,700 square feet of space), two group fitness rooms with a breakout wall (3,400 square feet total), and large locker rooms with saunas, showers and restrooms.
- Davis Architects and McCollough Architecture designed the building.
NEW 24/7 ADULT FITNESS CENTER

• The contractor is Stuart Construction, which won the contract with a low bid of $2.96 million.
• The project is expected to be complete in early March 2021 and is on schedule.
NEW 24/7 ADULT FITNESS CENTER
NEW SMALL GYM COMPLETION
OB TENNIS CENTER RENOVATIONS

- The Orange Beach Tennis Center reopened in November after a complete renovation of all eight hard courts. Drainage was also improved on the Rec Center campus as part of the project.
- Ammons & Blackmon handled the drainage work and American Tennis renovated the courts. The combined low-bid contract was $1.48 million.
SPORTSPLEX UPGRADES

- The expansion of one baseball field and one softball field at the Orange Beach Sportsplex (Field 2 and Field 3) for Orange Beach High School is underway. Completion in early 2021.
- The baseball field will be upgraded to seat nearly 500 people and the softball field will be upgraded to seat over 400, among other improvements in the creation of these stadiums.
- Davis Architects and McCollough Architecture designed the project and E-J Builders won the low-bid contract, which is now at $2.41 million.
SPORTSPLEX UPGRADES

- Also on the Sportsplex campus the city is working to convert the current football field for the Makos into a championship soccer field to be used for the annual SEC and NAIA Women’s Soccer Championships and also for Orange Beach Middle and High School. The current championship field will be converted into the Orange Beach Makos football stadium. The estimated cost of the field conversion is around $2 million. The new field will include seating for 1,000, locker rooms and other amenities.
In the next few years, the city will be upgrading its Fire Station No. 1 campus, building a new Fire Station No. 5 near The Wharf, and the justice center campus will be expanded. These improvements will be made possible through a $50 million bond the city is issuing.

These public safety improvements come on the heels of the city’s purchase of two city ambulances that were put into service in May 2019. A third ambulance will be added in late 2021. The improvement to the city’s emergency response has been outstanding.
JUSTICE CENTER / POLICE EXPANSION
Pardon Our Progress – Road Construction

CANAL ROAD WIDENING
The Alabama Department of Transportation’s Canal Road widening project continues between William Silvers Parkway and State Highway 161. Five lanes are open but it is an unfinished surface.

After a delay in getting utilities moved this summer, work resumed in earnest in September to widen the remaining south side of the roadway but then Hurricane Sally hit. During the early winter months, motorists should expect single lane closures on the eastbound side. Remember to slow down and help keep the workers safe. Orange Beach police will continue to have a presence to enforce the 40mph work zone.
Pardon Our Progress – Road Construction

CANAL ROAD WIDENING

• When complete, this portion of roadway, which carried a daily average of over 18,000 vehicles in 2018, will be a five-lane highway including a designated center turn lane and six-foot shoulders.

• After delays due to Hurricane Sally, the project is anticipated to be complete in summer 2021.
CANAL ROAD NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENTS
Other Improvements

• Work was recently completed that improved access to The Commons shopping center, where Cactus Cantina, McDonald’s and many other businesses are located. A deceleration lane was added off Canal Road and the entrance was widened to three lanes to allow for better vehicle movement. Access improvements along 161 are also being studied.

• Additionally, a right turn lane is being added on Lauder Lane to improve traffic flow onto Canal Road.
Canal Road, east of Hwy. 161, will undergo widening from 161 to Wilson Boulevard. A traffic circle will also be added just east of the Adult/Senior Activity Center and public library complex.

Additionally, a 10-foot multimodal path will replace the current sidewalks along East Canal Road as part of the project.

The project’s cost will be partially covered by post-BP oil spill RESTORE Act State Implementation Plan funding.
Pardon Our Progress – Road Construction

EAST CANAL ROAD

• The project is expected to start in early 2021, with construction expected to take a year.
A prime 8.7-acre beachfront lot once slated for two condo towers at heights of 37 and 36 stories and previously approved 276 units, now may be the future site of a beach for Orange Beach residents and the public to enjoy for generations to come as well as a family-friendly, stand-alone restaurant directly on the Gulf.
NEW BEACH DEVELOPMENT / ACCESS
WATERFRONT PARK: KIDS PARK & PIER
NEW SEA TURTLE TRIAGE FACILITY
NEW WILDLIFE CENTER & ANIMAL REHAB
NEW RATTLESNAKE RIDGE TRAILHEAD
Expect Excellence
Academics, Arts, Athletics

Over 300 kids in after-school program.
Continuing Excellence

- Enrichment
- Computer Classes
- Arts
- Culinary
- Wellness Nutrition
- Written Arts

- Music
- Theatre
- Visual Arts
- Athletics
- Dance
- Poetry
Leave Only Footprints

BEFORE AND AFTER
“DISNEY EFFECT”
10th Safest City in Alabama

Based on FBI statistics reported by The Home Security Advisor
Community Newsletter

City of Orange Beach Community Newsletter

The City of Orange Beach publishes the Community Newsletter each week to keep residents - and anyone interested - informed. Sign up for the newsletter here.

Archive:

Volume 2

Volume 2, Issue 16, April 19-25, 2019
Volume 2, Issue 15, April 12-18, 2019
Volume 2, Issue 14, April 5-11, 2019

On Wednesday, August 15th, the City of Orange Beach joined cities and towns across Alabama and the U.S., on social media, snapping photos for #CityHallSelfie Day. The annual initiative is an opportunity to show pride in public service.

City departments across Orange Beach stepped up to the plate and it was a good reminder of how far the city’s reaches extend, from the end of a fire truck ladder to Lifeguard patrols on the Gulf… to City Hall and the Excel Excellence program at the Rec Center… and everything in between. To see photos, visit the city’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/orangebeach.

Pardon Our Progress

Paving our progress and be aware that work associated with the widening of Canal Road, between William Silvers Parkway and Highway 161, is underway. Lane closures will begin soon due to the relocation of underground utilities, which will be ongoing through Spring of 2019.

Stay informed: Orange Beach Newsletter
Sign up at www.orangebeachal.gov/community-newsletter
“Life is Better Here”
City Hall: 251-981-6979
www.orangebeachal.gov