



# 2025 State of the City

Mayor Tony Kennon • May 2, 2025

# City Council

**Mayor Tony Kennon**

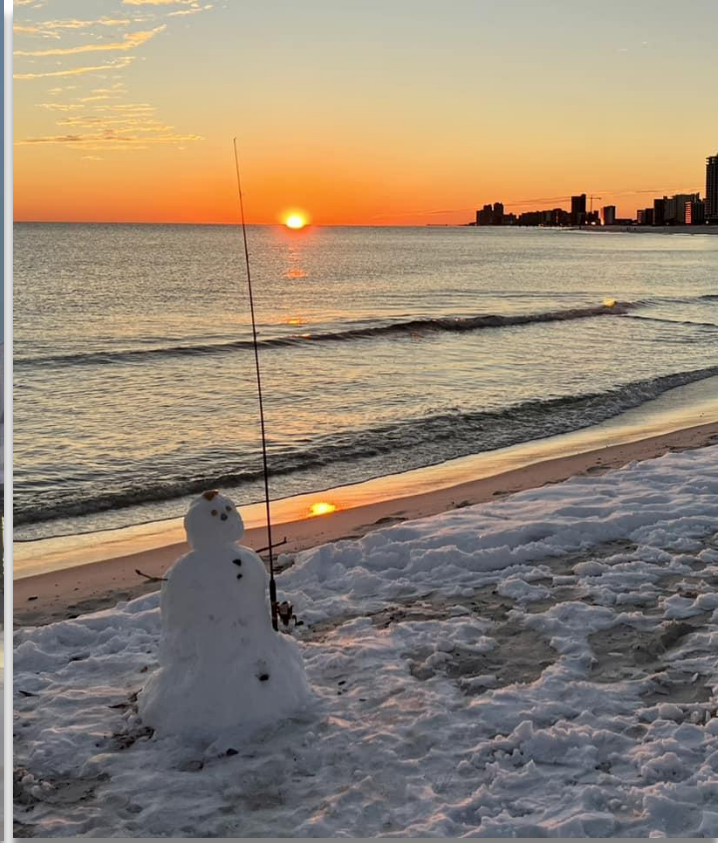
**City Council:**  
**Jeff Boyd (Pro Tem)**  
**Annette Mitchell**  
**Jeff Silvers**  
**Joni Blalock**  
**Jerry Johnson**



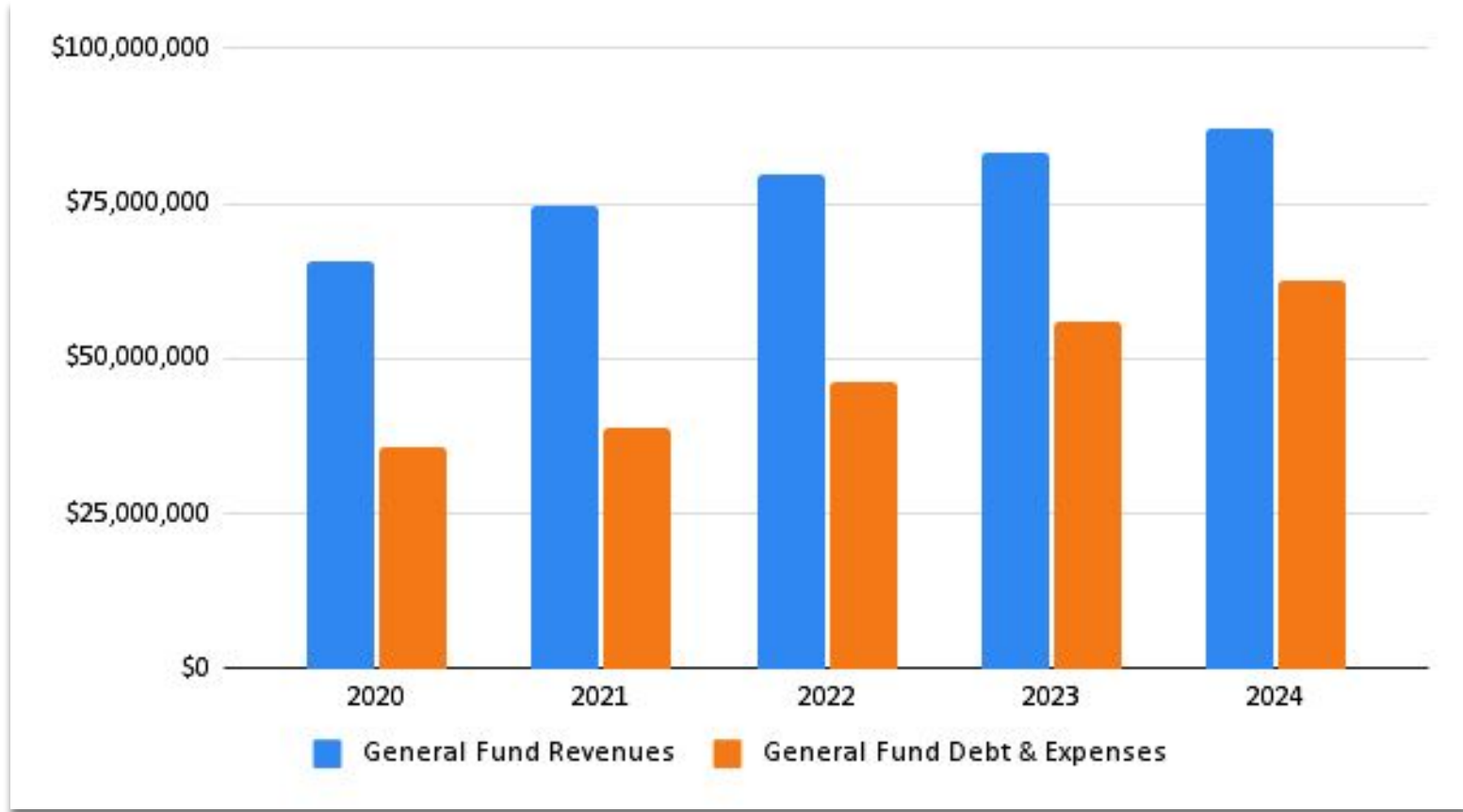
# Survived Snowmageddon 2025



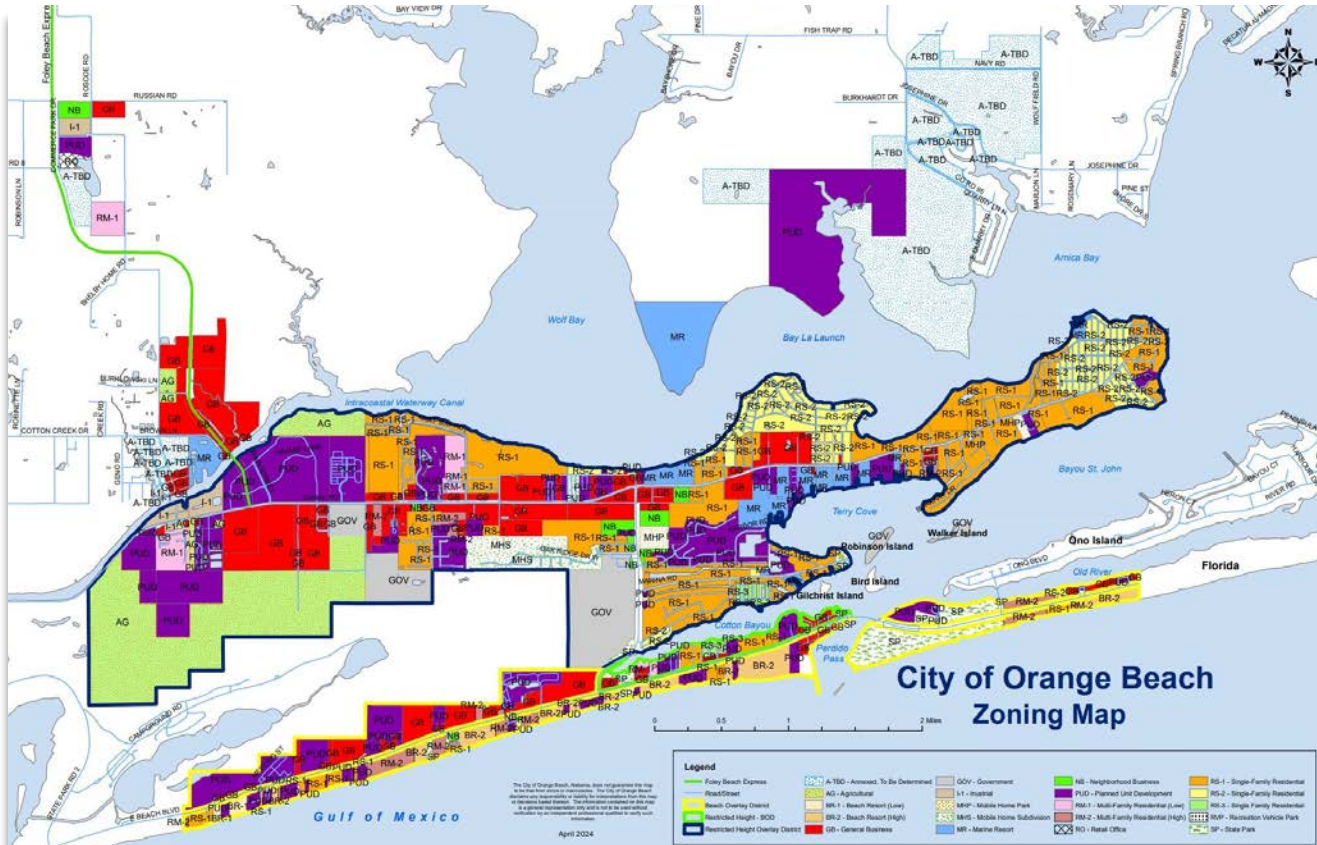
9 inches of snow,  
January 21, 2025  
Orange Beach, AL



# Revenue & Expenses 2020-2024



# Moratorium



**Nine-month moratorium** placed on certain residential multi-family projects and subdivision applications.

- Three or more residential units or a subdivision of three or more lots, 9,000 square feet or less.
- Single-family homes on individual lots are not subject to this moratorium.

# Moratorium Reasons

- Services/Quality of Life - police, fire, EMS, etc.
- Impact on natural resources
- Utilities
- Stormwater drainage
- Flooding
- Traffic
- School capacity
- Capital expenditures required to meet growth

# The Hartley Index

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>January</b>	1.24	1.30	1.42	1.59	1.78	1.69	1.33	1.77	1.84	1.78	1.94
<b>February</b>	1.44	1.46	1.71	1.89	1.83	1.87	1.48	2.06	2.03	2.16	2.28
<b>March</b>	1.80	1.96	2.12	2.15	2.34	1.96	2.29	2.62	2.48	2.55	2.67
<b>April</b>	2.02	1.91	2.30	2.07	2.28	1.36	2.59	2.39	2.49	2.41	
<b>May</b>	2.25	2.24	2.18	2.40	2.54	2.70	2.93	2.84	2.70	3.26	
<b>June</b>	3.07	2.85	3.42	3.31	3.53	3.52	4.11	3.62	3.70	4.06	
<b>July</b>	3.39	3.45	3.71	3.77	3.63	3.76	4.29	4.03	3.97	4.65	
<b>August</b>	2.37	2.23	2.43	2.57	2.48	3.02	3.07	3.06	2.90	3.27	
<b>September</b>	1.89	2.09	2.29	2.32	2.20	2.38	2.77	2.68	2.62	3.26	
<b>October</b>	1.72	1.80	2.17	2.22	2.06	1.94	2.52	2.47	2.52	2.89	
<b>November</b>	1.33	1.33	1.90	1.81	1.59	1.69	1.84	1.85	1.84	2.23	
<b>December</b>	1.07	1.15	1.35	1.60	1.50	1.44	1.52	1.73	1.61	1.77	
						COVID-19 / Hurricane Sally					
<b>Yearly Avg.</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>1.98</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.31</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>2.59</b>	<b>2.56</b>	<b>2.86</b>	

**Orange Beach population indicator, measured in millions of gallons of wastewater per day processed by the city. Records shown in orange. Record: July 2024 with 4.65 mgd.**

# 2024 Building Permits

- **Single-Family Residential – 200**

- **118 Houses (Detached Single-Family Dwellings – 31 of these were Summer Salt Phase 2)**
- **82 Townhouse Units (Single-Family Attached – all of these were Lost Bay Townhomes – 14 Buildings)**

- **Commercial Development – 19**

- **Including:**
- **10 Glamping Sites (Youngs Hideaway Ln)**
- **Springhill Suites – 120 Room Hotels**

- **Multi-Family Development – 4**

- **Phoenix Key – 56 Unit Condo**
- **Phoenix South Point – 66 Unit Condo**
- **Tapestry Orange Beach:**
  - **Bldg 1 – 64 Units**
  - **Bldg 2 – 82 Units**

- **Commercial Tenant Build-Out – 14**

- **No. of Permits – 2,617** (2023: 2,637 | 2022: 3,207 | 2021: 4,566)
- **Permitting Revenue – \$3,337,899.56**
- **Inspections – 2,626**



**PHOENIX KEY**



**TAPESTRY ORANGE BEACH**

# Margaritaville Resort Orange Beach



Construction to begin on the Waterfront District beginning summer of 2025, and the first phase of the resort will open in 2027.

The full resort is set to be complete by spring 2029.



# Infrastructure Improvements

# No more toll bridge



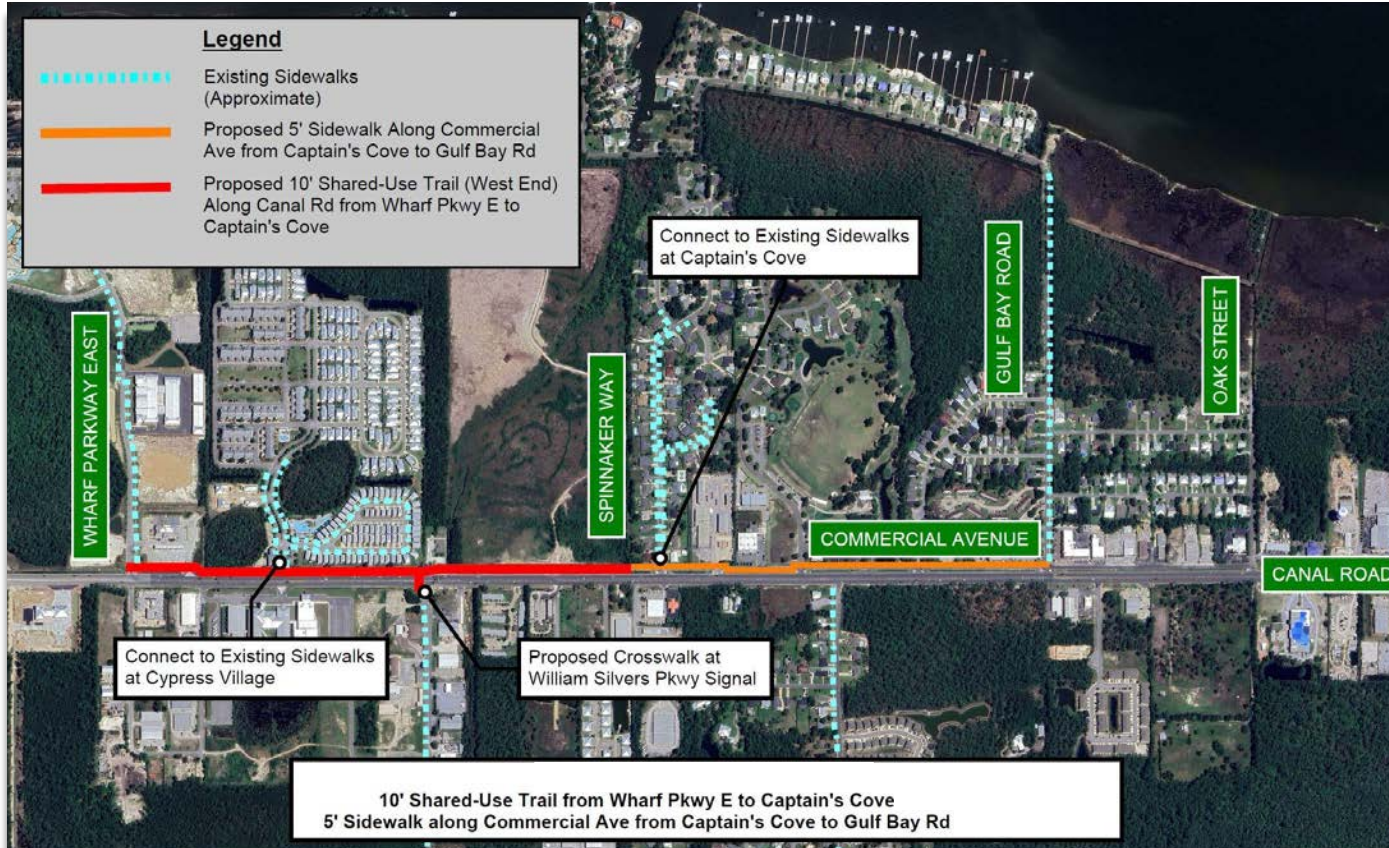
**Foley Beach Express Bridge became toll-free in late May.**

# Intracoastal Waterway Bridge



- This \$52 million ALDOT bridge project and an additional \$30 million connector project to SR-161 is also underway. ALDOT plan has bridge serving southbound traffic only.
- Additionally, ALDOT will begin work to widen a portion of SR-180 (Canal Road) with extra eastbound lane from Beaver Creek to the current toll-free Beach Express bridge. (Bid in June.)
- All projects are scheduled for completion by summer 2026

# Shared-use trails, sidewalks



Canal Road  
Shared-Use Trail and  
Sidewalks from Wharf  
Parkway East to Gulf  
Bay Road.

## ~Underway:

- Wharf Pkwy E. to  
Captain's Cove.

## ~Complete:

- Sidewalk along  
Commercial  
Ave.

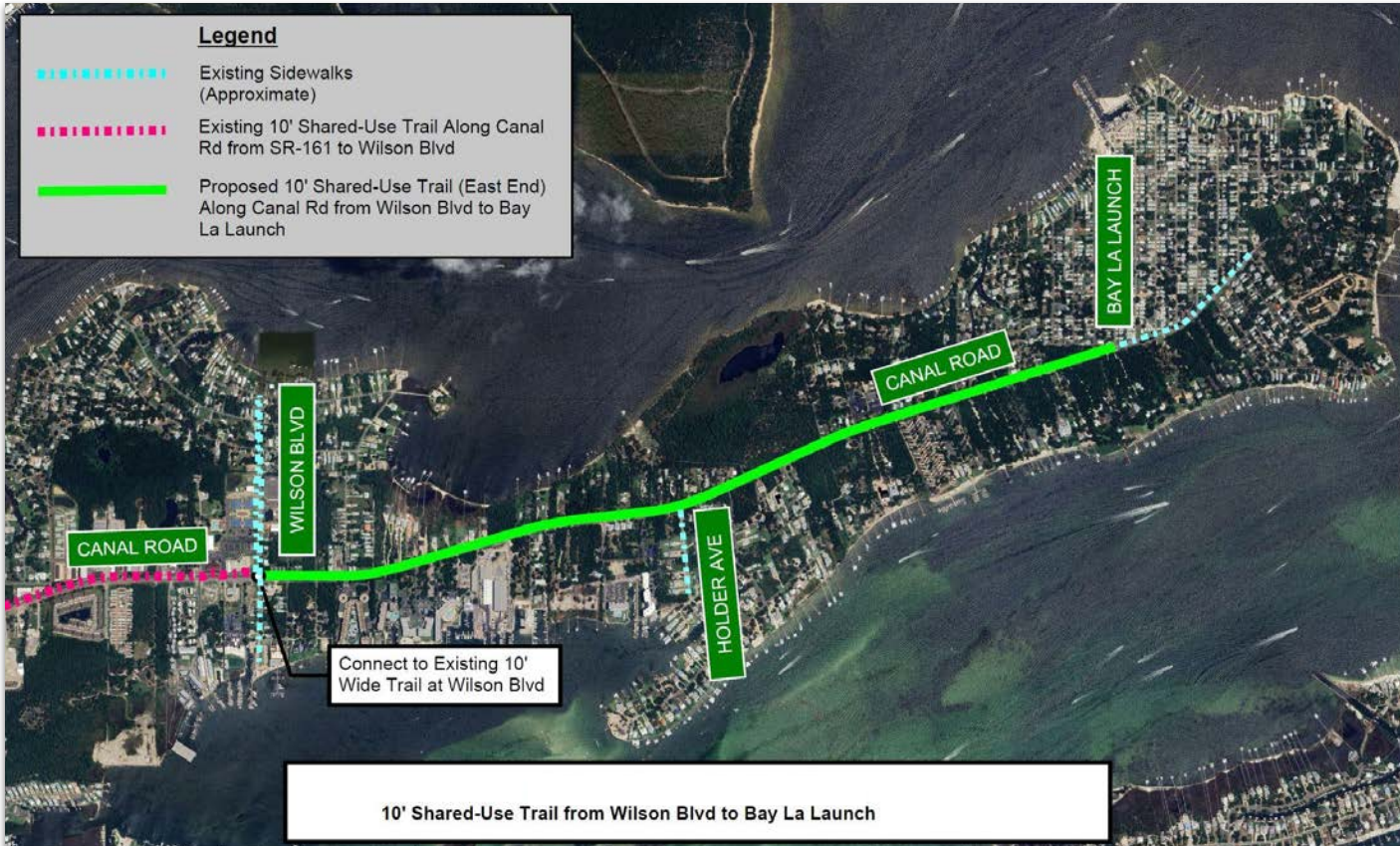
**Finished by end  
of the year.**

# Shared-use trails, sidewalks



**Canal Road Shared-Use Trail:** Work is underway on on 10-foot shared-use trails in front of Cumberland Farms and Cypress Village.

# Shared-use trail at Bear Point



Canal Road  
Shared-Use  
Trail from  
Wilson  
Boulevard to  
Bay La Launch  
Avenue

**Work is  
underway with  
completion by  
end of the year.**

# Shared-use trails at Bear Point



**Canal Road Shared-Use Trail:** Work is underway on 10-foot shared-use trail from Bay La Launch Avenue to Wilson Boulevard.

# Traffic signal near Culver's



**A traffic signal will be installed at Wharf Parkway East at Canal Road.**

# Streetscaping with palms



Palms to be added to median on beach highway in front of Publix center, mirroring East Canal Road.

# Canal Road Bypass



CONCEPTUAL DESIGN – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

# Finance at City Hall



**New wing opened in June 2024**

# Veterans Memorial



**Orange Beach  
Municipal Complex**

# Veterans Memorial



**Construction is underway in front of Community Development building at Orange Beach Municipal Complex.**

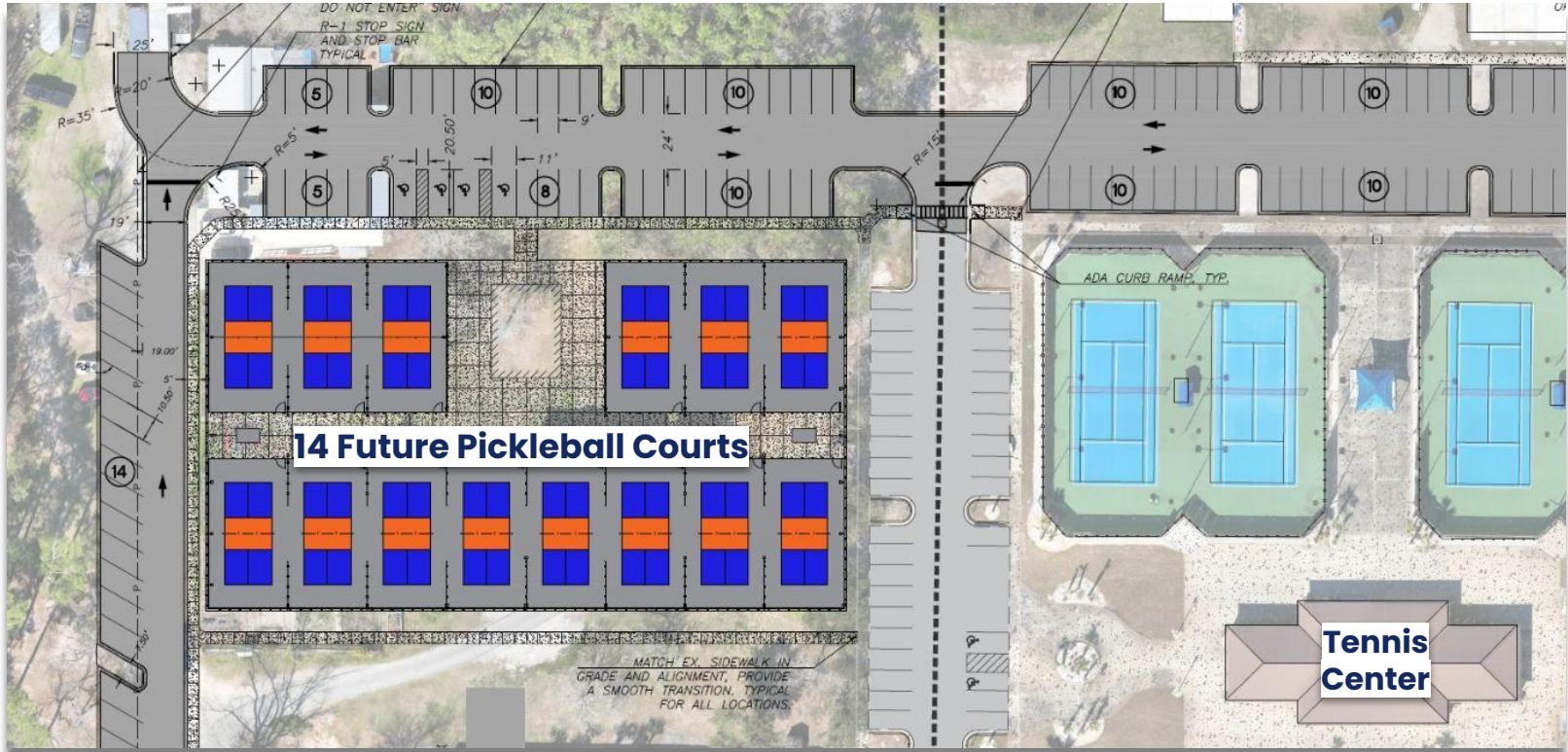
# New Wayfinding and Welcome Signs



**First wayfinding sign installed at City Hall in early August.**

**New digital monument sign going in front of City Hall.**

# Pickleball Courts at Rec Campus



**Work to begin this spring with completion by year's end.**

# City projects

**JUSTICE CENTER, RECREATION CENTER AND COMMUNITY CENTER:** new roof with a facelift and building repainted – **Complete.**

**COASTAL ARTS CENTER:** Concrete slab added with large event tent for weddings and other events instead of on lawn. – **Complete.**  
Additional parking and site improvements this summer.

**FIRE STATION NO. 2:** Exterior repainted to match the new look of the Recreation Center. – **Complete.**

**SENIOR CENTER AND LIBRARY:** new roof with exterior facelift to match rest of City's buildings with Coastal Branding. – **Underway.**

**POOL:** additional lanes.

# City projects

**GOLF CENTER:** Remodel complete with new turf putting green underway.

**COASTAL ALABAMA SEA TURTLE CENTER:** \$1.5 million- NRDA funded Free-Standing ER for Sea Turtles. **Underway.**

**FIRE/SURF RESCUE TRAINING BUILDING:** Additional facility being added to Fire Station No. 1 campus. **To start this summer.**

**PUBLIC LIBRARY/WIND & WATER:** Additional parking and site improvements. **To start this summer.**

**ANNUAL RESURFACING PROJECT:** Additional roads in Bear Point to be resurfaced. **To start in late April/early May.**

# City projects



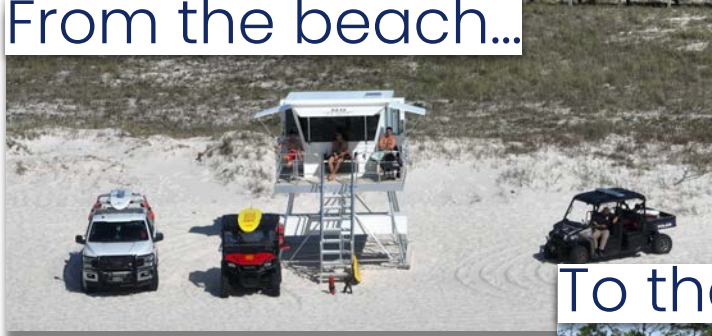
**Contorno property:** Parks & Recreation office and walking trail coming soon.



**Quality of Life  
&  
Maintaining  
Paradise**

# Clean & Safe - Public Safety

From the beach...



To the bay...

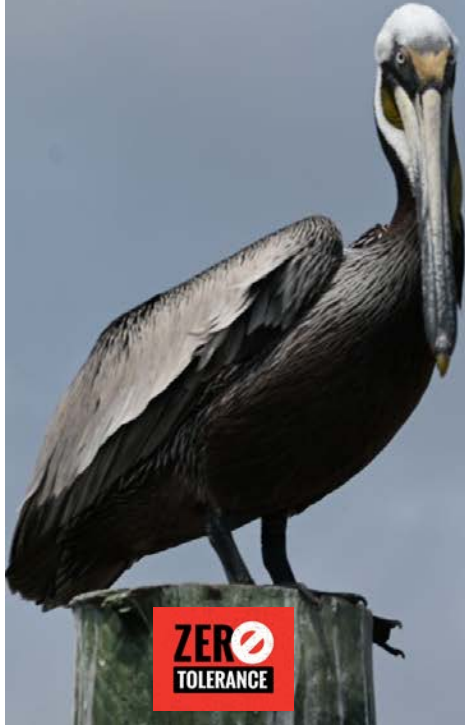


To everything in between.



# Clean & Safe – Public Safety

Staying family-friendly during Spring Break.



- Spring Break arrest totals:

- 2025: 32
- 2024: 61
- 2023: 183
- 2022: 119
- 2021: 208
- 2020: 209
- 2019: 175
- 2018: 212
- 2017: 310
- 2016: 594

# Clean & Safe: Leave Only Footprints



**LEAVE ONLY  
FOOTPRINTS**

# Clean & Safe - Shoreline, Streets



The Waterways & Shoreline Cleanup crew remove over 70,000 lbs. of debris each year.



Always on the  
job on land and  
water.

# Clean & Safe: Habitat Restoration



Habitat restoration is underway at Robinson and Walker Islands thanks to a collaboration between The Nature Conservancy, Moffatt & Nichol, City of Orange Beach and MD Thomas Constructions.

# Clean & Safe: Channel Markers



**Channel markers  
added back to Cotton  
Bayou in July.**

# Expect Excellence



**EXPECT EXCELLENCE  
PROGRAM**

**441 students (PreK-H.S.) enrolled in 2024-25 After-School Program;  
172 rising 1st-7th graders registered, so far, for 2025 Summer Camp**

# Resident Beach Access



# Pass Fishing Park at Alabama Pt.



**Work completed in  
early 2024**

# Bear Point Drainage Study



An overall drainage study to develop a hydraulic model of the area and to determine a list of projects to improve the overall drainage of the Bear Point area. Study to conclude in April 2026.

# Community Garden



**New site near  
Elementary School**

# Wildlife Center & Management Program



## 2024 Highlights:

**700 intakes, 2,000 calls, and one huge move into new facility!**

- Raised and released center's first baby fox squirrels
- Rehabilitated and released a kestrel with a broken wing
- **Released bald eagle patient that was admitted on New Year's Eve of 2023!**
- Raised and released two orphaned bobcat kittens
- Rescued an entangled osprey that was stuck in a tree
- Rehabilitated and released a clutch of 12 orphaned wood ducklings
- Rehabilitated and released two magnificent frigatebirds
- Accepted two orphaned baby beavers
- Banded and released 16 injured Brown Pelicans

# Wildlife Center & Management Program



# Culver's Orange Beach

We do like fast food!



Culver's opened its newest restaurant in Baldwin County in July in Orange Beach, just outside of The Wharf complex, on Canal Road.



**National  
Accolades**

# Softball National Champs!



## Past National Champs from Alabama

### FOOTBALL

1926 – Tuscaloosa

1929 – Tuscaloosa

1988 – Vigor (shared with Pine Forest  
in Pensacola)

2013 – Hoover (Public School  
National Champ only)

### BASEBALL

1954 – Lanier

2005 – Russell County

### SOFTBALL

2024 – Orange Beach!

# Festival of Art – No. 1 in Nation



**Orange Beach  
Festival of Art voted  
Best Arts Festival in  
the U.S. by voters in  
USA Today's 10Best  
Readers' Choice  
Awards!**

# Backcountry Trail – No. 1 in Nation

Voted #1 Best Rec Trail  
in the NATION! Three  
years in a row 2023,  
2024 & 2025!!





**Education**

# Orange Beach City Schools

State report card scores are in!

**ORANGE BEACH  
CITY SCHOOLS**

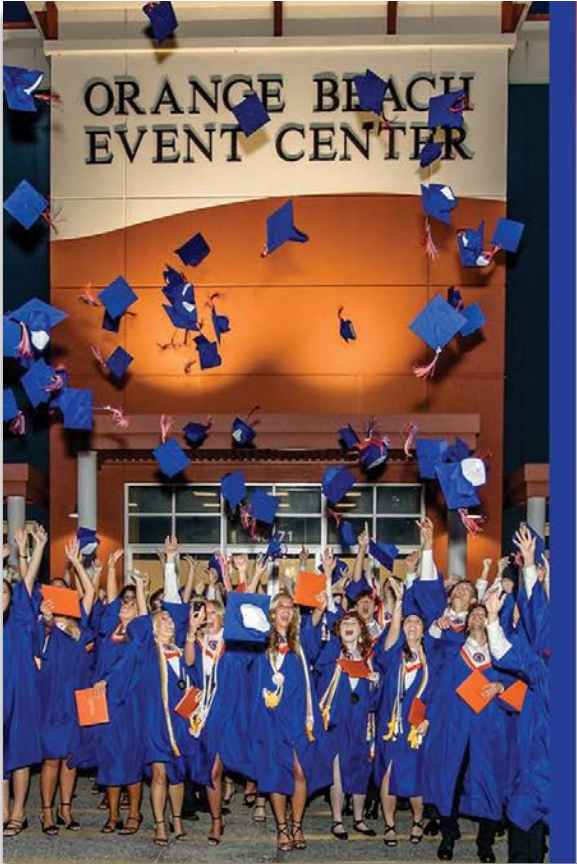
**A**

EST. 2022

*Creating a Lasting Legacy*

Orange Beach City Schools earned an "A" on its very first district report card. The system's academic achievement was the greatest in Baldwin County!

# Orange Beach City Schools



**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S  
SAFE SCHOOL AWARD**

---

**BEST OF BALDWIN'S  
BEST HIGH SCHOOL**

---

**STATE REPORT CARD  
TOP 5 RANKING**

# Orange Beach City Schools



## ORANGE BEACH CITY SCHOOLS

### EDUCATING PARADISE

#### Academic Excellence

- 2024 State Testing Rankings: 3rd in Math, 3rd in Science, and 7th in ELA
- 2023-2024 State & Federal Report Card Grades:
  - Orange Beach Elementary School: 97
  - Orange Beach Middle & High School: 94
  - Orange Beach City Schools: 95
- OBCS Ranked in Top 5 of State Rankings for Report Card Scores
- 100% of 3rd Grade Students are Reading at or Above Grade Level
- 10% of Students in the 99th Percentile on the 2024 ACAP Testing

#### Safety and Community Engagement

- Safety is Our #1 Priority
- 2024 Attorney General's Safe School Award Recipient, OBMHS
- 96% of Students Participate in Co-Curricular or Extracurricular Activities
- OBMHS Voted 'Best High School' in 2025 Best of Baldwin Competition

#### Graduation and Achievement

- Class of 2024 had a 100% Graduation Rate
- 1:13 Teacher-to-Student Ratio

#### Athletic Success

- 2024 MaxPreps Softball National Champions
- 2024 4A Softball State Champions (4th Consecutive Year)
- 2024 4A Cheerleading State Championship (Game Day Division)

#### Arts and Extracurricular Accomplishments

- Musical Theater Students Performed with Foreigner
- Band Program Membership Increased to Over 70 Students

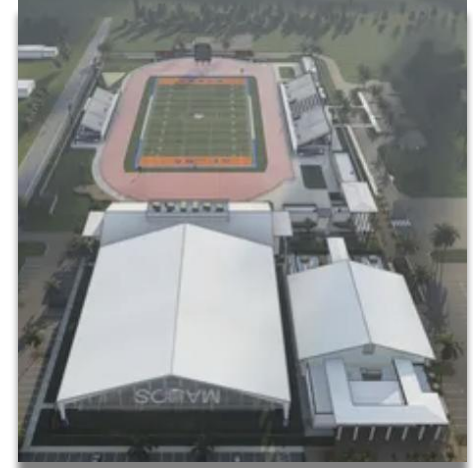
# Cheerleading 4A Gameday State Champs



2024 4A GAMEDAY  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

**Orange Beach High School  
Cheerleaders - 2024 4A  
Gameday State Champions**

# OBMHS Athletic Complex



**Anticipated  
completion:  
August 2025**

# OBMHS Athletic Complex



**Anticipated  
completion:  
August 2025**

# Baseball and Softball Fields

Ongoing improvements at Orange Beach Sportsplex. Latest: new fieldhouse/batting cages



# Soccer/Football Field



# Student Community Service



**Giving Back**





## Events & Programs

# Parks & Recreation

[orangebeachal.gov/community-programs](http://orangebeachal.gov/community-programs)

**ORANGE BEACH ALABAMA**  
PARKS AND RECREATION

Outdoor Community Program - May 2025

## State Park Trailhead Challenge

- 4 walks
- 4 trail heads
- 15 miles total in the month of May.

**OPTIONS:**

- 1) Walk the 4 designated routes on your own between May 1<sup>st</sup> - May 31<sup>st</sup>  
-OR-
- 2) Join us on May 7, 14, 21, & 28 @ 5:30 pm at the designated trail head for that week and we will complete the 15 mile walking challenge together.

Free program: But please register to participate.  
Easy sign up:



Summer  
**SOIRÉE**  
A FANCY FAMILY NIGHT  
CITY OF ORANGE BEACH



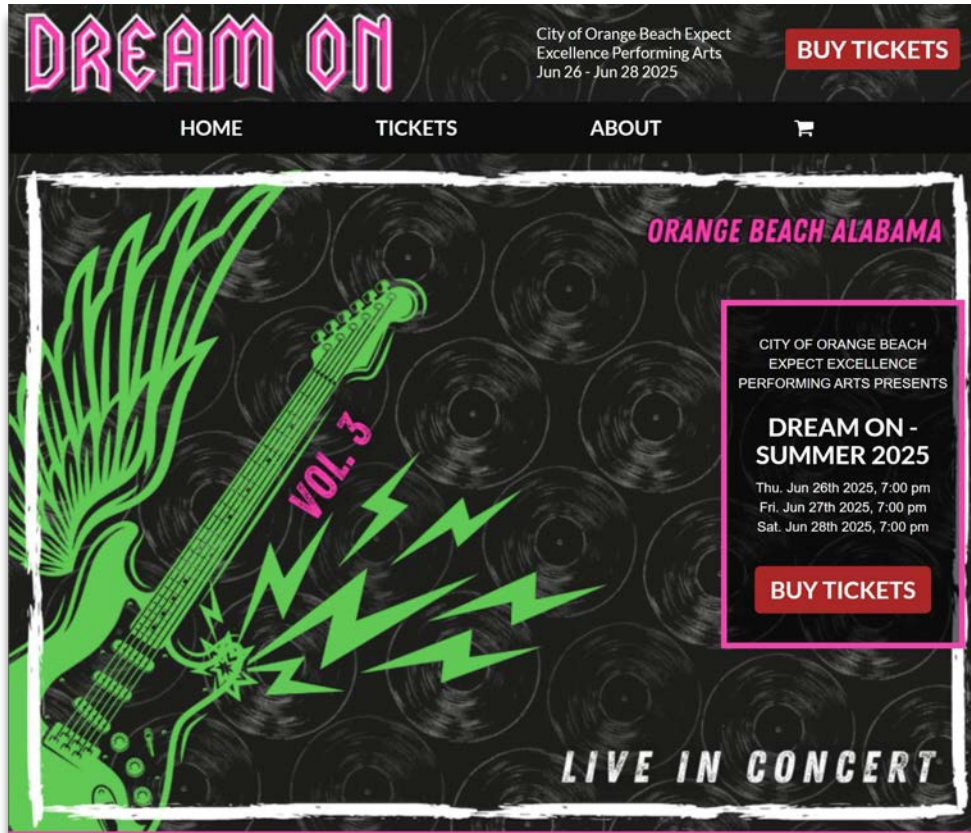
- **State Park Trail Challenge** - May 1-31, 2025 - 4 walks, 4 trailheads, 15 miles total in May.
- **Summer Soiree 2025**  
- Friday July 25, 2025  
- Tickets go on sale after Memorial Day.
- **Orange Beach Historical Tours** - Coming Summer 2025!
- **Fido Fest** - Nov. 9, 2025

# Best of Baldwin 2025

- **Best Mardi Gras Parade - Orange Beach**
- **Best Event Venue - Coastal Arts Center of Orange Beach**
- **Best Bike Trail - The Backcountry Trail**
- **Best High School - Orange Beach High School**



# Performing Arts Center



**DREAM ON**

City of Orange Beach Expect Excellence Performing Arts  
Jun 26 - Jun 28 2025

[BUY TICKETS](#)

HOME TICKETS ABOUT

**ORANGE BEACH ALABAMA**

CITY OF ORANGE BEACH  
EXPECT EXCELLENCE  
PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

**DREAM ON -  
SUMMER 2025**

Thu. Jun 26th 2025, 7:00 pm  
Fri. Jun 27th 2025, 7:00 pm  
Sat. Jun 28th 2025, 7:00 pm

[BUY TICKETS](#)

**VOL. 3**

**LIVE IN CONCERT**

**Dream On -**

**June 26-28 at 7 p.m.**

Tickets: \$15 (all ages)

**THIS WEEKEND:**

**OBMHS Theatre presents**

**“Mary Poppins JR.” -**

Friday and Saturday, May 2nd-3rd - 7 p.m.

Sunday, May 4th - 1 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission and \$5 for students, plus the GoFan fee.

# Freedom Festival



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**5th Annual Orange  
Beach Freedom Fest,  
Bama Coast Cruisin'  
Car Show & Firearms  
Show**

**Sept. 20-21, 2025**

# Questions?

**“Life is Better Here” ...**

**251.981.6979**

**[www.orangebeachal.gov](http://www.orangebeachal.gov)**



**Mayor Tony Kennon**

**My cell number: 251-747-8282**

Please text me for anything  
you might need.

Do not contact me on  
Facebook. My blood pressure  
is already too high.