

THE CURRENT

Weekly News & Events for
the Town of Oak Island, NC

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Week of
December 4, 2023

WELCOME to **THE CURRENT**, the weekly digital newsletter for the Town of Oak Island, NC.

The **Tree** has been lit and the **Parade** has marched on, and Oak Island is well into the the Christmas spirit! Before getting wrapped up in your own festive fun, remember there's plenty of activities left to enjoy the season Town-wide; including some ongoing efforts to support those in need as well!

So put on your warmest wetsuit, and let's dive into this week's edition of **The CURRENT**:

UPCOMING MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Environmental Advisory Committee Meeting**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **REVIEW: Christmas By The Sea Kickoff**
- **Oak Island Honor Flags Program**

- **REMINDER: Toys-For-Tots Boxes**
- **RECAP: Paid Parking Special Meeting**
- **UPDATE: Davis Canal Walkover**

COMING EVENTS

- **Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony**
- **Santa Paws**
- **Snow Many Crafts**
- **Holiday Olympics: Reindeer Games**
- **Flashlight Candy Can Hunt**
- **Build Your Own Gingerbread House**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive.

Upcoming meetings next week:

- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee** (Monday, December 11)
- **ABC Board** (Tuesday, December 12)
- **Town Council** (Tuesday, December 12)
- **Planning Board** (Thursday, December 14)

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Calendar of the Town Website at [**OakIslandNC.gov/CALENDAR**](https://OakIslandNC.gov/CALENDAR).

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

On **Friday, December 8, 2023**, Town Hall and the Administrative Offices will **CLOSE EARLY** at **NOON**, to accommodate a staff holiday gathering and time for employee recognition in the afternoon.

Next upcoming holiday closures:

- **Christmas Holiday:** Monday - Wednesday, December 25 - 27

NOTES:

- The **Disposal Convenience Site** will CLOSE at NOON on December 8, and be CLOSED all day on December 27. .
- ***Garbage & Recycling*** collection will **NOT** take place on **Monday, December 25** (Christmas Day), but will instead be scheduled for Saturday, December 30. ***Please be patient***, as the increased volume from the holiday could cause slow or delayed collection.

During any closure, Police, Fire, and emergency services are always available by **calling 9-1-1**. To view all the full Holiday Calendar on the Town Website, visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY**](https://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).



REVIEW: Christmas By The Sea Weekend

The holiday spirit is officially here in Oak Island, following the amazingly successful Christmas kickoff events of this past weekend.

Starting with the ***Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony*** on Friday night, Saturday's cloudy weather was lit up even more by the smiling faces of all participants in ***Christmas By The Sea Parade***. 2023 marked the first year of the Parade being fully coordinated by Town Staff & Volunteers. Despite the damp weather, the vent brought a record turnout, with nearly 90 entries and well over 100 individual floats, vehicles, carts, or walking groups. Finally the weekend closed out with ***9th Annual Holiday Craft Market***, which also featured a record number of vendors filling up the entire sports fields within the Middleton Park Complex.

Photos of these events have been posted on the Town's official social media accounts, and can also be viewed on the ***Photo Gallery*** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/GALLERY or by clicking the link below

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Oak Island Honor Flags Program

During their regular meeting in November, the Town Council gave final approval for the ***Oak Island Honor Flags Program***.

The program is an authorized personalization of the **Hometown Heroes Banner** initiative, which started in Harrisburg, PA in 2006, and seeks to honor members of the Armed Forces and their families through banners mounted on freestanding poles throughout Town.

The program is open to all fallen, retired, and active members of all branches of the military, and costs \$70.00 for a 2.5' wide x 8' tall banner (flag). The flags will be installed in the [Middleton Park Complex](#) during the long weekends of Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day; as well as in [Veterans Park](#) on September 11 and Veterans Day.

The 2024 Application Deadline is Wednesday, January 31, 2024. To submit an application or learn more about the program itself, visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/HONORS or click the link below

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

REMINDER: Last Week for Toys-For-Tots Donations

In late October, the **Oak Island Fire Department** received the Town's allotment of donation collection boxes from the **Toys for Tots** program, which were distributed to local businesses or organizations interested in hosting a box, as well as throughout various Town facilities.

Throughout the month of November, these iconic boxes have been collecting gifts for little ones in need this holiday season. However, **there is now only ONE WEEK left to make your donations**, as the boxes will be removed at the end of the day next **Tuesday, November 12**.

Collection boxes are currently located in **Town Hall**, the **Police Department**, **Recreation Center**, the **Oak Island Pier House**, and ALL three (3) **Fire Stations**.

For full details on donation items accepted, as well as address information for the boxes, visit **www.OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

UPDATE: Work Begins on Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover

This past Monday (November 27), the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover** which connects **SE 20th Street** and **19th Place East** was **CLOSED** to allow for equipment staging in the upcoming repair project.

Beginning today (December 4) demolition work will begin on the project.

As a reminder, this work will replace the arched northern section of the walkway, closest to SE 20th Street which was not part of the repairs in 2021 following Hurricane Isaias. That southern portion of the walkway may still be open at times for walking and nature viewing, but ***thru-traffic to SE 20th Street will not be available until further notice.***

NOTE: This is an **active construction site**, so please **DO NOT** try to enter the area or slow down crews by trying to speak with them about project updates.

Once the demolition has been completed and further evaluations have been made, an estimated time for replacement will be added to the ***Projects & Facility Closures*** page of the Town Website, which can be viewed at **www.OakIslandNC.gov/PROJECTS** or by clicking the link below.

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RECAP: Paid Parking Special Meeting

On **Tuesday, November 28**, the Town Council held a Special Meeting, for the purpose of receiving public feedback on the **2023 Paid Parking Program**; and consideration of potential changes to the Paid Parking Program for the 2024 season.

Lasting about 40 minutes, the Town Council heard from nine (9) individuals who signed up to provide public comments. Councilmembers then provided their own observations to consider, before agreeing to come back for a final meeting where decisions for the 2024 Season will be made.

NOTICE: A **Special Meeting** to determine program guidelines for the **2024 Paid Parking Season** is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, December 19, 2023** at **3:00 PM** in the Council Chambers. Once confirmed a notification email will be sent out through the **OKInformation** system.

In the meantime, a video link to the November 28 meeting, as well as the year-end Program Report provided to the Council earlier this month, are available on the ***Parking Information*** page of the Town Website, under the ***Program Reports, Public Input, & FAQ*** tab at **www.OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING**, or by clicking the link below.

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Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony

- **When:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 • 1:00 PM
- **Where:** Oa Island Pier • 705 Ocean Drive
- **About:** Join members of local VFW Post #10226, along with local veterans, residents, visitors, the US Coast Guard, and Oak Island Police & Fire Departments, for the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony. As is tradition, the ceremony will be held at the end of the Oak Island Pier on December 7, marking the 82nd anniversary of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, HI that entered the US into World War II. The ceremony will include opening statements and playing of *Taps*, which will then be followed by a moment of silence. As always the event will conclude with those present facing (or saluting) due West, towards Hawaii, and casting roses into the sea. **This is a free public event that is open to all, and provides a good educational opportunity for school aged children or homeschool group**

Santa Paws

- **When:** Tuesday, December 5, 2023 • 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **Where:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E. Dolphin Dr.
- **Cost:** FREE
- **Ages:** All Ages
- **Registration Required:** www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk
- **About:** The holiday season is going to the dogs! Bring your furry friends to Middleton Park Complex so they can share their holiday wish list and get a photo with Santa Paws. FREE to attend, this unique opportunity has become an Oak Island holiday tradition. All pets are welcome. Participants are responsible for their pet's behavior and clean up while visiting the park. For questions simply reach out to Oak Island Recreation Program Supervisor, Ryan Gordon, at rgordon@oakislandnc.gov

Snow Many Crafts

- **When:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 • 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- **Where:** Oak Island Ocean Education Center • 4700 E Oak Island Dr, Oak Island, NC 28465
- **Cost:** \$5 Town of Oak Island Residents • \$7 Non Residents and Island Visitors
- **Ages:** Designed for ages 12 years and under
- **Registration Required:** www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk
- **About:** Your favorite summertime crafting spot is making an appearance this holiday season! Spend an evening as a family making holiday themed crafts at the Ocean Education Center. Whether your little ones are making personalized gifts, or decorations for your own home, this brand-new event is sure to become a holiday tradition! For more information simply reach out to Oak Island Recreation Department Director, Heather O'Brien, at hobrien@oakislandnc.gov.

Holiday Olympics: Reindeer Games

- **When:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 • 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

- **Where:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E. Oak Island Dr., Oak Island, NC 28465
- **Cost:** \$30 Town of Oak Island Residents • \$40 Non Residents and Island Visitors
- **Ages:** Teams of 4 must have *at least one* participant under 18 years
- **Registration Required:** www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk (Registration Opens October 1, 2023)
- **About:** Compete as a family, or with your favorite social circle, as Oak Island Recreation Center puts a festive spin on a variety on holiday themed games. Teams work together to complete a series of challenges as they compete to win much coveted golden Santa hats! Team have a minimum of four members with at least one member under the age of 18. For questions, reach out to Recreation Center Supervisor, Carrie Winkler, at reccenter@oakislandnc.gov or by calling 910-278-5518. This program is not eligible for refunds, transfers, or credits. Max of 10 teams.

Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt

- **When:** December 8, 2023 • Hunt Begins at 6:00 PM
- **Where:** Bill Smith Park • 4446 Fish Factory Rd. SE, Oak Island NC, 28465
- **Cost:** FREE to Attend
- **Ages:** Designed for ages 12 years and under
- **About:** Get out your trusty flashlight, and head over to Bill Smith Park this holiday season. There, youth will be delighted as they hunt for candy canes as well as green & red eggs that have been filled with holiday treats. This year's hunt will be held on the park's softball fields, and football field, and will serve as a fantastic photo opportunity designed for families and social circles with youth ages 10 years and under. For questions, please reach out to Program Supervisor, Ryan Gordon, at rgordon@oakislandnc.gov.

Build Your Own Gingerbread House

- **When:** Saturday, December 9, 2023 • 10:00 AM - NOON
- **Where:** Oak Island Community Resource Center • 102 SE 47th Street., Oak Island, NC 28465
- **Cost:** \$12 Town of Oak Island Residents • \$18 Non Residents and Island Visitors
- **Registration Required:** www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk
- **About:** Stop in to create your very own Gingerbread House at the Oak Island Community Resource Center this holiday season. Part of Oak Island's Twelve Days of Christmas, families are invited to build tasty homes using a variety of le goods. Kits take approximately 30 minutes to decorate, making this drop in program the perfect weekend adventure this holiday season. *Pre-registration is required, and fees are per participant, per gingerbread house.* For questions contact Recreation Center Supervisor, Carrie Winkler, at reccenter@oakislandnc.gov or by calling 910-278-5518. This program is not eligible for refunds, transfers, or credits. Max of 60 kits.

REMINDER: A full listing of all coming events can be found on the ***Events & Programs*** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS.

Click on the event flyers below to download, print, and share!



Santa Paws



Snow Many Crafts



Reindeer Games



Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt



BYO Gingerbread House

THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this edition of ***THE CURRENT***, and choosing to stay informed on the News & Events happening in Oak Island, NC.

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PAST EDITION ARCHIVE

DID YOU KNOW? *The CURRENT*, hasn't always been a weekly publication. Originally produced as an award-winning digital monthly newsletter, *The CURRENT* published 35 editions, spanning a period of three years from from December 2020 to 2023. As a monthly publication, *The CURRENT* provided longer form, "magazine style" reading, along with added commentary, and content contributed form community partners.

Past editions of both the weekly and monthly formats are available to view anytime, by clicking the tabs below.

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