

THE CURRENT

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

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Week of
December 18, 2023

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

Only two weeks left in 2023! As the month of December comes to a windy wind-down (*no thanks to a last minute nor'easter!*) there's still a few important items to take care of before we close out the year. So hold off on the eggnog, and keep those gifts wrapped for just a few more days, as we have our own bits of yuletide information to cover, drifting along in this week's edition of *The CURRENT*.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Town Council Special Meeting**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Storm Response Recap**
- **Town Council: Meeting Action Report**

- **Assistant Police Chief Earns FBI Trilogy Award**
- **Toys-For-Tots Collection EXTENDED**

NEW: SAFETY BRIEF

- **Preventing "Porch Pirates"**
- **Holiday Heating Safety**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **NEW Recreation Events & Programs Page**
- **Upcoming Events for 2024**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

TOWN COUNCIL (*televised*) will hold a ***Special Meeting*** on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023** at **3:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive. The purpose of the Special Meeting is to determine Guidelines & Schedules for the 2024 season of the **Paid Parking Program**. *Action may be taken.*

Upcoming meetings next week:

- **No upcoming meetings next week**

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Calendar of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/CALENDAR**.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Monday - Wednesday, December 25 - 27, 2023: Town Administrative Offices, town hall, the Community Center and Recreation Center will be **CLOSED** in observance of **CHRISTMAS**.

Next upcoming holiday closure:

- **New Year's Day:** Monday, January 1, 2024

NOTES:

- The **Disposal Convenience Site** will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday, December 27**..
- **Garbage & Recycling** will **NOT** be collected on **Monday, December 25** (Christmas Day); that day's collection 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**.

NEWS & NOTICES

Storm Response Recap



On **Friday, December 15**, the **Severe Weather information** page of the Town Website was activated, ahead of an intense low pressure system rapidly forming in the gulf of Mexico. This system quickly moved up the US East Coast, impacting the Cape Fear region on Sunday, December 17 with rough seas, strong winds, and torrential rainfall. In addition to activating the Severe Weather page, a total of three email and text alert notifications were sent through the **OKInformation** system.

As of Noon on Monday, December 18, Public Services crews had covered most of the public beach areas, performing **debris cleanup**, resetting **Mobi-mats**, and an initial assessment of **beach conditions**. Although there was a significant amount of debris to cleanup, first observations were generally favorable for the beach conditions, with little-to-no damage reports throughout other parts of Town as well.

The Severe Weather Information page will most likely revert to "inactive" status later this week, however this serves as yet another reminder to be signed up for alert notifications from the **OKInformation** system. to sign up to receive your own notifications simply visit **OakIslandNC.gov/WX**, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Town Council: Meeting Action Report

This past **Tuesday, December 12**, the Town council held their regular meeting. this was the final regular meeting of 2023, which also marked the first meeting for two new Councilmembers, Terri Cartner and Bob Ciullo.

The **Public Hearing** scheduled to start off the meeting was moved to the January 9, 2024 regular meeting. Following that, Council heard three **presentations**, approved two **committee appointments**, moved the one item of **old business** to the January 9, 2024 meeting.

After the old business item, the new and re-elected Councilmembers were sworn into office, where they then address four items of **new business**.

All Council actions are available in the Action Report, which can be viewed on the **Meetings Information** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS** or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Assistant Chief of Police Receives FBI Trilogy Award

The Oak Island Police Department is proud to announce that **Assistant Chief of Police, Franklin D. Cooke**, has received the prestigious **FBI Trilogy Award**, after successfully graduating the programs provided by the **FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association** (LEEDA).

Consisting of 120 hours of accredited training, the *FBI Trilogy* courses included comprehensive learning across three disciplines:

- **The Supervisor Leadership Institute (SLI)**
- **The Command Leadership Institute (CLI)**
- **The Executive Leadership Institute (ELI)**

The goal of these classes is to advance the science and art of law enforcement leadership, as well as to promote the exchange of information. This works to improve law enforcement management practices through training, education, and networking among police professionals across the United States and beyond.

To read the **FULL media release**, and learn more about Assistant Chief Cooke's contributions to the Town, just visit the **Police Department** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/PD** or click the link below

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Toys-For-Tots Collection EXTENDED

The **Oak Island Fire Department** has been overseeing the Town's distribution of **Toys for Tots** collection boxes, which were distributed to local businesses or organizations in October.

While the original donation deadline was last Tuesday, **the deadline has been extended to this Thursday**. That's right! you now have until the end of day on **Thursday, December 21, 2023** to make any last minute donations to the program.

Boxes will be collected on Friday, December 22, and a follow up report on the amounts collected will be published in a future edition of ***The CURRENT***.

To learn more about the Toys-For-Tots program itself, just visit **www.toysfortots.org** or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Welcome to the ***SAFETY BRIEF***

*This **NEW** section provides the latest updates, information, and safety tips from the first responder community in Oak Island. Look out for more exciting content to connect you with these agencies as the section develops in the future!*

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Keep Pirates in the Past & Off Your Porch

Recent data shows that that 93% of shoppers will buy at least some of their holiday gifts online; and nearly half of ALL shoppers (47%) will buy exclusively online. While home delivery makes shopping convenient for you, it also makes things convenient for criminals.

This holiday season, the Oak Island Police Department reminds you to “*keep pirates in the past & off your porch!*”

Modern day “Porch Pirates” seize on the opportunity of easily-swiped packages right from your front steps, sometimes while you are even still inside your home! To help make sure your gifts end up in the right hands, remember to do things like:

- **Use “Delivery Instructions” to have packages left in a discreet or secure location**
- **Require a signature or (if possible) other means of remote verification**
- **Install motion activated security lighting**
- **Considering adding a doorbell camera**

Most importantly, remember to simply be a good neighbor. The holidays can be a stressful time, and delivery drivers are human too. Mistakes happen. With streets named by number AND direction here in Oak Island, we often see packages delivered to the wrong houses (ex: a “NE” address instead of “NW” street, etc.). Taking a few minutes to make sure an incorrectly delivered package gets to the right home, could make all the difference in someone else’s holiday. Even “Santa’s Helpers” need a little help sometimes!

For full details on preventing Porch Pirates, just visit the Police Department’s page of the Town Website at **www.OakIslandNC.gov/PD** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

FIRE DEPARTMENT

This Holiday Season: Stay Warm, Stay Safe!

While a "White Christmas" in Oak Island may refer more to sand than snow ... Winter is still right around the corner, and sending reminders every other weekend! Whether the cold comes in waves or settles in to stay, the Oak Island Fire Department would like to offer some important suggestions for home heating safety.

Space heaters, fire places, and other means of supplemental home heating are a great and economical way to help stay warm during the colder months. As with any heat source however, **they must be used cautiously**. When not given the proper respect and safety they can scald, burn, or destroy personal property. In the most severe of cases, they can even lead to fatalities!

When heating your home this winter, remember to:

- **Have the device or fireplace inspected annually to ensure they are operating optimally**
- **Never leave fires, space heaters, candles or other means of heat unattended**
- **Keep combustibles, pets, and kids 3-5 feet away from heat sources as these generate enough heat to burn, melt or ignite such items**
- **Be sure to verify that you use the right fuel for the right device**
- **Place heaters on a solid flat surface to prevent from tipping (most newer models can detect a tilt and safely disable the device, but it's always better to err on the side of caution!)**
- **Plug supplemental heaters directly into the outlet on the wall, and NOT with an extension cord**

Additionally, some great advice that's worth following all year long, is to regularly make sure your smoke detectors are functioning, and have fresh batteries. A "best practice" would be a simple test once a month, or at a minimum of twice a year. Adjusting clocks for daylight savings time can usually serve as a good reminder.

For more fire safety tips, or to learn about the many ways the Fire Department works to keep you safe, just visit their page on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/FD or click the link

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



NOTICE: NEW Recreation Events Management Page

Anyone who has participated in the events and programs provided by the **Oak Island Recreation Department** is probably familiar with the ***RecDesk*** software.. For years, this software and the website managed by it, were the primary means of registering participants for various activities provided.

However, starting on **Monday, December 18, 2023** the Department has transitioned to a new software (and webpage), managed by **Edmunds GovTech**.

After this date, all RecDesk accounts will no longer be active.

This new software is a significant upgrade, and allows the Recreation Department to have a more "complete site" - which is easier to navigate and improves the overall user experience.

All **daily / weekly** gym users or fitness class attendees should **NOT** notice any difference. **Monthly / yearly** members will have to create a new account. Currently active yearly or monthly **memberships will still be honored**, but a new account will need to be created. You can email Recreation Director, Heather O'Brien at hobrien@oakislandnc.gov to let her know you have created an account, and staff get your new card printed out.

To check out the new page, or create an account of your own, just visit **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or click the link below.

For full details on preventing Porch Pirates, just visit the Police Department's page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/PD or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Upcoming Events for 2024

While most of the holiday activities sponsored by the Town have passed, there's still a lot to look forward to in the coming weeks! With only two weeks left in 2023, recreation Department staff have already been hard at work, preparing some exciting events and programs for 2024.

As a "sneak peak" of some of these programs check out the flyers below, including:

- **Between The Lines Book Club**
- **Striders Walking Club**
- **Top Golf: Feel On Top Of The World**

In addition to the flyers below,, you can also check out these programs on the **NEW *Events & Programs*** page for the Recreation Department, mentioned above.

REMINDER: A full listing of all coming events can be found on the ***Events & Programs*** page of the Town Website at **[OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://oakislandnc.gov/EVENTS)**.

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



Top Golf



Book Club



Striders Walking Club

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.

This information is produced by the **Town of Oak Island Communications Office** and is intended for information and educational purposes only. Any perceived endorsement or promotion of third-party products, services, or organizations is unintentional. For more information on any of the departments or services provided by the Town of Oak Island, call 910-278-5011, or email info@oakislandnc.gov.

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.

Weekly Edition Archive (2023)	+
Monthly Edition Archive (2023)	+
Monthly Edition Archive (2022)	+
Monthly Edition Archive (2021)	+
Monthly Edition Archive (2020)	+