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Week of

January 1, 2024

WELCOME and **HAPPY NEW YEAR** from **THE CURRENT**, the weekly digital newsletter for the **Town of Oak Island, NC**.

"Should old acquaintance be forgot, and never brought to mind?" **Certainly NOT!** The common New Year's tune "auld lang syne" literally translates to "old long since" or more commonly, "times gone by." As we start another year, it's tempting to forget the times gone by and the memories they provided. By the same token however, it's just as easy to get stuck in those memories, and miss out on life's new opportunities. **Change is both constant and inevitable.** While things change every day in the world around us, one thing we hold on to from those "times gone by" is the shared experience of living in such a beautiful place, full of new neighbors and old friends that make up our community.

So if you're looking forward to year of exciting new things, *but with familiar Oak Island style*, then let's take a penguin's plunge into this New Year's edition of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Environmental Advisory Committee**
- **Par 3 Golf Advisory Committee**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Manager Announces Retirement**
- **Citizens Academy 2024**
- **2024 Garbage & Recycling Schedule**
- **REMINDER: Grinding of the Greens Program**
- **Event Center Manager Retires**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **POLICE: Don't "Curbside Advertise" for Thieves**
- **FIRE: New Years "Knox Box" Resolutions**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Mardi Gras By the Sea 2024**
- **Spring Fling: Market & Music**
- **PREVIEW: Summer Concert Series Announced**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on Thursday, **January 4, 2024** at **8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive.

PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Friday, January 5, 2024** at **1:00 PM** in the Par 3 Pro Shop at 4188 Vanessa Drive.

Upcoming meetings next week:

- **ABC Board:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024
- **Town Council:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

NEW YEAR'S DAY: On **Monday, January 1, 2024:** Town Administrative Offices, Town Hall, the Community Center and Recreation Center will be **CLOSED** in observance of **New Year's Day**.

Next upcoming holiday closure:

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday:** Monday, January 15, 2024

For all holiday closures:

- **Recycling & Garbage Collection Schedule** changes are posted at OakIslandNC.gov/COLLECTION
- Police, Fire, and emergency services are always available by **calling 9-1-1**
- The full Holiday Calendar is available at OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY



Town Manager Announces Retirement

On **Thursday, December 28, 2023**, during individual meetings with Town Councilmembers and administrative staff, **Oak Island Town Manager, David Kelly** announced that he would be **retiring** at the end of the fiscal year on **July 1, 2024**. A formal written notice will be provided to the Town Council later this week.

This exceeds the minimum four-month advance notice required by the Town Manager's contract, and will help to ensure stability throughout the remainder of the fiscal year, and the transition to a new manager.

David Kelly has been in public service for over 35 years, and working for Oak Island since 1992 when he joined the town of Yaupon Beach. In the late 90s, Mr. Kelly was instrumental in helping to navigate the merger of the towns of Yaupon Beach and Long Beach into what is today the Town of Oak Island. Following the merger, he served as Public Services Director until being named Town Manager in 2017.

To view the full media release announcing this retirement, along with details on the life and career of David Kelly, visit the ***OKInformation*** (OKI + information) page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Citizens Academy 2024: ENROLL NOW!

The **Oak Island Citizens Academy** is **BACK** for **2024**! Classes for the popular learning program are scheduled to start on **Thursday, February 1, 2024**.

Citizens Academy is designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government. Through hands-on learning and "in the field" demonstrations, Citizens Academy helps to provide a deeper understanding of the "***who, why, & how***" government works at the local level. The program also serves to encourage stronger participation in local government from residents of all interest levels.

Students will meet two (2) nights per week throughout the month of February, ending in a special dinner ceremony where they are presented with graduation certificates.

Class size is limited, and requires a 100% attendance commitment. To learn more or submit an application, visit the Citizens Academy page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

REMINDER: Grinding of the Greens Underway

If you celebrate Christmas with a natural tree and have just now started your "de-decoration," don't forget the Town's **"Grinding of the Greens"** program! The Public Works Department is currently collecting **natural Christmas trees** in the **Middleton Park Complex** parking lot at 4610 E Dolphin Drive.

The trees collected will be ground into mulch, for use in the Town's walking trails at the Nature Center and Recreation Center, as well as various other parks and Town properties. Trees **must be cleaned** of all non-vegetative decorations, lights, and ornaments. For those not wanting to participate in the Grinding of the Greens program, trees will still be collected from the right-of-way as part of the regular **Yard Debris Collection Schedule** but again, must be free of ornaments and decoration.

Whether participating in the the Grinding of the Greens or using streetside collection, be sure to dispose of your used Christmas trees properly, **using ONLY these two methods. Please DO NOT discard trees on the public beach areas, on the dunes, or in vacant lots.**

For more information on yard debris disposal options or streetside collection schedules, just visit the Solid Waste Division page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/YardDebris** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Garbage & Recycling Schedules Now Available

Speaking of disposal options, the **2024 Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule** is now available on the Town Website.

The schedule covers the **EIGHT Collection Zones** the Town is divided into, and provides information on garbage collection days for each, as well as the full yearly schedule for recycling collection dates. There is also information about the Summer Collection Schedule specific to the beachfront areas.

To view the schedules, zone locations and service reminders, just visit the ***Garbage & Recycling Collection*** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/COLLECTION** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Event Center Manager & Former Pier Coordinator Retires

On **December 29, 2023**, the last Friday of the year also served as the last Friday of service to the Town for 801 Ocean Manager and former Oak Island Pier Director, **Lisa Mattiace**.

Lisa has worked for the Town since it first reopened the Pier in 2019, following its rebuild after Hurricane Matthew. She brought decades of event planning and management experience, and was instrumental in helping to grow the **801 Ocean Event Center** into a successful beachfront meeting space and even venue. In 2023, Mattiace transitioned from her dual role as Pier Coordinator, to solely managing the ever-growing 801 Ocean. Having built both the Pier and Event Center to stable, well-managed operations, Lisa now looks forward to retirement and devoting time to family.

For more information on Lisa Mattiace and her contributions to the Oak Island Pier Complex, **CLICK HERE to read the May 2023 Edition of The CURRENT** in which they were most recently featured. For more information, or to apply for the now vacant 801 Ocean Manager position she leaves behind, visit the ***Job Openings*** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



POLICE DEPARTMENT

Don't "Curbside Advertise" to Thieves

The holidays are a wonderful time; and although they have much deeper religious and ceremonial meanings, the sheer amount of boxes left by the trash bins each January shows that **gift-giving** plays a big part as well.

While you may not think much of the boxes for your new laptop, TV, or other device, they can actually be an important - **and unwanted** - advertising tool for criminals. You may remember how we talked about avoiding "**Porch Pirates**" for your gifts being delivered before the holidays. Well, it's the same principal for afterwards as well. Be cautious about the information you unintentionally give away about what's in your home, just by the boxes you leave out on the porch or by your bins.

Make sure to cut up and discard all boxes, so that they fit completely inside your recycling or garbage bins. Or better yet, take them to the Town's **Disposal Convenience Site** or one of the County's **Recycling Collection Centers**.

In any case, **DO NOT** leave boxes beside your bins in the streetside. Remember, collection is provided for the **bins only**. The Town's contracted service provider, **GFL Environmental, Inc** is not obligated to collect items placed in the right-of-way, or beside the bins.

For more safety tips or information on the services we provide, visit our page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/PD** or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT

A New Year's "Knox Box" Resolution

For most people, the New Year usually brings a host of "resolutions," usually aimed at improving one's health. When creating a personal health plan, people tend to overlook how much their home and belongings affect their health.

The Fire Department often receives calls for service that require them to "gain entry" into a home when searching for the cause of a fire alarm or other emergency notification. While our firefighters do enjoy using those axes, sledge hammers, and Halligans ... *a simple key is usually a lot quicker and much less destructive!* That's where having a **KNOX BOX** can assist in

protecting your home if there is a fire alarm or medical emergency!

The system consists of a sturdy, locked box (**pictured here**) mounted on the outside of your home, which contains your house key. This is similar to a "realtor's lockbox" with the main difference being that **ONLY** the Fire Department has access to this system.

FOR YOUR SECURITY: Only the Oak Island Fire Department has a key specific to open the Knox Boxes sold in our response area. Keys from other departments WILL NOT open Knox Boxes sold for Oak Island.

The Fire Department electronically tracks **each time** the Knox Box key is removed from a firetruck.

- **[CLICK HERE to learn more about Knox Box systems from the manufacturer](#)**

For more safety tips or information on the Oak Island Fire Department and the services we provide, just visit our page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/FD** or click the OKI-FD patch below.



Mardi Gras By The Sea

- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 24, 2024
 - **Parade:** 1:00 PM (start at Keziah Street)
 - **Festival:** NOON - 4:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive

One of the most celebrated and anticipated events returns to the Town Oak Island! It is the best break from winter you'll see until Spring, as the **Saturday, February 24, 2024** is the date set for the annual **Mardi Gras by the Sea Parade & Festival**.

With a parade, artisan market, food vendors, kids zone and concert, it is sure to be a day of fun and excitement. No need to register, just come to the park ready to shop, play and eat!

This year's Mardi Gras by the Sea Parade & Festival flyer has been added to collection below, for you to download, print, and share your own copy! You can also check out the event listing on the **NEW [Events & Programs](#)** page for the Recreation Department at **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Spring Fling: Market & Music

- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 23, 2024
 - Market & Kids Zone: Noon - 4:00 PM
 - Concert: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive

Spring into the season with the Town of Oak Island as we say goodbye winter and hello spring! This event is free and no need to register. Come ready to shop at the Artisan Market, enjoy some lunch and dinner at our food vendors, let the kids play in the kids zone and then relax for some music by ***The Doorsmen!***

This year's Spring Fling: Market & Music flyer has been added to collection below, for you to download, print, and share your own copy! You can also check out the event listing on the **NEW *Events & Programs*** page for the Recreation Department at **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

PREVIEW: Summer Concert Series

It may be January, it may be the middle of Winter ... but that can't stop us from thinking about the sizzling summer sounds we'll be experiencing in just a few short months! The 2024 "Live Band Lineup" for the **Summer Concert Series** has just been finalized, and readers of ***The CURRENT*** are getting a ***sneak peak right now!***

The year's talent includes:

- **May 24, 2024:** *Blackwater Band*
- **May 31, 2024:** *Christine Martinez Band*
- **June 7, 2024:** *Ntranze*
- **June 14, 2024:** *Too Much Sylvia*
- **June 21, 2024:** *The Entertainers*
- **June 28, 2024:** *The Sand Band*
- **Monday, July 1 (Beach Day):** *20 Ride*
- **July 12, 2024:** *Chocolate Chip & Co. Band*
- **July 19, 2024:** *The Tonez*
- **July 26, 2024:** *Rivermist*
- **August 2, 2024:** *Autumn Tyde*
- **August 9, 2024:** *The Tam's*
- **August 16, 2024:** *The Salty Dawgs*
- **August 23, 2024:** *LunaSea*
- **Saturday, August 31, 2024:** *The Main Event Band*

While readers of *The CURRENT* are getting their concert schedule preview NOW, full promotional materials including posters, social media graphics, and a webpage will be published later this week.

Once available, you can view the event listing on the **NEW *Events & Programs*** page for the Recreation Department at **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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

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



Top Golf



Mardi Gras Festival



Spring Fling

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.

MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2023)	+
MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2022)	+
MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2021)	+
MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2020)	+