

THE CURRENT

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

Powered by: **OKInformation**
Oak Island Public Notification System

[CLICK HERE TO SUBSCRIBE](#)

Week of
January 22, 2024

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

It's the fourth week of January and Oak Island, like most of the nation, is deep into Winter. Despite the cold weather outside, activity in Town Hall is heating up. With regular meeting of the Town Council and their annual retreat meetings, several key topics for the calendar year ahead are in discussion.

So while the season may be a bit too cool for a swim in the ocean, it's always the perfect time to take a dip in this week's edition of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Business Advisory Board**
- **Town Council** (*Annual Retreat Day #2*)

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Meetings: Action Review & Retreat Preview**
- **Parking Infrastructure Assessment RFP**
- **Paid Parking 2024: Terms Used**
- **Street Paving Services Requested**
- **Pier Repairs Approved**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **FIRE: Cold Weather Precaution**
- **POLICE: Keep the Lights On For Safety**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Honor Flags Application Deadline**
- **Striders Walking Club**
- **Mardi Gras By the Sea 2024**
- **Spring Fling: Market & Music**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD (non-televised) will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024** at **9:00 AM** in the Police Department Training Room on the 2nd floor of the Police Department.

TOWN COUNCIL (televised) will hold a ***Council Retreat*** on **Wednesday, January 24, 2024** at **9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

PLANNING BOARD will hold its next meeting (televised) on **Monday, January 29, 2024** at **9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall. ***NOTE:*** The Board typically meets on the third Thursday and the change in meeting date is only for January.

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

There are NO holiday closures for this week.

For any holiday closure:

- **Recycling & Garbage Collection Schedule** changes are posted at **OakIslandNC.gov/COLLECTION**
- 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**

A hand holding a white cup of coffee is visible in the top right corner. The background is a close-up of a newspaper with various headlines and images. Overlaid on the newspaper is the text 'NEWS & NOTICES' in a large, white, stylized font with a black outline.

NEWS & NOTICES

Town Council Meeting Review & Retreat Notice

Last **Wednesday, January 17** held a PACKED schedule for the Town Council. Starting at 9:00 AM, the Council held the first day of the **Annual Retreat**, with a full agenda dedicated to kicking off the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year. Councilmembers new and returning heard a complete overview of the Budget, a full debt review, and current and anticipated capital projects. Additionally, the Council received a comprehensive presentation on Beach Nourishment & Management from contracted engineer, Moffat & Nichol.

Later on Wednesday, the Town Council came back together at 6:00 PM for their regularly monthly meeting. Lasting over 5 hours, this first regular meeting of 2024 had been rescheduled from January 9 due to inclement weather. This meeting contained several major topics of interest, including Amendments to Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances regarding trees & vegetation, as well as Paid Parking, and other topics mentioned later in this edition.

The Town Council will continue with **Day 2** of the Annual Retreat this **Wednesday, January 24, 2024** at **9:00 AM**. This second meeting agenda is centered around a "work-session" approach, as Council will address major points of concern for the coming months ahead, such as new Town Manager recruitment and priority goals / targets for the Fiscal Year 2024-2'

To watch the livestream of any upcoming meeting, or view the agendas and video for any previous meetings, just visit the **Meetings Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Paid Parking Infrastructure Assessment RFP

Approved by the Town Council during their regular meeting last Wednesday, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued late last week for a **Paid Parking Infrastructure Assessment**. The RFP seeks assistance from qualified, professional Traffic Engineers to perform evaluations on the Town's physical infrastructure for paid parking. The firm awarded this contract will have the primary responsibility of developing the assessment document and will work in coordination with the Town of Oak Island's Public Works Department.

Throughout the process, the selected firm will be expected to utilize their experience and drive the process to produce an assessment within 90 days of approval of a contract. To achieve this goal, and utilize the experience of the selected firm, Oak Island will require the expectations outlined in the [RFP Information Packet](#) to be met and identified within the firm's proposal. **The Due Date for all submissions is Friday, February 2, 2024 at 4:30 PM.**

To view the RFP in full or download an Information packet, visit the **Bid Postings** page at OakIslandNC.gov/BIDS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Paid Parking: 2024: Terms Used

As was widely publicized last week, the Town Council approved the revised **Service Agreement** with **Otto Connect** for the **2024 Paid Parking Season**. This enacted several updates for the 2024; and while these updates were immediately posted on the Parking Information page, they still prompted a few calls and emails for clarification.

For those new to the program, or anyone needing a brief refresher, below are reminders on the terms used:

- **TOWN PARKING PERMITS** are provided exclusively to Town Residents & Property owners, and allow for parking in BOTH "Town Reserved" and regular Paid Parking spaces. There is a limit of three (3) permits, at a cost of \$10 each. As of this publication, **an initial sales date has NOT been set for 2024. HOWEVER**, unlike other permit types, Town Permits are **NOT limited in total quantity** and **there is NO "cut-off" date** for sales. So there is no need to rush on purchasing your Town Parking Permits, so long as they are in effect by the start of the Season on **April 1, 2024**.
- **SEASON PARKING PERMITS** are available for anyone to purchase at a cost of \$175, and allow for parking in regular Paid Parking spaces only. The total number of Season Permits for 2024 has been increased to 1,500, and sales will begin on **Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9:00 AM**.
- **NEW: BULK SEASON PERMITS** will be available for businesses or individuals wanting to purchase more than four (4) Season Permits. These Bulk Permits will be available in **March, 2024** (specific date to be determined separately) at a rate for \$175 for Permits 1-4, increasing to \$325 for Permits of 5 and higher.

As always, full program details and updates for the 2024 Season are available on the ***Parking Information*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING** or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Street Paving Services Requested

During their regular meeting this past **Wednesday January 17**, Council unanimously approved a **Budget Amendment** to move the funds from parking revenue to the appropriate Public Works fund for street paving. Additionally Council also approved the release of a **Request for Proposals**, inviting sealed bids for paving and resurfacing services.

Once the RFP has been published and all bids received, options will be presented back to the Town Council to award a contract. These actions look to restart the stalled and much-anticipated street paving schedule within the remaining fiscal year.

To learn more about the Street Paving process and schedule, visit the ***Public Works: Streets Division*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/STREETS**, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Pier Repairs Approved

For many, Winter isn't thought of as a "busy season" for the tourism industry. However, just because there is a lack of visitors doesn't mean there is a lack of activity. The quiet, colder months offer a great opportunity for much needed improvements and repairs, and the **Oak Island Pier Complex** is no exception.

There are several repairs needed in the leased restaurant spaces of the Oak Island Pier House which the Town has had an engineer review and provide recommendations for. Noted repairs include the kitchen floor and the storage area floor in the restaurant portion, the floor area behind the counter in the coffee house, and additional deck areas for ingress and egress.

During their **Wednesday, January 17** meeting, Town Council unanimously approved a Budget Amendment to accommodate these facility repairs, **not-to-exceed \$125,000**.

To learn more about the Pier Complex and the business housed there, just visit the ***Oak Island Pier*** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/PIER** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



SAFETY BRIEF



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Cold Weather Precautions

Happy January, and welcome to the heart of Winter! The frigid nights already experienced, and those that lie ahead offer a great opportunity for reminders on common cold-weather hazards.

If utilizing a **space heater**, please do so with caution. Make sure that there is an ample amount of clearance around the heater, usually around the 3-foot range. These do get hot enough to ignite materials that may be in the immediate vicinity. If possible, try to use a newer version, as they have built-in safety features that shut them off if accidentally knocked over. To avoid those tripping hazards, try to keep the cords away from high-traffic areas. **DO NOT** leave these unattended, and be sure to unplug them when not in use. And when you do plug them in, do so directly, avoiding powerstrips and overloaded outlets.

If using any type of **gas appliance**, we always recommend that a working **Carbon Monoxide Detector** is in place . home. These should be situated closer to ground level since the CO will be heavier than the air pulling it to the ground.

Finally, don't forget the common problem that **freezing pipes** with these chilly temperatures can lead to ruptured water lines. Leave a faucet dripping to keep the water moving and prevent freezing up. This may cause a slight inconvenience on the water bill but is A LOT cheaper than replacing busted lines or repairing flood damage. **In the event that your lines do rupture CALL 9-1-1** to be connected with the appropriate resources. If you do have water lines or gas lines exposed to the elements, cover them up with insulating wrap to.

Most importantly, try to stay warm, safe, and remember summer is right around the corner! 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.



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Keep the Lights On for Safety

One Winter activity almost no one enjoys is **car repair**. However, there's one simple, usually easy fix that is VERY important to do, no matter the season. We're talking about **taillights**, and it's an issue we've been noticing more of lately.

Whether it's cars driving at night without taillights, or enclosed utility trailers without working brake lights, making sure those behind you can see your vehicle and your stopping or turning actions is extremely important. If driving without proper lighting a citation could be the least of your worries, you could be placing the lives of you, your family, or fellow motorists at risk.

That is why it is good practice at least once a week to check the lights all around your vehicle; and for services trades and contractors pulling trailers, lighting should be checked daily! It may seem silly at first, but it is critical to familiarize yourself with how your vehicle's lighting system works. Just because you may have "daytime" running lights, you might still need to manually turn on your full lights at night. And even if you have fully automatic lighting, ***do you immediately know how to turn them on in an emergency if they're off?***

Don't be lulled into a false sense of security by the automatic conveniences of modern autos, take charge and know how to make sure you are safe ... *and seen!*

To learn more about our Department and what it means to serve Oak Island, just visit our page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/PD** or click the OKI-PD patch below.



"Honor Flags" FINAL REMINDER

REMINDER: The **application deadline** for the **[Oak Island Honor Flags Program](#)** is **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**.

The Oak Island honor Flags Program is an authorized personalization of the [Hometown Heroes Banner](#) initiative, which started in Harrisburg, PA in 2006. It serves to honor members of the Armed Forces and their families through banners mounted on freestanding poles throughout Town, as seen in [this concept rendering](#).

The Program is open to all fallen, retired, and active members of all branches of the military, with a cost for each banner of \$70.00 (there is no fee collected unless the applicant is selected).

- Flags will be installed in the [Middleton Park Complex](#) during the long weekends of:
 - Memorial Day
 - July 4th
 - Labor Day
- Flags will be installed in [Veterans Park](#) on September 11 and Veterans Day

To learn more about the program, or to submit an application, visit **OakIslandNC.gov/HONORS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Striders Walking Club

- **WHEN:** 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Wednesdays of each month
- **WHERE:** Various Locations

Stride into active living as this low impact fitness club offers community and conversation while we go walking at all of your favorite Oak Island parks!

Free to attend, it's a great way to spend time with friends and members of your social circle. Walking locations will rotate between **Middleton Park, Bill Smith Park, Oak Island Recreation Center**, as well as an off-Island destination on the 4th Friday of each month. For those who wish to catch a ride to our destination locations, pre-registration will be required due to limited seats.

To learn more or check out this club's off island destinations, simply visit **[Events & Programs](#)** page for the Recreation Department at **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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 Doormen!***

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.

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

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



Striders Walking Club



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.

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.

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