

# THE CURRENT

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

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Week of

**February 5, 2024**

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

It's the first full week in the month of February, and already we are setting sights on an action-packed Spring. From summer parking to trees planted, there's still a lot to cover right now, so let's slow down the seasonal clock and snag a snorkel, because it's time to take a dip in this week's edition of *The CURRENT*.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Upcoming Meetings**

## NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Letter on Proposed Insurance Rates**
- **Season Parking Permit Sales Started**
- **NEW "Business Bulletin" Newsletter**

- **Live Oaks Planted on Oak Island Drive**
- **Employment Opportunities**

#### **SAFETY BRIEF**

- **POLICE: Calendars Now Available**
- **FIRE: Blood Drive**

#### **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- **Cancellation Notice: Total Body Blast**
- **Mardi Gras By the Sea 2024**
- **Spring Fling: Market & Music**
- **Adult Slow Pitch Softball Club**



#### **COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS**

There are **NO** Town Council or Board meetings scheduled for this week.

#### **Meetings next week include:**

- **Recreation Advisory Board** (February 12)
- **ABC Board** (February 13)
- **Town Council** (February 13)
- **Planning Board** (February 15)

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

#### **HOLIDAY CLOSURES**

There are **NO** closure for this week or in the coming week. All holiday closure dates can be found on the ***Holiday Calendar*** at [OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY](https://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY)



# NEWS & NOTICES

## Town Council Letter on Proposed Insurance Rates

This past **Thursday, February 1**, Mayor Elizabeth White sent a letter on behalf of the Oak Island Town Council to **North Carolina Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey**, expressing the Council's concerns regarding the North Carolina Rate Bureau's **proposed 2024 homeowner insurance rate increases**.

This letter joins in opposition expressed by the Brunswick County Commissioners and several neighboring coastal communities. It was submitted prior to the February 2 closing of the public comment period, set by the N.C. Department of Insurance.

Under North Carolina law, the Insurance Commissioner has 50 days from the filing date to review the Rate Bureau's proposal to determine whether it meets certain very technical, mathematical standards. After this 50-day review period, which expires on February 22, the Commissioner can hold a hearing. Commissioner Causey has called for such hearing, which has been set for **Monday, April 8, 2024, at 10:00 AM** at the NC Department of Insurance, located at 3200 Beechleaf Court in Raleigh.

To read the contents or download a PDF of the letter submitted by the Oak Island Town Council, visit the ***OKInform*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS** or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Season Parking Permits Sales Open

On **Saturday, February 3**, the sale of **Season Parking Permits** opened up for the **2024 Paid Parking Season**. After some reported slowdowns from the initial rush to the website, contracted vendor Otto Connect reported a strong first day of sales, reaching **888 Season Permits** on Saturday alone.

*As of **NOON today** (February 5), Season Permit sales were at **1,100**, with just a few hundred left available before reaching the **season total of 1,500** set by the Town Council for 2024.*

As a reminder, **Season Parking Permits** are for **anyone** to purchase, and should not be confused with **Town Parking Permits**, which are available exclusively to **residents and property owners**.

For a full breakdown of each permit type, the differences between "Parking Permits and Parking Decals" or anything related to **Parking Information** just visit **OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING** or click the link below. **REMEMBER:** this page is the **only official source** for parking information from the Town. Please check this page often for updates and use it to verify any information seen on third-party websites, news outlets, or social media pages.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## New Business Bulletin Newsletter

"Newsletters" are a great way to stay informed about the happenings within any community. If you don't believe that, just look at the newsletter you're reading right now! Within the Town of Oak Island there is a tight-knit business community that also needs updates geared to their specific interests. Well the Economic Development Department has heard these concerns and is proud to present the **NEW Business Bulletin**.

Working with the Town's recently established Business Advisory Board, the Economic Development Department designed the "Business Bulletin" as an e-newsletter for hyper-local, business-focused news. Every edition is crafted to illuminate the latest updates, insights, and opportunities, tailored exclusively for the local business community. Read along as they shine a spotlight on the heartbeat of commerce in the Town of Oak Island, fostering connections and growth.

The Business Bulletin will be a **monthly** publication, with each edition available to view on the Economic Development page at [OakIslandNC.gov/ECON](http://OakIslandNC.gov/ECON) or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Live Oaks Planted on Oak Island Drive

If you took a stroll last week down Oak Island Drive, you probably noticed something new ... **TREES!** More specifically, **live oak trees lining the right-of-way**.

Last **Wednesday, January 31**, hard-working crews from the Public Works Department (pictured **HERE**, and in the **GALLERY**) planted over **forty-five** live oaks (*Quercus Virginiana*) along the town's main thoroughfare. The trees were purchased as part of a capital improvement project budgeted in the **Stormwater Department** for this current fiscal year.

"Our crews did a wonderful job planting these beautiful trees" noted Stormwater Administrator Rick Patterson, "The live oaks planted today will help restore tree canopy lost from development while supplying shade and helping to absorb stormwater in the future."

With a potential lifespan of well over 300 years, Patterson is correct, as these trees could ultimately produce a canopy 60 - 100 foot spread. Once reaching a diameter of 15" these "Heritage Trees," will forever be protected by Town ordinance.

To read the full article on this effort, and learn how the Town is working to preserve the "Oak" in "Oak Island" just visit the **OKInformation** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS) or click the link below.

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## Employment Opportunities

Often times, you hear folks refer to Oak Island as a great place to "live, work, and play." While finding a home and picking out your favorite leisure activity are up to you, the Town may be able to help with the "work" part.

If you're interested in serving the community you call home, consider joining the Town of Oak Island's workforce, **with current job opportunities for:**

- **801 Ocean event Center Coordinator**
- **Police Department Patrol Officer**
- **Recreation Center Assistant**
- **Stormwater Plan Review / Inspector**

Working for the Town of Oak Island is truly a rewarding experience, and there's no better place to recruit new employees than right here within the community we call home. To view all of the available opportunities or download an application, just visit the Job Openings page at [OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS) or click the link below.

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# SAFETY BRIEF



## POLICE DEPARTMENT: 2024 Calendars Still Available

Can you believe it's **already February!?!?** It seems like 2024 is flying by so quickly ... *it deserves a speeding citation!*

If the year is going to fast to keep track of, don't worry! We have you covered, with the **2024 Oak Island Police Department Calendar**. We have several of these calendars available for pickup for **FREE**, right in the Department's lobby, beside the Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive. In addition to helping you keep track of important dates, these calendars also have the added benefit of helping familiarize you with the names of faces of our officers who serve you daily; as well as showing the community partners who support our efforts. So **if you have the time**, stop by and get one today!

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](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PD) or click the OKI-PD patch below.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT: Blood Drive THIS Week

Important reminder that we'll be hosting a **Blood Drive THIS FRIDAY** (February 9) from **10:00 AM - 3:00 PM** at **Station 2**, located at 8510 E Oak Island Drive.

This event will be hosted by the **Blood Connection**, and each donor will receive a **\$25 e-gift!** Also, for each donor a **\$25 donation** will be made to **For 3 Sisters**, an organization dedicated to raising awareness and improving the lives of people affected by breast cancer.

**CLICK HERE** to make an appointment, or visit [donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/224209](http://donate.thebloodconnection.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/224209).

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](http://OakIslandNC.gov/FD) or click the OKI-FD patch below.





# COMING EVENTS

## **CANCELLED: Total Body Blast**

- **WHEN:** Thursday, February 8, 2024

**Please note** that this week's ***Total Body Blast*** group fitness program for **Thursday, February 8** will be **CANCELLED**.

Instructors and Recreation Department staff apologize for any inconvenience to attendees.

To view other exercise and fitness opportunities, visit the [Events & Programs](#) page for the Recreation Department at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click 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 [Events & Programs](#) page for the Recreation Department at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## **Spring Fling**

- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 23, 2024 • NOON - 4:00 Pm (Market & Kids Zone) • 5:00 Pm - 7:00 Pm ( Concert)
- **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!*

For more information, check out the event listing on the [Events & Programs](#) page for the Recreation Department at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or by click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Adult Slow Pitch Softball Club

- **WHEN:** Mondays • April 1, 2024 – June 24, 2024 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E. Dolphin Dr., Oak Island NC 28465
- **COST:** \$45 Residents / \$60 Nonresidents
- **AGES:** 18 & Older
- **REGISTRATION:** Opens February 12, 2024 at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS)

Swing into spring as Oak Island’s favorite Adult Softball return! Due to fantastic turnout in years past, this athletic club will offer 12 weeks of pick-up styled play each Monday at Middleton Park Complex. Games will begin with a review of basic rules (led by a field supervisor), followed by a series of player-led games. Now welcoming both men and women, ages 18 years and older, families will have more opportunities than ever to strengthen connections with their coastal community.

At the end of the season, all players will receive a brand-new Oak Island athletics t-shirt! For questions, reach out to Recreation Program Supervisor, Carrie Jennewein at [cwinkler@OakIslandNC.gov](mailto:cwinkler@OakIslandNC.gov).

This program is not eligible for refunds, transfers, or credits. Now accepting women and men ages 18 years & older. For more information, check out the event listing on the [Events & Programs](#) page for the Recreation Department at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or by click 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](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS).

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



Mardi Gras Festival



Spring Fling



Slow Pitch Softball Club

**THANK YOU**

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**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 from 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)**

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**MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2022)**

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**MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2021)**

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**MONTHLY EDITIION ARCHIVE (2020)**

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