



THE CURRENT

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

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Week of
February 19, 2024

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

February is flying by, and we are well on our way to another spectacular Spring; unofficially kicking off with this week's **Mardi Gras By The Sea Festival & Parade**. Before we jump into the weekend however, it's still a new week, and there's some important reminders and Town Notices to go over. So grab your boards, and let's surf on down through this week's edition of *The CURRENT*.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- Upcoming Meetings

NEWS & NOTICES

- REMINDER: Public Input Sessions
- Program Update: Parking Decals

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SAFETY BRIEF

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- **FIRE: Beach Bonfire Safety Reminders**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Mardi Gras By the Sea 2024**
- **Community Paint Day**
- **Tanger Outlets Shopping**
- **Spring Fling: Market & Music**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

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

The **Business Advisory Board** will meet next **Tuesday, February 27, 2024** at **9:00 AM**

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

There are **NO** upcoming holiday closures. All closure dates can be found on the ***Holiday Calendar*** at OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY



REMINDER: Public Input Sessions

Last week's edition featured a special letter from Mayor Liz White on behalf of the Town Council, inviting the public to participate in a series of ***Input Sessions***, as part of the recruitment process for a new Town Manager.

- [**CLICK HERE to read the full letter**](#)

To provide as many reasonable opportunities for input as possible, reminders for these sessions will be posted in each edition of The CURRENT moving forward. The sessions will be held in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall on the following dates: .

Wednesday, February 28, 2024:

- **10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**
- **2:00 PM – 3:30 PM**
- **6:00 PM – 7:30 PM**

Saturday, March 2, 2024

- **10:00 AM – 11:30 AM**
- **1:00 PM – 2:30 PM**

These in-person sessions will be a guided exercise of specific questions, ***and will not be a formal meeting of the full Council***. Seating for each session will be limited to 80 participants, so plan to arrive early.

For more information and to read the full invitation from the Mayor, visit the ***OKInformation*** page at [**OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS**](https://OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS) or click the link below.

[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**](#)

Program Update: Parking Decals

During their regular meeting on **February 13, 2024**, the Town Council decided that **physical Parking Decals will NOT be issued for 2024**.

Alternatively, enforcement of resident-only parking spaces by the contracted vendor Otto Connect **will be extended** into the Paid Parking afterhours of **5:00 PM - 9:00 PM**.

Please note, this does NOT affect the hours for Paid Parking, which will remain from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM daily. Restarting the Decal Program may be evaluated for future use at a later date, at which point public notices will be published.

To review, in 2024 only ***Town Parking Permits*** will be in use, which are virtually identified through the registration of a vehicle's license plate, and monitored by the contracted parking services provider, Otto Connect.

This information has been updated on the ***Parking Information*** page, and can be viewed at [**OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING**](https://OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING) or by clicking the link below.

[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**](#)

NCDOT: Bridge Sweeping Operations This Week

Throughout this week, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will be performing **Bridge Sweeping Operations** on BOTH the **G.V. Barbee** and **Swains Cut Bridges**.

Currently, operations are not set for a specific night, and will occur as conditions and crew availability allows. This will be a "rolling operation" that will take place in the overnight hours, between **9:00 PM – 5:00 AM, Monday - Thursday**.

No bridge closures are expected, and traffic impacts should be minimal. However, please be aware of the possibility for slight delays and the presence of slow-moving crews during the overnight hours, and plan travel accordingly and stay alert.

Once available, full details from NCDOT should be posted online, and can be viewed at **[DriveNC.gov](#)** or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Oak Island Pier: Schedule Change

One of the most welcome signs of spring is found in the added sunshine afforded by ***Daylight Saving Time***. For many, this means more time to spend outdoors at their favorite locations; and a favorite location for ***anglers*** from all over is the **[Oak Island Pier](#)**.

NOTICE: As of Monday, February 19, the Oak Island Pier & Pier House is now operating on its Spring Schedule from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM daily.

Although it's a few weeks ahead of the official start of Spring, by the time the clocks "***spring forward***" on **Sunday, March 10**, the Pier & Pier House will have already been enjoying the ever minute of the growing daylight hours! The next schedule change should come in late April with a switch to the Summer Schedule of 6:00 AM - 10:00 PM.

In addition to fishing passes, the Pier House is conveniently stocked with frozen bait, fishing tackle, sundries, snacks, ice cream, and drinks for purchase. Shirts, sunglasses, and other souvenirs are also available.

For those unable to plan a visit in the near future, remember the Pier can be visited anytime virtually, through the ***Oak Island "PierCam"*** - this live look can be seen on the Pier's page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/PIER](#)** or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

"Living Shoreline" Cleanup Events Announced

Last week, the **[Environmental Advisory Committee](#)** (EAC) announced the 2024 dates for the popular ***Living Shoreline Cleanup*** events:

- **MARCH 9 • NOON - 2:00 PM**
- **MAY 4 • 10:30 AM - NOON**
- **SEPTEMBER 21 • 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM**
- **NOVEMBER 16 • 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM**

Plan to join the EAC and like-minded individuals as they clean-up marine debris from the marsh area and living shoreline at **[Oak Island Veterans Park](#)**, located at the corner of E Yacht Drive & NE 15th street.

Volunteers should wear sturdy, ideally waterproof knee-high boots and dress for the weather. Expect to get a bit wet and muddy! Bring work gloves if you have them, but extras will be available, and don't forget your water bottle! No special skills are necessary, just a willingness to help out.

For more information on the events, including alternate dates and how and to register, visit the ***EAC*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/EAC](#)** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



SAFETY BRIEF



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Traffic Plan for Mardi Gras Parade

It's one of the most anticipated events of the year, and the "unofficial" kickoff to Spring in Oak Island, the **Mardi Gras By the Sea Festival & Parade**. While the Festival at Middleton Park starts at **NOON**, this year's Parade looks to be the biggest (***and longest***) yet, with over 40 registered entries!

As always, the Police Department will be working hard to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable time, whether you are a parade participant, spectator, or motorist just passing through!

Please take note and share the following **Street Closures & Detour** information! From **1:00 PM - 3:00 PM** this **Saturday, February 23, 2024** the Department will **CLOSE East Oak Island Drive**, from **Trott Street** to **46th Street**, to accommodate the **Mardi Gras Parade**. A **DETOUR** route will be established along Elizabeth Drive and E Yacht Drive.

- **[CLICK HERE to view the Street Closure & Detour Map](#)**

This information will also be posted on the **Department's Facebook page**, so be sure to like and share to help spread the message.

To learn more about the Police Department and how we serve our community, just visit **OakIslandNC.gov/PD** or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Beach Bonfire Safety Reminders

With the **Mardi Gras By the Sea Festival & Parade** and potentially favorable weather, it's shaping up to be a fun and busy weekend. That also means more people doing fair-weather activities ... such as ***Beach Bonfires!***

It's hard to believe, but Winter will soon be over. With Sea Turtle Nesting Season right around the corner bringing an end to Beach Bonfire Season, we thought it would be a good reminder of some important safety information, as there are still several weeks left in the season.

Remember, a **Beach Bonfire Permit** is **REQUIRED** before any bonfire can be conducted. Permits are **FREE** to submit online, and simply provide the Fire Department with a record of when and where to expect open flames on the public beach areas.

Additionally, remember to keep safety a top priority!

- **Do NOT** conduct bonfires in the Emergency Vehicle Paths or on any sand dunes.

- Make sure the **flame size** stays about 4 feet in diameter or smaller.
- **Do NOT** burn yard debris, trash, or any materials other than dried firewood.
- Be sure to **clean up your site**; with all burned materials cooled and completely removed from the beach (DO NOT bury materials in the sand)

Finally, remember that if at any point windspeeds exceed **15 MPH**, all permits will be effectively CANCELLED until windspeeds lower.

For more information on Beach bonfires or to submit a Permit Applications, just visit OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE or click the OKI-FD patch below.



THIS WEEK: 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 or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Community "Paint Day" Scheduled

- **WHEN:** Saturday March 9, 2024 • 10:00 AM
- **WHRE:** Oak Island Splashpad Pump house • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

Mark your calendars, and break out your brushes ... ***actually, we'll provide the brushes!*** It's time to add a "splash of color" at the Splashpad, as Town hosts the "***Community Paint Day***" as part of the **Oak Island Public Art Trail**.

Now is your chance to be part of that effort, which will inspire years of memories for residents and visitors alike.

To learn more about the Public Art Trail, just visit the program's dedicated page on the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/ART** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Tanger Outlet Shopping

- **WHEN:** Monday, March 11, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- **AGES:** 18+
- **COST:** \$20 Residents / \$25 Non-Residents

Adult field trips with Oak Island Recreation Department are returning this spring! For Oak Island's first trip of the year, coastal residents will head south for a day shopping at Tanger Outlets in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The perfect outing for friends, family, and neighbors; participants will have ample opportunity to refresh your wardrobe and peruse nearly 100 various storefronts. Restaurants are available on site, but are not included in registration fees. This program is not eligible for refunds, transfers, or credits. For questions, reach out to **Recreation Program Supervisor, Carrie Jennewein**, at **cjennewein@oakislandnc.gov**.

To register, visit the **Events & Programs** page for the Recreation Department at **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Spring Fling

- **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*!

For more information, check out the event listing on the **Events & Programs** page for the Recreation Department at **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**.

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





Mardi Gras Festival



Community Paint Day



Swamp Boat Tours



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