



THE CURRENT

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

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Week of
March 11, 2024

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

"The times they are a changin'!" While that may always be true for society in a larger sense, we're more immediately happy with this past weekend's change of the clock times ... and the extra hour of evening daylight it provides! Longer days and warmer weather, means even more exciting events are just around the corner. With a look ahead to the events and announcements for this second full week of March, we'll jump right in to this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **ABC Board**
- **Town Council**
- **Environmental Advisory Board**
- **Planning Board** (*Special Meeting*)

NEWS & NOTICES

- **NOTICE: Customer Service Desk Closure**
- **Town Council Meeting Agenda Preview**
- ***UPDATE:* Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkway**
- ***Public WORKS:* Leaf Truck Troubles**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **FIRE: A Special Smoke Alarm Install**
- **POLICE: Badges & Bingo**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **RAIN DATE: Community Paint Day**
- **7th Annual Doggie EGGstravaganza**
- **Spring Fling: Market & Music**
- **Book Talk with Kris Emmert**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

ABC BOARD will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024** at **10:00 AM** in the Oak Island ABC Store at 5402 E Oak Island Drive.

TOWN COUNCIL (televised) will hold its next regular meeting on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Thursday, March 14, 2024** at **8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive. (*NOTE: The EAC typically meets on the first Thursday of the month, and the change in meeting date is for this month only.*)

PLANNING BOARD will hold a **Special Meeting** (televised) on **Thursday, March 14, 2024**, at **9:00 AM** in Town Council Chambers, second floor of Oak Island Town Hall, 4601 E. Oak Island Drive. The purpose for the meeting is to continue review of the Table of Uses and Supplemental Regulations.

Upcoming meetings for next week include:

- **Planning Board** (Thursday, March 21)

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

There are **NO** holiday closures for this week.

The next closure will be **Friday, March 29, 2024** in observance of **Good Friday**. To view all holiday closures, visit: **OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY**.



CLOSURE NOTICE: Customer Service Desk

[EDIT NOTE: Due to a scheduling change by the training provider, the Customer Service Desk closure times have changed. Listed below are the updated dates / times]

Next **Wednesday & Thursday, March 20 & 21, 2024**, the **Customer Service Desk** located on the first floor of Town Hall will be **CLOSED from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** each day. This closure is to accommodate employee training on a new accounting software.

While any closure of this type is inconvenient, this training is crucial to implementing a new system which will better serve the residents and utility customer of the Town of Oak Island.

Limited emergency assistance will still be available as needed, however all routine transactions are heavily encouraged to be done prior to or after these closure times.

For questions related to this closure or non-emergency assistance, please use the **Customer Service Contact Form** provided on the ***Finance Department*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/FINANCE** or click the link below.

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Town Council Meeting Agenda Preview

The Oak Island Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting **tomorrow, March 12** at **6:00 PM** in Council Chambers, on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E. Oak Island Drive.

The meeting will begin with a **Public Hearing** on a Special Use Permit for a hotel in the Commercial Recreational (CR) zoning district located at 1425 E Beach Dr. **NOTE:** The applicant has requested a continuance of the hearing until April 9, 2024. This will be followed by a **Presentation** on the **Brunswick County Recycling Program**.

There are two (2) **Committee Appointments** for the Board of Adjustments (two regular terms ending March 2027) and an appointment to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Old Business contains four (4) items, including consideration of a contract for repairs to the Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover at SE 9th Street, along with awarding the contract for Street Paving, consideration of amendments to Section 32-76.1(b)(1) of the Town's Code of Ordinances (Tree & vegetation guidelines), and a Water Tower Lease for Verizon.

New Business will see two (2) items, including consideration of a Request for Encroachment Agreement, and consideration of Amendment to Section 28-42(d)(d) (Parking prohibited on public streets and rights-of-way). A **Closed Session** is also scheduled for this meeting.

To view the full agenda and video of this or any other meeting, visit the ***Meeting Information*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Construction Update: Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkway

As of **Monday, March 11, 2024**, construction is wrapping up on the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover** which connects **SE 20th St & 19th Place E**.

IMPORTANT: While construction has finished, the Walkway is still CLOSED until further notice.

Some remaining site cleanup and structural inspections are needed before an official opening can take place. In the meantime, please **stay off** the Walkway until notice is officially given through the **OKInformation** email system.

Completion of this project comes after three months of work to replace the arched northern section of the walkway, closest to SE 20th Street. This area was not part of the repairs in 2021 following Hurricane Isaias, and required a complete demolition and reconstruction to address structural and safety concerns. The work was performed by *Evans & Sons Contracting* and McPherson Marine, with contracts administered by the Town's Public Works Department.

Pending contract approval by the Town Council, a similar project will begin soon on the Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover which connects **SE 9th St & 9th Pl E**.

To view information on ANY current projects needing facility closures, just visit the ***Projects & Facility Closures*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/PROJECTS** or click the link below..

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Public WORKS: Leaf Truck Troubles

"Where's the leaf collection truck!?" It's a question the Public Works Department commonly (*and sometimes not-so-politely*) receives. The Town of Oak Island operates 25 Cubic Yard Vacuum Collection units as part of it's **Yard Debris Collection** schedule. Usually the truck has no problem staying on schedule, so long as that schedule is spent collecting ***JUST*** leaves. Unfortunately, that is often not the case.

As seen by **THIS PILE OF DEBRIS** collected over a single 5-day period, there is a lot more than just leaves being left in the right-of-way. These items get sucked into the machine, and can cause extreme amounts of damage. Damage which results in equipment downtime, costly repairs, a delayed collection schedule, and ultimately costs that are passed on to taxpaying residents.

Whether it's damages like **snapped welds in a bell housing** (a \$3000 repair), or **cracked impeller blades** hit by bricks, rocks, or similar hard objects, these "hidden surprises" in leaf piles affect everyone through unit downtime. In the 2023-24 Fiscal Year, **the Town had to replace the liners and/or impellers in these machines 13 times**, something that should normally only happen about once a year.

HOW CAN YOU HELP: Take a few extra moments when placing your yard debris beside the street for collection, and make sure there are no large branches, rocks, stones, bricks, or other hard debris mixed in. While waiting for collection, if you notice any of these items make their way into your pile, be sure to pick them out and place them where they belong.

These simple actions of good stewardship are the true mark of a caring community, Not doing something because *you have to*, but because your small efforts can (and will) make a big difference for everyone further down the line.

If you'd like to learn more about the leaf truck or other Yard Debris Collection tools, or check out the **NEW Yard Debris Collection Calendar**, just visit the dedication page on the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/YardDebris** or click the link below.

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SAFETY BRIEF



FIRE DEPARTMENT: A Special Smoke Alarm Install

The time shift during Daylight Saving Time offers a great reminder to check and replace the batteries in your smoke alarms, *something we can assist with, if needed*. In fact, this past **Friday, March 8**, we assisted with installing several smoke alarms which uniquely feature an LED strobe light as visual aid for the deaf / hard of hearing. This need became known during a previous response, in which our staff learned of a deaf resident who did not currently have these in their home.

Needless to say, these types of alarms are a **critical resource** for those who may not be served by traditional "sound-only" alarms, and one we were honored to be able to help provide. Captain David Loving reached out to **Stop Loss LLC** who through a partnership with **Better Beach Rentals** were able to provide and install these life-saving devices!

As noted in **a video we shared on our Facebook page**, *smoke alarms save lives*, which is why there are alarm options to meet a wide variety of needs. If you have special medical concerns, don't think you have to compromise on your level of protection.

To learn more about these or other alarm options that may benefit you, call the Fire Department at **910-278-1000**, use the **Contact Form** on the Fire Department webpage at **OakIslandNC.gov/FD**, or just click the OKI-FD patch below.



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Badges & Bingo

This past **Wednesday, March 5** Chief Charlie Morris joined several officers for a fun time of "officiating" duties in the afternoon Bingo game (**PHOTOS HERE**) at the **Oak Island Community Center**.

Located beside the Police Department at 102 SE 47th Street, the Community Center is a group nutrition program and senior center, where individuals 60 and over can come to enjoy a well-balanced hot nutritional meal, and engage in social activities with other residents.

We recognize that to some, a Police Chief calling Bingo numbers while his officers pass out food to seniors may not seem like "important police work" - but it is ***absolutely at the heart of what we do!***

As a "community oriented" policing model, it does not get more ingrained into the community through this level of service. For many of the attendees, the Community Center is their primary source of social interaction, and their **only** opportunity to meet our officers in a non-emergency setting. If you have a fall or other medical emergency, or worse are the victim of a crime, having a familiar face show up in your time of need is one of the greatest assurances you can have that everything will be okay.

That's why we are grateful for the opportunity to participate in such events, and will continue to do so for as long as the community allows. 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.



THIS WEEK! Community "Paint Day"

Rescheduled from last weekend due to inclement weather, the Community Paint is now set for this **Saturday March 16**, at **10:00 AM**.

- **WHEN:** Saturday March 16, 2024 • 10:00 AM
- **WHERE:** 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**.

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

7th Annual Doggie EGGstravaganza

- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 16, 2024 • 11:30 AM
- **WHERE:** Salty Dog Park (inside Bill Smith Park) • 4410 Fish Factory Rd.
- **COST:** FREE

Join Oak Island for the **7th Annual Doggie EGGstravaganza** at the Salty Dog Park inside Bill Smith Park. There will be many special prizes and yummy treats hidden inside eggs around the park. There will be separate a hunt for ***Dogs over 25 lbs*** and ***Dogs under 25 lbs***. Pets must be up to date on their vaccinations to participate.

For more information 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**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or by click the link below.

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Book Talk with Kris Emmert

- **WHEN:** Friday, April 5, 2024 • 5:30 - 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive

Come and talk with Kris Emmert, author of ***Providing Promise. A Navy Widow’s Journey to Hope***. Listen to her journey and what she went through to find Hope. April 5 is Gold Star Spouses Day which honors spouses who lost the military significant other in the line of duty or because of their military service. There will be light refreshments. For more information visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or call **910-278-5518**.

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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!



Community Paint Day



Doggie EGGstravaganza



Spring Fling



Book Talk

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)	+