

THE CURRENT



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

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Week of

March 25, 2024

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

It's the final week of March, Spring has **officially** arrived, and the Town is already starting to see some seasonal uptick in numbers of footprints left in the sand! That's why this week's edition has some important details about preparations that are already underway for the coming summer season. So even if the water's still a bit chilly, put on that wetsuit and let's get ready for a deep dive into this week's edition of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Business Advisory Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Paid Parking Program Updates**
- **Water Safety Stations Being Serviced**

- Beach Warning Flag Forecasts Starting Soon
- Community Center Calendar Updated

SAFETY BRIEF

- POLICE: New Speed Sign Installed
- FIRE: Apparel Now Available

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- RESCHEDULED Spring Fling: Market & Music
- Effective Dog Training
- Karaoke Opening Night
- Book Talk with Kris Emmert



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

BUSINESS ADVOSORY BOARD will hold its next meeting (*non-televised*) on **Tuesday, March 26, 2024** at **7:00 AM** in the Police Department Training Room on the 2nd floor of the Police Department..

Upcoming meetings for next week include:

- Recreation Advisory Board (Monday, April 1)
- Environmental Advisory Committee (Thursday, April 4)
- Par 3 Advisory Committee (Friday, April 5)

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

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices and Facilities will be **CLOSED THIS COMING Friday, March 29, 2024** in observance of **Good Friday**.

NOTE: the **Disposal Convenience Site** will also be **CLOSED** that day as well. **Garbage & Recycling** collection services will operate as **NORMAL**, however collection times may be delayed due to higher volumes over the holiday weekend.

To view all holiday closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.

NEWS & NOTICES

Paid Parking Program Updates

Starting next **Monday, April 1, 2024** the **Paid Parking** program for the Town of Oak Island will begin for the 2024 season. As a reminder, during the season, enforcement of Paid Parking spaces will be from **April 1 - September 30**, between the hours of **9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**.

Added for 2024 will be extended enforcement of the **Resident Parking** spaces, which will be enforced until **9:00 PM**.

Any Town Residents & property owners who have not yet purchased a Resident Parking Permit, can do so at anytime through the **SurfCAST App**, online at surfcast.ottoconnect.us/pay, or by calling **Otto Connect** directly at **910-200-1497**. Even though the season starts next Monday, **there is NO deadline or cutoff** date for Resident Parking Permits. Each property is allotted up to **three (3)** permits at a cost of **\$10 each**. Special codes for residents of rental properties / condos are provided by their property manager.

On a related note, all **Season Parking Permits**, open to purchase by anyone, have now been **SOLD OUT**. The last of the 1,500 Season Permits allotted for 2024 by the Town Council, were sold last Friday, March 22.

For full details and any updates on programs changes, please visit the **Parking Information** at OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Water Safety Stations Being Serviced

In addition to the Paid Parking program starting next week, it will also mean the return of the **Rescue Tubes** at the **Water Safety Stations**. Throughout this week, the Public Works Department will be reinstalling the Rescue Tubes; as well as checking and replacing any damaged Safety Station signage and poles, as needed. At last count, approximately 13 signs are being replaced from last season, due to damage.

The Stations were initially provided in 2022 through a partnership with the **Jack Helbig Memorial Foundation**. They are provided at **ALL 65** of the public **Beach Access Locations**, along with several more locations added last year, to cover the longer distances between some street ends.

In order for crews to ensure all equipment is installed on schedule, **please do not stop workers on the beach to ask about project updates**. Information and updates are available on the Town Website or by calling the Public Works department at 910-201-8083.

To learn more about the Water Safety Stations, their history and how to use them, just visit the **Beach Safety Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Beach Warning Flag Forecasts Starting Soon

Also starting next **Monday, April 1, 2024**, the **National Weather Service (NWS)** will begin issuing their daily **Beach Forecasts**. Knowing the surf conditions **before entering the water**, is vital to staying safe **while in the water**.

In addition to the Rescue Tubes mentioned earlier, the Water Safety Stations also display a website link and QR code to view the **Beach Warning Flag** forecast provided by the NWS. This is the most critical, and most promoted piece of information provided by the Stations. As a reminder, email and emergency text alert notifications are provided on **Red Flag** days, through the **OKInformation** system, which you can sign up for at OakIslandNC.gov/INFO

Before you or any friends or family members head out this season, be sure to check and help share the Beach Warning Flag information; found on both the general **Beach Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/BEACH as well as the **Beach Safety Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Community Center Calendar Updated

The **Oak Island Community Center** has updated its Events Calendar for the month of April, as well as adding new photos from recent events held in March.

Located at **102 SE 47th Street** beside the Town Hall, the Center is open **Monday - Thursday** from **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** and on **Fridays** for **Meals & Trips** (contact the Center for specific times).

The Community Center is a congregate nutrition program and senior center where individuals 60 and over can come to enjoy a well-balanced hot nutritional meal. Individuals from Oak Island and the surrounding towns can participate in the programs, you do not have to be a resident; however, if you do not drive and require transportation you must live on the island.

Individuals can also enjoy social / recreation (bingo, rummikub, etc.) activities while attending the site from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, with other special programs listed on the monthly calendar.

To learn more about the programs hosted and how to contact staff, just visit the **Community Center** page at OakIslandNC.gov/CC or click the link below..

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SAFETY BRIEF



POLICE DEPARTMENT: New Speed Sign Installed

When the season changes to summer, the days get longer, the nights get warmer ... the traffic gets **slower**. As many residents and even longtime visitors to Oak Island can probably tell you, each year in May the NCDOT **lowers the speed limit** along **Beach Drive** from 45mph to 35mph. While some may say this is done on Memorial Day, *the exact date is not published*, and usually occurs around the middle of the month.

But regardless of **when** it happens, we're here to help make you aware that it **does** happen; and this year, we've got a new tool available just for that!

Last week, crews with the Public Works Department finished installing this **NEW Speed Sign** ([PICTURED HERE](#)) located along W Beach Drive. This now adds to the sign already installed along E Yacht Drive ([PICTURED HERE](#)), and further enhances the education and awareness efforts of our Speed & Traffic Control program. Similar to our [**Mobile Speed Trailer**](#) unit which has proven quite successful, these permanent fixtures should help bring attention to drivers speeds, even when distracted by the beautiful beach areas.

To learn more about our efforts to address speed and traffic concerns, just visit the **Speed & Traffic Data** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/SPEED](#) or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Ocean Rescue Recruitment

It's often been said that "**everyone wants to be a firefighter - even the Police!** (J/K)". While we certainly wish that anyone with the desire to help could, we also understand that not everyone is able to take up that calling and start rolling hoses.

But there is another way you can help, **by showing your support!** **NEW Oak Island Fire Department Apparel** is in and available to purchase! Represent your community, and show your support through a brand new hoodie ([PICTURED](#)), patriotic t-shirt ([PICTURED](#)), or a shirt featuring the recently redesign OKI-FD patch ([PICTURED](#)).

Items can be purchased at **Station 2** (8510 E Oak Island Drive) during regular business hours of **Monday - Friday** from **9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**, cash or check only (shipping is currently not available).

For more information, you can also call the Fire Department at **910-278-1000**, or use the [**Contact Form**](#) on the **Fire Department** webpage at [OakIslandNC.gov/FD](#).





COMING EVENTS

RESCHEDULED: Spring Fling: Market & Music

- **WHEN:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 • NOON - 4:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive

Due to inclement weather, the **2024 Spring Fling** event originally planned for this past weekend has been **RESCHEDULED to Saturday, April 13, 2024** from **NOON - 4:00 PM**.

There will not be a concert at the rescheduled event, due to scheduling conflicts with the band; *however*, staff are working to coordinate a separate concert date, which will take place before the Summer Concerts Series begins. The rescheduled Spring Fling on April 13 will still feature multiple Food Vendors, Craft Artisans, and a kids area with inflatables.

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**](#)

Effective Dog Training

- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 23, 2024 • 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive
- **COST:** FREE to attend (presentation copies available for \$20)

Training pet parents on HOW and WHY to turn daily interactions with pets into FUN and EFFECTIVE training opportunities. While dogs are NOT invited to this seminar, you are ENCOURAGED to bring questions specific to your dog's behavior problems. Participants will have the opportunity to apply the information learned in this seminar to build fun and effective training strategies. This class is FREE to attend. Presentation copies will be available for \$20.00. Please feel free to bring snacks and drinks. Bring your learning caps for this 4 hour class.

For more information call the **Recreation Center** at **910-278-5518** or visit the [**Events & Programs**](#) page at OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or click the link below.

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

Karaoke Opening Night (Teen Center)

- **WHEN:** Friday, April 12, 2024 • 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Community Center • 102 SE 47th Street (beside Town Hall)
- **WHO:** Teens

Come have some fun with friends, or make some new ones! This is a chance to see if a Teen Center would be a fun and useful facility for the Town to employ this summer. So have some fun and be a part of something new, building a program for teens in the Town! For more information call the **Recreation Center** at **910-278-5518** or visit the **Events & Programs** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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 their 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** or call **910-278-5518**.

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!



Spring Fling



Effective Dog Training



Karaoke Opening Night



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 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 EDITION ARCHIVE (2023)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)

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