

# THE CURRENT

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

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Week of  
April 1, 2024

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

*There's no foolin' here ... it's the first of April!* That means a lot of things here in Oak Island, but practical jokes and misinformation isn't one of them. April 1 marks the start of several programs which run through the whole summer season. So even if the weather isn't a humid 90° yet, this edition is still packed with information you need to know for the months ahead. So put on that waterproof SPF-45 and let's go for a swim in this week's edition of *The CURRENT*.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- Recreation Advisory Board
- Budget Workshops
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Par 3 Advisory Committee

## NEWS & NOTICES

- **Oak Island Pier Closure**
- **Budget Workshops Begin**
- **Paid Parking Season Starts**
- **Beach Safety Review**
- **Business Bulletin Newsletter**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **POLICE: Sergeant Receives Advanced Certification**
- **FIRE: Warning Flags Now Flying**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Book Talk with Kris Emmert**
- **Karaoke Opening Night**
- **Spring Fling**
- **Badges, Boats, & Boots**



## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

**RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Monday, April 1, 2024** at **4:00 PM** in the Community Center, located at 102 SE 47th Street, beside Town Hall.

**BUDGET WORKSHOPS** for the Town Council (*non-televised*) will be held on **Tuesday, April 2** and **Thursday, April 4**, starting at **9:00 AM** both days in the Town Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Thursday, April 4, 2024** at **8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive.

**PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Friday, April 5, 2024** at **1:00 PM** in the Par 3 Pro Shop at 4188 Vanessa Drive.

Upcoming meetings for next week include:

- **ABC Board** (Tuesday, April 9)
- **Town Council Meeting** (Tuesday, April 9)
- **Budget Workshop** (Thursday, April 11)

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** Holiday Closures for the week ahead. The next holiday closure will be on **Monday, May 27, 2024** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

To view all holiday closures, visit: **[OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY](https://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY)**.





## Oak Island Pier Closure

On **Tuesday, April 2, 2024** the **Oak Island Pier** will be **CLOSED** for the **ENTIRE DAY**.

*[NOTE: This is an update to the previous release which stated the Pier would close early at Noon.]*

This closure is to accommodate filming by the television company ***Beachfront Productions, LLC***, who will working from **NOON** to **MIDNIGHT** that day to film an episode of the HGTV series “***Battle On the Beach.***” The Pier House, Restaurant, and Coffee Shop within the Pier Complex will also remain **OPEN**.

**PLEASE NOTE:** This filming will include a brief fireworks display off the Pier that evening, so explosive sounds may be heard in the area.

For more information on the Oak Island Pier, or the latest news and information, just visit the ***Pier Information*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/PIER](https://OakIslandNC.gov/PIER)** or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Budget Workshops Begin

Please be advised that the Oak Island Town Council will hold two **Budget Workshops / Special Meetings** this week, on **Tuesday, April 2** and **Thursday, April 4**, each beginning at **9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E. Oak Island Dr.

The purpose of the meetings is as follows:

### Tuesday, April 2:

- Budget Workshop

Action may be taken.

### Thursday, April 4:

- Budget Workshop
- Budget Ordinance Amendment
- Closed Session to discuss land acquisition pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5).

Action may be taken.

To watch these meetings live or anytime later on-demand, visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS)** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

## Paid Parking Season Underway

As of **Monday, April 1, 2024** the **Paid Parking** program is now in effect 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**.

Throughout the season as new visitors arrive each week, questions will pop up frequently from new users. Remember that **YOU** can answer these questions, relieve confusion, and stop the spread of misinformation, all by offering a simple website link! If you see someone in person or online with questions about Paid Parking, simply refer them to the **Parking Information** page of the Town Website. This is the **ONLY official source** of program information from the Town, and is updated regularly with any program developments as needed.

So no need to rely on your own memory, share screengrabs, or post dated details, simply give them the ***Parking Information*** page link of **OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

## Beach Safety Review

In addition to the Paid Parking program, **Monday April 1** also marks the start of the **Beach Warning Flag** forecasts from the **National Weather Service (NWS)**. In addition to the physical flags that will be flown (*see the Safety Brief below for more details*), the forecasts are also available on the Town Website.

For 2024, the Town is ***doubling*** the number of pages where this information can be found, which now include the:

- **Beach Safety Page:** **OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY**
- **Beach Information page:** **OakIslandNC.gov/BEACH**
- **Ocean Rescue page:** **OakIslandNC.gov/ORU**
- **Oak Island Pier page:** **OakIslandNC.gov/PIER**

On the Beach itself, the current Flag Condition can be found by directly scanning the QR codes on the signs at each **Water Safety Station**.

To learn more and help share information on Beach Warning Flag conditions, just visit the ***Beach Safety Information*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

## Business Bulletin Newsletter

Back in the **February 5** edition, we reported that the **Economic Development** Department had just launched the new ***Business Bulletin*** newsletter.

Every edition is crafted to illuminate the latest updates, insights, and opportunities, tailored exclusively for the local business community. The publication works to shine a spotlight on the heartbeat of commerce in the Town of Oak Island, fostering connections and growth.

Even if you're not a member of the local business community, the Bulletin is worth a read, as it provides a unique view into the concerns and interests of those who serve our local economy.

The latest edition of the Business Bulletin is now available to view on Economic Development page at **OakIslandNC.gov/ECON** or by clicking the link below..



# SAFETY BRIEF



## POLICE DEPARTMENT: Sergeant Receives Advanced Certification

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **Sergeant Jessie Birchfield** (***PICTURED HERE***), who recently received his **Advanced Law Enforcement Certification** from the **NC Department of Justice Training and Standards Division** -- North Carolina's highest award for law enforcement officers!

The Professional Certificate Program recognizes the level of competency for officers serving governmental agencies throughout NC, and helps to foster increased interest in college education and professional training programs.

Eligibility is determined by a formula that combines formal education, professional training, and work experience.

As Sergeant Birchfield continues to build upon his knowledge and skills, please join us in congratulating him on this achievement as we recognize yet another one of our amazing officers and the spotlight they shine on our community!

To learn more about our department and the services we provide, 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: Warning Flags Now Flying

As mentioned earlier, April 1 marks the start of Beach warning Flag forecasts in Oak Island. At this point, most everybody knows you can find the current Flag Condition on the Town Website, but we are often asked ***where are the flags physically flown at?***

Over the past few years, the Town has made significant strides in expanding the visibility and number of locations where we fly the daily forecast flags.

**These include:**

- **Mounted on ALL of the Fire Department vehicles**
- **Fire Stations 1 (101 E Oak Island Drive)**



- **Fire Stations 2 (8510 E Oak Island Drive)**
- **The Oak Island Water Rescue Station (4901 E Pelican Drive)**
- **On the flagpole of Crossroads Gathering Place, at the base of the GV Barbee bridge**
- **Mounted on the utility vehicles of the Beach Services Unit during all active patrols**

Event with all of these locations (many of which are mobile) and the signage on the Water Safety Stations, there are always visitors who simply don't know to look out for them. **That's where you can help!** Make sure to help spread the word, and encourage your friends and neighbors to visit the ***Beach Safety Information*** page everyday for the latest information at **OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY**.

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**.



## 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

## 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

## Spring Fling

- **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 visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

## Badges, Boats, & Boots

- **WHEN:** Saturday, April 20, 2024 • 2:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park complex (Softball Field) • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

The bats are out and '**B3**' is BACK! Come join the Oak Island Fire & Police Departments for their SECOND Annual exhibition against the US Coast Guard Station Oak Island in a **First Responder Community Softball Game**.

The inaugural event in October 2023 was a huge home run, so the "teams" have partnered up again for a more seasonal spring game this coming April. Plan now to attend and show support for your favorite first responders! For more information visit the dedicated page at [OakIslandNC.gov/BBB](https://OakIslandNC.gov/BBB) or 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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS).

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



Book Talk



Karaoke Opening Night



Spring Fling



"B3" Softball Game

# 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)	+