

THE CURRENT



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

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Week of

April 15, 2024

Fireworks ... in April? No, we didn't decide to move **Beach Day** up by a few months this year. The stunning shot in this week's cover photo was captured during a recent filming of the popular "*Battle On The Beach*" show for the HGTV network. While all proper permitting and safety cautions were taken, just as with any other display, it **once again proves the only way** to compete with the natural beauty of this Town is through literal fireworks! Well, while the colorful sky explosions were to look at, there's business to be done, and notices to be shared. So trade out those fireworks / eclipse viewing glasses for a good pair of swim trucks, because it's time to dive in to this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Budget Workshop**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Busy Schedule for Town Council**
- **Walkover Work Begins .. Again!**
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- **Dune Infiltration System Receives Golden LEAF Grant**

SAFETY BRIEF

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- **FIRE: New Emergency Vehicle Access Locations**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Badges, Boats, & Boots**
- **Earth Week Events**
- **Crabbing to Cuisine**
- **Summer Concert Series**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

BUDGET WORKSHOP The Town Council will hold its next Budget Workshop (*televised*) on **Tuesday, April 16**, starting at **9:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers.

Upcoming meetings for next week include:

- **Planning Board** (Monday, April 22)
- **Business Advisory Board** (Tuesday, April 23)
- **Budget Workshop** (Tuesday, April 23)

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 the month of April. 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.



Busy Schedule for Town Council

Last week held a packed schedule for the Town Council, as it included the Council's **Regular Meeting** on **Tuesday, April 9**, along with a **Budget Workshop** and **Special Meeting** on **Thursday, April 11** at 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM, respectively.

The **Regular Meeting** held two public hearings, a proclamation for Arbor Day, a presentation from the Recreation Advisory Board, and two items of new business. Appointments were also made to the Par 3 Advisory Committee and the Board of Adjustment. The **Special Meeting** was to receive presentations from firms proposing to work on an update of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. A total of four firms presented their proposals, with Council agreeing to take action at the Budget Workshop on April 23.

While Spring is a busy time for many homeowners looking to maintenance on their property, it is an equally busy time for Town government, as it works to prepare for the fiscal year ahead. That's why the Council is currently in the midst of their Budget Workshop series. During the Workshops, Council meets with the Town Manager, the Assistant Manager / Finance

Director, and various department heads to provide directives on budget priorities for the coming fiscal year.

There is one Budget Workshop scheduled for the week ahead, on **Tuesday, April 16 at 9:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers. This will make the fourth Budget Workshop held so far, with at least two more planned for the following week on Tuesday & Thursday, April 23 & 25.

To view any of the previous meetings, or the agendas for upcoming meetings, just visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Pedestrian Walkover Work Begins ... Again!

Last month, work was completed on a replacement of the arched northern end of the [Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover](#), which connects **SE 20th Street** and **19th Place East**. This section, which crosses the Davis Canal itself, was not originally included in the 2021 Walkover replacement following damage from Hurricane Isaias.

As a follow up to the work on the SE 20th Street Walkover, **work has now started for a similar replacement** at the Walkover connecting **SE 9th Street to 9th Place East**. Tentatively, the project is expected to be completed by the end of June or early July. While this does impact the first half of the summer season, it will still allow for use of the NEW Walkover with plenty of the 2024 summer left by the time of its reopening.

While there has been some question as to **why** this project would take place during the start of the Town's busier month, the answer simply comes down to "**logistics**." There are several factors which determine exactly when and how a project of this size and importance is completed. Most notably, the availability of contractors and crew to perform the work, as well as cost guarantees for materials, and the significant amount of permitting work required through the [Coastal Area Management Act \(CAMA\)](#).

As experienced in the past, waiting until after the summer season to begin similar projects has been met with labor shortages and higher costs, when both materials and workers are in their highest demand during the "off-season." Since there are so few contractors available to perform such highly-specialized work, this simply must be done as immediate availability allows.

If you're one of those who will temporarily miss the scenery and convenience of the 9th Street Walkover, **don't worry**; you can keep track of the progress being made right from the [Projects & Facility Closures](#) page at OakIslandNC.gov/PROJECTS, or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

NOTICE: Online Bill Payment Change

Please Note: As of **April 2024** the Town has transitioned online bill payment to a new service provided through [Edmunds GovTech](#) online.

As part of this change, a new **Customer Account Number** will be needed to make payments through **ACH / E-Check / Billpay**. Customers will need to update their **Customer Account Number** for all automated payments established through their bank.

For non-automated, online-only payment, a new **Customer Pin Number** will also be needed, as well.

New **Account & Pin** numbers will be provided on the next printed bill, but if they are needed sooner, you can request them directly by contacting the **Customer Service Desk** at **910-201-8001** or through the **Department Contact Form**.

The Town of Oak Island is committed to providing residents with efficient, convenient service through online payment options for taxes and utility bills. This change is just one more way the Town's Finance Department is working to improve the overall online payment experience.

To view the or more information or to make an online payment, just visit **OakIslandNC.gov/PAYMENT** or click the link below.

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Dune Infiltration Project Receives Golden LEAF Grant

On **Tuesday, April 9, 2024** during the regular meeting of the Oak Island Town Council, Town Manager David Kelly reported that the **Golden LEAF Foundation** had awarded a **\$579,500 grant** to the Town for engineering and construction of the **Dune Infiltration System Project**. This grant is part of **\$8 million** in funding announced during the April meeting by the Golden LEAF Foundation Board of Directors on April 4. The funding was awarded for scholarships for rural students to attend North Carolina community colleges, the Food Distribution Assistance Program, and the **Flood Mitigation Grant Program**; through which Oak Island was awarded the \$579,500.

Started in August 2023, the soon completed project saw the installation of a “dune infiltration” style drainage system in the area of Ocean Drive. This system is already working to reduce ponding and decrease occurrences of standing water along Ocean Drive, following significant rain events.

The State of North Carolina appropriated \$25 million to the Golden LEAF Foundation to establish the Flood Mitigation Grant Program, which provides up to \$2,000,000 per project to local governments for use on projects that address frequent flooding. The Town of Oak Island is excited to share this announcement of funding from Golden LEAF, which will help greatly offset the cost of a project so vital to the residents, property owners, and businesses along Ocean Drive.

To read the FULL release, and learn more about the Dune Infiltration system and the Golden LEAF foundation, just visit the **OKInformation** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



SAFETY BRIEF



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Chief's 'LSV Rental Letter' .. Round Two

Last week we provided an update on Chief's LSV Rental Business Letter, encouraging businesses which rent **Low Speed Vehicles** to provide the Safety & Rules information on our Low Speed Vehicle Info-cards to their customers.

With visitors coming to this area from all over the nation, and even the world, it's important to take the extra steps needed to help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for everyone.

However, if you take a closer look at our citation statics for 2023, there's another supplier of LSVs that needs to be addressed as well. This one is closer to home. As it turns out, a **significant** portion of citations were to drivers of LSVs which were **provided directly by the homes they were renting**.

In the coming weeks, our staff will be reaching out to rental homeowners and property managers directly, strongly encouraging them, that if an LSV is offered with their home, to please provide the Low Speed Vehicle Info-cards to their customers as well. Just the same as any LSV rental company would.

In the meantime, you can help with this as well! Please feel free to share and help (*respectfully*) promote the Info-cards on your own social media. Because keeping everyone informed, is much more preferred to everyone needing a citation! To view the Info-cards and all related LSV information online, just visit OakIslandNC.gov/LSV or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency Access Locations Updated

You've probably seen some of our recent recruitment efforts, encouraging you to **DIVE INTO YOUR CALLING** and join our **Ocean Rescue Unit**. While the Administrative Staff are working to add the final remaining members, the Unit is already working hard to ensure safety this summer.

This past week, the Fire Department completed a thorough review of all **Emergency Vehicle Beach Access Locations**. As with anything else on the beach, sands shift and the more "popular spots" change, and we must adapt as well. So for 2024 we have published a **NEW** Emergency Vehicle Access list, which now includes:

- McGlamery Street
- Trott Street
- Barbee Blvd.
- SE 76th Street
- SE 70th Street
- SE 64th Street
- SE 63rd Street
- SE 52nd Street
- SE 49th Street
- 35th Place East
- 32nd Place East
- 29th Place East
- 25th Place East
- 19th Place East
- 16th Place East
- 9th Place East
- 3rd Place East
- 5th Place West
- 13th Place West
- 23rd Place West
- 30th Place West
- 48th Place West
- 54th Place West
- The Point (End of W Beach Dr.)

As a reminder, at any Emergency Vehicle Access Location, be sure to "**Keep the Path Free, From Street to Sea!**" Don't block the access from the street side with your vehicle, and keep all beach equipment out of the pathway on the beach side as well. Helping us to access the beach quickly in an emergency can mean a whole lot if YOU are that emergency!

IMPORTANT: If you want to **SHARE** this list of access on your own website or social media, please **DO NOT share a screenshot!** As stated above, conditions may change and if so, we will adapt to meet them. **Instead**, simply share the link to the **Beach Safety** page to provide the most up-to-date information. To find and share the page, visit OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY or click the OKI-FD patch below.



COMING EVENTS

THIS WEEK: 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 or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Earth Week Series

- **WHEN:** Monday - Friday, April 22 - 26, 2024
- **WHERE:** Various Locations

Reel in the celebrations at Oak Island's Earth Week Series as coastal residents and guests enjoy a fantastic line up of free community opportunities! Learning sessions about turtles, owls, gardening and nature ... there's even a fishing derby and Arbor Day celebration! There's a lot to do throughout the entire week, so be sure to check the flyers and plan ahead.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Crabbing To Cuisine

- **WHEN:** Friday, May 17, 2024 • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive
- **COST:** \$45 Residents / \$50 Non-Residents

Join Steve's Crab Shack learning all about the Blue Crab! Discussions include methods of catching crabs, types of bait, local areas where crabbing is permitted, as well as how to prepare and steam your catch. Participants receive hands on practice in picking Blue Crab for a taste test that is sure to have your tastebuds screaming for more! *Participants under age 16 must attend with a registered participant age 18 and up.

For more information and ***additional course dates*** visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS**](#) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Summer Concert Series

- **WHEN:** Friday, May 24, 2024 • 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive
- **COST:** FREE

The Summer Concert Series is one of Oak Islands favorite pastimes. This is a FREE event. Come and bring a chair/blanket and enjoy great entertainment all summer long. There will also be food trucks onsite in case you get a little hungry. Concerts each week start at 6:30 PM from the Middleton Park Complex Amphitheater located at 4610 East Dolphin Drive, Oak Island, NC. .

For more information and to view the ***Live Band Lineup***, visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS**](#) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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



"B3" Softball Game



Earth Week Front Page



Earth Week Back Page



Summer Concert Series

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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