



# THE CURRENT

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

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**Week of**

**April 22, 2024**

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

It's the last full week in April, and we are sailing our way to May! Budget Workshops are wrapping up, and getting prepped for the coming Fiscal Year. While the temperatures may be taking one final cooldown, Town events and activities are certainly heating up as well! Regardless of what the meteorologists say, the week ahead looks sunny and bright for the Town's Calendar, so wax up your boards and let's slip in to this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Budget Workshops**
- **Business Advisory Board**

## NEWS & NOTICES


- **Budget Workshops Continue**
- **Arbor Day Celebrations**
- **REMINDER: Online Bill Payment Change**
- **35th Anniversary of Sea Turtle Conservation**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **POLICE: Badges, Boats, & Boots Replay**
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## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Earth Week Events**
- **Crabbing to Cuisine**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Farmers' & Artisans' Market**



# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

**BUDGET WORKSHOPS** will be held by the Town Council (*televised*) on **Tuesday, April 23** and **Thursday, April 25** starting at **9:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Tuesday, April 23** at **9:00 AM** in the Police Department Training Room on the 2nd floor of the Police Department.

Upcoming meetings for next week include:

- **Environmental Advisory Committee** (Thursday, May 2)
- **Par 3 Golf Advisory Committee** (Friday, May 3)

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Information page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](http://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** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

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



## Budget Workshops Wrapping Up

Throughout the month of April, the Town Council has been holding their series of Budget Workshops, during which they meet with the Town Manager, the Assistant Manager / Finance Director, and various department heads to provide directives on budget priorities for the coming fiscal year.

A total of **four** (4) Budget Workshops so far have been held so far, on Tuesday's & Thursdays, **April 2, 4, 11, & 16**.

This week will hold the two final Budget Workshops scheduled, on **Tuesday, April 23** and **Thursday, April 25**, both at **9:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers. Other Workshop dates may be added if needed, but if all goes according to schedule the Town Council will wrap up their review and directives by the end of this week. From there, development of the

Budget proceeds to staff, who will work to incorporate the Council's directives and have the Proposed Budget ready in time for a Public Hearing in late May.

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

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## Arbor Day Annual Event

It's ***Earth Week!*** While "earth" is usually thought of as the ground beneath our feet (or water beneath our boat!) it is equally important to look to the sky. In particular to the many mighty live oaks providing shade over our heads.

As part of this year's Earth Weeks events, the **2024 Arbor Day Celebration** for the Town of Oak Island will be held this **Friday April 26, 2024** from **3:30 PM - 6:30 PM** at the **Oak Island Nature Center**, located at 5202 E Yacht Drive.

Representatives from Tree Peace Oak Island, Brunswick County Master Gardeners, Citizens for Planned Growth, North Carolina Sea Grant, and The North Carolina Coastal Federation will be on site to share their tree and coastal landscaping knowledge with our community. Crafts and a fun urban forestry scavenger hunt will round out the festivities.

For more information on the event or the efforts by the Town as part of its *Tree City USA* designation, just visit the ***Environmental Advisory Committee*** page page at [OakIslandNC.gov/EAC](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EAC), or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## REMINDER: Online Bill Payment Change

As reported in last week's edition, earlier this month the Town transitioned online bill payment to a new service provided through **Edmunds GovTech**.

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**.

To view the or more information or to make an online payment, just visit [OakIslandNC.gov/PAYMENT](https://OakIslandNC.gov/PAYMENT) or click the link below.

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## 35th Anniversary of Sea Turtle Conservation

*[CONTRIBUTED by the Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program; the full contribution is linked below]*

The **Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program** is excited to announce this is our **35th Anniversary** of Sea Turtle Conservation, Education, and Preservation on Oak Island! Our **season** runs from **May 1 - October 31** or until the last nest is excavated. Last season we had our third largest number of nests on record with **133 nests!**

We were able to educate over 30,326 people at our nests and excavations! In 2023 our volunteers volunteered 15,457 hours and traveled 41,656.67 miles for a total "calculated donation" to our sea turtles of \$497,364.53! We are extremely proud of the work all of our volunteers give to our sea turtles!

The Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program is the only permitted program from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to care for and protect the sea turtles that visit our beach. Please call us day or night, 24/7 if you see a nesting turtle, emerging hatchlings, washed-back hatchlings, or stranded or deceased turtles on the beach at **910-945-8888** or through the Hotline at **252-241-7367!** Your help is appreciated! We also invite you to come and sit with us in the evenings at our nests when the hatchlings are ready to emerge!

We love our sea turtles and our Town so THANK YOU to those in our community who share our love of sea turtles! To learn more about our organization, just visit our website at **[okiseaturtle.org](http://okiseaturtle.org)**.

To read the **FULL** release, and learn more about the Program, visit the page at **OKInformation** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS)** or click the link below.

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# SAFETY BRIEF



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT: Badges, Boats, & Boots Replay**

For all of the many things it is, Spring is also **Softball Season!** As pictured in this week's cover photo, the Police Department joined Fire Department this past Saturday, facing off against the Coast Guard Station Oak Island in our second **Badges, Boats, & Boots** game.

Unlike our first meetup, the "Puddle Pirates" (USCG) took the win this time with a score of 13-9. This now levels the tally between our teams at **1 win each**, which now all but demands a third game. Stay tuned, as we'll have more on that in the future.

While each of our respective teams may now have a win on their record, the BIG winner this weekend was the community as a whole. As with the first game, we selected charity to receive donated items and proceeds from T-shirt sales, which totaled several hundred dollars.

Stay tuned later this week, when we'll publish a full photo album and details of the designated recipient on the Police Department's Facebook page. If you don't already follow us there, just visit **Facebook.com/OakIslandPD** or click the OKI-PD patch below.



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT: Blending Technology Into Training**

Last week our **Ocean Rescue Unit** underwent three straight days of training. This included working on certifications while also learning to work seamlessly with incredible drone technologies that are newly available to us.

These new abilities include being able to quickly deliver Recue Tubes, Auto-Inflating Devices, and Tether Rope to swimmers in distress, or to aid rescuers. Additionally, it allows us enhanced searching and victim location, through daytime Infrared (IR) video.

However,, when providing emergency response in today's world, it is crucial to be able to blend ***technology with technique!*** While these tools are definitely "game changers" for rapid life-saving response, they are still just tools. True of any trade, a tool is only as useful as the one who wields it. As is the case for the entire first responder community in Oak Island, the ORU is working hard to ensure that whenever called upon, we have the TOOLS, the TECHNIQUES, and the TEAMWORK ready.

To learn more about the training and the exciting new technology involved, you can check out the brief video posted on the Fire Department's Facebook page. If you don't follow us already, just visit **Facebook.com/OakIslandFire** or click the OKI-FD patch below.



## 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.

For more information visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or call **910-278-5518**.

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## 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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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## 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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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## Farmers' & Artisans' Market

- **WHEN:** Monday, April 20, 2024 • 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

The Oak Island Farmers' & Artisans' Market is a great opportunity for the public to see, and financially support the very best of Oak Island's local growers and crafters. Farmers and artisans alike can be found in this great showcase of baked goods, produce, handmade crafts, and artistic goods.

There are only 100 vendor spaces available per market date so please make sure when you download the application that put a check mark by all the dates you plan to attend. Failure to not mark a particular date you wish to attend or not marking anything at all, may not secure your space for that date. If you plan attend all the whole season, please mark all the dates and place a check mark by full season.

An application must be submitted and approved before you start. You will not be assigned a space if you arrive the day of the market with an application in your hand. For questions, or more information, please contact Program Supervisor, Ryan Gordon at [rgordon@oakislandnc.gov](mailto:rgordon@oakislandnc.gov) or by calling **910-278-4747**. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please see the application with directions at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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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!**



**Earth Week Front Page**



**Earth Week Back Page**



**Summer Concert Series**



**Farmers' & Artisans' Market**

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## THANK YOU

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**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 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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