

An aerial photograph of a playground area. In the center is a sandy play area with a green and yellow slide. Surrounding the sand are several large, colorful tarps in yellow, green, and blue. A paved path runs along the left side of the playground. The background is a grassy field.

THE CURRENT

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

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**Week of
May 6, 2024**

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

It's the first full week of May, and although the weather may be beautiful now, that's the BEST time to get ***PREPARED!*** That's right, **National Hurricane Preparedness Week** is **May 5 - 11, 2024**, and we've got lots of great information to help you get protected on the ***Hurricane Preparedness*** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE**.

So once your done reading this week's edition, don't forget to visit the page and take a few moments to get prepared before the summer storm season starts. But before you start assembling your **Emergency Supply List**, take a few moments to check out the latest in Town News as we dive into this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

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- **Crabbing to Cuisine**
- **Explore the Davis Canal Kayak Tour**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Save The Date: Sunset On Summer Music Festival**



MEETINGS & CLOSURES

COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

TOWN COUNCIL on **Monday, May 6** starting at **6:00 PM**, the Town council will **resume** the ***Special Meeting*** (*televised*), recessed from Thursday, May 2. The Special meeting will be held in the Town Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

Meetings Next Week:

- **ABC Board** (Tuesday, May 14)
- **Town Council Regular Meeting** (Tuesday, May 14)
- **Planning Board** (Thursday, May 16)

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** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

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



Town Manager Search: Special Meetings

Back in January of this year, Town Manager David Kelly **announced his retirement**, set for the end of the current Fiscal Year on June 30. As the Town Manager is the only, and *arguably most important* employee directly hired by the Town Council, they have been working hard to ensure the process for selecting the best candidate is utilized.

The most recent development in this effort came last **Thursday, May 2**, at **8:15 AM** when the Town Council held a **Special Meeting**, to hear presentations from search firms proposing to work with Council on ***hiring a new Town Manager***. In total, the Council heard presentations from three (3) firms, including **Developmental Associates, LLC**, **Bakertilly Executive Recruitment**, and **Slavin Management Consultants**.

Each firm was allotted 40 minutes to deliver their presentation, which was followed by a brief Q&A from the Town Council. After all presentations were heard, the Town Council voted to **recess** the Special Meeting until **Monday May 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM** for further discussion and decision.

The resumed Special Meeting is open to the public, and can also be viewed live, along with replay of any previous meeting from the ***Meetings Information*** page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Video Livestreaming Upgraded

Speaking of the ***Meetings Information*** page, if you regularly watch the livestreams of any Town Council or Board meetings, you'll be noticing a much-needed improvement the next time you log on.

Last week, the Communications Office worked with the Town's website provider ***Granicus*** to upgrade the video encoding hardware used to live stream content from the Town Council Chambers. The new ***Osprey Talon 4K-SC*** encoder was successfully installed, tested, and already providing premium livestreaming capabilities far beyond our previous equipment. Capable of streaming up to 4K60 resolution, this unit more than handles the 1080P high definition the Town is currently producing and leaves significant room for future growth.

Although individual connection speeds may limit your livestream viewing, in general quality should be noticeably improved from this week moving forward. You can always check this out for yourself, simply by visiting the ***Meetings Information*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Garbage & Recycling: Summer Schedule

Did you know? Oak Island has ***eight*** (8) ***Garbage & Recycling Collection Zones*** throughout Town. While most of the year these areas are provided collection service on one day per week, during the Summer the more heavily visited trafficked areas of Zones 6, 7, & 8 switch to a ***two times*** per week collection.

Starting this **Saturday, May 11** Collection Zones **6, 7, & 8** will switch to their **Summer Collection Schedule**, with **Garbage Collection** service provided every **Wednesday & Saturday**, and **Recycling Collection** service provided every **Saturday**.

As a reminder, **ZONE 6** is the area of East Beach Dr., East Dolphin Dr., & East Pelican Dr. (from Middleton Ave. - 58th St.), **ZONE 7** is the area of East Beach Dr. (from SE 69th St. - 79th St.), & Ocean Dr., and **ZONE 8** is the area of West Beach Dr., West Dolphin Dr., West Pelican Drive, & Kings Lynn Dr.

All collection will switch back to their normal schedules September 28. In the meantime, you can learn more about Zones, Schedules and all other details right from the ***Garbage & Recycling Collection*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/COLLECTION or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Community Center Updates

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

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, and do not have to be a resident. Transportation is even provided for those who live on the island portion of Town. 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**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/CC) or click the link below..

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Oak Island Pier Now on Summer Schedule

With the month of May now in full force, Spring is quickly slipping away to Summer already. While we all hate to see time fly so quickly, one benefit is the longer daylight hours enjoyed by anglers from all over at the ***Oak Island Pier***.

NOTICE: As of last week, the **Oak Island Pier & Pier House** is now operating on its full **Summer Schedule** from **6:00 AM - 10:00 PM** daily.

Although it's a few weeks ahead of the official start of Summer, by the time the full heat and humidity arrive, the Pier & Pier House will have already been enjoying the every minute of the available Summer Sun. The next schedule change should not come until the Autumn, when the Pier reduces hours for its Fall Schedule.

In addition to fishing passes, the Pier House is conveniently stocked with frozen bait, fishing tackle, sundries, snacks, ice cream, and drinks for purchase. Shirts, sunglasses, and other souvenirs are also available.

For those unable to plan a visit in the near future, remember the Pier can be visited anytime virtually, through the Oak Island "PierCam" - this live look can be seen on the Pier's page at [**OakIslandNC.gov/PIER**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PIER) or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



SAFETY BRIEF



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Sunset on Beach Bonfire Season

As *The CURRENT* reported in last week's edition, the month of May brings the start of Sea Turtle Nesting Season; which by extension, also means the end of *Beach Bonfire Season*.

From when the first fires were lit back in mid-November until the last one went out on April 30, the Oak Island Fire Department processed a total of **1,669 Beach Bonfire Permit Applications** this season. Of those permits, **591** came from Town residents, with **773** out of town (but still in NC), **305** from out of state, and even **3** from visitors outside of the U.S.

That made for a season-long average of just under **10** per day. For the third year in a row, SE 72nd St., was by far the most popular spot, with **9.4%** of all permits (**157**) at or near this Beach Access Location. Unsurprisingly, the busiest single days were the day after Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve, with a combined **230** applications between the two.

As we unpack the numbers from another successful Beach Bonfire Season, the most important number to note is the **ZERO (0)** reports of unintentional property damage or incidents of major personal harm to others, as a result of improper / reckless beach bonfires use. By following the program rules: obeying wind conditions, cleaning up and disposing of burned materials, and providing the Fire Department with records of when and where fires are expected through the permit process - we have truly come together as a community to safely enjoy this time honored tradition.

As always, we'll be reviewing and refining the permitting process, to make it more efficient for next season. In the meantime, special thanks to all Fire Department and Town staff, and our residents and visitors for a safe (but busy!) Beach Bonfire Season.

To learn more about Beach Bonfires and the rules surrounding the program, just visit OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE or click the OKI-FD patch below



POLICE DEPARTMENT: Alligator Education

We've recently received some comments about "alligators on the beach" asking about what to do and our response, so we thought we'd once again provide some seasonal **Alligator Education**.

First off, for those not familiar with this sight, there is a great explanation available on the **Wildlife Information** page on the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/WILDLIFE. Check it out to learn not only about alligators in the surf, but several other notable wildlife we share this great community with.

Although not common, seeing alligators in the surf or on the beach is not a rare sight. During the cold Winter, these "apex predators of the wetlands," enter a process called 'BRUMATION' - the reptilian equivalent of mammal hibernation. After brumation ends in the Spring, it is not uncommon to see an alligator swimming in the ocean or lying on the beach. This can happen for several reasons, but is usually because a tired or weakened alligator has been washed or pushed out of their home due to tides or heavy rains; with some theories suggesting they purposefully take a saltwater "bath" to remove freshwater parasites.

While alligators can tolerate salt water for a few hours or even days, they are primarily freshwater animals and don't p . . . t. So please just **leave them alone, and give them plenty of space**, and they will usually head back to where they came from shortly.

REMEMBER: Oak Island is their home too! The Town **WILL NOT** remove an alligator simply for being present in a given area; wildlife are removed only if they pose a legitimate and immediate threat to humans. In most cases, their mere presence is not considered an immediate threat (yes, this even includes alligators). Also, it is **ILLEGAL** to feed, touch, harm, harass, or poach an alligator in the State of North Carolina. While they rarely pose a threat to humans, alligators can become a nuisance when humans intentionally (or unintentionally) feed them, which can cause them to associate humans with an "easy meal."

If an alligator is showing unusual signs of aggression, disease, or other actions that appear threatening, please DO NOT contact the Oak Island Police Department directly, instead CALL 9-1-1 so that the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, Animal Protective Services can be appropriately dispatched.

For more information on alligators and other commonly seen wildlife in the Town, just visit the Wildlife Information page at OakIslandNC.gov/WILDLIFE or click the OKI-PD patch below.





CLASS CANCELLATION NOTICES

Please Note: the *Total Body Blast with Mary Beth* on Thursdays has been **CANCELLED** for **May 9, May 25, and May 30**. There **will be** a class on **May 16**, however the time has been moved to **8:00 AM**.

Additionally, **ALL** classes will be **CANCELLED** for **Monday, & Tuesday, May 14 & 16** to accommodate the Recreation Center's use as a voting location.

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

Explore the Davis Canal Kayak Tours

- **WHEN:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 • 10:00 AM - NOON

- **WHERE:** Tidal Waves Kayak & canoe Launch • SE 31st Street
- **COST:** \$30 Residents • \$40 Non-Residents

Enjoy Oak Island's beauty from the water! Guided trips are available through the Oak Island Recreation Department. Trips last approximately 2 hours and include kayak rentals, paddle, PFD and experienced guides. Paddle difficulty is easy.

For more information or to register, 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 Island's 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](#)

Save The Date: Sunset On Summer Music Festival

- **WHEN:** September 7, 2024 • NOON - 8:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

September may still be a whole Summer away, but it doesn't mean there's not already a plan to close out to the season with tons of FUN!

The Town of Oak Island is excited to announce the return of last year's smash hit, the *Sunset On Summer Music Festival!* Save the date NOW for the Saturday after Labor Day, as this one-day event returns to provide a transition between the Town's "Summer Fun" and "Fall Festivities." Live music, food, fun, craft beer, wine, and spirits on site ... *this festival will have it all!*

More information will be posted in the coming weeks, but go ahead and mark the date now for this growing tradition. To keep track of band announcements and further Sunset on summer updates, visit OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS 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**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS).

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



Explore Davis Canal



Summer Concert Series



Sunset On Summer

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 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)	+
MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022)	+
MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)	+
MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)	+