



# THE CURRENT

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

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Week of  
May 20, 2024

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



"Can we just call it Summer already?" Maybe, depending on who you ask! The "unofficial" start of summer (Memorial Day weekend) is still a week away, and the Summer Solstice is still right at a month from now on June 20. Regardless of **when** Summer starts though, it's more important to discuss **how** Summer starts!

There's no better start to the Summer season than with ensuring it is a **safe** season! **May 20 - 27, 2024** is **National Beach Safety Week**, and whether it's knowing the meanings of the **Beach Warning Flags**, keeping Emergency Accesses "**Free From Street to Sea**", or especially knowing how to use the **Rescue Tubes**, Oak Island works hard to keep you educated on how to stay safe in the sand! So after you finish reading this week's edition of *The CURRENT*, be sure to head over the **Beach Safety Information** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY** and brush up on beach safety; but first, let's take a very safe swim in this week's edition of *The CURRENT*.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Budget Public Hearing**

## NEWS & NOTICES

- **Recommended Budget Now Available**
- **Speed Limit Change on Beach Drive**
- **Street Paving Project Started**
- **Seasonal Reminder on Pet Safety**
- **Computer Recycling Event Reminder**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **FIRE: Pier Swimming Safety**
- **POLICE: Grant Awarded From BEMC**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Farmers' & Artisans' Market**
- **Story Time By the Sea**
- **Education Centers Opening**

A background image of a meeting room with a large, stylized text overlay. The text "MEETINGS & CLOSURES" is written in a large, bold, white, italicized font with a black outline. The background shows a conference room with a long table, chairs, and a large screen displaying a logo. There are potted plants and a flag in the room.

# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

There are **NO** Council or Board meetings for the week ahead.

**TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a **Budget Public Hearing** on **Tuesday, May 28** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Information page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS).

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, May 27** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

### Please note:

- **Fire, Police, and all Emergency Services** will be available, as always by calling **9-1-1**.
- **Garbage & Recycling Collection** will run on the normal schedule, however service may run slower than normal due to higher volume.

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



## Recommended Budget Now Available

This past **Tuesday, May 14**, during the Town Council Regular Meeting, Assistant Town Manager / Finance Director Kathryn Adams presented the **Recommended FY 2024 - 2025 Budget** to the Council and public. During the Budget Presentation, Assistant Town Manager / Finance Director Kathryn Adams noted several significant highlights for the Recommended Budget, which include:

- A Balanced Budget with No Tax Increase in the Tax Rate
- No increases in any User Fees for the Enterprise Funds
- The budgeted tax rate remains at \$0.16/\$100 valuation

- Of the \$0.16 tax rate, \$0.13 is designated for the Town's General Operations. The remaining \$0.03 is accounted for in the Beach Nourishment Fund (47) established for beach nourishment projects.
- The Fund Balance continues to remain strong. The Town's General Fund Balance is in compliance with NCGS 159-8 and well over the Town's internal policy to maintain a minimum total fund balance of 40%.

Please note, the **Recommended Budget**, the **Budget Summary**, and the **Presentation Video** have been made available for public review prior to the **Budget Public Hearing**, during which the Town Council will receive public input and take possible action to approve the Budget for the coming fiscal year. The Budget Public Hearing held in a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive. This meeting is open to the public, and will also be livestreamed on the Town Website.

To view the the **Recommended Budget**, the **Budget Summary**, or the **Presentation Video**, simply visit **Budget Information** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/BUDGET** or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## **NOTICE: Beach Drive Speed Limit Change**

On **Wednesday, May 15**, the **speed limit** along both **E Beach Drive & W Beach Drive** was **LOWERED** to **35 mph**.

This is a seasonal change that happens each year in May, which will be in effect through the Summer months until September, when it will be returned to 45mph.

As per State Law, this change to a lower speed limit now allows for travel by Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs) along all of Beach Drive. With the addition of LSV use, as well as the significant increase in pedestrian traffic, the **Oak Island Police Department** strongly reminds everyone to be cautious and aware when traveling along Beach Drive.

Please avoid all distractions while driving, use seat belts and child safety seats on both LSVs and regular vehicles, and DO NOT drive while impaired. You can also do your part to help stop misinformation on Low Speed Vehicles, by sharing the ***LSV Information*** page of the Town Website. To find and share the page, simply visit **OakIslandNC.gov/LSV** or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## **Street Paving Project Started**

Earlier this month, the **Street Paving Project** was started for 2024. The project has resumed work from the **Pavement Condition Survey Report**, published in 2022, with about 4-5 streets completed so far. Work is being performed by **Highland Paving** out of Fayetteville, NC.

The current list of streets to be paved is available on the **Public Works Streets Division** page of the Town Website, under the ***2024 Paving Schedule*** tab. As noted on the page, **streets may not be paved in the exact order as listed**, so if you notice a street further down the list getting paved before one of interest to you, don't worry!

Most importantly, please **do not stop contractors** to ask about paving operations, or make requests, complaints, or suggestions about the work being performed. This will only hinder operations and slow the project. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to the Public Works Department directly, at **910-201-8083** or through the **Public Works Contact Form**

To view the complete list of streets included in the current paving schedule, just visit the Streets Division of the Public Works page on the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/STREETS**, or click the link below..

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## Seasonal Reminder on Pet Safety

If there's one thing the people of Oak Island are especially known for, it is the love they have for their pets! Whether you're in one of the Town's **Dog Parks**, taking an evening stroll on the beach, or even **meeting Santa Paws** himself, you're almost guaranteed to see someone enjoying life with their furry-four-legged (or ***fine-feathered***) friend!

***But just because it may be a perfect day for you, doesn't mean it is ideal for your pet!***

Remember the Summer heat can be brutal on dogs, or most any pet. They need plenty of **rest**, **water**, and **shade** when the temperatures climb. Even *getting* to that shade can be harmful, as hot sand can scorch their soft paws. Although **properly leashed** dogs are allowed on the beach at any time, in general it's best to avoid taking them onto the beach during the heat of mid-day. The less-crowded, cooler times of the morning or late evening are often much better.

If you do decide to take them with you, remember that during this time of year, between **March 15 - October 15**, dogs **MUST remain on their leash at ALL times in the public beach areas**, and may **not** be taken off-leash when playing in the surf or to enter the water. Additionally, owners must **pick up after their dogs**, and properly dispose of all droppings.

To learn or share more information on dogs safety or pet ordinances in Oak Island, just visit the Animals & Pets page at **OakIslandNC.gov/PETS**, or click the link below..

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## REMINDER: Computer Recycling Event

On **Saturday, June 1, 2024**, from **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**, the Town of Oak Island will host a ***Computer Recycling Event*** to benefit the **Brunswick County Computers 4 Kids** (BCC4K) program. Equipment can be dropped off in the parking lot behind the Oak Island Police Department at 4621 E Oak Island Drive.

BCC4K is a non-profit organization which refurbishes used computers, for use by Brunswick County School students in need of a home computer. Since its inception in 2006, BCC4K has refurbished and donated over **4,400 systems**. Forms for tax deduction will be available.



Systems **DO NOT** need to be working in order to donate, and ALL data will be wiped from hard drives to ensure protection of personal information. **Apple** products will need to be *reset to original settings* and *removed from Apple accounts*.

For more information and a full list of **ACCEPTED** and **NON-ACCEPTED** items, read the full public notice on the **OKInformation** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



# SAFETY BRIEF



## POLICE DEPARTMENT: Grant Awarded From BEMC

Earlier this month, the Oak Island Police Department was honored to be awarded **\$2,000** in grant funds from **Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation** (BEMC) for this years **National Night Out** event.

**[CLICK HERE to view & share the Grant Presentation Photo](#)**

Chief Charlie Morris joined Community Resource Officer Matthew Tweedie at the awards luncheon on May 8, where CRO Tweedie formally accepted the grant.

**National Night Out** (NNO) is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships to help make neighborhoods a safer, more caring places to live. Back on October 6, 2023, the Police Department hosted the Town's first ever NNO event, with officers going all-out to ensure it was a memorable evening! That hard work paid off, as we were later presented with NNO's "**Rookie of the Year**" Award, for making the best "first impression" through our participation in "America's Night out Against Crime."

With the positive feedback received and continued community support through grants such as this one from BEMC, we are excited to continue the preparations already underway for the 2024 NNO event. Once plans are finalized, you can find and share them from the dedicated ***National Night Out*** webpage at [OakIslandNC.gov/NNO](https://OakIslandNC.gov/NNO) or click the OKI-PD patch below.



## FIRE DEPARTMENT: Pier Swimming Safety

This past **Thursday, May 16**, Just before **2:00 PM**, units were dispatched to a report of a *Swimmer in Distress* under the Oak Island Pier. Reports indicated that an individual who was swimming near or under the Pier had become fatigued and climbed onto the pier pilings. Units with the Fire Department arrived within 3 minutes. While members of the Ocean Rescue Unit (ORU) prepared to enter the water, the Drone Unit was deployed.

**As seen in this video**, the Drone was able to locate the swimmer within seconds using the infrared camera. It then proceeded to drop TWO (2) auto-inflating rescue tubes as a precaution, which were used to help swim back to the ORU members waiting in the surf. While the quick response time and new technology used thankfully allowed for a safe resolution, this call does present an important point of education.

**IMPORTANT: Swimming under, beside, or immediately near a Pier is not only PROHIBITED, it is DANGEROUS!**

Between fishing lines, fishing hooks, and larger predatory fish, there are many in-water hazards around a pier that can lead to serious personal injury. Additionally, crustacean growth, along with pushing waves and swift currents can make the pilings underneath a pier especially hazardous!

Town Ordinance 22-12 prohibits swimming or other in-water activity within 250 feet of the Pier, and Section 22-5 further extends this for surfing to 350 feet away. However, regardless of the Town Ordinances, this is "common sense" safety that can help ensure an enjoyable beachgoing experience for all.

For more information and how to avoid the the dangers of swimming near or under a Pier, visit the **Beach Safety Information** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY**, or click the OKI-FD patch below





## ***STARTING THIS WEEK! 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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## **Farmers & Artisans' Market**

- **WHEN:** Mondays, June 3 - August 26, 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. Market events are held each Monday morning throughout the summer season.

For more information or to view the full Market Schedule, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## **Storytime By The Sea**



- **WHEN:** June 5, 2024 • NOON - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Cabana • 4601 E Beach Drive
- **AGES:** 12 & Under

Join the Oak Island Recreation Department at the Oak Island Cabana, located at the corner of SE 46th Street and E. Beach Drive, for ***Story Time by the Sea!*** This free series invites participants ages 12 - Under to enjoy a coastal themed story reading, followed by an arts & crafts project to take home. Engaging stories set to the backdrop of breathtaking views make for the perfect way to spend time together as a family! Pre-registration required. Free Program.

For more information or to see the full schedule of ALL Story Time By The Sea dates, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS) or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## ***NEXT WEEK: Nature & Ocean Education Centers Open***

- **WHEN:** Memorial Day - Labor Day

**Oak Island Ocean Education Center:** Monday - Wednesday • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A seasonal conservation center that is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Free to visit, visitors can explore self led displays, attend scheduled programs, and enjoy hands on materials related to life by the sea. Program projects will change weekly. \*\*\*\*Materials are available while supplies last.

**Oak Island Nature Center:** Wednesday - Friday • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A seasonal conservation center that is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Free to visit, visitors can explore self led displays, attend scheduled programs, and enjoy hands on materials related to island and marsh life. Program projects will change weekly. \*\*\*\*Materials are available while supplies last.

To learn more about the **Oak Island Nature Center** or the **Ocean Education Center**, just visit their webpages at [OakIslandNC.gov/NATURE](https://OakIslandNC.gov/NATURE) or [OakIslandNC.gov/OCEAN](https://OakIslandNC.gov/OCEAN), or click the link below to download their ***Summer Events Calendar***.

**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!**



## Sunset On Summer



## Story Time By The Sea

## Farmers' & Artisans' Market



## Education Centers Calendar

# 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)**

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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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