

THE CURRENT



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

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Week of

June 3, 2024

Summer is here, and it's time to make great memories with the ones we love. However, it's also important to protect the place where you make those memories. As June brings the start of the North Atlantic Hurricane Season, **NOAA** has just released their local **2024 Summer Climate Outlook**. This year's predictions show an increased potential for above normal temperatures and heavy rainfall, along with an exceptionally active **Hurricane Season**.

Ask anyone who's been around long enough and they'll tell you, it doesn't take a **Category 5 hurricane** to do some lasting damage - even the "small storms" can be some of the most dangerous. So take this as your "**start of the season reminder**." Just like the osprey nest pictured in this week's cover photo, that mother Sea Hawk spent time preparing that big, sturdy nest to make a safe space for her fledgling; you probably should too.

We've got some great information to help you protect your "nest" on the ***Hurricane Preparedness*** page at [**OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE). So be sure to check it out for tips on how to get prepared before the storm. Right now, the weather's nice and water's warm, so let's take a dive into this week's editions of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Recreation Advisory Board**
- **Board of Adjustment**
- **Environmental Advisory Committee**
- **Par 3 Advisory Committee**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **FY 2024-2025 Budget Approved**
- **NEW: "Conversations With Council" Series**
- **Water Quality Report**
- **Community Center Updates**

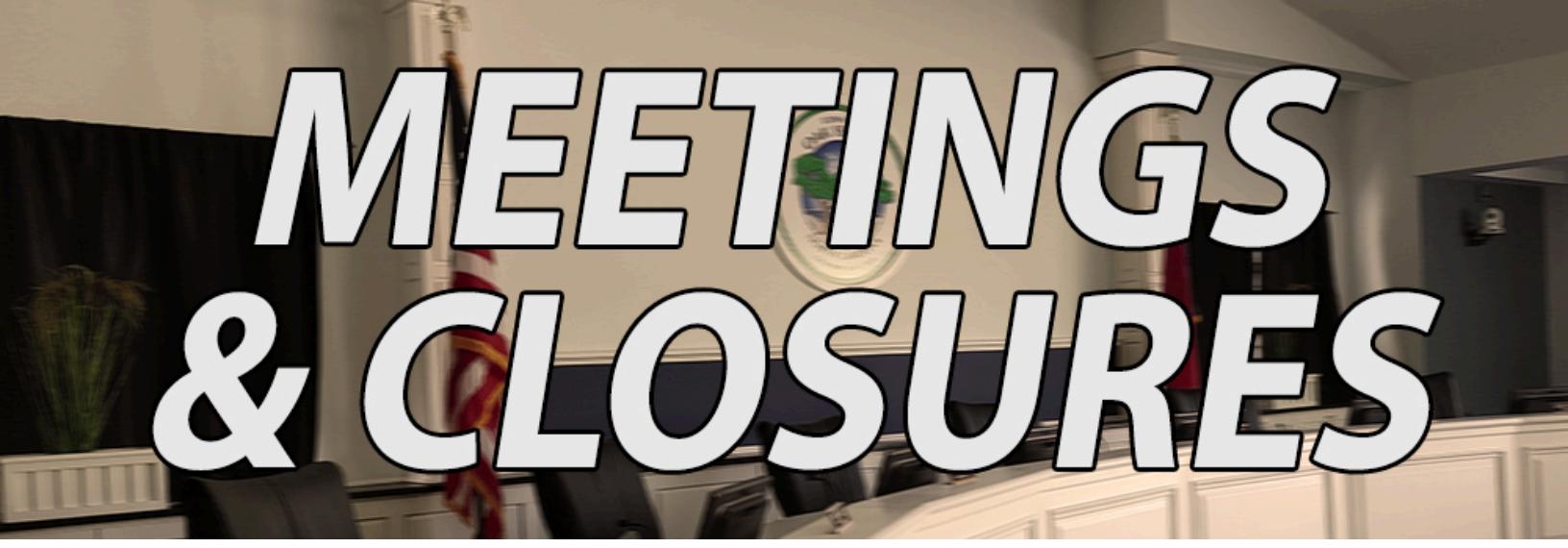
SAFETY BRIEF

- **POLICE: National Gun Storage Check Week**
- **FIRE: New Fire Engine In Service**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Beach Day Schedule Announced**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Surf fishing Seminars**
- **Chop With A Cop**

MEETINGS & CLOSURES



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD will hold its next regular meeting on **Monday, June 3 at 4:00 PM** in the Community Center, located at 102 SE 47th Street, beside Town Hall.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT will hold a Called Meeting on **Tuesday, June 4 at 10:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next regular meeting on **Thursday, June 6 at 8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive.

PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next regular meeting on **Friday, June 7 at 1:00 PM** in the Par 3 F at 4188 Vanessa Drive.

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Information page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday, July 4** in observance of **Independence Day**.

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

- **Garbage & Recycling Collection** will run on the **normal schedule, HOWEVER** service the entire month of July experiences delayed pickup times, **due to the increased volume**.
- The **Disposal Convenience Site** will be **CLOSED** on Friday & Saturday, July 5 & 6.
- **Fire, Police, and all Emergency Services** will be available, as always by calling **9-1-1**.

To view all holiday closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



NEWS & NOTICES

Budget Public Hearing & Approval

This past week on **Tuesday, May 28**, Town Council held a Public Hearing and a Special Meeting, for the purpose of considering the Town's **Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget**, along with the **FY 2024-2025 Fee Schedule**, and the approval of contracts related to the **Town Manager Search** and updating the Town's **Comprehensive Land Use Plan**.

With no residents signed up to speak in the Public Hearing, the FY 2024-205 Budget received a swift and **unanimous vote of approval from Council**.

The new Budget, which goes into effect on July 1, comes as a result of some of the most extensive and thorough Budget Workshops ever held by the Administrative Staff and Town Council.

Notable highlights include:

- **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%.

The **FY 2024-25 Fee Schedule** was approved. The decision to approve a contract with WithersRavenel to update the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan was moved to the regular meeting on **June 18, 2024**. The Contract for Slavin Associates Associates related to the Town Manager recruitment search was unanimously approved.

To view the full agenda for this meeting or watch it online, visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

NEW “Conversations With Council” Series

Currently, the Oak Island Town Council can be addressed directly during the Public Comment section of each regular meeting, or through the phone and email contact information found on the Town Website. Recently however, the Council has been searching for ways to increase the amount of “face-to-face” time with residents, beyond the formal three minutes provided during the Public Comments period. That’s why, in an effort to provide more direct public interaction, the Town Council is excited to announce the launch of their new **“Conversations With Council” Resident Discussion Series**.

The first session will be held on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024** from **6:00 PM – 8:00 PM** in the **Oak Island Recreation Center**, located at 3003 E Oak Island Drive.

This is **NOT** a formal or “town hall” style meeting of the Council, but simply a chance for residents and property owners to sit down and have discussions with individual Council members directly. This is a public opportunity to ask questions, receive answers, and share feedback on how to preserve and improve the quality of life in Oak Island.

Up to two Council members will host each session, which are open to **ALL** Town residents, property owners, and businesses. As these are not formal Council meetings, **no Council action will be taken**. Other Council members may be in attendance as **observers only**, but will have no active participation when not hosting.

For more information, or to email potential discussion topics, just visit the Council Information page on the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/COUNCIL.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Water Quality Report Published

The Town of Oak Island is pleased to announce this year's **Annual Water Quality Report**, has been published and is now available on the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/WaterReport.

- [**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL REPORT**](#)

The report presents the data gathered from the **Sample & Testing Period of January 1 - December 31, 2023**, as part of the **NC Source Water Assessment Program** (SWAP). It is designed to inform you about both **water quality** and the **services delivered** every day by the **Water Division** of the Town's **Public Utilities Department**, whose constant goal is to provide a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

The report helps to showcase the efforts they take to continually improve the water distribution and protect our water resources. The Town's **primary** water source is purchased from Brunswick County utilizing the Castle Hayne Aquifer through 14 wells approximately 175 ft. deep. The Town also has a **secondary** source from N.E. Cape Fear River above lock and dam #1 at Kings Bluff Pumping Station, in addition to two **emergency back-up wells** that pump from the Pee Dee Aquifer.

Treatment at these facilities consist of chloramines to kill harmful bacteria, protozoan and viruses. Lime is added for softening the water; Polyphosphate is used for corrosion control, and Fluoride is added as an aid to prevent tooth decay.

To view this report, or reports from previous years, just visit the **Annual Water Quality Reports** page under the **Public Utilities** pages of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/PU or click 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 June, as well as adding new photos from recent events held in May.

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 or click the link below.

[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**](#)



SAFETY BRIEF



POLICE DEPARTMENT: National Gun Storage Check Week

This week, **June 1 - 7** is **National Gun Safe Check Week**, and our **Community Resource Officer**, Matthew Tweedie is working to promote this life-saving campaign within our local community.

National Gun Storage Check Week is a campaign organized by the **NSSF** and **Project ChildSafe** to encourage all gun owners to check their firearm storage practices and, if necessary, take action to prevent unwanted access. NSSF launched Gun Storage Check Week to remind communities and families to “*make sure it’s secure*,” as well as partner with law enforcement agencies around the country to further enhance public safety and prevent firearm-related incidents.

To help spread the message of safety and promote secure firearm storage, we have **FREE gun locks** available at the Oak Island Police Department. If you would like to receive one for yourself, a friend, or family member, just reach out to officer Tweedie, or stop by the Department during regular business hours. To learn more about Community Resource Officer position, or contact Officer Tweedie directly, just visit OakIslandNC.gov/CR or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: New Fire Engine In Service

Regular readers of The CURRENT may remember back in the [April 29, 2024](#) edition when we previewed the expected arrival of our newest **fire engine**, a [2024 Pierce Enforcer](#)! We are pleased to announce this new engine was delivered in early May, and after a few weeks of outfitting, **officially entered into service this past week!**

The much-anticipated "twin" to Unit 171, which entered into service back in September of last year, has been designated **Unit 173**, denoting its home in our **Station 3**. Located on the mainland at [4151 Vanessa Drive, Station 3](#) serves the Airport, South Harbour, and Island area up to E 58th Street.

Although not thought of as often as the more visible stations 1 & 2 on the Island, this station plays a pivotal role in providing flexibility in our response throughout all of the Town. So far this year, Station 3 has responded to **158 calls** for service, and is one of the primary **Automatic Aid** resources to Bald Head and Caswell Beach. The Station currently has an EMS unit that runs out of the station. MEDIC 7, which in April was the busiest unit in the entire Department. The Station house itself also provides an "off Island" location for the Department and Town Administration to utilize during severe storm response.

Like every other tool, facility, or training we employ, it has a valuable purpose, and serves it well. So the next time you're headed to the [Oak Island Par 3 Golf](#) to play a round, be sure to waive and say "Hi" to the firefighters who may be outside washing and shining our new **Unit 173**.

To learn more about all of our facilities and the tools we employ, just visit the Fire Department's webpage at OakIslandNC.gov/FD or click the OKI-FD patch below





COMING EVENTS

Beach Day Event Schedule Announced

- **WHEN:** Monday, July 1, 2024 • 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

It's Officially June, and that means we're less than one month away from the happiest (**and busiest!**) day of the year in Oak Island ... **BEACH DAY!** Beach Day commemorates the July 1, 1999 merger of the Towns of Yaupon Beach & Long Beach into what is today known as the Town of Oak Island. It is held each year on July 1. This year provides a particularly special note to Beach Day, as it is also the Town's **25th Anniversary**.

Adding to the growing anticipation, the Recreation Department just announced the **Events Schedule** for **Beach Day 2024**.

To learn more about Beach Day including the history of the occasion and the events for this year, just visit the dedicated **Beach Day** page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/BeachDay or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Summer Concert Series: *Ntrance*

- **WHEN:** Friday, June 7, 2024 • 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive
- **COST:** FREE

This week enjoy, ***Ntrance***.

The Summer Concert Series is a FREE event, so bring a chair or blanket and enjoy great entertainment on the amphitheater lawn in the Middleton Park Complex. There will also be food trucks onsite in case you get a little hungry.

Concerts each week start at 6:30 PM. For more information and to view the ***Live Band Lineup***, visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS**](#) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Surf fishing Seminars

- **WHEN:** Friday & Saturday, June 21 - 22
- **WHERE:** Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive

Join longtime instructor, ***Ian Sands*** to learn everything you need to take a fish from the surf sand to the frying pan. In this class, specifically designed for Oak Island anglers, we'll discuss the different fish in our surf and talk about the right rig and bait for the fish you want to catch.

For more information or register, visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS**](#) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Chop With A Cop

The Oak Island Police Department & recreation Department are excited to announce the RETURN of ***CHOP WITH A COP*** as this wildly popular and unique event returns for its SECOND year in a row:

- **WHEN:** Tuesday, June 25, 2023 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- **WHERE:** 806 N Howe Street, Southport, NC
- **COST:** FREE!!!

“Calling all teens, let’s bury the hatchet!” This FREE program allows teens aged 13-18 to join officers from four different agencies in axe throwing competition. This event provides teens with one hour of practice and one hour of competitive throwing. Only 48 spaces available ... which agency will YOU HELP take home the Gold?

In partnership with the Southport Police Department NC, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, NC, and the Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department; teams will be randomly assigned, however selected time slots will be honored.

For more information or to register, 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.

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



Beach Day Events Schedule



Sunset On Summer



Chop With A Cop

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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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)

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