



# ***THE CURRENT***

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

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**Week of  
June 24, 2024**

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

It's the last week in June, and more importantly, the last week of service for one very special Town employee. This past Tuesday, during the **June 18 Town Council meeting**, the Council honored Town Manager **David Kelly** with a **Resolution of Appreciation Upon His Retirement**; during which time Kelly was also presented with a **Key to The Town** (pictured below):



With 2024 marking 35 years in municipal government, the past 7 of which having served as Town Manager, David Kelly has faithfully served the residents of Oak Island since, well ... since before "Oak Island" was **Oak Island!**

If you'd like to learn more about Mr. Kelly and the history of his commitment to the Town, check out the Department Feature of his office back in the **November 2023** edition, archived at the bottom of this page. In the meantime, from all of the staff, elected officials, and countless individuals you've helped over the years, we say ***Thank You, Mr. Kelly***, for your service to the Town of Oak Island, as we start this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Business Advisory Board**
- **Board of Adjustment**

## NEWS & NOTICES

- **25th Anniversary Events Page**
- **Life Saving Award Presented**
- **Dune Planting Grant Approved**
- **Parking Assessment RFQ**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- ***SPECIAL:* Fireworks Safety Message**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- ***NEW FEATURE:* This Week In Recreation**



# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

**BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD** will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, June 25** at **9:00 AM** in the Police Department Training Room on the 2nd floor of the Police Department.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** will hold a Called Meeting on **Thursday, June 27** at **10:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers.

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

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

**BEACH DAY:** Administrative Offices will **CLOSE EARLY** at **2:30 PM** on **Monday, July 1, 2024** in observance of Beach Day.

**INDEPENDENCE DAY:** Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** all day on **Thursday, July 4** in observance of **Independence Day**.

- Garbage & Recycling Collection will run on the **normal schedule**, **HOWEVER** service during 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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).



# NEWS & NOTICES

## 25th Anniversary Events Page

In case you haven't heard, **July 1** marks the ***Town's Birthday*** (celebrated as "***Beach Day***"); and if you're counting, 2024 marks **25 Years** since the Town's Charter was first recognized on July 1, 1999. During the Town Council's regular meeting on **Tuesday, June 18**, Mayor Liz White officially announced the **25th Anniversary Calendar of Events**.

Kicking off with a Celebration Event at the Amphitheater stage on July 1, the calendar celebrates our Silver Anniversary with events packed all the way up until the end of the calendar year.

In addition, the Mayor also unveiled new promotional items to commemorate the occasion, including custom light posters and a special Anniversary Challenge Coin.

To view the full Calendar of Events, along with further details to be added, just visit the ***NEW 25th Anniversary*** page of the town Website at **[OakIslandNC.gov/25YEARS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/25YEARS)** or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## Life Saving Award Presented

On **May 16, 2024** the **Oak Island Fire Department** and **UAS Division** achieved the first successful field deployment of life-saving rescue tubes, launched from a drone. This marked the transition from using drones as a ***passive rescue tool*** for observation and location, to an ***active rescue tool*** capable of delivering physical assistance to swimmer in distress.



This response caught the attention of not only the local community, but audiences across the state and even nation. During the June 18 Town Council meeting, **Blue Ridge Mountain Drones** presented Oak Island Fire Chief Lee Price a UAS Pilot Shawn Barry, with a letter of appreciation for the life-saving use of drone technology. In addition to the letter from Owner and Chief Pilot Wayne Bailey, Blue Ridge Mountain Drones also provided a sizeable donation to help further fund the Town's drone program.

Blue Ridge Mountain Drones provides classes to meet the FAA Part 107 rules, and specializes in NFPA 2400 Standard for Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems.

To view the Beach Safety page, simply scan the QR code found on any of the [Water Safety Stations](#) or visit **[OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS)**, or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## Beach Nourishment Grant Approved

Last week, on **Monday, June 17**, Town Manager David Kelly was notified by the Division of Water Resources (DWR) of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), that **\$440,000** in financial assistance had been tentatively approved by the State for the Town's Dune Planting Project.

The award comes as the result of a grant application made by the Town in 2023, and provides funds for "*costs associated with beach nourishment, artificial dunes, and other projects to mitigate or remediate coastal storm damage to the ocean beaches and dune systems of the State*" as noted in the letter.

The next upcoming Beach Nourishment Project is scheduled to take place in the winter of 2024 / 2025. Nourishment efforts are typically performed during the winter or early spring months to avoid Sea turtle Nesting, and minimize impacts during the summer tourist times.

For more information on beach nourishment projects, the Beach & Inlet Management Plan, or beach preservation efforts, just visit the ***Beach Nourishment & Preservation*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/SAND](https://OakIslandNC.gov/SAND)** click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## Parking Assessment RFQ

The Town of Oak Island is **seeking qualifications** from professional **Traffic Engineers** who will assist the Town in evaluating the physical infrastructure for paid parking. The firm awarded this contract will have the primary responsibility of developing the assessment document and will work in coordination with the Town of Oak Island's Public Works Department.

Throughout the process, the selected firm will be expected to utilize their experience and drive the process to produce an assessment before December 31, 2024. To achieve this goal, and utilize the experience of the selected firm, Oak Island will require the expectations outlined in the **[RFQ Information packet](#)**, provided on the **[Bids & RFQ Postings](#)** page of the

Town Website.

To view this RFQ or any open bid contracts for the Town, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/BIDS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/BIDS) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



# SAFETY BRIEF



## SPECIAL JOINT MESSAGE: Fireworks Safety

*From the Desks of Police Chief Charlie Morris & Fire Chief Lee Price:*

While the first week in July is spent celebrating the birth of both our nation (July 4) and our Town (July 1), one thing that isn't fun or celebrated is the extra resources, overtime, and reporting we use up responding to **home use of FIREWORKS..**

That's why we're kicking off the summer celebrations with a serious discussion on **Fireworks Safety** ... for **YOU**, for **YOUR HOME**, and for **YOUR NEIGHBORS**.

Remember that anything with a flame or spark can be a potential fire, especially in the dry conditions we've been experiencing lately. While **NC General Statutes 14-410 & 414 prohibit "explosive or aerial fireworks"** [EDIT: **This means they are illegal, so DO NOT use them!**] such as roman candles or rockets, smaller permitted products like firecrackers and sparklers can still burn at temperatures of **up to 2,000° F**.

**Never let kids play unattended** with these items, and always take necessary precautions to ensure your own personal safety. Also, please (and we can't say this enough, it seems) **DO NOT operate any product or device while under the influence of drugs or alcohol!**

Also consider the safety of your home. If you're knowledge of operating an aerial firework is simply **"light it and run"** then our firefighters could very well be showing up at your house ... followed by a visit from our police officers!



Between the ever-shifting coastal winds and the currently dry conditions, it's just not worth risking your dream home, family cottage, or worse yet a rented vacation property.

Finally, don't forget the safety and common courtesy to your neighbors. Remember, **there's no need to go lighting off "the good stuff"** – just leave it to the professionals! Trust us, your neighbors (and their pets!) don't need to see your brand of "midnight patriotism" on display, courtesy of your trip across state lines and thousands of dollars in additional credit card debt.

And before using the excuse of **"it's for the kids"** remember that **20%** of the nearly **16,000 annual firework-related** injuries are to children. The last thing you want to give your kids is a trip to the Emergency Room.

This summer, save your time and money ... and possibly even your neighbors' roof! Go check out the amazing shows offered by Oak Island and surrounding communities, where the only thing you have to setup is a your favorite beach chair!

To learn more about the **Oak Island Fire Department** or the **Oak Island Police Department** and the many ways we work to help serve our community, just visit the our pages at [\*\*OakIslandNC.gov/FD\*\*](http://OakIslandNC.gov/FD) and [\*\*OakIslandNC.gov/PD\*\*](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PD) or click on one of the patches below.



## ***NEW FEATURE: "This Week in Recreation"***

Provided below is a listing of the recreation activities specifically for the week ahead! Moving forward, this is how recreation events, programs, and special celebrations will be provided in ***The CURRENT***.

As always, if you have any questions or need additional information, feel free to reach out to the Recreation Department at **910-278-5518**.

Now, let's take a look at ***This Week In Recreation:***

## Monday, June 24

- **Middleton Park Complex**
  - 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM: Artisan and Farmer's Market
- **Cape Fear Yacht Club**
  - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Sailing Camp
- **Recreation Center**
  - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Summer Camp
- **Ocean Education Center**
  - 10:00 AM - 2:00 AM: Special Activities
- **Middleton Park Complex (Softball Field)**
  - 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM: Adult Softball

## Tuesday, June 25

- **Cape Fear Yacht Club**
  - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Sailing Camp
- **Recreation Center**
  - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Summer Camp
- **Recreation Center**
  - 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Painterly Summer Flowers (3 registered)
- **Ocean Education Center**
  - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Special Activities
- **Rec Center Kayak Launch**
  - 10:00 AM - NOON: Davis Canal Kayak Tour (Full)
- **Recreation Center**
  - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM: Beginner Crochet Class (Full)

## Wednesday, June 26

- **Recreation Center**
  - 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM: Striders Walking Club (Belville Riverwalk Park)
- **Cape Fear Yacht Club**
  - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Sailing Camp
- **Recreation Center**
  - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Summer Camp
- **Cabana**
  - 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Storytime by the Sea
- **Ocean Education Center**
  - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Special Activities
- **Nature Center**
  - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Special Activities

## Thursday, June 27



- **Cape Fear Yacht Club**
  - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM: Sailing Camp
- **Recreation Center**
  - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Summer Camp
- **Nature Center**
  - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Special Activities
- **Recreation Center**
  - 5:00 AM - 6:30 PM: Beginner Crochet Class (Full with 10)

## Friday, June 28

- **Cape Fear Yacht Club**
  - 9:00 AM 3:00 PM: Sailing Camp
- **Recreation Center**
  - 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Summer Camp
- **Nature Center**
  - 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Special Activities
- **Middleton Park Complex**
  - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM: Summer Concert Series: ***The Sand Band***

## Sunday, June 30

- **Middleton Park Complex** (Part of the **NC 4th of July Festival**)
  - 10:00 AM - NOON: Kite Fest
  - NOON: Uncle Sam Drop
  - 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Pro Wrestling

## Monday, July 1

- **Middleton Park Complex** (Cabana and immediate beach area)
  - 7:00 AM - 8:30 PM: **Beach Day** (see flyer for details)

**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!**



**Sunset On Summer**



**Jam & Java**





Chop With A Cop



Beach Day Events Schedule

# 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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