



# THE CURRENT

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

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Week of  
**November 11, 2024**

# **NOTICE: All administrative offices for the Town will be CLOSED on Monday, November 11, 2024 in observance of Veterans Day.**

There's an old saying that has gained a resurgence in recent years, "***If you eat today, thank a farmer. If it's on your table, thank a trucker. If you eat in peace, thank a veteran.***" There are few phrases which can sum up the greatness of America in a single sentence quite like that one. While there are those that go hungry, and those without a table to sit at or peace in their home, on a macroscale America is still the place where almost anyone can have all of those things.

Working backwards on that phrase, those opportunities all start with the Veteran. The peace for our nation, which they purchase through their sacrifice, allows the trucker their livelihood and assures the farmer their land, which ultimately affords you the simple luxury of enjoying a homecooked meal. So before you sit down to enjoy your next cheeseburger in paradise, take a second to find the Veteran sitting closest to you, and offer them one as well to say "Thanks."

And once you've got your best buddy with which to battle the big burgers, sit back and relax, as we all float along in this week's edition of ***The CURRENT.***

## **MEETINGS & CLOSURES**

- **ABC Board**
- **Town Council Meeting**
- **Board of Adjustment**

## **NEWS & NOTICES**

- **Community Engagement Survey Now Active**
- **Christmas Parade Applications DUE NEXT WEEK**
- **Citizens Academy Applications Now Open**
- **REMINDER: NC 133 Traffic Detour Started**
- **Staff Spotlight: Different Uniform, Same Community Service**

## **SAFETY BRIEF**

- **POLICE: A Sojourn in Spruce Pine**
- **FIRE: Beach Bonfire Season Starts**

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- **Oak Island Par 3 Residents Day**
- **This Week In Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**

# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

**ABC BOARD** will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, November 12 at 10:00 AM** in the Oak Island ABC Store at 5402 E Oak Island Drive.

**TOWN COUNCIL** will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, November 12 at 6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

**BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT** will hold a called meeting on **Wednesday, November 13 at 10:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

**TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a Special Meeting on **Thursday, November 14 at 1:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

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

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** on **Thursday & Friday, November 28 - 29, 2024** for **Thanksgiving**.

- **NOTE: Garbage & Recycling Collection** WILL NOT run on Thursday, November 28
- All currently open **Parks & Recreation Facilities** should remain open
- Police, Fire and Emergency Response services will be available by **calling 9-1-1**

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

# NEWS & NOTICES

## NEW Community Engagement Survey

This past **Thursday, November 7**, the Town launched a brand new ***Community Engagement Survey***, which provides residents & property owners an opportunity to contribute to the **2045 Charting The Course** project.

Launched in September, the project is the Town's effort to update its existing **CAMA Comprehensive Land Use Plan** (often referred to as a "Comp Plan").

Though not the only, opportunity for the community's participation, this Survey is a critical part of the project, and will provide valuable public input to help examine progress made and identify new initiatives for the future. The Survey includes questions related to the Town's simultaneous Streetscape Project and should take approximately 8 minutes to complete.

- To participate in the ***Community Engagement Survey***, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/SURVEY](http://OakIslandNC.gov/SURVEY)
- For those unable to fill out the Survey online, **physical copies** will be available in several Town Facilities

To learn more about the ***2045 Charting The Course*** project itself, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/PLAN2045](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PLAN2045) or click the Logo Link below.



## Christmas Parade Applications **DUE NEXT WEEK**

As a reminder, **Parade Entry Applications** for the **Christmas By The Sea Parade** are **available NOW** and **DUE** by **Wednesday November 20 ... that's NEXT WEEK!**

This year's installment of the beloved annual event will be held RAIN OR SHINE on Saturday, December 7 at 2:00 PM. and will run right through the heart of Town along E Oak Island Drive, starting in front of Town Hall at 46th Street. In 2019, Parade saw the largest attendance and highest number of entry participants EVER! Help us top that this year, by submitting your application TODAY!

To learn more or to download a Parade Entry Application, visit the ***Special Events*** page of the Town Website at [OakIslandNC.gov/PARADE](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PARADE) or click the Logo Link below.



## Citizens Academy Enrollment Now Open

Enrollment for the ***Oak Island Citizens Academy*** is now **OPEN** and accepting student applications for **2025**! The popular learning program is scheduled to return on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**.

Citizens Academy is designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government. Through hands-on learning and "in the field" demonstrations, Citizens Academy helps to provide a deeper understanding of the "who, why, & how" government works at the local level. Students will meet two (2) nights per week throughout the month of February, ending in a special dinner ceremony where they are presented with graduation certificates. Class size is limited, and requires a 100% attendance commitment.

To learn more or submit an application, visit the ***Citizens Academy*** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY](http://OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY) or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## Road Closure Reminder

**REMINDER:** The **211 / 133 DETOUR** as part of the **NC 211 widening project** has **STARTED**, and is expected to remain in effect until no later than **October 25, 2025**.

As a review, this project will **CLOSE** the portion of Long Beach Road road near Southport-Supply Road (NC 211), and establish a **DETOUR** down Old Long Beach Road ([CLICK HERE or on the map below for details](#)).



For full details on this closure, or general information on the NC211 Widening Project itself, visit the *NCDOT Project Page* at [NCDOT.gov](http://NCDOT.gov) or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## **Staff Spotlight: Different Uniform, Same Community Service**

Following the immensely successful **Banding Together: Relief for Western NC** concert last week, the Town collected nearly **\$30,000** in financial contributions, and a **26' box truck** full of donated items for the Town of Spruce Pine, NC, to aid in their continued recovery following Hurricane Helene.

If you were at the event, you noticed a strong presence from our first responder community, including the Oak Island Police Department. However, one officer you did not see at the concert was Sergeant David Locklear. This is because Sgt. Locklear of the Oak Island Police Department is also Staff Sergeant Locklear of the North Carolina National Guard, who as it happens had been deployed to Western NC to aid in relief efforts.

That alone is worth noting, but you can image the surprise of the Oak Islanders delivering Banding Together donations in Spruce Pine, when none other than our own Sgt. Locklear appeared to help unload the truck! His unit having already been activated 2 weeks prior, it was a welcome sight to a familiar face in the western part of the state.

It goes to show that regardless of what uniform they are wearing at the time, the heart for helping those in need and calling to community service runs deep in all of our first responders. Thank you Sgt. Locklear for your service to our community, our state, and our nation!



# SAFETY BRIEF



## POLICE: A Sojourn Through Spruce Pine

As noted in the Staff Spotlight above, last week we sent the physical "Needs List" donations from the **Banding Together** to Spruce Pine, NC. Our [Community Resource Officer, Matthew Tweedie](#), who is a native of the area, rode along and penned his reflections from the visit:

"I have lived in many states, and a few different countries in my 40 years, and I've seen a lot of destruction, grief, and areas that have been destroyed. But what I saw this week was nothing short of what I would call another planet. I lived in the western part of North Carolina for my entire high school years and then a few years later after. Western NC is what I would call "home." Growing up in a military family, we moved every three years like clockwork. Western NC was the one place I lived in one area longer than three years.

When I was asked if I wanted to escort the supplies to Spruce Pine, I could not say no. I used to fish, hunt and just run all over that area. I've seen many pictures and videos of the area, so I had an idea of what to expect. What I saw was nothing like pictures. The photos and video I brought back are just a sample of what it was like.

Spruce Pine is known for the Quartz mining. That is Spruce Pine. You always heard the trains coming and going, the sounds of the mines blasting, digging, trucks coming in and out. There was none of that. It was quiet. The railroad had to be completely rebuilt. They had to fish train track sections out of the North Toe River. The roads were completely taken out. The water was so strong that it literally took curves and bends within the river and made it straight.

There are islands now where fields used to be next to the river's edge. Buildings are longer on their foundations. Cars, in the river, in trees. Single wide homes in pieces wrapped around trees. Boulders the size of cars in places where a park used to sit, or just moved like they were picked up and thrown.

The walkway bridge in Spruce Pine that was built in 1940, standing 105 feet over the North Toe River was completely removed by the water.

After all the devastation and mayhem I saw, the one thing that stood out the most **was the people**. It doesn't matter if you're a tradesman, a banker, teacher, or a farmer; **everyone was working together** to start the process of rebuilding. Spruce Pine PD Chief, Kasey Cook said it best

***"Today is better than the day before. In five weeks, we have seen the worst and now the best in people's lives."***

I left Spruce Pine and drove to nearby Canton, where I am from. The mudslides that sounded like a freight train, the roads that don't exist anymore, the only thing left from houses and churches that have been in place for hundreds of years is the concrete foundation.

We live on the coast. We are the ones who must keep an eye to the sky for storms like these, not the western part of the state. But after seeing what happened I can honestly say that the residents of North Carolina may all have different names...but WE ALL ARE FAMILY! We all will help our neighbors when we are called into action."

To learn more about the Community Resource Officer position and role and how it adds to the Oak Island Police Department visit [OakIslandNC.gov/CR](http://OakIslandNC.gov/CR) or click the patch below



## **FIRE: Beach Bonfire Season Begins**

Starting this coming **Saturday, November 16**, after the official end of Sea Turtle Nesting Season, **Beach Bonfires will once again be permitted** on the public beach areas. While enjoying bonfires on the beach is a time-honored tradition for many, there are some important tips everyone needs to know, whether it's their first-ever fire or just the first for the season.

A **Beach Bonfire Permit** is REQUIRED from the Fire Department before any bonfire can be conducted. Permits are FREE to submit online, and help to provide us with a record of when and where to expect open flames on the beach.

The permit process is automated, and **no direct approval response is provided**. After submitting, you should receive a an email copy of your Permit Application. Retain this copy, either in printed or digital form, as this may be requested by first responders if called to your areas.

### **Beach Bonfire Permits:**

- **CANNOT** be submitted more than 72 hours from the date on the bonfire, to allow for accurate windspeed forecast
- **MUST** use the windspeed forecast provided on the Bonfire Permit Application (no third-party apps)
- **CANNOT** cover multiple bonfires or multiple days (one permit per bonfire, per day)
- **MUST** be submitted directly by the individual they will be used for - others cannot do this for you as part of a free or paid service
- **IMPORTANT:** If at any point windspeed forecasts change to **exceed 15 MPH**, all permits will be effectively **CANCELLED** until windspeeds lower. If windspeeds return to safe limits before your original bonfire date expires, a new application will not be needed.

As for the bonfire itself, remember to keep safety a top priority! Do NOT place bonfires in the Emergency Vehicle Paths or on any sand dunes. Make sure the flame size stays about 4 feet in diameter or smaller. Do NOT burn yard debris, trash, or any materials other than dried firewood. Finally, be sure to clean up your site; all burned materials **MUST** be cooled and completely removed from the beach (DO NOT bury materials in the sand).

To learn more about Bonfire Safety or submit a Permit Application, just visit the **Beach Bonfires** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE](http://OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE) or click patch below.



# Oak Island Par 3: Resident Day is **THIS WEEK**

The "**Resident Day**" event at the **Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course** is this **Saturday, November 16** from **8:00 AM .. 5:00 PM**, with food served from **11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Located at **4188 Vanessa Drive**, the Oak Island Par 3 Golf Course invites community members to enjoy a day of games, delicious food, and opportunities to connect with neighbors.



Resident Day promises a variety of activities for everyone to enjoy, including **Games**, **Food Trucks**, and a **raffle for a free annual membership!** Join us **THIS SATURDAY** to make memories!

## **THIS WEEK: *In Recreation***

Provided below is a listing of the recreation activities for the week ahead! For questions or additional information, contact the **Recreation Department at 910-278-5518**.

### **Monday, November 11**

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
  - Mature Aerobics with Debbie 7:30 AM
  - SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie 9:00 AM
  - Senior Yoga with Mert 11:15 AM

### **Tuesday, November 12**

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
  - 8:30 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
  - 9:30 AM Senior Yoga with Mert
  - 11:30 AM Qigong for Beginners

### **Wednesday, November 13**

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
  - 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
  - 9:00 AM SilverSneaker with Mary Beth
  - 4:30 PM Yoga for Balance with Tammy

- **Middleton Park**
  - 1:00 PM Strides walking Club (Bill Smith Park)
- **Recreation Center**
  - 1:30 PM November Craft Class

## Thursday, November 14

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
  - 8:00 AM Total Body Blast with Mary Beth
  - 9:00 AM Silversneakers with Maggie
  - 10:15 AM Chair Yoga with Tammy
  - 6:00 PM Slow Flow Yoga with rotating instructors

## Friday, November 15

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
  - 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
  - 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
  - 10:30 AM Sculpt and Flow Yoga with Tammy or MB
- **Recreation Center**
  - 8:00 AM: Table Tennis
- **Ocean Education Center**
  - 2:00 PM Between the Lines Book Club

## Saturday, November 16

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
  - 10:00 AM Community Yoga with rotating instructors

## Monday, November 17

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
  - Mature Aerobics with Debbie 7:30 AM
  - SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie 9:00 AM
  - Senior Yoga with Mert 11:15 AM

**REMINDER:** A full listing of all Recreation Department programs can be found at [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS).

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



October Fitness Calendar



Walking Club



## Table Tennis



## Christmas Parade

# 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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