



# ***THE CURRENT***

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

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**Week of  
November 25, 2024**

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

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

It's finally here! Sure, the kids can have their "spooky fun" at Halloween, and the grandparents can have all the family gathered 'round the Christmas Tree. But in-between those two holidays, oh boy, does a ***landscape of feasts*** await!

Rolling hills of carved turkey, glistening with basted butter; giving way to mountainous portions of mashed potatoes, cradling valley of gravy. The greenest fields of beans and peas, bordered by the small rocky streams of cranberry sauced stuffing. Oh, and of course the family and friends to enjoy them all with! While it's fun to think about a spoonful of starches, we know the real focus will be less on our stomachs and more in our hearts; ***and there's always something to be grateful for when in Oak Island.***

Whether you're thankful for the time spent with family, or just a quiet walk on the sand, chances are it doesn't take much to find something deserving of your gratitude. So tie on a napkin and grab your favorite ladle, 'cause we're about to serve a heapin' helpin' of this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

## **MEETINGS & CLOSURES**

- **No Meetings Scheduled**

## **NEWS & NOTICES**

- ***NEW* Maps & GIS Data Portal**
- **Toys For Tots Donations Update**
- **Utilities Switch Back To Chloramines**
- **"Friends of Stormwater" Awards**
- ***Manager's Message: Make Your "OKI connection"***


## **SAFETY BRIEF**

- **FIRE: Holiday Cooking Safety**
- **POLICE: Holiday Travel Safety**

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

- **Holiday Events**
- **This Week In Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**



A photograph of a town council meeting room. In the foreground, there are several rows of empty wooden chairs. In the background, a long wooden table is set up, and a large American flag is visible. The room has a formal, official appearance.

# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

There are **NO** Town Council, Board, or Committee meetings scheduled for the week ahead. To view all upcoming future schedules visit the *Meetings Information* page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS).

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

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

- **NOTE:** The **Disposal Convenience Site** will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, November 29**
- 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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).

A photograph showing a hand holding a white cup of coffee. The cup is placed on a surface covered with a newspaper. The newspaper has various headlines and text visible, including "hidden message" and "Oak Island Newsletter".

# NEWS & NOTICES

# NEW Maps & GIS Data Portal

**Maps!** Maps are a great way to learn more about the world around you. Likewise, the Town Website is a great way to learn more about Oak Island. Well now, those two informative features have been ***combined*** with the launch of the new **Maps & GIS Data Portal**.

Built on the industry standard **ArcGIS** platform, the Portal has updated all currently mapped content, and added even more. From **Beach Access Locations**, to **LSV Island Navigation**, it's all here! There's even a map for **Garbage & Recycling Collection Zones**.

The best part is how easy they are to get to. Just click the "***Maps & GIS Data***" button on your new **OKI Connection App**, or if viewing from the Town Website, visit **OakIslandNC.gov/MAPS** or click on the link below:



## Toys For Tots Donations Update

The **Oak Island Fire Department** has received the official collection boxes from the **Toys for Tots** program. Now through **Tuesday, December 10**, donations can be dropped off at **ALL THREE** of the Town's Fire Stations during the regular business hours of **8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**:

- **Station 1** (101 E Oak Island Drive)
- **Station 2** (8510 E Oak Island Drive)
- **Station 3** (4151 Vanessa Dr SE)

Although no official "wish list" is provided for the campaign, Toys for Tots reminds donors to please bring new, un-wrapped toys that are preferably around the \$10 or above price range. Homemade toys are also accepted, and books are also needed. Children receive 2 toys each, and 3 books count as ONE gift! *Please avoid donating realistic looking weapons or gifts with food.*

For more information on the Town of Oak Island's participation in this year's Toys for Tots campaign, contact the Oak Island Fire Department at 910-278-1000 or use the **Department Contact Form**. To learn more about Toys For Tots program and their "Fill The Box" campaign, visit **toysfortots.org** or click the link below.



## Brunswick Utilities Switch Back To Chloramines

**PLEASE NOTE:** The information below is provided from the **Brunswick County Public Utilities Department**.

On October 26, 2024, the Brunswick County Public Utilities Department began its annual Disinfection Changeover and Flushing Program. During the past month, Public Utilities crews have worked to flush water mains and distribute **chlorine** throughout the County water system.

***Starting on November 25, Brunswick County will convert back to Chloramines as the primary disinfectant, flushing will continue through December.***

Depending on your location within the distribution system and usage patterns, it could be two to three weeks for your drinking water to transition from free chlorine to combined chlorine. If taste and/or odor problems persist, please contact the Brunswick County Public Utilities Department or your local water provider.

To read the full release, including important information for utility customers with aquariums and ponds, as well as those on Kidney dialysis, visit the ***Brunswick County Website*** at **[BrunswickCountyNC.gov](https://BrunswickCountyNC.gov)** or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## ***NEW "Friends Of Stormwater" Awards***

This past **Thursday, November 21**, the Town's Stormwater Administrator, Brice Taylor was joined by Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Margaret Johnson, and Town Council Member Bill Craft to present three (3) local businesses with the first-ever ***Friends of Stormwater Awards***.

Developed earlier this year, the *Friends of Stormwater* awards seek to identify and celebrate local businesses for their positive stormwater initiatives over the previous year and beyond. The initial recipients were selected due to their use of innovative stormwater-friendly materials, and include:

- Haag & Sons Seafood
- Lil & John's Sweettreat Homemade Ice Cream
- Solar Brewing Company



These businesses were specifically recognized for the use of *pervious materials* in their parking areas. Unlike *impervious pavement* which is more commonly used, pervious materials allow water to flow through it and back into the soil, further reducing stormwater runoff into the streets. As the region continues to grow and develop, it is important to recognize such leadership in stormwater management, and inspire future commitment from businesses within the community.

To read the full release on the awards and learn more about the Stormwater Permitting Division, visit the ***OKInformation*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS)** or click the link below.



CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

## ***Manager's Message: Make Your "OKI Connection"***

While it was officially announced during this month's Town Council meeting, and mentioned in last week's edition of ***The CURRENT***, it's hard to overstate the amazing "at your fingertips" convenience of the Town's new ***OKI Connection*** mobile app!



If you haven't already, I would strongly encourage you to visit the **Apple App Store** or **Google Play** and search "OKI Connection" to find this for your iPhone or Android. Rather than taking the traditional route of spending thousands of dollars on third-party developers to create a whole new system to learn, the Town has "self-published" this app. This ensured a basic, familiar design that flows right from Town Website, all at minimal cost.

This new app is chock-full of "easy buttons" linked to the most requested services and departments, along with a search function and link to sign up for email notifications and emergency text alerts through the ***OKInformation*** system!

So if you need Oak Island information, but need it as fast as one click from your home screen, then visit the **App Store** or **Google Play** and download the newest app featuring the logo below:





# SAFETY BRIEF



## FIRE: Holiday Cooking Safety

**Did you know** Thanksgiving is the **peak day** of the year for **home cooking fires** -- with more than *three times the daily average*? As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, the Oak Island Fire Department wants to wish everyone a happy **and safe** season.

Between the activity in a bustling kitchen and the distractions of family and loved ones, lighthearted situations can quickly turn serious. Whether your turkey is a "deep fried delight" or an "original oven roasted" it's important to remember some basic safety tips when cooking this season.

- **Never deep fry indoors**, and this includes underneath an elevated (on pilings) home. Always use an open area away from any trees, structures and/or vehicles. (and by all means, make sure the turkey is **completely thawed, defrosted, and dry** before placing in hot oil).
- **Stay in the kitchen** when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- **Keep children away from the stove** - at least three feet away to avoid burns or sharp objects.
- **Keep the cooking area clean** and free of dangling cords from countertop appliances.
- **Keep the floor clear** so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- **Be prepared for choking hazards**, through learning **rescue techniques**, and considering adding choking rescue devices such as a **Life Vac** or **Dechoker**.
- **Most importantly: make sure your smoke alarms are working!**

Remember, if the worst happens and you do have a fire, they can spread quickly. Do not be embarrassed or afraid to **call 9-1-1 FIRST**. To learn more about holiday Cooking Safety and how to keep your holiday meals safe, just visit the **National Fire Protection Association** website at **[www.NFPA.org](http://www.NFPA.org)** or click on our patch below.



# POLICE: Holiday Travel Safety

While our colleagues over at the **Fire Department** are concerned about your safety in the kitchen, we'd like to address those of us who ***let others do the cooking***, where all you have to do is ***just show up!***

It's no secret, Thanksgiving is the busiest travel time of the year, and for 2024 more than **132 million people** are expected to hit the highways. If you find yourself behind the wheel this week, try to avoid the peak travel times and follow these tips from our friends at the **American Red Cross**:

- Make sure your car is in good condition for a road trip.
- Pack an emergency preparedness kit, supplies and a first aid kit in your vehicle.
- Share travel plans with a family member or friend.
- Check the weather before departing and along your route.
- Be well rested and alert.
- Buckle up, slow down, and don't drive impaired.
- Follow the rules of the road and use caution in work zones.
- Give your full attention to the road and avoid distractions.
- Make frequent stops during long trips, and rotate drivers if possible.
- If you have car trouble, pull off the road as far as possible.

Remember, no matter where you are, if you run into an emergency situation, don't let it quickly spiral out of control. **call 9-1-1 FIRST**. To view the full article on traveling safety tips visit the American Red Cross website at **[www.RedCross.org](http://www.RedCross.org)** or click on our patch below





# Holiday Events

It's the next best thing to Summer in Oak Island ... Christmas time! This year has everything, from the **Tree Lighting** to a **Holiday Craft Market**, and of course the **Christmas By The Sea Parade**. To keep track of ALL of the upcoming holiday events, just visit the recently improved ***Events & Activities*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS)** or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**

## 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 25

- **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 26

- **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 27

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

### Thursday & Friday, November 28 - 29

- **Recreation Center CLOSED:** Thanksgiving holiday

### Saturday, November 30

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

### Monday, December 2

- **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
- **Community Center**
  - 5:00 PM 12 Days of Christmas Bingo

**REMINDER:** A full listing of all fitness classes and recreation programs can be found at [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS).

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



**Fitness Calendar**



**Tree Lighting**



**Breakfast With Santa**



**Christmas Parade**

## 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.

<b>MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2023)</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022)</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)</b>	<b>+</b>
<b>MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)</b>	<b>+</b>