

THE CURRENT

DECEMBER 16, 2024

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Week of
December 16, 2024

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

It's the third week in December, and whether you're an adult running around hunting for last minute gift ideas, or a **kid** **running around hunting for candy canes**, it seems ***everyone is running around!***

With most of the Town's larger **Holiday Events** now passed, there comes an opportunity to slow down and simply appreciate the moment at hand. So take some time in the days ahead to stop and remember the past, look forward to the future, and enjoy the "present" ... which truly is one of life's greatest gifts.

When your reflections are done and you're ready to get **back to the grind**, there's plenty still going on! So hop in the boat and let's float on through this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Planning Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Actions Review**
- **Early Closure Notice**
- **SE 47th Street Closure**
- **Citizens Academy Filling Fast**
- ***Manager's Message: Parking Progress***

SAFETY BRIEF

- **FIRE & POLICE: Drone Discussion**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Class Cancellations**
- **This Week In Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

PLANNING BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, December 19** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

NOTE: BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD will **NOT** hold a meeting for the month of December.

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 **Tuesday - Thursday, December 24 - 26, 2024** for ***Christmas***.

- ***NOTE: Garbage & Recycling Collections** scheduled for December 25 will be collected on **Saturday, December 28***
- The **Disposal Convenience Site** will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, December 27**
- 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).



Town Council Action Review

This past **Tuesday, December 10** the Town Council held their regular monthly meeting in the Town Council Chambers.

CLICK HERE to view the Council Actions Report

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To view the video or agenda / minutes from this or any previous meeting, visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at [**OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS**](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Early Closure Notice

NOTICE: Administrative Offices, Public Services Offices, the Recreation Department, and Oak Island Par 3 Golf will **CLOSE EARLY** at **NOON** for the remainder of the day on **Friday, December 20, 2024**, to accommodate a holiday gathering and time for staff recognition in the afternoon.

Police, Fire, and all **emergency services** will not be affected; and are always available by **calling 9-1-1**. The Oak Island Pier will remain open during current Winter operating hours of 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM. All currently available parks and public access facilities will be open as usual.

For more information on the scheduled closure of any Town Facility, visit the Town Calendar at OakIslandNC.gov/CALENDAR or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

SE 47th Street Closure

NOTICE: On **Monday & Tuesday, December 16 - 17** the area of **SE 47th Street** will be **CLOSED** to all **thru-traffic**. This will include the parking spaces immediately behind the Oak Island Police Department and the SE 47th Street parking for E.F. Middleton Park. This closure is to accommodate maintenance to the generator at the Police Department, which will require the use of a crane and other large equipment.

PLEASE NOTE: To maintain a **safe working environment**, **ALL travel (including pedestrian) through the work area is RESTRICTED**.

Alternative parking for those using E.F. Middleton Park or the Community Center will still be available in the spaces directly behind the Town Hall, as well as the newly expanded gravel parking lot beside the Public Services building; both of which can be accessed from the SE 46th Street entrance.

Weather and workflow permitting, all work should be completed by end of day on Tuesday. For visual reference, simply click on the graphic below.



Citizens Academy Filling Fast

Enrollment ***filling up*** for the **2025 Oak Island Citizens Academy**! set to kick off in just a little over **one month** from now on **Tuesday, February 4, 2025**.

Student Applications are still being accepted for the popular learning program, ***but class size is limited***.

Citizens Academy is designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government. Through hands-on learning and demonstrations, students gain a deeper understanding of how government works at the local level. Classes meet two (2) nights per week throughout the month of February, ending in a special dinner ceremony where they are presented with graduation certificates. The course requires a 100% attendance commitment.

To learn more about the program visit the Citizens Academy page at **OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY** or download an application by clicking the Logo Link below.



Manager's Message: Parking Progress

During their meeting on **December 10**, the Town Council decided on some important updates for the 2025 Paid Parking Season. Most notably, there will be **NO rate changes** for Temporary Parking in 2025, and rates will REMAIN the same for both residents and visitors alike. Similarly, the **Season Dates** were **NOT extended** through October, and will REMAIN at April 1 - September 30. The Resident Parking spaces will be continue to be enforced by Otto Connect staff from until 9:00 PM daily, but now at a ***reduced cost*** thanks to stronger revenues than previously anticipated.

As for the ***Seasonal Parking Permits***, a total sales limit has NOT been established for 2025 yet, and will be determined during at a later date, but before the start of the 2025 Parking Season. It is important to note, that any potential increase in the total sales of Season Parking Permits could be offset by eliminating the ***Bulk Permit*** option that was available to vehicle rental businesses in 2024.

For more details on these and other program updates, just visit the ***Parking Information*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



SAFETY BRIEF

FIRE & POLICE: Drone Discussion

(Contributed by Shawn Barry, Chief Pilot, Town of Oak Island)

Many of us have read or seen news reports and social media posts on the recent drone activity occurring in various places throughout the U.S. As drone ownership and operation increases, public encounters have and (for better or worse) will become more frequent. While we can't say answer the questions from other parts of the country right now, we'd like to at least share with you some of our perspective on **Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems** (sUAS).

The Town of Oak Island operates a **Public Safety Drone Unit** which is comprised of one full-time drone pilot and several part time pilots. The unit maintains **six drones** of various sizes and capabilities, which are always ready to operate at public safety events, assist Town Departments, or even provide mutual aid to neighboring communities.

Drones, and the piloting of drones are governed by the **Federal Aviation Administration** (FAA). Drones over a certain weight are required to be registered with the FAA, equipped with an **Remove ID Broadcasting** device, and the pilot licensed through the FAA. Regardless of weight, **if a drone is used for any form of compensation, the pilot must also be licensed**. Drones are permitted to operate during dusk or at night **if they are equipped with anti-collision lighting** (**NOTE: most all the recent reports show drones being operated during night conditions and having such anti-collision lighting as required by the FAA.**)

While attacking drones is a common point of discussion (and at least one video online shows a person shooting a firearm at one), the FAA considers drones to be "aircraft" and treated as if they were a plane or helicopter; so **knocking one out of the air**, regardless of how (i.e. stick, rock, gun, etc.) is a **felony offense under federal statutes**. Not to mention, firing randomly into the night sky is a reckless (and illegal) act in and of itself

We understand that anytime you see something out of the norm it can be concerning, and even lead to significant anxiety. The added hype from news outlets and especially social media does not help, and only feeds that anxiety. While we can't answer the concerns from everywhere in our nation, we can tell you that here in Oak Island the drones we use are valuable tools, dedicated to protecting and saving lives, operated by the dedicated first responders within our community.

As always, if you do encounter a drone or anything out of the norm that you feel is acting suspicious or operating in a manner which may be unlawful, **CALL 9-1-1 FIRST** to have responders dispatched to investigate. There's no need to become your own impromptu "air traffic control."

If you have a **non-emergency question** about the drones used by the Town, feel free to reach out to us through the contact information provided on the **Drone Unit** page at OakIslandNC.gov/DRONE or click the Department Patches below.



Class Cancellations

PLEASE NOTE: The *Total Body Blast with Mary Beth* class scheduled for this **Thursday, December 19** has been **CANCELLED**.

For more information on this cancellation or any alternative program options provided at the Recreation Center, please contact the Oak Island Recreation Department at 910-278-5518 or through the [Department Contact Form](#) by clicking 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, December 16

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

- Mature Aerobics with Debbie 7:30 AM
- SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie 9:00 AM

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
 - 9:00 AM SilverSneaker with Mary Beth

Thursday, December 19

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

Friday, December 20

- **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

Saturday, December 21

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

Monday, December 23

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

REMINDER: A full listing of all fitness classes and recreation programs can be found at OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS.

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



Fitness Calendar



Mardi Gras Festival



Spring Fling



Spring Art Show

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 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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