

THE CURRENT

A scenic sunset over a coastal town. The sky is a vibrant orange and yellow, transitioning into a darker blue. In the foreground, a beach with a wooden pier extends into the ocean. The town's buildings are visible in the middle ground, and the sun is setting on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the entire scene.

DECEMBER 30, 2024

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Week of
December 30, 2024

We're BACK! After a nice break over the Christmas holiday last week, The CURRENT is returning FULL of information to help you close out 2024 and get ready for the new year ahead! Whether your **New Year's Resolution** is to learn how y government works, or to simply not forget which day to take out the recycling, we have the information you need to start 2025 with your "best fin forward."

And speaking of fins, better grab yours now, because the water is moving fast in this **final 2024 edition** of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Par 3 Advisory Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Citizens Academy Application Deadline**
- **Grinding Of The Greens Underway**
- **Tree Trimming Class**
- **2025 Garbage & Recycling Schedule**
- **Public Safety Drone Courses**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Celebrate Responsibly**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **NEW Wind Phone Installed**
- **This Week In Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its next meeting on **Friday, January 3, 2025** at **1:00 PM** in the Par 3 Pro Shop at 4188 Vanessa Dr.

NOTE: ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will **POSTPONE** its regular meeting to Thursday, January 9.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday, January 1, 2025** for **New Year's Day**.

- **NOTE:** The **Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule** will **NOT** be affected, however service may run slower due to higher volumes over the holiday.
- The **Disposal Convenience Site** will be **CLOSED** on **Wednesday, January 1**
- Police, Fire, and Emergency Response services will be available by **calling 9-1-1**

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



Citizens Academy Application Deadline

The deadline for the **2025 Citizens Academy** is just **TWO WEEKS AWAY** at **NOON** on **January 13, 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.



Grinding Of The Greens Underway

The "***Grinding of the Greens***" program, hosted by the **Public Works Department** is now underway! Now through **Saturday, January 18, 2025**, you can dispose of **live Christmas Trees** at the designated collection point in the **Middleton Park Complex** parking lot at 4610 E Dolphin Drive.

The ***Grinding of the Greens*** program offers a convenient and environmentally beneficial way to **dispose of live Christmas trees**, which after collection are ground up and used as mulch in various Town parks and facilities.

REMEMBER:

- **ALL decorations must be removed from trees before disposal**
- **DO NOT place trees on the beach or dunes**
- **DO NOT burn trees as part of beach bonfires**

To learn more about alternative disposal options for trees **NOT** dropped off as part of the program, visit the **Public Works Department** page at OakIslandNC.gov/PW or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Tree Trimming Class

The **Stormwater Division** of the Development Services Department will be holding a **Tree Trimming Class** with **Certified Arborist, Todd Stevenson** on **Wednesday, January 15, 2025** beginning at **NOON**. in the Police Department Training Room, located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department at 4621 E Oak Island Drive (beside Town Hall).

A field demonstration will be conducted immediately following the classroom instruction, with the entire course expected to last until 4:00 PM.

The Town's Tree Canopy Manager, Brice Taylor will be conducting the class and is excited to welcome Mr. Stevenson as the guest speaker. His presentation will provide guidance on the ***Proper Techniques for Pruning Trees***, a crucial step in ensuring their healthy growth and continued development.

Todd Stevenson is the owner of **Total Tree Care, Inc.**, located in Myrtle Beach, SC. He is a member of the **American Society of Consulting Arborists**, and certified through the **International Society of Arboriculture**, providing consultation services in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia.

For more information or to register for this course, email dhorn@oakislandnc.gov or click the link below.

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

2025 Garbage & Recycling Schedule

The **Public Works Department** has updated the ***Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule*** for 2025 on their page of the Town Website.

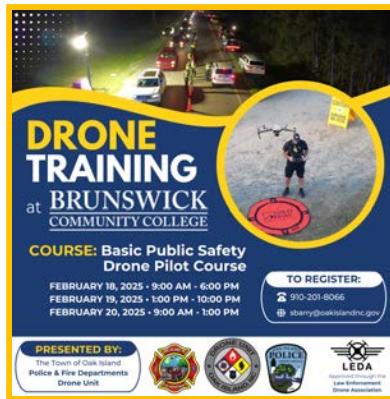
Posted under the ***Garbage & Recycling*** section midway down the page, the updated information includes maps and descriptions of all **8 Collection Zones**, along with the dates for weekly garbage collection and bi-weekly recycling collection.

So to learn more for yourself, and help out the next time someone asks "*when is recycling day?*" just visit the **Public Works** page at OakIslandNC.gov/PW or click the link below.

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

Public Safety Drone Courses

Even though 2025 hasn't officially started just yet, the **Oak Island Police** and **Fire Department** are already excited for what's to come, as they will be partnering with **Brunswick Community College** to offer several **Drone Training** courses in the Spring semester.



These courses will utilize the Town's highly innovative and effective **Drone Unit** to help teach fellow first responders the latest in best practices for several fields, including:

- **January 9 & 11: Reading Smoke & Thermal Cams**
- **February 18, 19, 20: Basic Public Safety Drone Pilot**
- **March 26 & 27: Water Rescue Skills & Techniques**

If you or a first responder you know would like more information on how to register, call **910-201-8066**, email sbarry@oakislandnc.gov or click the link below.

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



SAFETY BRIEF

Celebrate Responsibly

FIREWORKS: pretty, but problematic. We get it, sometimes people just like to send out the old year **with a bang!** However, as a general rule of thumb anything that "explodes or flies up into the air" is **illegal in the state of North Carolina.**

Being so close to the South Carolina border, this is a rule we often have to remind folks of. Sharing an island space with houses so close together, we've sadly seen the results of what happens when this rule isn't followed. Fireworks such as firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets, and things that spin on the ground are prohibited, and can carry the consequences of a Class II misdemeanor. But to us, it's about so much more than just following a set of rules.

If you're knowledge of operating an aerial firework is to simply "light it and run" – then there's a good possibility our fire engines could be showing up at your house, **or your neighbors!** So please, be considerate of yourself and others this New Year's Eve, and leave the fireworks to the professionals.

Speaking of considering others ...

DRUNK DRIVING: DON'T DO IT! It's a simple as that. While it's fun to celebrate the turning of a new year, don't make 2025 the worst year of your life (or someone else's) just because of the way you choose to ring it in.

As the saying goes, "**buzzed driving IS drunk driving!**" Remember that driving even slightly impaired isn't just taking a chance on your skill, it's **forcing everyone else** on the road to take a chance on you as well.

If there's even the slightest concern of impairment, then please use a taxi, friend, or ride sharing service to get you where you need to go. This is the season to celebrate with the ones we care about, looking back on the year we've had and ahead for what's to come. Don't let one set of poor decisions steal that opportunity from you, or others.

REMEMBER: If you ever have questions about the services provided by the **Police Department** or **Fire Department**, just reach out to us through our respective **Department Contact Forms** provided on the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/CONTACT** or click the Department Patches below.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

NEW Wind Phone Installed

Installation of the new **Wind Phone** art feature has been completed in the **May Moore Park**, located at [840 Elizabeth Drive](https://www.google.com/maps/place/840+Elizabeth+Drive,+Oak+Island,+NC+28465/@34.711111,-76.411111,17z).



First presented to the Town Council during their [**September 10 meeting**](#) (and later approved on [October 8](#)), the Wind Phone provides a place for those grieving to "connect" with lost loved ones; through the symbolic act of dialing their number or name and speaking words left unsaid.

The initial concept was created by garden designer Itaru Sasaki, and was opened to the public in 2011 in Tōhoku Japan, following the earthquake and tsunami killed over 15,000 people. Since then, similar designs have popped up in many locations throughout the world, with one now "calling" Oak Island home as well!

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 30

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
 - 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
 - 9:00 AM SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie

Tuesday, December 31

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

Wednesday, January 1

- **Recreation Center**
 - **CLOSED** for New Year's Day

Thursday, January 2

- **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, January 3

- **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, January 4

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 10:00 AM Community Yoga with rotating instructors

Monday, January 6

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
- 9:00 AM SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie
- 11:15 AM Senior Yoga with Mert

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

Click on the coming 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 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)

MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)

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