

# THE CURRENT

An aerial photograph of Oak Island, North Carolina, showing a mix of residential houses, commercial buildings, and a prominent blue water tower. The town is surrounded by green trees and some water in the background.

JANUARY 6, 2025

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Week of

**January 6, 2025**

It's a new week and a new year, and if you hadn't heard, **2025 is HERE!** As we mentioned last year, it can be easy to forget the times gone by and the memories they provided, but by the same token, it's just as easy to get stuck in those memories, **miss out on all of life's new opportunities.**

If there's one thing living on a tideline can teach you, it's that **change is both constant and inevitable**. While things change everyday in the world around us, one firm constant is the shared experience of living in such a beautiful place, full of new neighbors and old friends that make up our community!

So how about grab some of those neighbors and friends, and tell 'em it's time to take a "New Year's Plunge" in this **first 2025 edition of *The CURRENT*.**

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Recreation Advisory Board**
- **Par 3 Advisory Board**
- **Environmental Advisory Board**

## NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Hall Renovations Begin**
- **Brunswick Nuclear Siren Test**
- **Citizens Academy Application Deadline**
- **Business Bulletin Published**
- ***Staff Spotlight: New Development Services Director***

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **New Year! New Career?**
- **Hydrant Replacement Begins**

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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



# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

# COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Monday, January 6 at 4:00 PM** in the Community Center, located at 102 SE 47th St.

**PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold its regular meeting on **Wednesday, January 8 at 1:00 PM** in the Police Department training Room, located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, January 9 at 8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, 4700 E Oak Island Dr.

To view all upcoming future schedules visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS).

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 20, 2025** in observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.

- **NOTE:** The ***Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule*** will **NOT** be affected, however service may run slower due to higher volumes over the holiday.
- 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).



## Town Hall Renovations Begin

**"Pardon our noise" ... or is it "dust" ... "paint fumes" maybe?** Either way, as of **Monday January 6, 2025** visitors to the Town Hall will notice some serious work taking place, as construction has begun on the **Town Hall Renovation Project**.

As pictured below, the project will reposition the Tax and Utility Payment windows, as well as the Development Services Permitting desk within the front lobby. This move will help make these services more accessible to the public, while also improving building security.



The work should be completed in about one month, and work areas will be closed off with appropriate signage as needed. In the meantime, if you need to meet with any of the departments impacted by the construction, but would like to avoid the dust and noise, feel free to use the Department Contact Forms provided on the **Contact Us** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/CONTACT](http://OakIslandNC.gov/CONTACT) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## NOTICE: Brunswick Nuclear Siren Test

(Contributed by Duke Energy)

This coming **Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2025**, the **outdoor warning sirens** around the **Brunswick Nuclear Plant** will be **TESTED** between **10:00 AM** and **11:00 AM**. This is **ONLY A TEST**, and **no public action is required**.

The 38 sirens within 10 miles of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant will sound at **full-volume** for five to 30 seconds. To ensure they are functioning properly, it may be necessary to test some sirens more than once. Follow-up testing after siren maintenance may be required after 11:00 AM.

Testing is performed in cooperation with emergency officials in Brunswick and New Hanover counties, who are responsible for sounding the sirens. Because this is a test, local broadcasting stations will not interrupt regular programming to broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages. If there was ever a real emergency at the plant requiring the sirens to be sounded, local radio and television stations would broadcast information and instructions to the public.

To learn more about nuclear emergency preparedness and outdoor warning sirens, visit the **Duke Energy** directly at [duke-energy.com/NuclearEP](http://duke-energy.com/NuclearEP) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Final Call for Citizens Academy Applications

**[UPDATE EDIT: The 2025 Citizens Academy has been FILLED, applications are no longer being accepted at this time.]**

The deadline for the **2025 Citizens Academy** is **NEXT MONDAY at NOON on January 13, 2025!** Only a few **Student Applications** remain available and **class size is limited.**

Citizens Academy is designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government. 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.

To learn more about the program visit the Citizens Academy page at [OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY](http://OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY) or download an application by clicking the Logo Link below.



## **Business Bulletin Published**

This past **Friday, January 2, 2025** the December edition of the **Business Bulletin** was published! This latest edition has several exciting announcements for the business community, including a new **poll** on "business-related resolutions" for 2025.

The Business Bulletin is an e-newsletter developed by the Town's Business Advisory Board and Economic Development Office. Every edition is crafted to illuminate the latest updates, insights, and opportunities, tailored exclusively for the local business community. Join us as we shine a spotlight on the heartbeat of commerce in the Town of Oak Island, fostering connections, and fostering growth.

New editions are emailed directly to those on the subscriber list each month. To sign up to receive new editions, visit the **Economic Development** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/ECON](http://OakIslandNC.gov/ECON) or click on Logo Link below.



## **Staff Spotlight: New Development Services Director**

As of **Monday January 6, 2025** Matt Kirkland has been named as the **NEW Development Services Director** for the Town of Oak Island. Kirkland first joined the Town in July 2022 to serve as Planning Director. He now steps into this new role following the December 31, 2024 retirement of longtime Development Services Director, Steve Edwards.

Matt Kirkland has been working in local government for approximately 15 years, with a specific focus in planning for nearly a decade. Before joining Oak Island he served in nearby Leland, the fastest growing town in North Carolina. With Oak Island being in close proximity to such significant growth, Kirkland has been highly instrumental in helping to navigate the challenges that come with regional change.

As Development Services Director, Matt will administer the **four key divisions** within the **Development Services Department**:

- **Building Inspections**
- **Planning & Zoning**
- **Stormwater Development**
- **Permitting**

He looks forward to continuing improvements to the Department's efficiency and streamlining the interoperability between the divisions. So stay tuned for positive changes ahead, as we welcome Matt Kirkland to his new role as Development Services Director.



For questions related to any of the content below, or for more information on 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](http://OakIslandNC.gov/CONTACT) or by clicking the Department Patches below.



## New Year, New Career?

Are you or someone you know looking for a new job opportunity in 2025? Perhaps even starting a whole new career? Then the **Oak Island Police Department** may be the right fit for you!



We offer regionally competitive salaries with benefits, **PLUS** options for both experienced and entry-level officers through the **PAID RECRUITMENT PROGRAM** (get paid a salary and benefits while you train!)

### Other benefits include:

- **Health / Dental / Vision / Life Insurance**
- **401K Contribution (5%)**
- **State Retirement Plan**
- **Tuition Reimbursement**
- **Annual & Sick Leave**
- **Overtime Opportunities**
- **Workout Facility Access**
- **Take Home Vehicle**

The administration, officers, and staff of the Oak Island Police Department are committed to protecting the residents and visitors of Oak Island, and to preventing crime through a partnership with the community. The Department is dedicated to providing police service at the most professional level.

If you or someone you know may be interested, you can download an application at [OakIslandNC.gov/JOBs](http://OakIslandNC.gov/JOBs) or just click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Hydrant Replacement Begins

Starting this week, the [Public Utilities Department](#) will begin work on the **Hydrant Replacement Program**. The goal of this program is to **replace 25 fire hydrants per year**, beginning a long-term rotational period that ensures the Town will always have modern, reliable hydrants.



Currently the Town maintains over **800 fire hydrants**, with 776 of those being on the Island portion alone. Every year, all 800 must be inspected, with full testing completed on 20% of the hydrants per year. This ensures that every hydrant is inspected yearly, and goes no more than 5 years without full testing. The **Hydrant Replacement Program** now adds to that effort, by established a set schedule for their uniform replacement.

Over the next few weeks, if you see crews from the Public Utilities Department working on a hydrant, please treat them just as you would a firefighter performing hydrant testing and **do not** approach them to ask questions, as this can slow down the process.

If you would like to know more about hydrant replacement, testing or maintenance in general, just visit the [Fire Hydrant Information](#) page at [OakIslandNC.gov/HYDRANTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/HYDRANTS) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

## 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, 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

### Tuesday, January 7

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

### Wednesday, January 8

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

### Thursday, January 9

- **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 10**

- **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 11**

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

**Monday, January 13**

- **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](http://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)**

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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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