

A photograph of a sandy beach with a wooden fence in the foreground. A blue net is laid out on the sand. The ocean and a clear blue sky are in the background.

THE **CURRENT**

JANUARY 27, 2025

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Week of
January 27, 2025

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

"HOLD ON!" As we still thaw from last week's **record winter weather** and a rare seaside snow, we have only this flicker of hope to offer: **in just 41 days** (March 9), **time will be changed** and the sun will shine past 7:00 PM.

Until then we can look fondly (*but not too fondly*) on the sandy, snowy shoreline this rare event left us with. And if you want a break from scrolling through your mandatory snow photos, there's plenty to catch up with in Town news and notices. So get into your best penguin plunge mindset, as we take a dive into this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Business Advisory Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **New Tree Plantings for 2025**
- **Homeowners Insurance Rate Information**
- **Community Open House Event**
- ***Manager's Message: Code Enforcement, Corrected***

SAFETY BRIEF

- **New Year, Same Old Scams**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 28** at **9:00 AM** in the Police Department training Room, located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department.

To view all upcoming future schedules visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS**.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

There are no Town closures or service modifications for the week ahead. To view all Holiday Closures, visit:

OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



New Tree Plantings for 2025

Recently, residents along a couple of streets within Town may have noticed some new additions in the right-of-way (ROW) near their homes. While just a series of marker stakes for now, these locations are the future home to some of the Town's namesake **Live Oak** trees.

The Town is continuing its **Tree Preservation Project** for 2025 and will be planting **new Live Oak trees** in the coming weeks and months, **starting** with the ROW areas of:

- E Oak Drive between NE 40th and NE 63rd streets
- E Holly Drive NE from NE 40th to NE 79th streets

These areas were selected based on a recent map showing tree canopy loss from 2007 to the present, highlighting significant damage from hurricanes and new development. Other areas will follow as additional funding becomes available.

On West Oak Island Drive, staff will also be **removing** several **Bradford Pear** trees and replacing them with live oaks as well. As additional funding becomes available, more live oaks will be added within the ROW on West Oak Island Drive, extending all the way to the end of the Island. This effort to replace the Bradford Pear trees with live oaks should help create a more resilient and sustainable urban forest.

To read about this and all things tree-related for the Town, just visit the ***Tree Preservation & Removal*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/TREE or click the link below.

Homeowner Insurance Rates Update

PLEASE NOTE: This information has been provided directly by the NC Department of Insurance (NC DOI).

Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey announced today that the N.C. Department of Insurance has ended its legal dispute with insurance companies about their proposed homeowners' insurance rate increase filed in January 2024.

The N.C. Rate Bureau originally requested an average 42.2% increase last year, with proposed increases of up to 99.4% in some areas.

Under the agreement signed by Commissioner Causey and the Rate Bureau, the average statewide base rate will increase by 7.5% on June 1, 2025, and 7.5% on June 1, 2026. The Rate Bureau is not a part of the Department of Insurance and represents homeowners' insurance companies in North Carolina.

To read the FULL release on this notice, visit the *NCDOI* website at www.NCDOI.gov or click the logo link below.



REMINDER: Community Open House Event

You're invited to participate in shaping the future of Oak Island! On **Wednesday, February 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM** in **Town Hall**, a **Community Open House** event will be held as part of the **2045 Charting The Course** project. The project is the Town of Oak Island's effort to update its existing **CAMA Comprehensive Land Use Plan** (often referred to as a "**Comp Plan**").

This "open house" style public input forum will focus on sharing and refining the draft plan goals to help guide the creation of the Comprehensive Plan. These draft goals have been developed from the input gathered at the initial Kickoff Event this past September, and the Community Survey conducted in November.

In addition to sharing thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan, the open house will also provide an opportunity for feedback on the ***Streetscape Visioning Plan***. The Streetscape design concepts will be available for review, with the designers present to answer any questions.

Your insights are crucial in guiding the Town's development over the next two decades. Come and share your thoughts to help ensure that the goals of this plan reflect the vision and needs of the community. To learn more about the **2045 Charting The Course** project, along with the ***Streetscape Visioning Plan***, just visit the ***PLAN 2045*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/PLAN2045** or click the logo link below.



Manager's Message: Code Enforcement, Corrected

During the **January 14** meeting, Town Council received a report from **Alliance Code Enforcement** on the code violations review they performed in November and December. This was a thorough study, which understandably can lead to some questions about how it began and how it will be used.

As Town Manager, I recognize the importance of providing a clear, simple perspective on such a large project. That's why we've published a **full breakdown** on the **Background, Results, Response**, and **Perspective** of this report, which is linked below.

It's important to note that this was conducted at the request of Town Council back during the Budget Workshops last April, following the success of a similar 2023 study performed in neighboring Southport. It provides an objective review of code violations from an outside agency, and a starting point for our Town staff to begin working equally with all property owners. This is a valuable tool, that will help to improve and maintain the standards we all enjoy.

To read the full breakdown and view the presentation materials, just visit the **OKInformation** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



SAFETY BRIEF

New Year, Same Old Scams

It didn't take long into the new year, and already our officers have received reports of phone calls, where the caller claimed to be with the Oak Island Police Department, asking the victim why they missed court and demanding money.

At this point it should go without saying, but we will repeat as loud and as often as we can: **THESE ARE A SCAM!!**

It is a shame that scammers would use the name of our department to try and cheat a quick buck, but please know that the **Police Department** or any law enforcement agency, **will NEVER call to demand payment over the phone** for any infraction.

This is a dated and heavily used tactic by scammers, which reemerges on occasion. Recently there have been numerous reports of these calls within the area.

Please be aware of this latest effort, and if you or someone you know feel you may be a victim of this latest effort, please contact the **Oak Island Police Department** through the **Department Contact Form**.

Remember, if you ever have questions about any of the services we provide (or phone calls we may actually make), just reach out to us through the **Department Contact Form** at **OakIslandNC.gov/PD** or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

For questions related to any of the content in the ***Safety Brief***, or for more information on the services provided by the **Police Department** or **Fire Department**, just visit the ***Public Safety*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY** or click on the Department Patches below.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Class Cancellations

NOTICE: For the week of **January 27, 2025**, the ***Mature Aerobics with Debbie*** classes scheduled for **7:30 AM** on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** have been **CANCELLED**.

For more information on this cancellation, please contact the **Oak Island Recreation Department** at **910-278-5518** or through the **[Department Contact Form](#)**.

To view alternative fitness class options, visit **OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS**.

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 27

- **Recreation Center**
 - SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie 9:00 AM
 - Senior Yoga with Mert 11:15 AM

Tuesday, January 28

- **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 29

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Mary Beth
 - 4:30 PM Yoga for Balance with Tammy
- **Lowe-White Park**
 - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Striders walking Club

Thursday, January 30

- **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 31

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 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, February 1

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

Monday, February 3

- **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 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 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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