



THE CURRENT

FEBRUARY 17, 2025

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Week of

February 17, 2025

"I cannot tell a lie." It's the famous childhood phrase attributed to (*though not actually spoken by*) our nation's first president, George Washington; whose birthday gave us the initial celebration for President's Day, kicking off the week ahead. Even though the future **Sage of Mount Vernon** may not have said those exact words, the need for truth is important, and the need for celebration even more so.

Thankfully, this week gives us an opportunity for BOTH! **It's no lie**, this week ends with one of the Town's most celebrated and anticipated events, the **Mardi Gras By The Sea Festival & Parade**. As seen in this week's cover photo showcasing last year's parade, this highly attended event is a great way to start shaking off the cold of winter, as the unofficial "kick off" for the year's fun and festivities!

But it's not all loose beads and live bands, there's still important Town News & Notices to cover. So grab a slice of King's Cake and climb aboard as we take a cruise down this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Planning Board**
- **Business Advisory Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Meeting Report**
- **Customer Service Area NOW OPEN**
- **Summer Concert Series UPDATE**
- **NCDOT Launches STIP**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **2024 Police Department Annual Report**
- **Flying High & Leading The Way**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

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



Council & Board Meetings

PLANNING BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, February 20 at 9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.

BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, February 18 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 scheduled closures or service modifications for the week ahead. The next Holiday Closure will be on **Friday, April 18, 2025** in observance of **Good Friday**. To view all Holiday Closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



Town Council Meeting Report

This past **Tuesday, February 11** the Town Council held its regular monthly meeting at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers.

CLICK HERE to view the Council Actions Report

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To watch this meeting, or view the full agenda, minutes, or video of any previous meeting, just visit the Meetings Information page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Customer Service Area Now Open

Over the past two months, frequent visitors to the Oak Island Town Hall may have noticed some serious work taking place, and not just in the regular office spaces. As reported in the [**January 6 edition**](#), the new year brought new changes and a new look to the first floor lobby, as construction began on the all new **Customer Service Area**.

2025 Customer Service Area Construction



As seen in the time lapse video above, the project repositioned the **Tax & Utility Payment** windows, as well as the **Permitting Center** for Development Services. All of which are now conveniently housed right in the first room of Town Hall. This move helps to make these services more accessible to the public, while also improving building security.

The completion of the new Customer Service Area further extends the latest commitment to improving customer service, which in 2024 began with the addition of a front desk receptionist position. The previous window areas will now be converted to much-needed office space for new and existing staff. The remaining portions of the project, including renovations for the old areas should be completed in March.

Remember, the commitment to improving customer service also extends to the virtual world as well. If you have a question, or need to find a Town Department or Service, remember it's as easy as clicking the **REPORT A CONCERN** button at the top of the homepage or right from the **OKI Connection** mobile app. You can also visit the **Services Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/SERVICES or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Summer Concert Series *Schedule Update*

Earlier this month in the [**February 3 edition**](#), *The CURRENT* gave an exclusive debut of the Live Band Lineup for this year's **Summer Concert Series**. As the series is highly anticipated, the announcement and schedule graphics went viral almost immediately.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict, there has been a change in the Band Lineup. The July 18 concert will now feature *The British Invaders*

As noted in the [updated graphic](#) below, the **Chocolate Chip & Company Band** will **no longer** be able to perform on **Friday, July 18**. As a consolation, they have been **rescheduled** for the **Live & Local** series in the Fall on October 18.

Please help the [**Recreation Department**](#), by making sure any Series details or graphics you share on your personal social media, uses this [UPDATED](#) information and graphic!

As always, further details and full concert listings are posted on the **Special Events** page, which you can find at OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or by clicking the schedule graphic below.



NCDOT Launches State Transportation Improvement Program

[NOTE: This information has been provided by NCDOT, links provided may direct outside of the Town Website]

The N.C. Department of Transportation is inviting the public to provide feedback on the **Draft 2026-2035 State Transportation Improvement Program** (STIP). The STIP is developed under the **Strategic Transportation Investments law (STI)**, which established the **Strategic Mobility Formula**.

As part of this effort, NCDOT will host **regional drop-in sessions (see this flyer)** across the state between **February 17 and March 17, 2025**. Feedback from these sessions will also help shape the development of the **2028-2037 STIP**.

Additionally, a **Public Comment** period is now open through **April 4, 2025**.

After the public comment period concludes, NCDOT will review and address all comments. Feedback will be shared with the Board of Transportation and the Final 2026-2035 STIP is expected to be approved by the Board of Transportation in **Summer 2025**.

To read the full release shared by NCDOT, and learn how to provide your input to help shape the future of transportation in this state, visit the **OKInformation** page at OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



2024 Police Department Annual Report

Last week, during the **February 11 Town Council meeting**, Police Chief Charlie Morris presented the Town Council with the **2024 Police Department Annual Report**.

As Chief Morris noted in his presentation, the Annual Report provides a "snapshot" of what goes on inside and outside of the Department. The Report features 40 full-color pages of information, from the **Mission Statement**, to a **Traffic Summary**, **Crime statistics**, and **Department Goals**.

Having a thorough, comprehensive report presented annually is important to maintaining Department transparency; which is a vital part of the Community Policing model we strive for. Whether it's through the **Chief's Message** on page 6, or the **Staff Organizational Chart** on Page 8, this report gives you the information you need to know who serves your community daily.

To view the full report, just click on the link at the top of the **Police Department** webpage at OakIslandNC.gov/PD or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Flying High & Leading The Way

Back in the [January 13 edition](#), the Oak Island Fire Department announced new public safety training courses, utilizing materials developed through the Town's **Drone Unit**. This is part of a larger curriculum for public safety being developed in-house by the Town's Chief Public Safety Drone Pilot, Shawn Barry.



The courses continue this week, as the Fire Department hosts the first **Basic Public Safety Drone** course in Brunswick County. This three day, 24-hour training will provide regional public safety drone pilots with the basic skills needed to safely operate a drone with their agency.

PLEASE NOTE: Aerial training will be conducted in public areas throughout the following week ahead.

The coursework Barry developed has been approved through the Law Enforcement Drone Association (LEDA). The innovation and leadership the Town of Oak Island has taken with incorporating drone technology into our public safety is being recognized on a national level.

To learn more about the Drone Unit, and the services they provide to the residents and visitors of Oak Island, just visit the dedicated page at OakIslandNC.gov/DRONE 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

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, February 17

- **Recreation Center**

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

Tuesday, February 18

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 8:30 AM SilverSneakers with Susan (Canceled)
- 9:30 AM Senior Yoga with Mert
- 11:30 AM Qigong for Beginners

Wednesday, February 19

- **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

- **Recreation Center**

- 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Striders walking Club

Thursday, February 20

- **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

- **Excursion**

- 9:30 AM Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson and Local's Restaurant

Friday, February 21

- **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

- **Ocean Education Center**

- 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Between the Lines Book Club

Saturday, February 22

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

- 10:00 AM Community Yoga with rotating instructors

- **Middleton Park**

- Mardi Gras Festival and Parade: Parade 11:00 AM Keziah St, Festival NOON – 4:00 PM Middleton Park Complex

Monday, February 24

- **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



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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