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Week of

February 24, 2025

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

You know what? We're just going to go ahead and call it ... ***it's SPRINGTIME everybody!*** Yes, we know the "official" start of Spring is still **over 20 days away**, but hear us out.

The Recreation Department just hosted another amazingly successful **Mardi Gras By The Sea Parade & Festival** this past weekend; and as everyone knows, that's the first Festival & Market of the year. Everyone also knows it marks the kickoff to a **Special Events** Calendar that is PACKED with fun and exciting events for the year ahead!

Following suit, this week has some very important and exciting Town News to cover as well. So climb aboard as we sail into Spring for this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Meeting Information**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Name The Tree Contest FINALS**
- **Fake Facebook Event Scam**
- **NEW Social Media Survey**
- **Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers Needed**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Ocean Rescue Recruitment Heats Up**
- **New Week, New Scams**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **NEW RipRide Rally**
- **This Week In Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**



Council & Board Meetings

There are **NO** Council or Board meetings scheduled for the week ahead. To view all upcoming future scheduled meetings, visit the [**Meetings Information**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS) page at [**OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS).

Holiday Closures

There are **NO** closures or service modifications scheduled 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**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).



Name The Tree Contest: **FINAL ROUND**

Back on [February 10](#), the Town began taking suggestions on possible names for the beloved old live oak tree located in Bill Smith Park. This effort to honor and preserve this part of local history by giving the tree a name is part of the Town's ongoing [Tree Preservation Project](#).



Well those names have been collected, and the Town of Oak Island is excited to announce the **final round of voting** to name the beloved live oak tree at Bill Smith Park. After receiving **over 150 suggestions** from the community, the list has been narrowed down to the **top 10** ... which you can vote on RIGHT NOW!

From now until **NOON on March 7**, go to OakIslandNC.gov/VOTE to select your **top three** favorites. The winning name will be announced during the **Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 26, 2025**.

Please Note: the Tree Naming Contest is a community participation event, and does **NOT** include any individual prizes or promotional offers. Please do not click on, or share any materials found online other than the OFFICIAL Contest page, which can be found at OakIslandNC.gov/VOTE or by clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Fake Facebook Event Scam

Did you notice that disclaimer, in the Tree Naming Contest article above? The one about how it does **NOT** include any prizes or promotional offers? Yeah, that's because sometimes the world of social media isn't a nice place.



This past **Sunday, February 23**, the Town of Oak Island's Facebook page was subject of a pretty aggressive scam attempt, as seen in the attached screengrab below. In this attempt, the recent Tree Naming Contest post was "cloned" by a scammer, who used the copied information to create a fake Facebook Event, in an attempt to trick users into clicking on a fictitious link.

It's important to note that this was entirely separate from the official Town page, and was **NOT** the result of a hack or other intrusion. The attempt was reported to Facebook. Please remember, the Town of Oak Island has not, and **WILL NEVER send links or direct messages through Facebook**.

Thank you to the community members who also reported the attempt. If you have clicked on any links, or feel you may have been a victim of this scam attempt, it is recommended to check your account and change any associated passwords. If you have questions or additional concerns, feel free to reach out through the **Contact Us** page email the Town at OakIslandNC.gov/CONTACT or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

NEW Social Media Survey

Speaking of Facebook, there's some **GOOD NEWS** to share in the world of social media! In the Town's ongoing effort to **improve customer service**, one of the big goals for 2025 is conducting a **Social Media Overhaul**.

The world of social media changes almost daily, and that means we need to adapt to these changes, to help better serve our community. The first step in this process is gathering data from YOU, our audience. This will be done through the **NEW Social Media Survey!**



The Survey will run for **10 days**, starting this **Wednesday, February 26** through **Friday, March 7**. The Survey is anonymous, and only basic demographic data is collected. We are only interested learning how we can improve our messaging, so that we can *reach you where you are, when you need it most!*

This is your chance to become a stakeholder in how information is delivered from the Town of Oak Island! So mark your calendars starting **this Wednesday** and plan to participate in the Social Media Survey at OakIslandNC.gov/SURVEY or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers Needed

For many visitors and part time residents, the magic of Oak Island really starts to hit well before they cross the bridge. In fact, part of the beauty of Oak Island can be found along the roads leading to, in, and throughout the Town.

That's why the **Environmental Advisory Committee** (EAC) is seeking your help, in their latest call for volunteers to join the ***Adopt-A-Highway Pick Up Team***.

Volunteers within the group meet quarterly in January, April, July, and October, to pick up trash and debris on the sponsored streets in Oak Island. Last year they collected **over 300 pounds** of trash, improving the environment and helping keep our Town clean.

The effort requires about two hours per event and all materials are provided. If you are interested in volunteering, contact EAC Staff Liaison and Planner I, **Brady Golden** at bgolden@oakislandnc.gov or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Ocean Rescue Recruitment Heats Up

Okay, so as the intro to this week's edition put it, ***Spring is basically here***. That means Summer is fast approaching. As we reported earlier this month, that's why we are working **NOW** to be able to "Answer The Call" by staffing and training our **Ocean Rescue Unit** (ORU) for the season ahead.



This specialized unit provides challenging yet rewarding positions within the department, and is one of the most unique ways to serve your community! During the season, the ORU provides patrols along 10 miles of beachfront, 7 days a week!

The next **Training Academy begins in April**, and spaces have already begun to fill up! So make sure to get your applications in NOW! To learn more about the ORU itself, visit OakIslandNC.gov/ORU. To download an application, visit the Jobs Listings page at OakIslandNC.gov/JOBs or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

New Week, New Scam

Between the fake Facebook event page mentioned above, and the "Missed Court Date Fine" scam we reported on earlier this month, it seems there is no shortage these days of unscrupulous people trying to take advantage of others. With all of the competition out there to try and scam folks, you would almost think it would be easier to just make an honest living ... *but the attempts persist.*

This week, we have been alerted to a recent trend, whereby scammers send fake **Parking Penalty Charge** notices through a text message. These messages try to convince you of unpaid parking tickets, and pressure you to make immediate payments.

With the **2025 Paid Parking Season** about to start in just over a month, this is an important scam to keep in mind. **Remember, neither the Town of Oak Island nor the contracted parking services provider, Otto Connect will solicit for parking fine payment through text messaging.**

Always be cautious of anything that seems out of the ordinary, and always take a closer look at things that DO seem ordinary. If you ever have questions about a parking citation, contact the information directly on the ticket itself. For tickets issued by Otto Connect, just email surfcast@ottoconnect.us, and for citations from the Oak Island

Police Department, just use the contact form link on the back of the citation.

If you have questions about this or any other scam attempts you see feel free to reach out to the Police Department through the Contact Form on our webpage 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 link below.



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

NEW RipRide Rally Skatepark Event

On **March 9, 2025** from **NOON - 7:00 PM** the **Kevin Bell Skatepark** comes alive at the corner of SE 49th St. & E Dolphin Dr., for the first-ever ***RipRide Rally!***

Sponsored by local business Never Ever Boards, this **FREE** event will feature skate contests, food trucks, giveaways, and more! All skateboard types allowed, and riders can choose their own song to play live as they race! The timed Circuit Race will feature the same start / end point. Helmets are required, and spectators do not need to register.

For information and to register, visit OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS or click the flyer below.



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**.

Tuesday, February 25

- **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 26

- **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

- **Brunswick Nature Park**

- Striders Walking Club

Thursday, February 27

- **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, February 28

- **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, March 1

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

- 10:00 AM Community Yoga with rotating instructors

Monday, March 2

- **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!



RipRide Rally



Spring Fling



Spring Art Show



Fitness Calendar

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.

This information is produced by the **Town of Oak Island Communications Office** and is intended for information and educational purposes only. Any perceived endorsement or promotion of third-party products, services, or organizations is unintentional. For more information on any of the departments or services provided by the Town of Oak Island, call 910-278-5011, or email info@oakislandnc.gov.

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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