



THE CURRENT

APRIL 28, 2025

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Week of

April 28, 2025

While April **May** be ending this week, the month ahead is sure to bring an entire Summer Season of fun and activities! Whether you spent this past weekend battling it out in the **largest Pickleball Tournament ever held** in Town, or "down to earth" celebrating **Arbor Day & Earth Day**, there was no shortage of interesting things to do. 

There is also no shortage of fun and exciting activities ahead. This week holds everything from battling **Badges, Boats, & Boots**, to one of our **largest festivals** of the year, along with some serious **budget business** to attend to as well. So grab your favorite softball bats and shrimp forks, it's time for another wild ride in this week's edition of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- Town Council Budget Workshop
- Environmental Advisory Committee
- Par 3 Advisory Committee

NEWS & NOTICES

- Say Hello To Serenity Oak
- Sea Turtle Season Starts
- Funding Applications *Due Monday*
- *Staff Spotlight: Pickleball Chief*
- *Manager's Message: Budget Process Progress*

SAFETY BRIEF

- Beach Bonfire Season Ends
- Hurricane Conference: Submit Questions NOW

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Seafood Festival
- Badges, Boats, & Boots
- This Week in Recreation
- Event Flyers

MEETINGS & CLOSURES



Council & Board Meetings



TOWN COUNCIL will hold a **Budget Workshop** to discuss the **DRAFT FY 2025-2026 Budget** on **Tuesday, April 29** at **9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, May 1** at **8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Dr.

PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its regular meeting on **Friday, May 2** at **1:00 PM** in the Par 3 Pro Shop, located at 4188 Vanessa Dr.

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

Holiday Closures

There are no facility closures for the week ahead. The next Holiday Closure will be on **Monday, May 26, 2025** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

To view all Holiday Closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



Say Hello to Serenity Oak

"**Serenity Now!**" It's not just the calming mantra of one Frank Costanza, it's now the experience you get when taking in the foliage at Bill Smith Park!

This past Saturday, the Town held dual celebrations (*in dual locations*) for both **Arbor Day** and **Earth Day**! The festivities took place from NOON - 4:00 PM, with the Middleton Park Complex holding most of the Earth Day Activities, as the Bill Smith Park served to host the Arbor Day events.

In Bill Smith Park, the talk of the Town was on TREES. With activities such as a giveaway of over 100 live oaks, or [Town Management stepping up to help plant new ones](#); the one moment which held the most interest was the **Tree Dedication Ceremony**, wherein the Park's signature **200+ year old oak tree** was officially christened with a name! following a contest which began back on **February 10** of this year, the name suggestions were all compiled and voted on to result in the tree's new official name of ... **Serenity Oak**.



In addition to the new name, **Serenity Oak** also received a special plaque, a lightning strike protection system, and a roped perimeter to help protect the root system. You can visit sweet **Serenity** for yourself anytime at the **Bill Smith Park**, located on the mainland at 4410 Fish Factory Rd. To learn more about the Town's effort to preserve and grow the tree canopy, visit the **Tree Preservation & Removal** page at OakIslandNC.gov/TREES or click the link below.



Sea Turtle Season Starts

(Contributed by the **Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program**) OISTPP is excited to announce the **2025 Sea Turtle Season** will begin **THIS WEEK** on **May 1**, and will continue through October 31! As we move into another season, we'd like to offer these reminders:

The **Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program** is the only permitted program from the NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) to care for and protect the sea turtles that visit our beach. Please call us day or night, 24/7 if you see a nesting turtle, emerging hatchlings, washed-back hatchlings, or stranded or deceased turtles on the beach.

Please call 910-945-8888 with locations and details of all activity, and we will respond asap! Your help is appreciated!

Remember, it is a **federal offense** to remove a turtle from the beach, to disturb or shine lights on them, to harass or pick them up and pass them around. Please respect our sea turtles and all marine and wildlife! If you hook a turtle fishing from the pier or beach, please call us immediately! We will assess the turtle and transport it to Karen Beasley Rescue and Rehab Center if needed.

We love our sea turtles and our Town so **THANK YOU** to those in our community who share our love of sea turtles! You make a difference in their care and protection. For more information on the Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program, just visit www.okiseaturtle.org or click the link below.



**CLICK HERE
TO VISIT
THE SITE**

Outside Agency Funding Applications Due Monday

As first reported in the April 14 edition, the ***NEW Outside Agency Funding Applications for Fiscal Year 2025 / 2026*** are available and **DUE** by close of business on **Monday, May 5, 2025**.

These applications include the updated ***Funding Policy***, which serves to promote partnerships between the Town of Oak Island and non-profit agencies for the benefit of Oak Island residents, to equitably and efficiently allocate resources to strengthen agencies, and to provide sound and clear methods for decisions. Ensuring all tax dollars are used in the best possible manner for the benefit of all citizens is a top priority for the Town of Oak Island.

Applications can be downloaded from the ***Form Center*** page at [**OakIslandNC.gov/FORMS**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/FORMS) or by clicking the link below.

**CLICK HERE
TO SUBMIT
A FORM**

Staff Spotlight: Pickleball Chief

This past weekend, the ***Oak Island Beach Pickles*** group, held their annual ***Spring Pickleball Classic Tournament*** in the Middleton Park Complex, in association with ***Southern Pickleball Association***.

This private event drew hundreds to Oak Island, with 235 registered players and their family and friends, from states as far away as South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, and even California! Proceeds from the tournament will go to benefit the non-profit ***Oak Island Friends of Parks Foundation***.

Despite such stiff competition from so far away, the Town was well represented locally with several Town Staff even joining in. This included our own **Police Chief Charlie Morris**, who along with teammate Ann Marie Charette of Southport, was able to help **WIN** the **GOLD** in their **4.0** category of ***Mixed Doubles*** (50-59).

It's no secret that Chief Morris leads by example when he encourages Police Officers to not only be active in their community, but to participate in daily as well. Congratulations to Chief Charlie Morris on the win.



Manager's Message: Budget Process Progress

Way back in the **Manager's Message** for the [January 13 edition](#), we discussed one of the most important (and my personal favorite) times of the year ... the **Budget Season**.

That's right, just two weeks into 2025, we started building the budget for the **2025-26 Fiscal Year**. To recap, the development of the Annual Budget is a process that operates on a near continual basis, where each month's revenues are analyzed to help project next year's Budget. However, the most visible portions of the process began with the Town Council Retreat in January. We developed a DRAFT Strategic Plan with the Town Council upon which this year's Budget is based.

In March we worked with all the departments to hear their needs and discussed recommendations for savings. In April, we have held a series of Budget Workshops with Town Council, with one of the final workshops scheduled for this week. Once we have all of the input from the Town Council at the Workshops, Town Staff will work to assemble the **Recommended Budget**.

The Recommended Budget will be presented to the public during the regular Town Council meeting in May, and a special public hearing will be held in late May. The Town Council will formally vote on the Budget in **June**. This will become the Adopted Budget for FY 25-26. All workshops, Council meeting, and public hearings are always open to the public.

To view the current Budget or learn more about how your Town spends its revenue, just visit the **Budget Information** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/BUDGET](#) or click the link below.



SAFETY BRIEF



Beach Bonfire Season Ends

As noted earlier in this edition, the Sea Turtle Nesting Season officially begins this coming **Thursday, May 1**. As this popular season begins, so another equally enjoyed beach season in Oak Island must end.

NOTICE: Beach Bonfire Permit Applications will CLOSE at the end of day on Wednesday, April 30.

While there is a little sadness seeing these cozy wintertime traditions go, it's always nice to see the excitement of summer (and sea turtles) they lead to! So please remember, let's keep the bonfires off the beach for the next few months. You can help as well -- if you are asked by a visitor, or even other residents about beach bonfires, just point them to the Beach Bonfires page at OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE
TO VISIT
THE PAGE**

Hurricane Conference: Submit Questions NOW

Last week, we officially announced the **2025 Hurricane Conference**, scheduled for on **Thursday, May 15, 2025** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.

We are now equally excited to announce the **Question Submission Forms** for the **Panel Discussion** are now available! Due to the abundance of speakers and presentations scheduled, **ALL questions from attendees will need to be pre-submitted.**

Your submitted questions will be organized into categories, so they can be efficiently addressed during the special **Panel Discussion** portion of the Conference. The **Question Submission Form** will be open until **5:00 PM** on **Friday, May 9, 2025** and can be found on the **Hurricane Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE or by clicking the link below.



CLICK HERE
TO SUBMIT
QUESTIONS

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



Seafood Festival

- WHEN: Saturday, May 3, 2025 • NOON - 5:00 PM
- WHERE: Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Dr.
- COST: Free Admission • Paid Parking Not Enforced

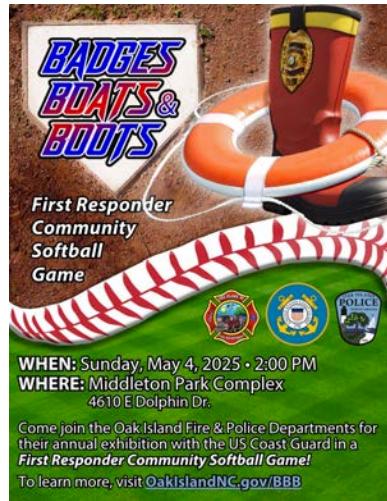
This exciting festival will feature a Peel-&-Eat Shrimp Competition, Cooking Demonstration, Education Events, a Craft & Artisan Market, Food Trucks, and live music by *The Ford Project*.



Badges, Boats, & Boots

- WHEN: Sunday, May 4, 2025 • 2:00 PM
- WHERE: Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Dr.
- COST: Free Admission • Paid Parking Not Enforced

Come join the **Oak Island Police Department** as they team up with the **Oak Island Fire Department** for their exhibition against the **U.S. Coast Guard Station Oak Island** in the **Third Annual Badges Boats, & Boots First Responder Softball Game**.



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, April 29

- Recreation Center Fitness Classes



- 8:30 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
- 9:30 AM Senior Yoga with Mert
- 11:30 AM Qigong

- **Recreation Center**

- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM Line Dancing Club

Wednesday, April 30

- **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, May 1

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 8:00 AM Total Body Blast with Mary Beth
- 10:15 AM Chair Yoga with Tammy
- 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Barre with Suzanne

Friday, May 2

- **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

- **Oak Island Pier**

- Pier Yoga with rotating instructors 8:00 AM (Registration Required)

- **Recreation Center**

- 8:00 AM: Table Tennis

Saturday, May 3

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

- 10:00 AM Community Yoga with rotating instructors

- **Middleton Park Complex**

- NOON – 5:00 PM Seafood Festival

Sunday, May 4

- **Middleton Park Complex**

- 2:00 PM Badges, Bots, & Boots Softball Game

Monday, May 5

- **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 event flyers below to download, print, and share!



Seafood Festival



Fitness Calendar



Badges, Boats, & Boots



Summer Concert Series

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 (2022) +

MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021) +

MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020) +