



THE CURRENT

AUGUST 18, 2025

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Week of
August 18, 2025

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

It's the third full week of August, and if you've got kids, or grand kids (*or even great-grands!*), then you know most schools will be starting back soon. Not to provide a "double-negative," but while Summer may be starting to wind down, **Hurricane Season** is just getting wound up!



As this week looks with hopeful optimism towards the impacts **Hurricane Erin** may bring, we also have a full slate of other Town business and events to cover. So before you head over to the **Storm Response Information** page, grab your favorite floatation device and let's jump into this week's edition of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Planning Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

- ***Hurricane Preparation & Safety***
- **Ocean Drive Construction Notice**
- **Tax Notices + Fire Tax Reminder**
- **Crosswalks Coming**
- ***Manager's Message: Fiscal Year Highlights***

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Teachers Supply Drive**
- **Sea Butterflies Seen**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Cooking Demonstration**
- **This Week in Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**

MEETINGS & CLOSURES



Council & Board Meetings



PLANNING BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, August 21** at **9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

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

Holiday Closures

Administrative Offices and Town Facilities will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, September 1, 2025** in observance of **Labor Day**.

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

NEWS & NOTICES



Hurricane Preparation & Safety

The **National Weather Service** has begun issuing briefings regarding **Hurricane Erin**. As of Monday morning, Erin was located north of the Turks and Caicos, and is expected to make a turn to the north through mid-week and move across the western Atlantic, staying off to the east of the Carolinas.

While there is no immediate threat of damaging winds or rain, **strong swells** from Erin will impact the coastline for most of the upcoming week, producing **life-threatening surf** and **rip currents**. In response to these potential impacts, the **Storm Response Information** page of the Town Website has been updated with new Forecast Impacts, Town Preparation Actions, and Personal Preparation Actions.

Throughout the coming week, **this page will serve as the official source** for updates from the Town of Oak Island on preparation and response. It is important to use this page to verify all Town-related information seen on any other third-party websites, news outlets, or social media.

To **view and share** the **Storm Response Information** page, visit OakIslandNC.gov/ERIN or click the graphic below.



Ocean Drive Construction Notice

From now until **September 15**, ALL of **Ocean Drive** will experience intermittent **street closures** and **traffic interruptions**, to accommodate the **installation of storm drainpipe** and several **catch basins**.



Those traveling through the area are asked to **avoid entering active construction zones** during this period. This includes all regular vehicle traffic, as well as walking, biking, and low speed vehicles (LSV). Minimizing travel through these areas is crucial to ensuring public safety and swift project completion.

This installation will provide crucial infrastructure, as part of a highly beneficial effort to mitigate stormwater in the area. By remaining aware of surroundings and exercising patience, those affected can help to ensure a safe and on-schedule project completion.

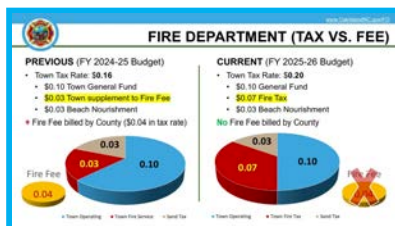
To view and share the full notice, visit the **OKInformation** page at OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS or click the link below.



Tax Notices + Fire Tax Reminder

Last week, physical billing for the **2025 Property Tax Notices** were mailed out (**NOTE: Billing has also been viewable online since early August**). If not received already, most billing should be delivered by the end of this week.

FIRE TAX REMINDER: As part of the **FY 2025 - 2026 Budget**, Town Council approved a transition from a ***Fire Fee*** to a ***Fire Tax***. The current Budget now supports the **Oak Island Fire Department with ad valorem taxes** instead of a combination of Town taxes and Fire Fees paid as part of the Brunswick County tax bill. As noted in the **graphic below**, **the Town's tax rate has been adjusted to equal out this transition.**



"What differences will I see?" The ***Fire Fee*** will **no longer** be charged on the Brunswick County Tax Bills. Instead, the new ***Fire Tax*** will be charged on the Town of Oak Island Tax Bills. Because funding is now based on taxable property value instead of a set fee, the amount paid may be different, with some paying more, and some staying the same or even less. ***While the Town Tax Bill may seem higher overall, it's important to remember that increases have been offset by the Fire Fee no longer being applied on the County Tax Bill.***

To learn more and share the original, full notice on the transition from Fire Fees to a Fire Tax, visit the ***OKInformation*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS** or click the link below.



Crosswalks Coming

During the Town Council Meeting this past **Tuesday, August 12**, Town Manager Kathryn Adams provided an update on several ***Pedestrian Improvement*** projects currently underway. The first to be completed of these is the ***NEW CROSSWALK*** on ***E Beach Drive*** at ***19th Pl East*** (*pictured*).



This new feature is one of ***SIX pedestrian crosswalks with flashing signals*** to be installed along Beach Drive. Joining those already installed last year along Ocean Drive, materials have been received and work is underway to install the remaining crosswalks along Beach Drive at ***57th Pl W • 9th Pl E • SE 40th St • SE 46th St • SE 49th St.***

Additionally, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has committed to install new **monitoring devices** on Oak Island Drive, to record both **speed** and **volume**, in an ongoing assessment. At the same time, **contractor bids** for the crosswalk NCDOT previously approved at **E Oak Island Drive & 51st Street** were opened this past Thursday, August 14. The bids will be reviewed by the Town Council at their September regular meeting. Once awarded, an installation timeline will be published.

To view and share the latest updates and information regarding these improvements, visit the ***Pedestrian Safety*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/PEDESTRIAN or click the link below.



Manager's Message: Year End Highlights

In the Manager's Report during the **Tuesday, August 12** Town Council Meeting, Manager Kathryn Adams gave a special “Year End Review” of the Town's accomplishments, project updates, and new initiatives started throughout the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Adams covered several key strategic initiatives, including the development of a first-ever **Town-wide Strategic Plan**, as well as key Performance Measures for use in budgeting. Notable ***Highlights Of The Year*** were mentioned regarding several significant achievements in

- **Finance Improvements**
- **Organizational Efficiency**
- **Capital Project Successes**
- **Customer Service Improvements**

The Review concluded with an update in the ongoing enforcement efforts for **Code Violations**, following a comprehensive review earlier this year. In total, **1,578 cases have been closed** with just 286 cases remaining open. This follows several improvements from the Code Enforcement Division of the Development Services Department, including revisions to the Courtesy Notice and Notice of Violation letters for improved clarity.

The Town Manager thanked the Departments and Staff for their hard work over the previous Fiscal Year in making these improvements possible and reaffirmed a commitment to continuing these successes. **To VIEW & SHARE a comprehensive list of all the highlights mentioned, simply click the link below.**



CLICK HERE
TO LEARN
MORE

SAFETY BRIEF



Teacher Supply Drive

THIS WEEK is your chance to once again help area **TEACHERS** prepare for the coming school year! On **Tuesday, August 19** from **8:00 AM - NOON**, the Police Department is teaming up with local businesses to host the **Second Annual Teacher Supply Drive**.

OAK ISLAND POLICE
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CAROLINA COASTAL GROUP
WILL BE HOSTING THE 2ND ANNUAL
TEACHER SUPPLY DRIVE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025
8:00 AM - NOON
E.F. MIDDLETON PARK
4701 E. OAK ISLAND DR.

School supplies are often thought of as a "student need" but the truth is, sometimes teachers need a little help too!

Join in as we partner to host a collection to benefit teachers at Southport Elementary and Southport Christian Academy, as well as South Brunswick Middle & High Schools.

To learn more: Officer J. Trahey
910-278-5555

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LOWE'S

Come join us as we partner with **Coastal Carolina Group** to host this event at the **E.F. Middleton Park** right beside the Police Department / Town Hall at **4701 E Oak Island Dr.**



To view & share the **FULL LIST OF NEEDED SUPPLIES**, click the link below.



Butterfly in the ... *SEA!*

This past weekend, the **Beach Safety Unit** added the **PURPLE Flag** to the Beach Warning Flag conditions, due to multiple reports of irritations from ***Sea Butterflies***. This action prompted several immediate responses of "***Uh ... what are Sea Butterflies?***"

Usually noticed as small (less than an inch in length), thin, needle-like cones in the sand or stuck to skin or swimwear, these are the shells of a group of swimming snails called pteropods, or "***Sea Butterflies***" for short!



(Photo Credit: firstcoastnews.com)

Sea butterflies are named for their two wing-like flaps which are used for swimming and capturing food. They are known to have seasonal "swarms," or their presence can be a sign of turbulent currents. Made from calcium carbonate, their shells can cause minor "stings" when they penetrate a swimsuit. Unless an individual has a high level of sensitivity, this is usually just a mild irritation.

Whether it's Sea Butterflies or rip currents and rough surf, the Beach Safety Unit remains committed to educating and protecting those who enjoy our public beach areas! To ***do your part*** in providing a safe environment, be sure to **VIEW & SHARE** the important information found on the ***Beach Safety*** page of the Town Website. Simply visit OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY or click the link below.

CLICK HERE
TO VISIT
THE PAGE



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



Cooking Demonstration

With Chef John LaTour

- **WHEN:** Wednesday, August 27 & September 17, 2025 • 12:30 Pm - 1:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Community Center • 102 SE 47th Street
- **COST:** FREE to individuals age 60 and over



Chef John LaTour is a Certified Nutrition Educator with *Healthy Families - Healthy Futures*, an organization dedicated to empowering children, adults, seniors, and families to embrace healthy eating habits by equipping them with the tools and educational support they need to make healthy food choices. For more information,, call **910-278-6552**.

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, August 19

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 8:30 AM: SilverSneakers with Susan
 - 9:30 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert
 - 11:30 AM: Qigong, Breath & Movement with Jude
 - 6:00 PM: Barre with Suzanne
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Tennis Academy (Pre-registration required)
- **Ocean Education Center**
 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Open for the season
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pickleball Academy (Pre-registration required)
- **Recreation Center**
 - 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Line Dancing Club

Wednesday, August 20

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 7:30 AM: Mature Aerobics with Debbie
 - 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers with Mary Beth



- 10:15 AM Barre Combo with Suzanne
- 4:30 PM: Yoga for Balance with Tammy
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Tennis Academy (Pre-registration required)
- **Ocean Education Center**
 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Open for the season
- **Nature Center**
 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Open for the Season
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pickleball Academy (Pre-registration required)

Thursday, August 21

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 8:00 AM: Total Body Blast with Mary Beth
 - 9:00 AM: Silver Sneakers with Maggie
 - 10:15 AM: Chair Yoga with Tammy
 - 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM: Barre with Suzanne
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Tennis Academy (Pre-registration required)
- **Nature Center**
 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Open for the Season
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pickleball Academy (Pre-registration required)

Friday, August 22

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 7:30 AM: Mature Aerobics with Debbie
 - 9:00 AM: Silver Sneakers with Susan
 - 10:30 AM: Sculpt and Flow Yoga with Tammy or MB
- **Oak Island Peir**
 - 8:00 AM: Pier Yoga with rotating instructors (Registration Required)
- **Recreation Center**
 - 8:00 AM: Table Tennis
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM Tennis Academy (Pre-registration required)
- **Nature Center**
 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Open for the Season
- **Register Park**
 - 2:00 PM Between the Lines Book Club
- **Middleton Park Racquet Courts**
 - 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Pickleball Academy (Pre-registration required)
- **Middleton Park Complex**

- 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Summer Concert Series with 52nd Street Band



Saturday, August 23

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

Monday, August 25

- **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
- **Middleton Park Complex**
 - 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM Farmers & Artisan's Market
- **Ocean Education Center**
 - 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM Open for the Season
- **Recreation Center**
 - 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM Dance Lessons with Casey

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!



Fitness Calendar



Summer Concert Series



Sunset On Summer



Live & Local

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.

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| MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2023) | + |
| MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022) | + |
| MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021) | + |
| MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020) | + |