



EXCELLENCE IN
COMMUNICATIONS

WINNER
THE CURRENT

Your guide to current news & events from the Town of Oak Island, NC

June 2021

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Welcome to June

WELCOME to the **JUNE** edition of the **AWARD-WINNING** digital newsletter known as **THE CURRENT**. That's right! Award. Winning. In late April, the Town of Oak Island was honored to be counted among 19 other North Carolina governments, as a winner in the **2021 Excellence in Communications Awards**. The awards were presented by *North Carolina City & County Communicators* (NC3C), a state-wide organization which provides professional development and networking for local government communications professionals. Winners were announced during NC3C's 2021 annual conference, a yearly event which helps to recognize the achievements of communications professionals, and showcase the latest best-practices in public information from around the state. The 2021 awards featured 168 program entries across over a dozen categories; of which, *THE CURRENT* took First Place in the category of **Digital External Newsletter**. While much effort goes into assuring the quality and consistency of each edition, it really is the unique aspects of Oak Island and its people, which provide the now award-winning content. In some fashion, that now makes you an "award-winning reader" as well! But enough self-congratulating! Awards only recognize a single moment of greatness, and greatness is something produced every day here in OKI. So let's keep moving forward and dive into another (*did we mention award-winning?*) edition of **THE CURRENT**.

MONTHLY REVIEW



MONTHLY REVIEW: May 2021

REMINDER: Information on all news items can be found on the Town Website at: www.OakIslandNC.com/NEWS.



Extensions Ended, Dozers Demobilized

On Saturday, May 22, 2021 the final load of dredged sand was placed and positioned, as part of the **2020 / 2021 Nourishment Project**.

Initially scheduled to run from late February to early April, the project experienced several delays before sand distribution even began, resulting in on-beach activity not starting until April 8. In a rare occurrence, the NC Division of Coastal Management and the US Army Corps of Engineers, granted two separate extensions, to allow operations to continue beyond the start of Sea Turtle Nesting Season on May 1. This allowed for completion of the project area prior to the start of Hurricane Season, creating enlarged dunes and beach areas to help provide critical protection of property, wildlife, and infrastructure from potential storms.

MOVING FORWARD. Planting of vegetation along the newly constructed dunes will take place throughout the month of June. This planting will occur along the top and landward sides of the new dunes (*pictured*). This vegetation will serve the dual purpose of protecting the investment of these new dunes from natural threats like storms, as well as helping to deter unaware beachgoers from walking over them.

The next beach nourishment project is planned for the fall / winter of 2021 / 2022, following the end of sea Turtle Nesting Season in November. As this time gets closer, detailed information on the project will be published on the **Beach Nourishment Projects Information** page of the Town Website, which can be found at www.OakIslandNC.com/SAND, or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

COVID-19 Response Updates

On Friday, May 14, 2021 Governor Cooper issued [Executive Order 215](#), which lifted COVID-19 restrictions to reflect new public health recommendations. This Executive Order went into effect on May 14, and will remain in effect through 5:00 PM on June 11, 2021 unless repealed, replaced, or rescinded.

According to a release published by the Governor's Office, the new Order reflects the latest Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People, which were published on May 13 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC"). The Executive Order also cited state-level improvements, such as the fact that between April 25 - May 8, no counties in the state were rated to have a "critical" rate of COVID-19 community spread.

It was also noted that at the time of the Order, forty-six percent (46%) of the state's population over age eighteen (18) had been fully vaccinated, and fifty-one percent (51 %) of the state's population over age eighteen (18) was partially vaccinated; with over 7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine having been administered throughout the State. Locally, vaccinations are still being provided through the **Brunswick County Health Services COVID Vaccination Clinic**.

Links to the County's **Vaccination Clinic**, as well as information on all Town, County, and State response to COVID-19 can be found on the **Coronavirus Response Information** page of the Town Website. To view this page, visit www.OakIslandNC.com/COVID or click the link below.

[**CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE**](#)





Progress for Pedestrians

Despite delays due to supply shortages for materials deliveries, the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkway**, connecting **SE 9th Street to 9th PL E**, was opened just prior to Memorial Day weekend, as anticipated in the most recent project update.

Repairs to the SE 9th Street Walkway called for replacement of just under 50% of the structure. This included over 300ft of walkway, replacement or repair of 30 piles and 15 pile bents, and replacement of the floating dock and gangway.

As noted in previous updates, work has now commenced on the Walkway connecting SE 20th Street to 19th PL E, with a completion currently expected to take about a month, depending on weather and materials availability.

The Public Works Department reminds everyone that the top priority for the remaining project is to ensure a **SAFE** environment, both for the public and crews working in the area. Please do not interact with any equipment, or try to converse with workers onsite. Be sure to give crews needed space to perform their duties. All information on the projects status and progress updates will be posted on the **PROJECTS** page of the Town Website, which can be viewed at www.OakIslandNC.com/PROJECTS or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

The "Bands By the Beach" Are Back!

The sun is out, the fun is back, and the "Bands by the Beach" are once again ready to rock, groove, swing and swoon their way through the soundtrack of your perfect summer! On Friday, May 21, the 16 week-long ***Oak Island Summer Concert Series*** was kicked off with the band Jukebox Rehab.

Hundreds gathered to welcome the band, and with them the unofficial start of summer fun in Oak Island. For the first time ever, the concert was livestreamed on the [@TownofOakIslandNC](#) Facebook page, where it has since gone on to garner over 6,200 views. Although every concert in the series will not be livestreamed, due to copyright and band agreements, the Recreation Department is working with the Communications Office to ensure the Series has more exposure than ever before!

Most concerts will be held on Fridays, from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, with a couple of exceptions for Beach Day (July 1) and the final concert on September 2. Concerts are held at the amphitheater, located in the Middleton Park extension, behind the Town Hall.

Full series information, concert dates, and scheduled bands, along with a calendar are listed on the Summer Concert Series page of the Town Website, which can be viewed at [www.OakIslandNC.com/CONCERT](#) or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





Beachside Bike Racks

Even if "pedal power" isn't your preferred method of transportation, there's a good chance you may have noticed lately, some new hardware at your nearby Beach Access Location. On **Sunday, May 20, 2021**, Scout Michael Ryan Prince of Southport Troop 38 (*pictured*) finished his project for the rank of **Eagle Scout** by installing 6 new bicycle racks at Oak Island beach accesses. Funds for the project were raised by Prince, who oversaw building the racks this past winter, using plans developed for the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society.

Ryan selected the project as a way to help serve the community through contributing to the access amenities normally provided by the Beach Preservation Society. The project serves a two-fold purpose, both providing parking for bicyclists, as well as honoring the life of his grandfather, William Thad Proctor. To this effect, the rack placed at SE 49th Place bears a plaque in Proctor's honor. Other racks built for the project will replace structures lost to Hurricane Isaias in August 2020.

For the Eagle project, a Scout is required to demonstrate leadership by coordinating the efforts of others to serve a community goal. Oak Island's Public Works Department marked areas for bike rack placement in advance of the installation. New Scouts Chasen Sharp and Nicholas Moore along with more experienced members of Troop 38, Owen and Ethan McLaughlin, Josh Alanis, and Ryan. The Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc., is grateful that Ryan chose to offer his service in this way!

To learn more about the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, and any ways you can assist them with their goal of enhancing the Oak Island beach experience, simply visit their website at <https://beachoki.org>, or click the link below:

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

NEWS & NOTICES



NEWS & NOTICES: JUNE

Council & Board Meetings

REMINDER: All public meetings listed below will be broadcast live on OKI-TV (Spectrum Cable channel 8), as well as livestreamed on the Town Website. Meeting agendas, minutes, and livestream or on-demand video playback can be found on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/MEETINGS.

TOWN COUNCIL will hold a regular meeting on **Tuesday June 8, 2021** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall, at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

PLANNING BOARD will hold a regular meeting on **Thursday, June 17, 2021** beginning at **10:30 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Town Hall, at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

Closures & Holidays

Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, July 5, 2021** in observance of **Independence Day**. As always, Police, Fire, and other emergency services will be available by calling 911. Announcements on further schedule modifications to Town departments and services will be made on the Town Website prior to the closure.

REMINDER: the full *Holiday Calendar* can be found on the Town Website at: www.OakIslandNC.com/HOLIDAY.



Mosquito Management

With June and the summer month comes sunshine, beautiful days ... and the eternal enemy of fun outdoors, the mosquito! The Town of Oak Island maintains trucks specifically for mosquito management through chemical spraying. The Town typically starts mosquito spraying operations in June; however, NC EPA standards must be met before they can begin, such as recorded heavy rain events or a large area of complaints.

The Town's trucks are equipped with Smart Flow Technology, providing the driver with increased treatment flexibility, and improving the accuracy of each application. Areas are sprayed based on federally mandated criteria, provided under the Town's pesticide licensing. The chemical used is identified as an organic oil, named Biomist 3+15 ULV.

It should be noted that the application of insecticides during routine spray operations is always delivered in methods approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Applications are made at concentrations which are either very diluted, or at Ultra-Low Volume (ULV) rates, and are not done very frequently for any given site. In real world use, these application conditions have allowed the EPA to scientifically conclude that when all product label language and instructions are followed, use of mosquito control insecticides "poses no unacceptable risks to human health, wildlife or the environment."

Typical spray times are between 6:00 PM - 11:00 PM, Monday - Thursday, across four (4) Spray Zones. Two zones are sprayed each night, with two nights needed to complete entire island. The spray travels approximately 300 ft. and only kills mosquitoes that fly through it while it is in the air.

As a precautionary measure only, people and pets should go indoors when they see the mosquito sprayer coming. People with severe allergies should notify the Public Works Department at 910-201-8083 or through the Contact Us form on their page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/PW. To learn more about Mosquito Management operations within the Public Works Department, simply visit the Mosquito Management Page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/MOSQUITO or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Community Center to Reopen

In the early responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oak Island Community Center was closed to help prevent the further spread of Coronavirus. Located in the heart of Town at Middleton Park (4701 E Oak Island Drive), the Center has been a staple of community life and social interaction among all ages of the Oak Island community, but especially the senior population.

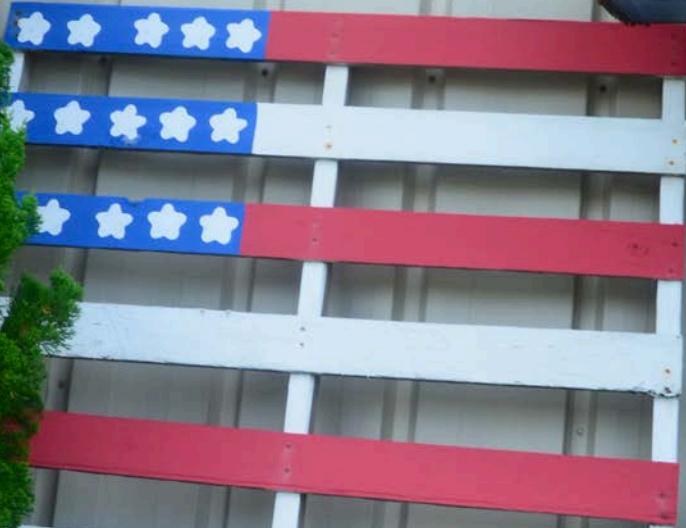
Following recently updated guidelines from federal authorities, as well as the latest Executive Order from Governor Roy Cooper, a reopening for the Community Center has been planned for the week of June 7.

Due to current staffing levels, the Center will initially open with **limited functionality**, with hours of operation tentatively scheduled for **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**. Additionally, the Center is still awaiting a health inspection from Brunswick County Health Services, before the nutrition program providing meals can restart. An inspection is anticipated by the end of the same week, and packed lunches will be allowed to be brought into the Center in the meantime.

For more information on the Oak Island Community Center, including the many services and programs that are offered there, feel free to contact the **Recreation Department** by phone at 910-278-5518, or through the contact form on their page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/REC, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Island Community Center
102 SE 47th Street
910-278-655





Garbage & Recycling: July 4th Collection Schedule

Garbage & Recycling Collection services will run as normal for the week of July 4, 2021.

No interruption of services is planned throughout the holiday weekend; however, collection operations may run slightly slower, due to the higher than usual volumes of materials collected.

PLEASE NOTE: the **Disposal Convenience Site**, located at 4110 Airport Road, will be operating normally for the first weekend of July, both Friday & Saturday from 9:00 AM - 1:00PM.

The Public Works Department, along with contracted collection services provider, GFL Environmental, wish all residents and visitors a safe and happy Independence Day. Please be sure to practice safe, responsible recycling and disposal methods through out the holiday and rest of summer.

COMING EVENTS



COMING EVENTS

REMINDER: Information on all special events, recreation programs, and educational activities can be found on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/EVENTS.

SAFETY NOTICE: COVID response protocols will be in place for all listed activities, including but not limited to: hand sanitizing stations, one-way traffic at the market, one person per vendor booth, social distancing marking and signage, with mask wearing encouraged by all.



Town of Oak Island



Summer Concert

"Bands by the Beach!"

SERIES • 2021



21
MAY

JukeBox Rehab

(GENRE: Country)

28
MAY

The British Invaders

(GENRE: 60's & 70's)

4
JUN

Chairman of the Board

w/ **Ken Knox** (SPONSOR: Oak Island Accommodations)

11
JUN

The Main Event Band

(GENRE: Beach)

18
JUN

The Entertainers

(GENRE: Beach) (SPONSOR: Palm Realty)

25

Tim Clark Band



Summer Concert Series

As noted in the article above, the Summer Concert Series is now well underway! Although the June 4 concert with legendary beach music band, ***The Chairman of the Board*** was postponed due to inclement weather, there are still several great concerts planned for the month of June!

Bands for this month include ***The Main Event Band*** (June 11), ***The Entertainers*** (June 18), and the ***Tim Clark Band*** (June 25). Don't forget **Beach Day** next month, where on **Thursday, July 1** from **6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**, we feature a "double play" of ***Gary Lowder & Smokin' Hot*** on the amphitheater stage, and the ***McGuire Band*** at the Oak Island Pier ... all capped off with an **evening of fireworks from the Pier!**

With the exception of Beach Day mentioned above, concerts are held every Friday evening, from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM, with the series planned to run through September 4. Concerts are held at the Middleton Park Amphitheater, behind Town Hall at the corner of SE 46th Street and E Dolphin Drive. Concerts are family friendly and free to attend!

To learn more about the Summer Concert Series, simply visit www.OakIslandNC.com/CONCERT, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Nature Series: Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter Visits Oak Island Nature Center

WHEN: Saturday, July 17 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WHERE: Oak Island Nature Center, 5202 E Yacht Drive

WHO: All Ages (pre-registration is required)

COST: Free

ABOUT: The second two scheduled visits this Spring / Summer season, staff from the **Sea Biscuit Wildlife Shelter** will setup outside of the Oak Island Nature Center and bring some of their educational birds. Participants will be introduced to the birds and learn interesting facts about the birds in our coastal habitat. Participants must bring their own chair.





North Carolina 4th of July Festival

WHEN: July 1, & July 3-4, 2021

WHERE: Various locations throughout Oak Island and the Southport areas

WHO: All Ages

ABOUT: For over 220 years Southport has celebrated our nation's independence in full fare. The history of North Carolina's Fourth of July Festival celebration was first recorded in a newspaper in 1795. Now the event has grown to attract over 60,000 visitors each year. In light of the pandemic, some events will be relocated to sites that allow social distancing, other events revised to reduce crowd sizes and some events postponed until 2022.

For the first time, the Town of Oak Island will serve as host to the majority of events included in this festival. Activities and events will include the Oak Island Beach Day celebration on July 1, the Annual Shag Contest, live bands, fireworks, food and games, and so MUCH MORE!

To learn more about the Festival itself, or the Festival organization, visit their website at <https://www.nc4thofjuly.com>, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](https://www.nc4thofjuly.com)

Oak Island Farmers' & Artisans' Market

WHEN: Mondays • 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM • May 24 - September 6

WHERE: Middleton Park (Behind Town Hall) • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

WHO: All Ages

COST: FREE to attend or shop / Vendor Fees of \$15 Daily or \$200 Seasonal (\$40 savings!)

ABOUT: The Market is great opportunity to see and financially support the very best of Oak Island's local farmer and artisan community. Baked goods, produce, handmade crafts, and artistic masterpieces are just a few of the many treasures waiting to be uncovered at the popular annual tradition, which runs throughout the summer season.

For more information on the Market itself or to become a vendor, visit www.OakIslandNC.com/MARKET or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Oak Island
FARMERS' & ARTISANS'
MARKET

DEPARTMENT FEATURE



DIVISION FEATURE: RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Whether it's to fish, golf, exercise, pick up a new hobby, or simply relax by the ocean, it's no secret that one of the main reasons folks come to Oak Island is to have FUN! It's also no secret that the Town of Oak Island has one of the most successful, robust Recreation Departments in the State of North Carolina. The dedication, commitment, and overall creativity of this amazing team, allows them to regularly serve more than 87,000 residents and visitors each year, through the many programs and services they provide.

From social clubs and athletic leagues, to educational services, and even community-wide events (*can you say "Summer Concert Series?"*) the Recreation Department's efforts can be seen on almost every street in Town. Providing services and programs that interact with almost every age group available as well. In fact, the information related to the Recreation Department takes up over 1/3 of the information searched for on the Town Website!

PROFILE: *Recreation Director:* Rebecca Squires leads the staff and volunteers of the Department. At times the staff can seem more like a crew of well-trained gymnasts, than municipal employees. Constantly flexing and adjusting themselves to meet the deadlines and demands of providing as many programs as possible, Squires leads from the front in being just as accessible as any of her staff.

Coming to Oak Island from the Parks & Recreation department of Graham, NC, Rebecca has spent the last 18 years serving the residents and visitors to Oak Island. A task she enjoys even on the most demanding of days. "*There's an intrinsic satisfaction I get out of creating events, or managing facilities that people can enjoy*" Squires said when speaking of her role as Director, "*Knowing people enjoy what you do, makes it all worth it when people just come up and say 'thank you for what you do.'*"

It's that ratification of a job well done, that has driven Rebecca Squires throughout her full and productive career in recreation management. It's also given her cause to see the benefits in enjoying recreation for oneself. **That is why after so many years of helping to put smiles on the faces of other, Rebecca has decided to retire, and start enjoying some smiles of her own.** So for all those in the active community of Oak Island, be on the lookout, as later this summer Squires will "jump the fence" and go from "Director" to joining you as "participant."





EMPLOYEE PROFILE: *Program Supervisor:* Ryan Gordon is without doubt one of the hardest working individuals you will encounter in the Recreation Department. At least, we're pretty sure that's what people would say, if they could get him to stop working long enough to tell him. Always running from one location to another, Ryan oversees many aspects of the Recreation Department's efforts.

Since coming to Oak Island 5 years ago from the Town of Hope Mills, Ryan has served the community through coordinating special events, such as the Summer Concert Series and the Farmers' & Artisans' Market; as well as overseeing the various programs like Summer Day Camps and the Senior Trips.

Rebecca and Ryan both understand that "*recreation is a 'people-profession' and one of the worst effects of COVID was the isolating effect it had on everyone*" as Squires puts it. That's why, as communities slowly start reemerge from the pandemic it brings the entire department to life to "*see everyone bouncing back in full force. It's great to see that spark in people again!*"



The Landing Zone for a UAS may look small, but it provides a BIG service for the Town

Far more than just Rebecca and Ryan, the Recreation Department consists of full and part-time staff, along with a small army of volunteers to help provide the many programs and services the Department coordinates or oversees. Six (6) full-time staff manage the various programs, events, and group activities offered, while varying permanent and seasonal part-time staff assist in everything from equipment setup, to facility cleaning. As mentioned, individual and group volunteers who have a heart for their community also play a vital role in helping to fill the gaps of needed work from the regular staff.



The Oak Island Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the physical, cultural, and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities. The Department provides a variety of athletic, programs, festivals, special events, and classes for all ages and abilities. Despite providing activities for such a wide variety of interests, they work hard to ensure that "all feel welcome" regardless of where they think they might fit in.

For detailed information on any facilities, programs, or other recreational opportunities < **OR** > to congratulate **Rebecca Squires** on her upcoming **retirement**, feel free to call the Oak Island Recreation Center at 910-278-5518, or send a message through the contact form on their page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/REC.

MONTH IN PHOTOS



PHOTO REVIEW: MAY 2021





THANK YOU FOR READING!



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