



THE CURRENT

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

September 2021

IN THIS ISSUE: Welcome / Monthly Review / News & Notices / Coming Events / Department Feature / Photo Review

Welcome to September

WELCOME to the **SEPTEMBER** edition of the **THE CURRENT**. *"Nobody on the road. Nobody on the beach. I feel it in the air, the summer's out of reach!"* We're not sure what town Don Henley was referring to from the opening lines of his seminal 1984 hit *"The Boys of Summer."* However, from one look at the Town's [events calendar](#), it's certainly a safe bet that he wasn't referencing Oak Island! While September is usually the time when society's collective focus turns from sandcastles to schoolbooks, it doesn't necessarily mean the fun has to stop. If anything, it just gets a little less humid! That's one of the many nuanced perks to island life. There's no need to box in your seasonal enjoyment to a different lifestyle each month. So, is it wrong to use sunscreen **and** enjoy a pumpkin spice latte all in the same day? Who's to say? All we know is, the beach is [there](#) and autumn will soon be here; and there's nothing wrong with mixing a few pumpkins in with your seashell and sand dollar décor. So if that's your attitude as well, then join in as we go back to class and learn about the exciting things happening in the **SEPTEMBER** edition of **THE CURRENT**.

MONTHLY REVIEW



MONTHLY REVIEW: August 2021

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

20 Years to Remember

Although each edition of *The CURRENT* usually begins with a fun, lighthearted recap of the past month's events, we felt it most appropriate to start this month with a very special message, and an important announcement.

September 2021 marks the historic and heartbreaking 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of 2001. The deadliest single terrorist act in world history, the 9/11 attacks costs the lives of 2,977 people, and injured more than 6,000 others. When broken down, that includes the combined 265 deaths of the four planes used in the attacks, 2,606 in the World Trade Center and in the surrounding area, and 125 at the Pentagon.

While most were civilians, an astounding number of those in public service gave the ultimate sacrifice in protecting their communities; including 344 firefighters; 72 law enforcement officers, and 55 military personnel. Among the 2,977 deaths, were also counted 372 non-US citizens representing more than 90 different nations. Truly, the case can be made that this was not just an attack on America itself, but on the ideals of freedom and unity throughout the world as a whole.

These events forever changed the landscape of the nation and world in which we live. Now, 20 years later, it is more important than ever to remember the lives taken, and the sacrifices made.

The Town of Oak Island is honored to be hosting a **9/11 Memorial Service** to remember this event and honor the fallen. The service will be held on **Saturday, September 11, 2021** beginning at **9:30 AM** at **Bill Smith Park**, located at 4410 Fish Factory Rd, Southport, NC 28461. The service will include members of the Oak Island Fire and Police Departments, the South Brunswick ROTC, Brunswick County Emergency Management, and other agencies in the surrounding first responder community. For more information on this event, visit the News & Notices Section of the Town Website, at www.OakIslandNC.com/NEWS or click the link below.

#NeverForget

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING



The Tuesday, August 10, 2021
meeting will begin shortly.

Council Recap

A new feature to introduce for The CURRENT, the ***Council Recap***. Moving forward, expect to see a brief review of the latest actions from the Town Council, conveniently placed as the lead or secondary article. While this feature may not cover every detail of the Council's most recent meeting, it will serve to present the highlights in a single, standard location.

At their August 10, regular meeting, the Town Council received comments during four (4) public hearings:

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (1) A rezoning request for portions of the Cape Fear Regional Jetport property from AD (airport district) to C-LD (commercial low-density) was approved. (2) An amendment to the Table of Uses within the Airport District (AD) was approved. (3) An amendment to **Section 8.14.9** (accessory structures in front yard), a motion to send this request back to the Planning Board failed and the application was withdrawn. (4) A rezoning request for parcels 2030001704 & 2030001803 on Midway Road was denied.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: (1) Council appointed Lee Butzin and re-appointed Tim Pittman to the Planning Board; and (2) appointed Lee Maxwell to the Environmental Advisory Board.

OLD BUSINESS: (1) A contract amendment was approved for stormwater work with engineering firm WK Dickson (see ***Ocean Drive Decisions*** below for more). (2) The resolution to approve the **Renourishment Project Phase I & II 2019-2020** was adopted. (3) Council appointed Randy Moffitt to fill the vacancy on Town Council. This is a temporary appointment, and Mr. Moffit will serve until December Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) A contract was approved (pending final review by the Town Attorney), with BEMC to Install an Electric Car Charging Station. (2) A resolution was adopted in Opposition to Possible Offshore Wind Turbines. (3) Regarding a contract with Sea Grant to use the Oak Island beach for installation of storm monitoring equipment, Council directed staff to bring the issue back to the September meeting with more information. (4) The contract with Brunswick County for water was approved, pending clarification of whether a 40-year term was allowed per State law. (5) Council approved and awarded the contract for paving to Highland Paving.

Council also hosted a CLOSED SESSION to Consult with the Town Attorney to Preserve the Attorney/Client Privilege. To view the video, agenda, or minutes from this or any other Town Council meeting, just visit the Town Website by going to www.OakIslandNC.com/MEETINGS, or clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

COVID Update

On Saturday, August 28, the Town resumed the requirement for masks and appropriate face coverings to be worn when **indoors at all Town facilities**. This requirement applies to all individuals inside public facilities, including Town employees, contracted service providers, and any public visitors.

The resumed policy affects the indoor areas of **ALL** Town facilities, including but not limited to: Town Hall, Police & Fire Stations, Recreation Center, Community Building, Ocean Education Center, Nature Center, Pier House (Tackle Shop), Par 3 Golf Clubhouse, and Public Services Buildings.

The change is a preventative measure which (as of this publication) addresses mask-wearing only, and does not further modify current room capacity or crowd size practices. This effort maintains a focus on the personal responsibility of visitors and staff to affect their own safety. The use of individual caution and preventative measures including mask-wearing, social distancing, and vaccination, are strongly encouraged.

Due to the highly contagious nature of the COVID-19 Delta Variant, and the subsequent increase in COVID-positive cases within our region, this decision comes as an effort to help preserve the health and safety of Town employees, residents, and visitors. This measure aligns with recent actions from Brunswick County and surrounding municipalities.

As a reminder, business with the Town of Oak Island can also be conducted virtually, via phone, email, or through use of the Town Dropbox, located on SE 47th Street (in the gravel parking lot by the basketball court). Contact with any department or staff member can be made through the appropriate Contact Us form on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/CONTACT.

This notice, along with updates on all State, County, and local response efforts 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](#)



NOTICE

**USE OF FACE MASKS &
OTHER APPROPRIATE
FACE COVERINGS ARE**



REQUIRED

NO
Parking



Flags Flying, Signs Standing

They say some of the best innovations aren't seen in the things that have never been done before, but rather, the things that make you say "*why hasn't this been done already?*"

With over 65 public Beach Access Locations, the logistics of staffing personnel to raise and changeout Beach Warning Flags each day were simply prohibitive. However, thanks to technology and overwhelming community support, the safety information those flags provide is now being delivered to beachgoers in Oak Island.

On Tuesday, August 24, members of the Oak Island Water Rescue (OIWR) team, along with community volunteers, worked to install new Beach Warning Flag signage at each Access Location throughout Town. These signs display the different colors of warning flags, along with a description of their associated meanings. The signs also include a website link and QR code where users can view in real time which flag is currently being flown at the OIWR station. In addition to the signs at the Access Locations, information displaying current conditions has also been embedded on the **Beach Information** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/BEACH.

A total of 80 signs were produced, at a cost of approximately \$20 per sign. The **Jack Helbig Memorial Foundation** stepped up to cover the cost of all signs. The Foundation collaborates with families, organizations, and municipalities for the goal of drowning prevention, and has been an advocate for water safety in Brunswick County for many years. More information on the Foundation can be found on their website at <https://jackhelbig.org>.

Oak Island is greatly appreciative of the continual dedication to public safety by our first responder partners, including the innovative efforts of Oak Island Water Rescue. The cost-effective, yet highly visible solution provided by these signs, combined with the outpouring of donation support, truly shows the resourcefulness of our community when and where it counts.

Oak Island Water Rescue is a non-profit, 20-member volunteer emergency response team that aids swimmers and boaters in distress. They assist the Oak Island Police & Fire Departments with missing persons and beach transfers, as well as the United States Coast Guard with in-shore search and rescue operations. They are financially supported by the Town, but can receive and appreciate all private donations as well. To learn more, visit their website at www.OIWR.org, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Ocean Drive Decisions

Most residents, or even frequent visitors who enjoy the Oak Island Pier can tell you, it doesn't always take a hurricane to make for flooding along Ocean Drive. Standing water from even moderate rainfall has long been an issue to contend with for those trying to get through the eastern side of the Town's beach areas.

During their August 10 meeting, The Town Council looked to address the issue of flooding along Ocean Drive. Council received a report and presentation from engineering firm WK Dickson, regarding their completed Drainage Study for the area. The full report, and presentation can be viewed on the *Stormwater Information* page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/STORMWATER.

Moving forward, the Council voted to approve a contract amendment with WK Dickson, totaling \$78,466, to perform work on a stormwater draining system. This would include the design, construction documents, and bidding services to install a drainage that will utilize dune infiltration systems near the Barbee Blvd Beach Access Location. The contract would also oversee project management, topographic surveys, construction plan & contract documents, permit submittals, and bid phase services.

Currently a full timeline for this project has not been established, but available information from the report can be viewed on the Council's August 10, 2021 Agenda Packet (starting on page 95). To view this, simply visit the **MEETINGS** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/MEETINGS, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



WK
DICKSON
community infrastructure consultants



Town of Oak Island, NC Ocean Drive Drainage Study



Gazebo & Ramp Update

In the July edition, it was reported that repair work would begin on the ADA Beach Access Ramp & Gazebo structure at the 10th Place West Beach Access Location. In an update to those efforts, as of the end of August, new pilings had been set, and work to place the gazebo structure on those pilings had started.

Once the gazebo is fully set, the rest of the process will simply consist of reattaching all connections, followed by setting the ramp. As of the time of this publication, administrative staff within the Public Works Department anticipate project completion by mid-to-late September.

Severely damaged during Hurricane Isaias in August 2020, the Gazebo has been a greatly missed feature in Oak Island since its closure. The Gazebo is a highly appreciated structure, not only for providing a shaded relief to enjoy the natural beauty of the area, but also for the access its ADA-compliant ramp provides to those with mobility impairments.

The Gazebo is located in one of the Town's eighteen (18) Beach Access Locations which are designated as having handicap accessible amenities. While many of these locations currently offer closer designated parking, the new Gazebo structure adds to the list of improvements being made to several other access locations. Among others, these improvements also include the installation of rollout "Mobi-mats" that can provide easier on-beach access. Information on all Beach Access Locations with handicap accessible amenities provided can be found on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/ADA.

The Gazebo project will be added to the PROJECTS page of the Town Website, where residents and visitors alike can keep track of its progress. To view the PROJECTS page, simply visit www.OakIslandNC.com/PROJECTS, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEANR MORE](#)

NEWS & NOTICES



NEWS & NOTICES: SEPTEMBER

Council & Board Meetings

REMINDER: All televised 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 any livestream or on-demand video available can be found on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/MEETINGS.

TOWN COUNCIL (*televised*) will hold a regular meeting on **Tuesday, September 14, 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 (*televised*) will hold a regular meeting on **Thursday, September 16, 2021** at **10:30 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (*non-televised*) will hold a meeting on **Thursday, September 16, 2021** at **8:30 AM** in the first floor conference room, located on the first floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

AD HOC BEACH NOURISHMENT COMMITTEE (*non-televised*) will have **two (2)** additional meetings, on **September 2 and 9**, from **4:00 PM - 6:00 PM** in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Town Hall at Town Hall, 4601 E. Oak Island Drive. **NOTE:** This brings the final meeting schedule for the Committee to: July 22, August 5, August 19, August 26, September 2, and September 9. The Committee is scheduled to present its **final report** to the Town Council during their regular meeting on **Tuesday, September 14, 2021** at **6:00 PM**.

Closures & Holidays

Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, September 6, 2021** in observance of **Labor 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 posted on the Town Website as available.

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



WE ARE HIRING

HELP WANTED!

From toilet paper to fried chicken, the workforce to supply every industry has been hit hard over the last 18 months as a result of the COVID pandemic. Contrary to popular belief, local government is not immune from these staffing shortages either.

At the time of this publication, there are ten (10) positions of employment, currently available with the Town of Oak Island. While 10 openings may not seem like much, at just 185 full and part time employees, that's **almost 5.5% of the Town's entire workforce!** Broken down into 135 full, and 50 part time staff, the Town of Oak Island provides a family-like atmosphere for its employees. Those 185 individuals work hard to provide the services and amenities that help ensure a clean, safe, and protected community for up to 40,000+ residents and visitors during the peak of summer.

*Got the certifications it takes to help the beach stay safe? There's a **Beach Patrol** position for that! Want to help address and resolve minor street flooding issues? **Stormwater Administrators** are needed! In fact, the Town just about has an opening for any skill set, with competitive salary and benefit options to boot!*

If you or someone you know is ready to help serve your community, or maybe even looking to relocate from snow-covered sidewalks to our sandy shores, just check out available listings and their requirements on the **Job Openings** page of the Town Website for positions you might be qualified for. Simply visit www.OakIslandNC.com/JOBSPAGE or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Slow Ride Soon Ends

FUN FACT: There's a good chance some readers of ***The CURRENT*** spent much the mid-1970s speeding down the highway, ironically blasting the **Foghat** hit ***Slow Ride*** from the back of their Chevy Chevelle. Also a fun fact, many of those former speed demons *now prefer an **actual slow ride*** in their all-electric, eco-friendly, street legal golf carts (that's Low Speed Vehicles, for the uninitiated).

If you prefer a leisurely LSV cruise, that's still an option, but starting in mid-September you may need to move it over a block or two.

Each Spring (mid-May), to help accommodate the swell of visitors and seasonal residents, the speed limit along the East and West portions of Beach Drive is lowered to 35mph. This allows for properly equipped Golf Carts and other Low Speed Vehicles to safely, legally travel along the entire beach strand. For the Fall and Winter months however (mid-September), the speed limit is raised back to 45mph, to allow for faster access to some of the more far-reaching areas of Oak Island. The exact date of the change isn't published, but is usually around the 15th, so stay focused and be sure to pay attention to the road signs.

This doesn't mean LSV's are fully cut off though; as Dolphin Drive, Pelican Drive, Kings Lynn Drive, and even a brief stint on Marsh Hen Drive are all viable alternate routes. As always, LSV's can still cross over any 45mph street, so getting to your favorite Beach Access Location is as simple as turning south on the appropriate numbered street.

Are you new to the world of Low Speed Vehicles, or maybe just need a refresher on what is and isn't allowed? No problem! All information on LSV's and mobility device access in Oak Island can be found on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/LSV, or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





Coastal Cleanup

Sometimes making a difference in your local community can be as simple as picking up a single piece of trash. If you would like to help make that effort, then join the **Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc. (BPSI)** on **Saturday, September 18, 2021** as they take part in the ***International Coastal Cleanup.***

The event will run from **9:00 AM - NOON**, and aims to help clean the beach areas following the end of the tourist season. Sign in will be at the corner of **SE 49th St. & Dolphin Dr.** where instructions and area assignments will be given. That will also be the location where collected litter will be counted and weighed.

Collection information is used by BPSI locally, and shared with the Ocean Conservancy to help influence long term ocean trash solutions. Participants are asked to bring a reusable water bottle and a collection bag or bucket; and to remember to wear sunscreen, gloves and any other safety gear as needed.

The Beach Preservation Society is a non-profit organization, dedicated to education and community engagement to enhance the Oak Island beach experience. To learn more about BPSI, how to volunteer or even make donations, just visit their website at www.beachoki.org/getinvolved, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Recycling Schedule

Please note, although Town Offices will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, September 6** in observance of **Labor Day**, all Garbage & Recycling Collections services **will operate on their normal collection schedule.**

It is possible that collection services could be operating a bit slowly due the expected increase in volume over the holiday weekend, but schedule collection days will not be changed.

If immediate disposal options are needed in the meantime, the Town's Disposal Convenience site will be open for its normal hours both Friday & Saturday, as well as any of the Brunswick County convenience sites. You can find information on both of these options via the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/CONVENIENCE, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





Hydrant Testing

Throughout the months of September, October and most of November, the Oak Island Fire Department will perform annual hydrant testing, as required in order to maintain the current North Carolina Department of Insurance (NCDOI) fire ratings.

The health of the hydrants are evaluated with a full test, which usually takes around 15 minutes to complete. Nearby homes should not see a noticeable drop in water pressure, however there is a chance testing could stir up sediment in the immediate area; which could appear as discolored water. If this occurs, it's recommended to flush your water and refrain from laundry until your water runs clear.

For safety reasons, and to allow firefighters the ability to complete the testing on time, please **do not approach** fire engines or try to speak with any firefighters while they are testing. If there is an emergency while firefighters are in your area, **call 911 FIRST**.

The Town of Oak Island maintains over 800 fire hydrants. Every year, all 800 must be inspected, with full testing on 20% of the hydrants per year. This ensures that every hydrant is inspected yearly, and goes no more than 5 years without full testing. Hydrant testing is an important aspect of maintaining readiness in response to emergency calls for assistance. A brochure with full information on the testing process can be found on the Town website at www.OakIslandNC.com/HYDRANTS, or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

COMING EVENTS



COMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

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

Live & Local: Market + Music

While Summer may be winding down, and everyone's focus turning from sandcastles to schoolbooks, that doesn't mean the fun has to stop!

If you're dreading the end of summer's Farmer's Market and Summer Concert Series, then get ready to FALL in love with the Town of Oak Island this autumn as the Recreation Department Island continues the best of both summer features in the Live & Local: Market + Music series.

Each week, Middleton Park comes alive with both a Farmers' Market from 4:00 - 8:00 PM - AND - Live Concert from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. It's an evening of live music, local food and craft vendors as residents and visitors bring the fun of Summer, into the crisp comfortable evenings of Fall.

Scheduled performers for the series include:

- **Friday, September 10:** Back Porch Rockers
- **Friday, September 17:** North Tower
- **Friday, September 24:** LunaSea Rockers
- **Saturday, October 2:** Christine Martinez Band
- **Saturday, October 9:** Chance Union Band
- **Saturday, October 16:** Salty Dawgs Band
- **Saturday, October 23:** Uptown Easy Band
- **Saturday, October 30:** The Cruise Brothers Band

For full information and updates on the series and the season progresses, just visit the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/LIVE, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



**Back Porch
Rockers**

10
SEP

**North
Tower**

17
SEP

**LIVE CONCERTS 6 - 8 PM - &
FARMERS' MARKET 4 - 8 PM**

**EACH WEEKEND FROM
SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER!**





Presents the...

“Fall Neighborhood Golf Classic 2021”

Saturday, September 25, 2021

9:00 AM - NOON

4188 Vanessa Drive, Southport, NC 28461

- **\$20.00 per team (Members)**
- **\$40.00 per team (Non-members)**

Fall Neighborhood Golf Classic 2021

Do you like Fall? - Do you like Golf? - Do you like neighborhoods? If you answered "yes" to any or none of those questions, we've still got an exciting event for you! Announcing the "**Fall Neighborhood Golf Classic 2021**" presented by **Oak Island Par 3 Golf**.

WHEN: Saturday, September 25, 2021 • 9:00 AM - NOON

WHERE: Oak Island Par 3 Golf, 4188 Vanessa Drive, Southport, NC 28461

COST: \$20 per team (members) / \$40 per team (non-members)

ABOUT: The Fall Neighborhood Golf Classic is a fun and exciting event that golfers of all ages and skill levels will enjoy. The Classic will feature "twosome" teams, as they compete for prizes such as \$50 Clubhouse gift certificates, \$25 gift certificates, and a "Closest to the Pin" prize on the 18th hole! Entry price does include the 2-person golf scramble, lunch by Wallace Catering, and entry into the prize drawings.

For more information on the Classic, just call the **Par 3 Pro Shop** at **910-454-0905**. Sponsorship opportunities are also available for this event as well! For sponsorship information, call **910-278-5518**, or email Eric Falkenhagen at efalkenhagen@oakislandnc.com, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Homeschool Yoga: Gauging Community Interest & Survey

WHEN: Thursdays, October 7 - December 16, 2021 • 10:45 AM

WHERE: Oak Island Recreation Center

COST: \$45 residents / \$63 non-residents

ABOUT: The Recreation Center is gauging interest for a potential Homeschool Yoga program. Class size would be limited to 10 children and would be led by a certified instructor, Kelly Muller, at Oak Island Recreation Center. Kelly Muller is an island enthusiast who relocated to Oak Island with extensive experience teaching yoga in schools/ studio for grades k-8 and is a licensed school counselor. Before her arrival on the island, Kelly owned a yoga studio in Concord, NC offering both adult and youth programs including aerial yoga and barre classes. In addition to her talents in the world of yoga, Kelly is Zumba certified/ AFAA group fitness certifies/ working towards her 500 hour Yoga Therapy Certification/ Teacher Trainer for Grounded Kids Yoga program.

An online survey has been setup to gauge interest in this potential program. To provide your feedback, you can fill out the survey by visiting www.OakIslandNC.com/SURVEY, or clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Influence Community Opportunities!

HOMESCHOOL YOGA

Oak Island Recreation Center is gauging community interest in a homeschool yoga course. Complete the survey, or email Recreation Center Supervisor.

PLEASE NOTE: There are **MANY** fun, educational, and exciting events and programs planned for the month ahead (way to many to list here)! For a complete list of upcoming activities, visit the **EVENTS** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/EVENTS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

DEPARTMENT FEATURE



LISA P. STITES
TOWN CLERK

DEPARTMENT FEATURE: TOWN CLERK

Glue. It's literally the thing that holds other things together. It is single-handedly, perhaps one of the most important inventions throughout human history. Some of the greatest masterpieces in art, engineering, even cooking are all made possible because of a simple substance that, unfortunately is way-too-often overlooked. No one ever writes articles about glue, or sings its praises on the nightly news ... and yet, somewhere in your home, in some "junk drawer" or "craft closet" you probably have a stick, bottle, or brush.

Much like that bottle of Elmer's in the back closet, municipal clerks also serve a vital role of helping to "keep things together" and organized. Unfortunately, also like the glue preserving your completed [550-piece Oak Island Lighthouse puzzle](#), the clerk's position is often overlooked until needed. While even the most causally engaged citizen is aware of their Town's staff and local elected officials, they may not realize the support available to each of them through the services provided by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk performs a variety of functions for the citizens, elected officials, and staff of the Town of Oak Island. For just the Town Council alone, duties can include: preparing and publishing meeting agendas, writing resolutions and proclamations preparing Council action reports, along with the recording, preparation and archiving of minutes for all meetings.

PROFILE: *Town Clerk:* Lisa Stites, has lived in Oak Island since 1994, where shortly after she married husband, Jeffrey, and had son, John. Originally from Pennsylvania, Stites earned a B.A. in Journalism from Penn State. Before joining the Oak Island team, she worked as a staff writer in a local newspaper, while also previously serving as a deputy clerk of court in Brunswick County.

Lisa has served a term on the Board of Directors for the **North Carolina Association of Municipal Clerks** (NCAMC), and has also served on and been chairman of the **State Certification Committee**, as well as being part of the **We Share Our Services Committee**, which assigns mentors.

"I really appreciate the support from the Town Council and staff, in allowing me to serve in the NCAMC, and other roles throughout the state" Lisa remarked in a recent message to the Town Council. *"The Association was a huge help to me when I was a brand new clerk, and I am glad I've been given the chance to pay that forward."*

Lisa was hired as Town Clerk August of 2010, and named **Clerk of the Year** for 2018 Cape Fear Council of Governments.



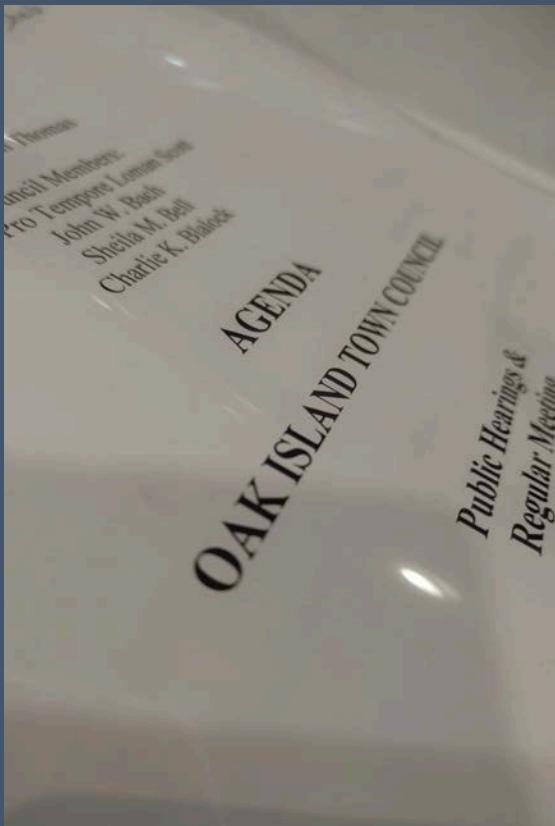


Madam President: On August 21, 2021, during NC Association of Municipal Clerks' annual conference in Greensboro, Lisa Stites was sworn in as NCAMC President for the 2021-2022 year (*picture courtesy: NCAMC*). This vote of confidence from her peers statewide is a significant addition to her already considerable list of accomplishments.

NCAMC, in cooperation with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the North Carolina League of Municipalities in Raleigh, holds to the mission of providing a professional organization of city, town and village clerks from across the state, dedicated to the continued growth and development of each municipal clerk and their municipality.

As part of Brunswick County, Oak Island falls under Region I: District III of the North Carolina League of Municipalities 12 state districts. District III also includes Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, New Hanover, Pender, and Sampson counties.

In addition to the Town Council, the Clerk also directly serves the **Planning Board** and **Board of Adjustment**, as well as managing the various advisory boards and committees which help to steer Town policy and services. This support role includes tasks such as maintaining the Committee Handbook, advertising vacancies, and maintaining rosters.



Services to the citizens are provided through the maintaining the Town Charter and Code of Ordinances; as well as by providing access, information and research to the public, elected officials and staff. The Clerk is also responsible for publishing notices of public hearings and other legal advertisements. Archiving and preserving historical records.

Most of the publicly visible work of the Town Clerk can be found on the in the ***Meeting Agendas, Minutes, & Video*** archive page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/MEETINGS. Much as the page name suggests, there you can find the schedule and agendas for upcoming meetings, as well as an archive of minutes, agenda packets, and on-demand video from previous meetings. More of a "dedicated individual" than a "department team" the Town Clerk has no supporting staff. However, the Clerk interact with almost every other department in Town government on a regular basis, all working together to make sure the right information, gets to the right place.

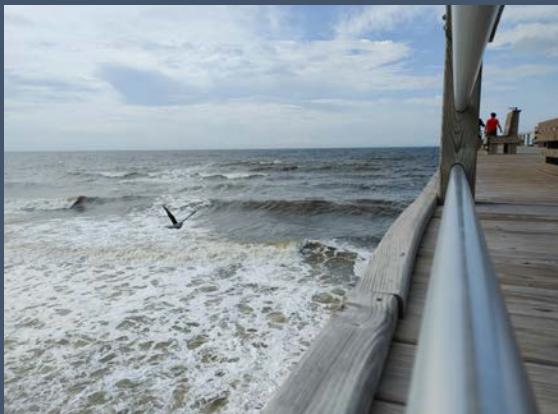
To learn more about the position of Town Clerk, the services offered, and how to contact, just visit the Town Clerk page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/CLERK.

MONTH IN PHOTOS



PHOTO REVIEW: AUGUST 2021





THANK YOU FOR READING!



Thank you for reading the September 2021 edition of **THE CURRENT**. This information is produced by the Town of Oak Island Communications Office, and is for information and educational purposes only. Any perceived endorsements or promotion of any 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, visit www.OakIslandNC.com/CONTACT, call 910-278-5011, or email INFO@OakIslandNC.com.

©2021 Town of Oak Island NC. All Rights Reserved.

Credits:

Created with images by • undefined - undefined

[Terms of Service](#) [Privacy Policy](#)