

An aerial photograph of a beach event in Oak Island, NC. The top of the image shows the ocean with white-capped waves breaking onto a sandy beach. Below the beach is a row of several two-story beach houses. A large, paved parking lot filled with numerous cars is situated between the houses and a grassy field. The grassy field is the main area of the event, with many small, colorful tents (blue, red, white) set up in rows. People are scattered throughout the field. On the right side of the field, there is a large, white, pyramid-shaped tent and a red inflatable slide. A paved road runs along the bottom of the field. The overall scene is a busy outdoor community event.

THE CURRENT

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

April 2022

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

Welcome to April

WELCOME to the **APRIL 2022** edition of **THE CURRENT**. As the cold, dark winter evenings give way to the longer and (*slightly*) warmer days of spring, everyone seems to start emerging from their shells and collectively coming to the same conclusion ... ***we need some color!*** From the yellow Daffodils in Middleton Park to the slowly greening Cordgrass and Needlerush of the Davis Canal marsh, even nature itself is welcoming the new season with its prettiest palette.

Not to be outdone however, staff and residents of Oak Island are also doing their best to match nature's splendor! New pastel-painted homes, freshly mulched landscaping, and beautiful signs of opening businesses are all on display, welcoming both Spring and the visitors it brings. Despite the famously unpredictable weather of the Carolina springtime, one sure bet is that Oak Islanders will still celebrate like it's a perpetual 78° and sunny! So throw on your shades, and layer a light jacket over that tank-top. It's time to float on down the April 2022 edition of **THE CURRENT**.



MONTHLY REVIEW

MONTHLY REVIEW

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

Council Recap

The Town Council's regular meeting on **March 8, 2022** began with three (3) public hearings. **(I)** A motion to approve a proposed an amendment to Section 8.14.9 of the Unified Development Ordinance (accessory structures - sheds in front yards) failed. **(II)** A proposed rezoning and Phased Development Vesting Plan for the mainland property, known as the Williamson tract, was approved on understanding that 11 pre-determined conditions would be agreed upon. **(III)** A modification to the PUD was approved for Pine Forest Plantation of Oak Island.

CONSENT AGENDA: In addition to approval of the minutes from previous meetings (12/16/21, 1/19/22, 1/31/22, & 2/8/22), the Consent Agenda also included an Amendment to Section 1-7 of the Town's Code of Ordinances (to comply with changes in State statutes regarding criminal penalties), and a Mutual Aid Agreement with Sunny Point Fire & Emergency Services.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Council appointed Ken Thomas to the regular seat, and Charles Farley and Randy Guthrie to alternate positions on the to the Board of Adjustment (all terms ending March 2025). Council reappointed Shawn Barry and Paul DuBay to the Recreation Advisory Board (two terms ending March 2025).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Public Works Director Scott Thornall reported that the leaf vacuum truck was again needing repair. Shortages in the supply chain of parts and labor were causing delays in the repair, but were expected by the end of the month. Thornall also reported on completion of the sidewalk project surrounding Middleton Park, and that the street repaving contractor had resumed work following delays due to poor weather. Town Attorney Brian Edes reported that he would be attending the Winter Municipal Conference scheduled for March 17-18 at the School of Government in Chapel Hill. Town Manager David Kelly then gave an update on the sidewalk project for the commercial corridor, stating that final review from NCDOT was still needed, but ground breaking was anticipated within the next 90 days.

OLD BUSINESS: (I) Consideration of Policies for Awarding Keys to the Town and the Trees to Sea Citizenship Award: *Council adopted policies for each.* **(II)** Consideration of Policy to Waive Certain Fees for the Recreation Center: Council passed a motion to send this item to the Recreation Advisory Board for consideration.

NEW BUSINESS: (I) Discussion of Notice Regarding Proposed Incorporation of the Town of Winnabow: *This item was on the agenda for informational purposes only.* **(II)** Discussion of Commissioning an Audit of the Town's Unified Development Ordinance: *This item was moved the April 12 agenda.* **(III)** Consideration of a Request to Approve Performance Guarantees for Pine Forest - Phase II Section II: *The performance guarantee was approved, and the previously-approved performance guarantee for the first phase was extended.* **(IV)** Consideration of Scheduling a Special Meeting for a Second Council Retreat Meeting: *The meeting was scheduled for Friday, March 11 at 9:00 AM in Council Chambers.*

Council then went into Closed Session, to consult with the Town Attorney to discuss potential land acquisition pursuant to N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(5), after which there no action taken.

To view the video, agenda and minutes from this or any other Town Council meeting, just visit the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





Town of
Oak Island
Council Meeting

March 22, 2022
Special Meeting

Sand ... Dollars

On Tuesday, March 22, the Town Council held a special meeting for the purpose of discussing beach nourishment funding, under the long-term [Beach Management Plan](#). This concluded a series of three (3) called meetings (January 31, February 21, & March 22) focusing on long-term beach nourishment funding, ordinance enforcement, and public input.

The objective of the March 22 meeting was to provide options on ways the Town can match the \$20 million grant provided by the State of North Caroline, along with the additional funds required to continue other projected sand projects, such as Lockwood Folly, Wilmington Harbor, etc.

Town Manager David Kelly was joined by Finance Director David Hatten in presenting three options to Council. Kelly reiterated that the amounts discussed were all subject to change, dependent upon future variables such as population growth, anticipated tax revenue, and future storm impacts. The time frame for the discussion involved fiscal years 2023 through 2025. David Hatten noted that while kept very conservative, estimates of sustainable growth showed positive impacts towards reaching the goals of nourishment funding.

When matching the grant from the State, the Town is required to provide detail on how it will spend the funding allocated for the specific purpose as stated in the grant contract. The description should include a timeline, services to be provided, objectives to be achieved, and an annual budget for the grant.

The presentation materials, along with video of the special meetings can be found on the Beach Management Plan page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/BeachPlan. To view the presentation materials on the three (3) funding options directly, simply click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Renourishment in Review

As of the last week in March, the **Phase II Nourishment Project** had reached over 70% completion. In just 37 days since on-beach operations began on February 20, the project had placed over 550,000 cubic yards of sand, out of the projected total 765,000 cubic yards. Crews have been working day and night to bring the public beach areas along the western stretch of the Island up to the same profile as those in the eastern portions, which were serviced under the Phase I Nourishment Project in 2021.

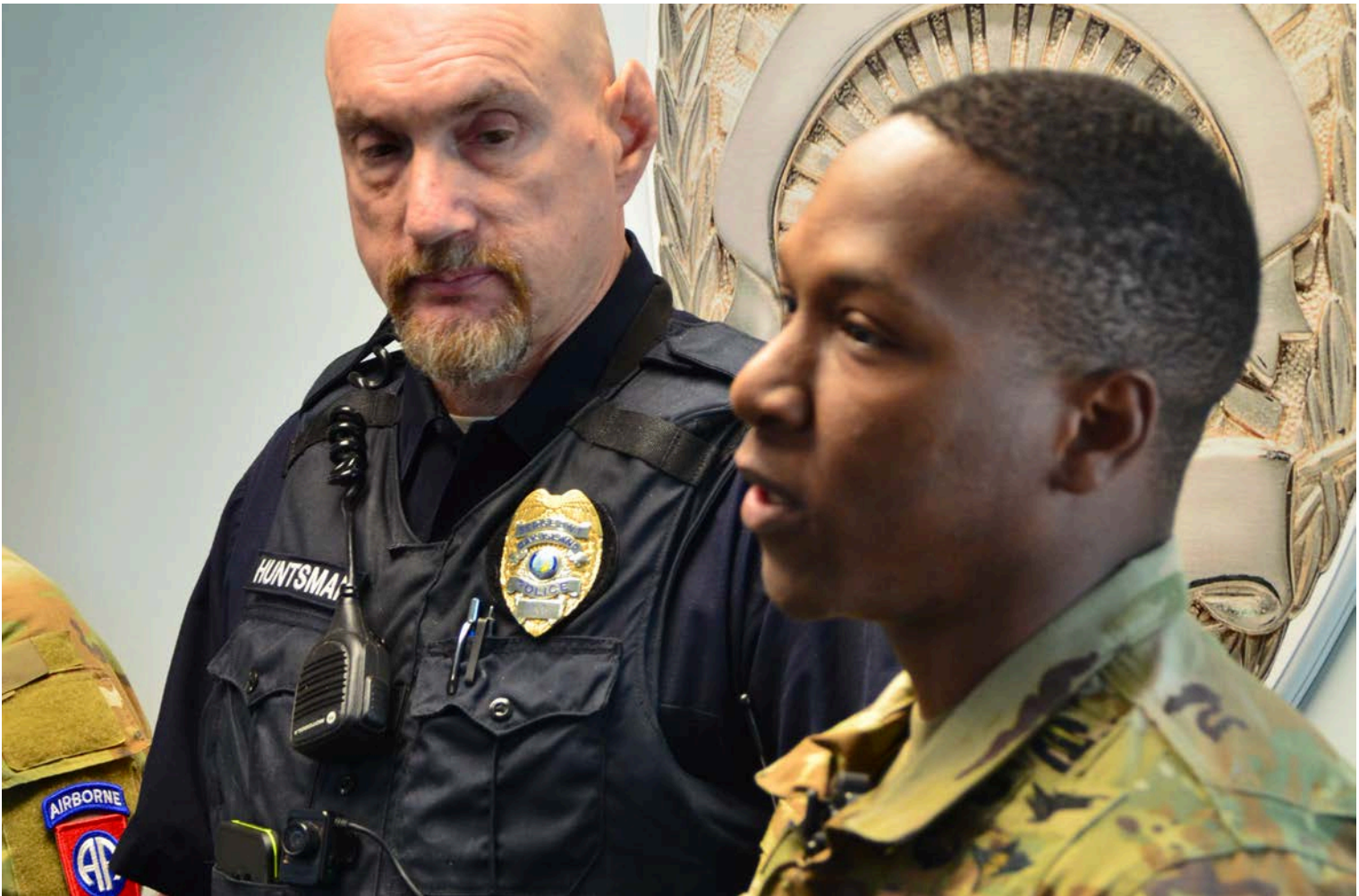
Fortunate to experience little needed downtime for mechanical servicing, and even fewer days out due in poor weather delays, the project has pushed along largely to schedule. Some inclement weather in the last couple days of March did make for a slight delay, but crews are pushing on to have dredging and sand distribution wrapped up by the second full week of April. Demobilization of equipment should take about a week or so afterwards.

Since the first grain of sand hit the beach, the [Beach Nourishment Projects](#) page of the Town Website has been continually updated on a daily basis. The page is full of information and resources related to the Phase II Project, including schedule updates, current work zones, a "*What To Expect*" section, and an interactive project map which can also be accessed directly by [CLICKING HERE](#).

For the latest on the Phase II project, simply visit the Beach Nourishment Projects page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/SAND, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





When "Protect & Serve" Means "Prevent & Save"

A common misconception is that when the Town of Oak Island Police Department interacts with the public, the results are usually negative. Many times the only attention they get comes from writing a ticket or making an arrest. But it's about more than just busted headlights and belligerent partiers. ***So much more.*** On those thankfully rare occasions, you get to save someone's life not from a violent attacker, but from themselves.

While this part of the job is often unseen and thankless, that was not the case for one Sgt. Jack Huntsman. On Monday, March 21, the Oak Island Police Department and Sgt. Huntsman were honored to host members of the US Army, 82nd Airborne, 2nd Brigade Combat Team ("Falcon" Brigade). 1SG. Newby, SSG. Jateny, and CPT. Burton (*pictured with Huntsman*), were on hand to present Sgt. Huntsman with a plaque, a brigade flag, and challenge coin, in appreciation of his efforts during an incident in September 2021.

During that call, Sgt. Huntsman assisted a military service member that was struggling with suicide, effectively communicating with them to bring about a peaceful resolution to what could have been a tragic end. Now six months later, the service member is reportedly doing well, and the officials traveled from Fort Bragg to personally thank the Oak Island PD and Sgt. Huntsman for their dedication and professionalism during that night's events.

Himself a former member of the 82nd Airborne, Sgt. Huntsman brought unique perspective to this particular response. Through his dual roles in serving both our community and his country, he relied on a combination of his professional training and personal life-experiences to help talk this person out of "a very bad place" as Captain Burton referred to it.

Mental health has taken a sharp public focus in recent months, as isolation and stress caused by the global pandemic have highlighted the need for support from within social environments. Those in the first responder and military communities are all too familiar with these stresses, and as a result are victim to some of the highest rates of suicide than in any other profession.

The Town of Oak Island is extremely proud of the actions of Sgt. Huntsman, and value the unique insight he provides because of his service in both the military and law enforcement communities. We sincerely hope the recognition he received will further highlight the difference one person can make in the mental health of others. We encourage members of all communities to assist their neighbors in need, whenever possible.

To view a video of this presentation, just visit the Police Department's Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/OakIslandPD, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Spring Fling Festival Summary

On **Saturday, March 26** the Spring season officially kicked off in the Town of Oak Island! Despite the blast of near-wintery winds, thousands came out to celebrate as part of the ***Spring Fling Market + Music*** event.

Residents, guests, and visitors were all welcomed at Middleton Park, where attractions for families of all walks of life were in abundance. This year's event hosted 136 artisan & food vendors, crafts, a ***Kid Zone*** featuring bounce houses, and an outdoor concert with local band the ***Fossil Rockers***. From the first vendor tents going up in the early morning, until the last note was played at the concert around 8:00 PM, it was a full of day music, fun, and festivities.

Unlike most events however, this one didn't end in sadness, and one of the most exciting aspects of the Annual Spring Fling is how it leads into a whole host of spring and summer activities. From a Drive-by Bunny to the Summer Concert Series, the Recreation Department has plenty more in store for 2022 ... ***and they've just launched a new way to keep you informed about it*** (more on that later in the ***COMING EVENTS*** section below!)



CONTRIBUTIONS



CONTRIBUTIONS

Each month, between the *MONTHLY REVIEW* and upcoming *NEWS & NOTICES* sections, you'll find **CONTRIBUTIONS**. This section features content contributed from various Town Departments and staff, as well as the Town's municipal and non-profit partner organizations. Regular contributing partner organizations include the [Oak Island Fire Department](#), the [Beach Preservation Society](#), the [Friends of Parks Foundation](#), the [Sea Turtle Protection Program](#), the [Friends of the Library](#), and [Oak Island Water Rescue](#), among others. For more information on the content presented in this section, please reach out to the contributing department or organization directly.



Oak Island Fire Department: Time Changes & Smoke Detectors

(Contributed by **Timothy Fleckinger**) - With the time recently changing this is your reminder to check your detectors. First though, here are some facts as to why it is important to service your detectors:

- 3 out of 5 house fire related deaths comes from homes with no detectors present.
- The risk is cut in half with smoke detectors present.
- Half of all residential fires occur between the hours of 11:00 PM - 7:00 AM

Now here's some advice on what, when, and who to ask if help is needed. Alarms should be tested monthly or at least bi-annually (usually when batteries are changed). As a good rule of thumb, batteries should be changed when the time changes. Detectors that are outdated (over 10 years old) should be replaced. Dates are found on the back.

When a detector is sounding, make sure everyone is responding to it, if safe to do so. Review often your family's plan on what to do, and where to meet in the event of a fire, or other type of emergency where evacuation is required. Just 15 minutes of time to replace batteries, test alarms, and make emergency plans can greatly REDUCE chances of a fatal malfunction of smoke detectors and INCREASE your peace of mind.

The Oak Island Fire Department does offer smoke detectors to qualified families, and we are always happy to assist with your detector needs. For more information on smoke detectors or fire safety in general, just contact Department by calling **910-278-1000**, visiting our webpage at www.OakIslandNC.gov/FD, or clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Beach Preservation Society: Scholarship Opportunities

(Contributed by the **Rosanne Fortner**) The Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc. (BPSI) is pleased to announce a new scholarship program. Two (2) scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2022. Seniors who attend any public or private Brunswick County high school and meet the minimum criteria set by BPSI are eligible to apply.

BPSI is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization in Brunswick County, NC. The organization is dedicated to education and community engagement to enhance the Oak Island beach experience and leave the beach better for everyone now and in the future.

In keeping with this mission, students who qualify for these scholarships must be interested in and planning to seek further education in field[s] of study related to science and/or education, preferably with emphasis on the ocean/coastal environments and related systems. Applicants must have already been accepted in an accredited two- or four-year institution of higher education at the time of application.

Complete information and applications will be available through school counselors at all private and public high schools in Brunswick County.

Application deadline is May 1, with award announcements being made by May 21, 2022.

Interested students should contact their school counselor for more information and scholarship application materials. A GPA of 3.0 and an essay related to BPSI organization goals are required.

For more information about the Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc., please visit our website at <https://beachoki.org>, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE





Oak Island Water Rescue: Foods Drive, Fundraiser & Seasonal Updates

(Contributed by **Pete Grendze**) Oak Island Water Rescue wants to thank Lowes Foods and everyone who contributed to our annual Food Drive. Through your generous donations we were able to deliver several truckloads of food to the Southport Oak Island Interchurch Fellowship Food Pantry, Brunswick Family Services, and the Brunswick Community College Food Bank. Again, thank you all!

We have also started a fundraising drive! Those who would like to support us can purchase t-shirts, available for a donation of \$20.00 at these three (3) businesses:

- By the Beach Treasures, 6016 E. Oak Island Dr.
- Coastal Charm, 5201 E. Oak Island Dr.
- Island Treasure Hunt, 8500 E. Oak Island Dr.

A special shout-out to each of these businesses for helping us with this fundraiser.

Finally, in **April** the National Weather Service will start forecasting rip current conditions for coastal Carolina. This forecast will be available directly on our website at <https://oiwr.org> or by scanning the QR code on the rip current placards that we will be reinstalling for the season at all the beach accesses. (NOTE: This information from OIWR is also available on the Beach Information page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/BEACH)

If you would like more information about Oak Island Water Rescue, just visit our website <https://oiwr.org>, or click the link below.

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Friends of the Library: Meet the Author Event

(Contributed by **Julie Paladino**) The Friends of the Library Southport & Oak Island (FOLSOI) are happy to announce a **Meet the Author** event on **Wednesday, April 27**, at **3:00 PM** at **Barbee Library**, located at 8200 E. Oak Island Drive.

Local author Dennis Hetzel will be discussing his latest book "Azalea Bluff," a UFO mystery set in Brunswick County. He has written other thrillers that combine sports and politics. A native of Chicago, Dennis is an award-winning journalist and writer who currently lives in Sunset Beach.

Registration is required. To register, stop by Barbee Library or call **910-278-4283**.

For more information on the Friends of the Library Southport & Oak Island, just visit their website at <https://folsoi.org>, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



Oak Island Beautification
Club

Plant Sale

Saturday May 7th
8:00 AM – Noon

**Greenhouse at 56th St. SE by the Water
Tower**

- Island grown plants & flowers

Oak Island Beautification Club: Plant Sale

(Contributed by the **Susan Long**) The Oak Island Beautification Club is preparing for its **Annual Plant Sale!**

The Beautification Club will host the Plant Sale on **Saturday, May 7**, beginning at **8:00 AM** at the **Greenhouse**, located on SE 56th Street under the water tower.

The Sale will offer a variety of flowers, vegetables, and plants that grow well in this coastal area. Master Gardeners will be onsite to provide growing tips and Mother's Day Gift suggestions.

To learn more about the Oak Island Beautification Club, and how you can participate in upcoming efforts, visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gardeningandmuchmore, or click the link below.

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NEWS & NOTICES

The CURRENT

News & Notices



NEWS & NOTICES: APRIL

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.gov/MEETINGS.

TOWN COUNCIL (*televised*) will hold a regular meeting on **Tuesday, April 12, 2022 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, April 21, 2022 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 regular meeting on **Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 8:30 AM** in the Police Department Training Room, located on the second floor of the Police Department adjoining Town Hall at 4621 E Oak Island Drive.

CLOSURES & HOLIDAYS

GOOD FRIDAY: Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, April 15, 2022** in observance of **Good Friday**.

Police, fire, and other emergency services are not affected during any holiday closure, and are always available by calling **9-1-1**. The **Oak Island Pier** will be open during their seasonal hours. All currently available parks and public Beach & Water Access locations and facilities will be open as usual.

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

What's The Deal With Decals?

As reported in the February edition of *The CURRENT*, Town Parking Decals were originally ordered shortly following the Town Council's approval during their Annual Retreat on January 16. The high number of decals ordered, and current market delays for materials caused for several weeks of wait time. Upon their initial delivery however, a printing error was discovered, which caused an additional delay in getting the decals reprinted.

Thankfully the corrected decals have now arrived, and are scheduled to be **available for purchase beginning on *Tuesday, April 5***. The new decals are **GREEN** and will be valid until **December 31, 2023**.

For new residents or those unaware, the Town of Oak Island offers special reserved spaces in most [Beach Access Locations](#) or Town Parking Lots. The spaces are reserved for Town residents and property owners who display a **Town Parking Decal**, available at a cost \$10 per vehicle. **Up to three decals may be issued per parcel owned.** (*NOTE: Buying a Town Parking Decal is NOT required for residency in Oak Island, and they are NOT a permit for re-entry onto the Island after a storm or hurricane.*)

While there has certainly been a wait for new decals, you can make sure you don't add to that wait **by having the following documents ready BEFORE stopping by to purchase:**

- Completed [PARKING DECAL APPLICATION](#)
- Copy of the vehicle registration for each vehicle (maximum of 3)
- Copy of drivers license
- Verification of residency / taxpayer status (copy of tax or utility bill)
- Payment of \$10 fee per vehicle being registered

Decals may be purchased with cash or check, either at the Customer Service Desk (located on the first floor of Town Hall), the **Town Dropbox** (located in the Public Works Building parking lot), or by **Mail** (addressed to Town of Oak Island, Customer Service, 4601 E Oak Island Drive, Oak Island, NC 28465). NOTE: a \$1.00 mailing fee must be included for requesting parking stickers via mail.

For more information on the Town Parking Decal program, or to download an application, visit the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE





New Dunes, New Pathways

Throughout the month of April, the ongoing [Phase II Nourishment Project](#) will be winding down. As it does, residents and visitors to the public beach areas along W Beach Drive, will notice more than just a new dune and beach profile. Another noticeable change will come in the way those beach areas are *accessed*.

Once the **Phase II Project** is completed, the dune profile and beach access pathways along W Beach Drive, should resemble those along E Beach Drive, in the previously completed Phase I Project from 2021.

This means that properties along W Beach Drive will transition from using private access pathways at each individual property, to using [Shared Access Pathways](#), also similar to what is now seen on E Beach Drive.

All new pathways will be marked with post-and-rope guides to show the traffic boundaries, as seen in the (*pictured*) pathway under construction. These locations are already being added to the [Shared Access Pathways Map](#), which can be found on the [Beach Access Pathways & Structures](#) page of the Town Website. (**NOTE:** *The exact locations of the pathways along W Beach Dr. presented on this page are still subject to change. Final updates should be available upon completion of the Phase II Nourishment Project in April 2022.*)

Regulation of the dunes, berms, and most any construction in or around the public beach areas is heavily influenced by the [Coastal Area Management Act \(CAMA\)](#), and the [North Carolina Division of Coastal Management](#). Installation of the new Shared Access Pathways efforts will bring the entire public beach areas into compliance with current requirements from these agencies.

An important reminder; walking, climbing, or any other traffic in unmarked areas across the sand dunes / berms is PROHIBITED - and the Oak Island Police Department have been steadily increasing their efforts in the citation of dune offenses.

For full information on direct beach access options, or Shared Access Pathway locations, just visit the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DirectAccess or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

(DON'T) Keep Your Business To Yourself

As the weather warms up, one of the more welcome sights throughout Town is the reopening of familiar businesses ... and the emergence of new ones!

There's been a lot of changes in recent months along Oak Island Drive, as well as many other parts of Town. This can be a little confusing for those who aren't here year round to watch those changes take place ... *or even those who are here and just didn't notice!* One important way many residents and visitors find the goods and services they are looking for is through the [Business Directory](#) on the Town Website.

The **Oak Island Business Directory** is a great way for nearly 120 business, services, and locations to share their information **for free** and connect with potential customers.

One critical note, is that the Business Directory is updated **by submission only**. If you or someone you know owns a new or developing business, or have had some changes to your existing business, make sure to email the most updated details to INFO@oakislandnc.gov, so that they can be included in the Directory listings.

To view the Directory, or submit an entry of your own directly, just visit the Business Directory page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/BUSINESS, or click the link below.

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VERNMENT

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

NEWS & NOTICES

RESIDENTS & VISITORS

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IMALS & PETS

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[Residents & Visitors »](#)

Business Directory

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Have a Business? [Submit Your Business Online](#)

(All Categories) ▼

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801 Ocean Event Center



Address:

Phone:

Email:

Website:

801 Ocean Drive, NC

(910) 933-6090

801oceanoki@oakislandnc.com

<https://www.oakislandnc.com/801>



Holiday Collection Schedule

Easter is one of the most celebrated holidays in America; and by extension, Good Friday one of the most travelled. While many take the opportunity the holiday offers to visit or come home to Oak Island, it's important to note (and be thankful for) all of the services that continue on. These basic but often underappreciated services are what allow many of us to fully enjoy that time with family and friends.

The **Garbage & Recycling Collection** schedule will **NOT** be altered, and will continue providing regular services throughout the entire Good Friday / Easter weekend. As with following any major holiday weekend, collection may run a little slower on Monday, April 18, due to the expected increase in population and waste generated, but no service interruption is expected.

For full details on the Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule, as well as collection zones and items accepted, visit the Garbage & Recycling Collection page on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.com/COLLECTION or click the link below.

The Town's **Disposal Convenience Site**, located at 4110 Airport Road, will be **CLOSED** on Friday, **April 15, 2022** in observance of Good Friday. The Convenience Site will reopen on normal operating hours the following Wednesday, April 20 at 1:00 PM.

For full details on the Disposal Convenience Site, as well as complete operating hours and lists of items accepted, visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/CONVENIENCE.

[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.gov/EVENTS.

New Look, New Location

Way back when, in days long gone by (*and by that, we mean "last month"*) it used to be that all of the various offerings from the Oak Island Recreation Department, were found in different locations on the Town Website. Yep. A separate calendars for fitness programs, a "PROGRAMS" page for social clubs or athletic leagues, and long listed "EVENTS" page just for special events or series. Truly, they were wild times!

Now in the name of efficiency, they've worked to consolidate everything together into one convenient location. Launched in March, the NEW **Events & Programs** page combines the recreational, social, and educational opportunities from every aspect of the Recreation Department!

Retaining the old "EVENTS" website address, this new page does away with the endless scrolling of fixed lists, instead favoring click-to-expand lists of activities, separated by topics such as:

- Athletic Leagues & Programs
- Weekly Fitness Programs
- Seasonal Programs & Special Events
- Social Programs
- Youth Programs

The page also features links for program signup through the RecDesk app, as well as all of the registration forms that directly submit to department staff.

To view the new page and all of the opportunities listed on it, just visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Events & Programs

Summer Concert Series

Live & Local: Market & Music Series

Kevin Bell Skatepark Project

Nature Center

Ocean Education Center

Parks & Facilities

Volunteer Opportunities

[Government](#) » [Recreation Department](#) »

Events & Programs

Font Size: [+](#) [-](#) [+](#) [Share & Bookmark](#) [🗨](#)

Welcome to the **Events & Programs** page, presented by the Oak Island Recreation Department! This page contains a listing of all recreation and fitness programs, as well as social clubs, athletic leagues, and special event information.

For more information on any of the Events & Programs listed, call the Recreation Center at 910-278-5518, or [HERE to use the Department Contact form](#).

EVENT & PROGRAM LISTINGS

Click each category below to learn more about the opportunities made available by the Oak Island Recreation Department. [CLICK HERE to view the Special Events calendar directly](#).

5th Annual Doggie EGG-Stravaganza

WHEN: Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 11:00 AM

WHERE: Salty Dog Park • 4446 Fish Factory Rd.

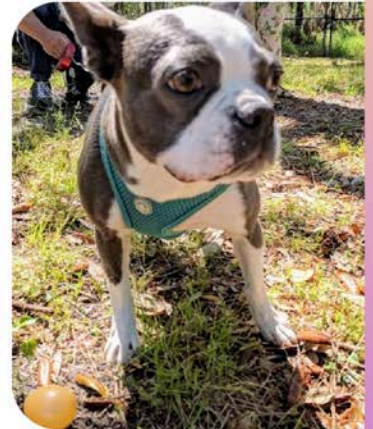
COST: FREE

SPONSORED BY:

- Gonzo's Animal House
- Ria & Scout's Doggie Playland



Ria
&
Scout's
Doggie
Playland



Join Oak Island for the 5th Annual Doggie Eggstravaganza at Salty Dog Park, inside Bill Smith Park.

There will be many special prizes and

Dance EGG-Stravaganza & Kids Easter Egg Hunt

WHEN: Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 11:00 AM

WHERE: Salty Dog Park • 4446 Fish Factory Rd. SE, Southport, NC 28461

WHO: All dogs and their humans (two categories: under 25lbs / over 25lbs)

COST: FREE

ABOUT: The Annual Doggie EGG-Stravaganza has returned! Join Oak Island for the 5th Annual Doggie Egg-Stravaganza at Salty Dog Park; located within William "Bill" Smith Park. There will be many special prizes, and yummy treats, hidden inside eggs around both large and small dog play spaces. All pets must be up to date on their vaccinations to participate. For questions simply reach out to Program Supervisor, Ryan Gordon by calling 910-278-4747 or email rgordon@oakislandnc.gov.

Shell & Fossil Show

WHEN:Sunday, April 10, 2022 • 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

WHERE:801 Ocean Event Center • 801 Ocean Dr. Oak Island, NC 28465

WHO: All Ages

COST: \$3 Per Person (Ages 5 and Under FREE) / Vendor Fees: \$15 (applies only for exhibitors who sell their displays) / Exhibitor Fee: Free

ABOUT:Share your love of shells at Oak Island's first ever Shell & Fossil Show at 801 Event Center this spring! Along with the center's breathtaking ocean views, coastal residents and guests are invited to present creative displays of some of their favorite findings of seashells and fossils from both the Oak Island coastline and beyond. This year's program will welcome both exhibitors as well as shell vendors of all ages. For more information, reach out to Event Supervisor, Ryan Gordon at 910-278-5518 or rgordon@oakislandnc.gov.

The background of the poster is a close-up photograph of various seashells and sand. In the upper left, there is a large, smooth, light-colored shell with orange-brown stripes. Below it and to the right is a dark, textured shell. Other smaller shells in various colors (white, pink, blue, yellow) are scattered across the sandy surface. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Oak Island
Recreation

Presents the 2022
Shell & Fossil
Show

Sunday, April 10, 2022

11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

801 Ocean Front Center



Presents the...

7th Annual

Earth Day Festival 2022

April 22, 2022 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Middleton Park • 4610 E Dolphin Dr., Oak Island, NC 28465

Go **GREEN** this year at the Oak Island Earth Day Festival! This fun and exciting festival will teach about protecting your planet. Numerous area conservation, environmental, & local groups will explain how their efforts benefit our

7th Annual Earth Day Festival

WHEN:Friday, April 22, 2022 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WHERE:Community Center • (4701 E Oak Island Dr.) & Middleton Park
(4610 E Dolphin Dr.)

WHO: All ages (emphasis on hands-on learning for school age children)

COST: FREE

ABOUT: Go GREEN this year at the Oak Island Earth Day Festival! This exciting festival will teach you how to protect & take care of your planet. Numerous area conservation, environmental, & local groups will explain how their efforts benefit our community to be a better world to live in. This event is FREE, and groups are welcome! Topics Include, but not limited to: Sea Turtles, Coastal Birds, Recycling, The Oak Island Nature Center, The Oak Island Ocean Education Center.

NOTE: For more information, or to host a conservation booth, contact Event Supervisor, Eric Falkenhagen at 910-278-7475 or efalkenhagen@oakislandnc.gov.

PLEASE NOTE: There are **MANY** fun, educational, and exciting events and programs planned for the month ahead (way too many to list here)! For a complete list of upcoming activities, contact the Recreation Department at 910-278-5518, or visit the **EVENTS & PROGRAMS** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS, or just click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

DIVISION FEATURE

110
TAX
SUPERVISOR
110 TAX SUPERVISOR

DIVISION FEATURE: TAX COLLECTOR

For kids, teens, and young adults, the month of April is largely glossed over. There's Spring Break and the Easter holiday for many of them, but not much to look forward to beyond that. Just no more delay until carefree days of summer. For adults on the other hand, April holds one of the most ominous dates on the calendar ... **TAX DAY**. Seems fitting that while the April 15 deadline for federal tax filing looms overhead, a light should be shown on the local aspects of tax collection and distribution.

It has been said that "*taxes are the price we pay to live in a society.*" While we can't philosophize about the greater role taxation plays on the national scale, the **Tax Collector Division** of the Town's [Finance Department](#) can at least make sure the local taxes you pay are met with care, concern, and professionalism. While it can be difficult, if not nearly impossible to track the multitude of projects your federal and state tax dollars go to fund, the revenues and expenditures of local government are an entirely different matter. The unique and defining aspect of municipal taxes, are that the funds you pay go directly towards benefiting the place you call home.

Currently the Town of Oak Island employs around 140 people. They work through over a dozen departments and divisions to provide services to the 9,000 - 50,000 folks who inhabit the Town's 20 square miles at any given time. At peak summer season, that can create a ratio of one (1) public servant for every 357 civilians. To manage those kinds of numbers, Town staff need the proper tools and infrastructure to provide the services of their respective positions. Providing the collected tax revenue which funds those tools, is the responsibility of the Tax Collector and the staff who support that office through the Customer Service Desk.



PROFILE: *Tax Collector:* Danielle Bartlett is a fairly recent addition to Team Oak Island, having just been hired in February 2022, but she brings a wealth of experience to the role. For nearly 23 years, Bartlett had been employed with the North Carolina Department of Revenue (NCDOR), educating the public on their tax obligations and collecting taxes as required by General Statutes.

Not necessarily looking to change careers, and assuming she'd always retire through NCDOR, the offer to join Oak Island proved to be one she couldn't refuse.

"Like many of us, the recent pandemic helped prioritize the things that are most important to me. I really like being closer to home and spending less time commuting back and forth. Working locally allows me to spend more time with my family and friends."

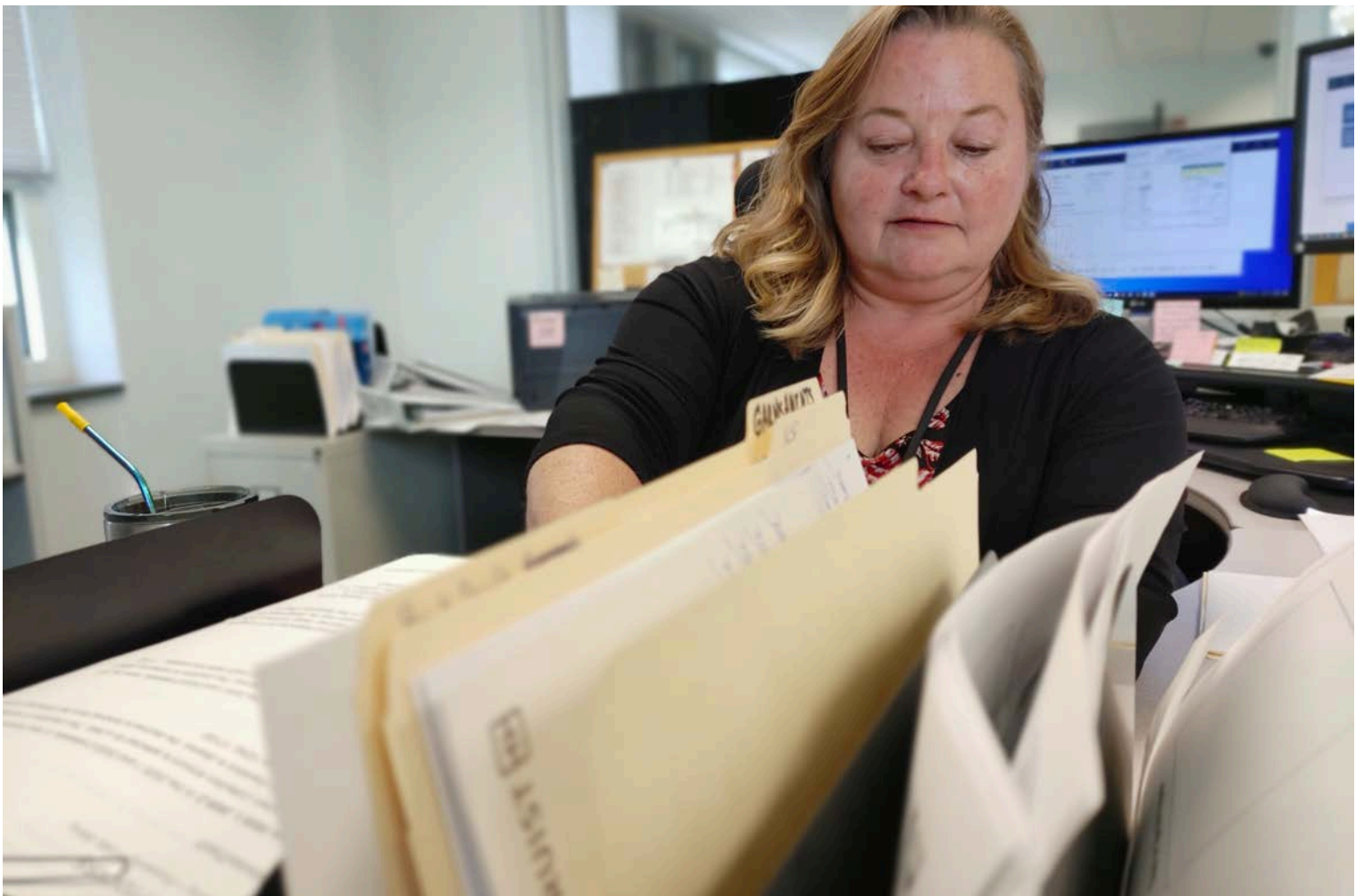
A current Brunswick County resident, and former Oak Island resident as well, her rural living is mainly to accommodate the five (5) horses and assortment of other animals she cares for with her husband and daughter.

BIG WORK, SHORT TIME: The past few months serving the Town have been very busy for Danielle Bartlett. She "hit the ground running" as the saying goes, but ultimately found the progress made to be rewarding. By her own admission, there has been a lot of hard work, long hours, and time spent in direct communication with both co-workers and residents.

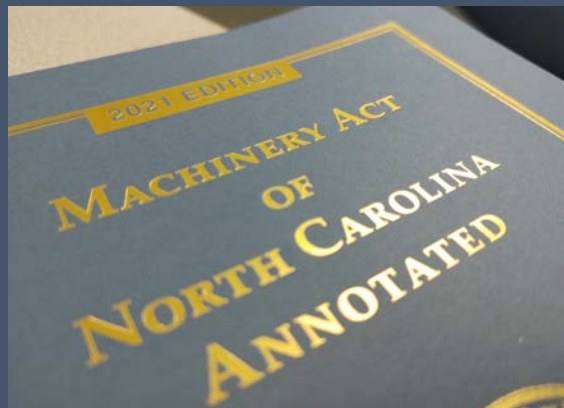
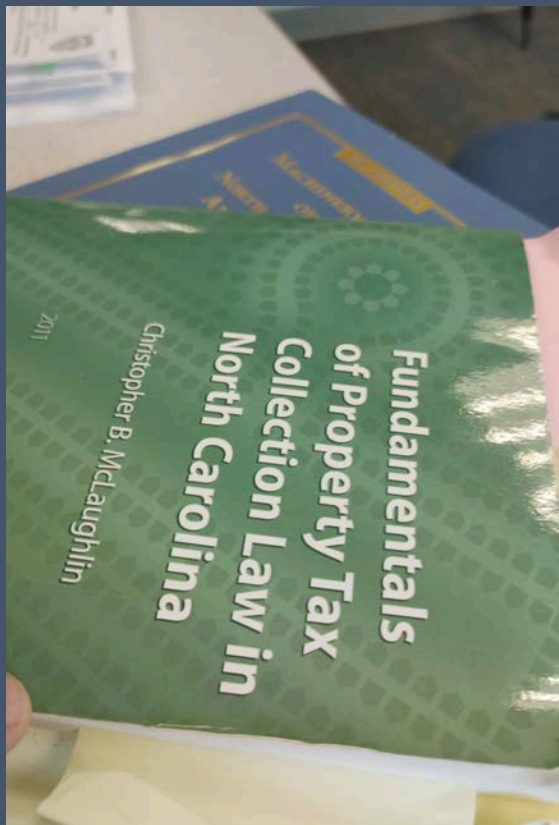
In addition to filling out her new role, she has also helped to re-staff the customer service desk, which had been depleted of staff due to moves and career changes.

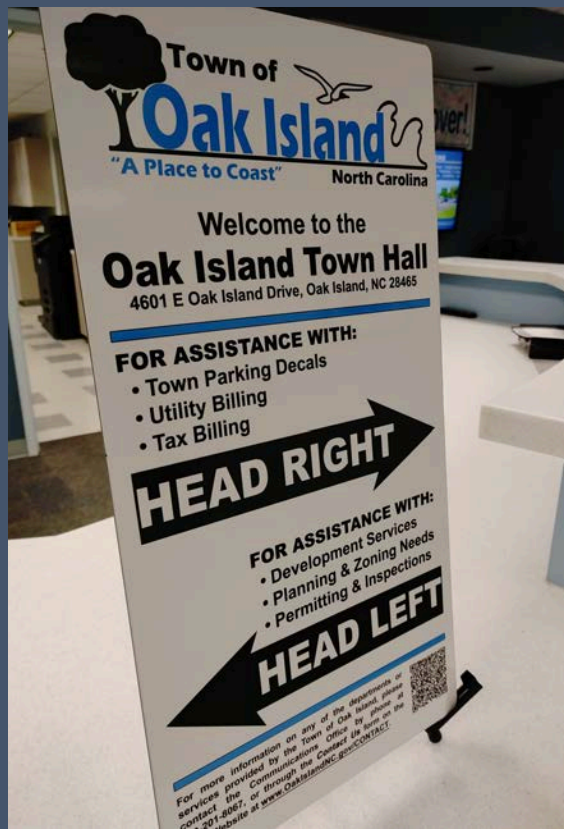
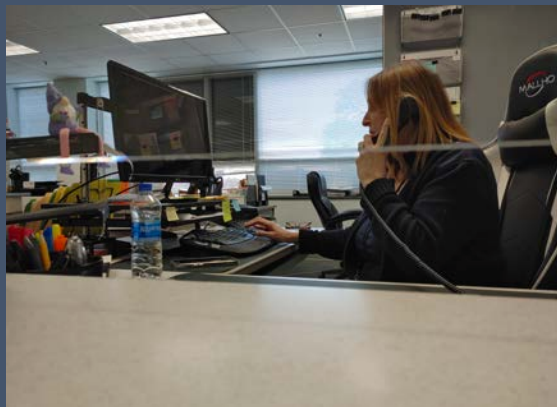
"I can honestly say my staff are some of the best you will find, and a true 'frontline' for the Town. There are times when we are tasked with having difficult discussions. People rarely have a positive reaction to receiving news they do not want to hear; but for the most part, once people understand what we do and why we do it, they leave feeling a little better than when they arrived."

In addition to customer service, Bartlett also spends a great deal of time referencing the current edition of the [Machinery Act of North Carolina](#). This book is by far most used "tool in her toolbox" and references the General Statutes that provide the framework for the listing, assessing, and appraising of both real and personal property in North Carolina.



The Tax Collector is an essential element to the entire Finance Department, and works closely with every staff member throughout the department itself, as well as other Department heads and Town management. the Tax Collector is directly aided by 4 employees, usually all seen at the Customer Services Desk just to the right as you enter the Town Hall. Upstairs, the Tax Collector works very closely with the Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable officers, as well as the Town Finance Director, David Hatten.





HOW THEY DO IT. The Town of Oak Island has a yearly budget of around \$42M, which is funded through a combination of fees for services, utility revenues, accommodations tax, special assessments and property tax collection. The Town levies a property tax annually, the rate for which is determined by the Town Council during their annual budget process. While the Council establishes the rate per \$100 valuation (*the 2021 tax rate is .28 cents per \$100*), the values for real or personal property come from the Brunswick County Tax Office. There are some exemptions to this; for example, homeowners aged 65 years or older who own their home and are permanent residents or disabled veterans, could be eligible for property tax relief. Applications for this are available through the NC Department of Revenue.

Property Taxes on the ownership, valuation, and taxability of property are determined annually by January 1. Property tax bills are then sent out with a due date of September 1, and are past due after January 5. It's important to note that Oak Island residents actually receive two (2) separate bills, one from the Town and one from Brunswick County. Taxes must be paid before the past due date to avoid interest charges. Payments received by mail are deemed received based on the date shown on postmarks assigned only by the U.S. Postal Service. The Town does accept *pre-payments* for taxes and sewer district fee. Pre-payment must be stated on the memo line of the check, along with the Parcel ID number.

Accommodations Taxes join property tax collection as the primary responsibilities for the Tax Collector. The Town of Oak Island levies an Accommodations, or "Occupancy" tax on all rentals of hotel / motel rooms, homes, cottages or other lodging facilities that are rented to the same person for less than 90 continuous days. This tax on accommodations is currently levied at 5% of gross receipts. The 5% is derived from a 3% tourism-related tax and a 2% Beach Protection and Renourishment Tax. Reports and accompanying tax payment must be filed with the Town monthly by the 20th day of the month.

While the basic principles of the Tax Collector are simple enough (*there are taxes, they collect them*) the tools and processes they use to ensure their job is performed in a fair and accurate way are heavily detailed. Most all information related to the Tax Collector division, the services they provide, and how they interact with you can be found on the Finance Department page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/FINANCE, or by clicking the link below. Direct information on Property Taxes can be found at www.OakIslandNC.gov/TAX, while information on Accommodations Taxes can be found at www.OakIslandNC.gov/ACCOMMODATIONS. Further questions or tax record requests can be made by calling the Customer Service Desk at 910-201-8009, or using the [***Customer Service Contact Form***](#).

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

PHOTO REVIEW

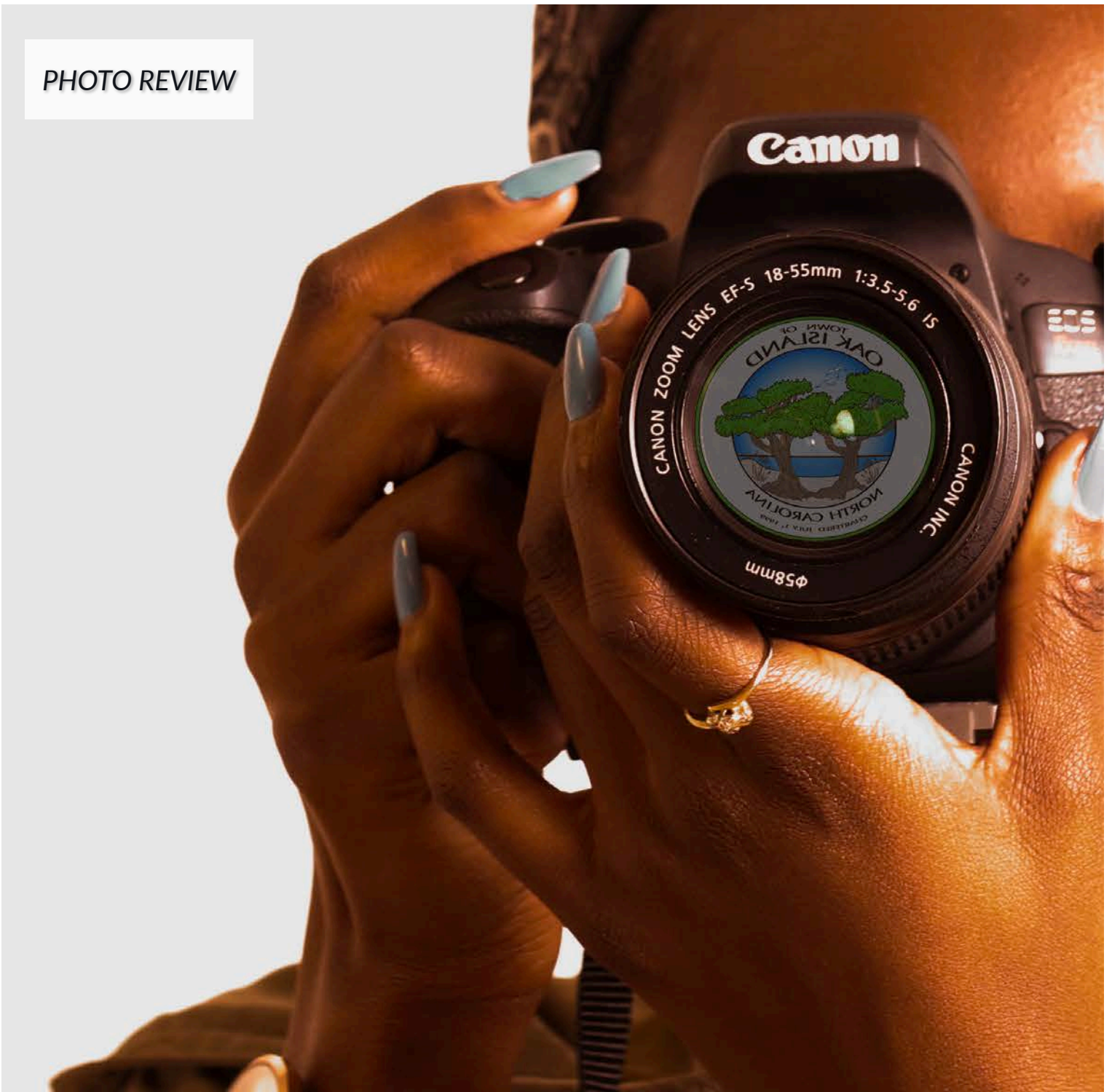
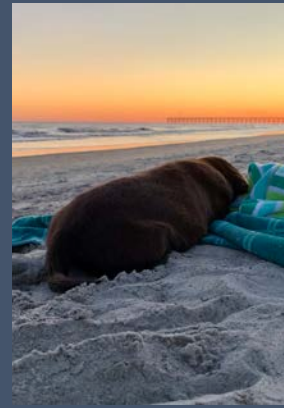
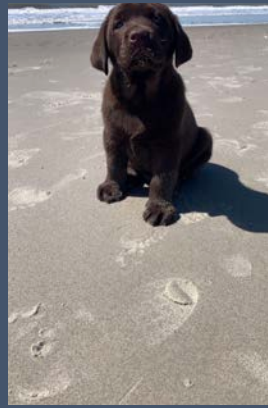


PHOTO REVIEW: MARCH 2022

PLEASE NOTE: The *Photo Review* section contains reader-submitted photos, and allows for greater exposure of the artistic contributions made by members of the Oak Island community. Submissions are donated and not compensated by any means other than courtesy credit here. Please view the captions below for information on this month's contributors.

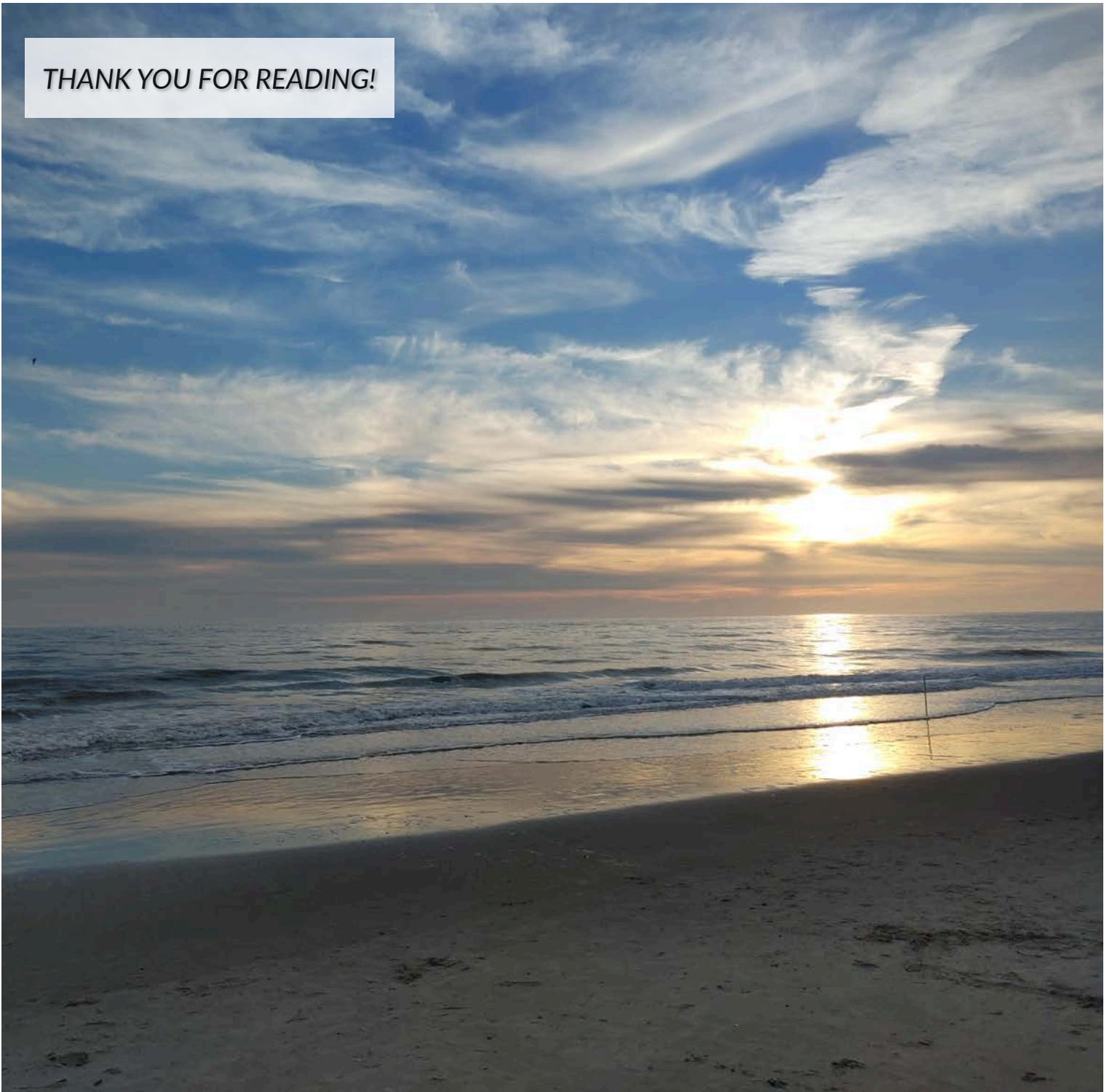
To contribute a submission (must be from the current month only), please email the photo along with a description of the date, location, and photographer or business name to: PHOTOS@oakislandnc.gov.





Shawn Barry: "Dolphin at the Point" • Mary Frances Rodriguez "Black Skimmers in Flight" • Kirk Parish "Pelicans by the Water Tower" • Julie Corneau "Huckleberry, a comfort dog in training" • Luisa Martin "Surf Fishing by the Ocean Crest Pier" • Brenda Torrey Photography "Easter Bunny Beach Walk"

THANK YOU FOR READING!



Thank you for reading the April 2022 edition of **THE CURRENT**. This information is produced by the Town of Oak Island Communications Office and is intended 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.gov/CONTACT, call **910-278-5011**, or email info@oakislandnc.gov.

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