



THE CURRENT

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

July 2023

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Welcome to July

WELCOME to the JULY 2023 edition of THE CURRENT. Congrats, you've made it to Summer! Now is as good a time as any to take a break from the heat and **mosquitoes**, and look back at "*January you.*" Cold. Miserable. Bored. Cold. The next time the sweat slides your shades down off your nose, just remember: **January you wanted this!** But that's OK! what's a few bug bites, or even a little bit of sunburn, when you've got concerts in the park, and 9:00 PM sunsets?

Sure, Oak Island is a great place to be year-round, but let's be honest, it was made for Summer! And Summer doesn't get any more Summer-ry than JULY! From fireworks and friends, to poolside cabanas and cook-outs, there's just something about summer that seems to let us slow down and enjoy life a little more. The only real downside is knowing that all-too-soon, it will be over again. August comes and the kids starting talking about going back to school, then September and the first cool hint of Fall. Before you know it, you're carving pumpkins, basting turkeys, and *Hauling Out the Holly!*

Enough about the future though, remember the **present** is where **Past You** wanted to be anyway. That's why it's important to enjoy the moment, *right here, right now.* Let the long days lead to long nights filled friend, family, food, and fun. In another six months, you'll be right back in the cold, wishing you were back here again in all the excitement. and there's a lot of excitement to go around, as it's been a busy summer so far. So lather up some aloe for that sunburn, blot on the calamine lotion for the *No-See-Ums*, and let's dip our toes into the July 2023 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 Meeting Recap

The Town Council's regular meeting on **Tuesday, June 20, 2023** began with three PRESENTATIONS. **(1)** Certificate of Appreciation for Kamdyn Wood, for his efforts in fulfilling the 2022 pledge from the South Brunswick Middle School Junior Honor Society to water various trees throughout Town. **(2)** Life Saving Pins were awarded to firefighters Mike Young, Chris Dunham, and volunteer firefighter Mike Malady for a successful water rescue made on May 25. **(3)** A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Beach Services Unit employee Bob Kohunt, for his actions in performing a water rescue on June 12.

PUBLIC HEARINGS **(1)** **Proposed text amendments to Section 6.5 and Appendix A related to "Amusement Facilities":** Council voted to remand the text amendment back to the Planning Board for further development. **(2)** **Proposed text amendments to Chapter 32 of the Code of Ordinances - Vegetation:** Council voted to delay the vegetation ordinance until no later than October, upon completion of a Tree Canopy Assessment and Stakeholders Meeting.

PRESENTATION: Abram Young, Special Projects Coordinator for Brunswick County Mosquito Control, gave a presentation on the County's Mosquito Control Program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Have been summarized in the Meeting Minutes; and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COUNCIL REPORTS (MAYOR & COUNCIL): Have been summarized in the Meeting Minutes; and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Council appointed Elise Snavely, David Sonnenfeld, and Sue Davidson to the Environmental Advisory Committee for terms ending in December 2026; and John Schading to the Recreation Advisory Board, term ending 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Department reports are available on the Town's website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DEPT. Reports will be summarized in the Meeting Minutes, and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

OLD BUSINESS: **(1) Proposed Amendment to Chapter 28 of the Code of Ordinances - Traffic:** Council voted to approved the proposed amendment.

NEW BUSINESS: **(1) Consideration of Amendment to the 2023 Town Council Meeting Schedule:** Council approved the amended schedule, moving the September meeting to the 7th instead of the second Tuesday. **(2) Consideration of Contract with Oak Island Water Rescue:** Council voted to accept the contract as presented. **(3) Consideration of Lease for the Oak Island Water Rescue Station property:** Council voted to approve the lease for the term of one-year. **(4) Consideration of Consent Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (for soil sample collection):** Council voted to approve the consent agreement.

CLOSED SESSION: Council voted to enter into closed session, during which no action was taken. Council then voted to adjourn. To view the video, agenda, and minutes for any Town Council meeting, just visit the **Meetings Information** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS, or click the link below.

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

Beach Day Brings The Crowds

Sandcastles, cornhole, concerts ... and **MORE!** Whether it was the good weather, or the great events planned, the annual anniversary of the Town of Oak Island's founding drew record crowds this July 1st for **BEACH DAY** celebrations.

Commemorating the July 1, 1999 merger of the Towns of Yaupon Beach & Long Beach into what is today known as the Town of Oak Island, this year's Beach Day marked the Town's 24th birthday. This year's schedule did not disappoint, as it was filled with fun and family-friendly activities organized by the Oak Island Recreation Department. Continuing on a partnership now several years strong, Beach Day events were also held in collaboration with the North Carolina 4th of July Festival.

Events organized by the Oak Island Recreation Department began early in the day at 8:00 AM, with a horseshoe tournament in the Middleton Park Complex. That quiet competition soon gave way to the joyful squeals of children, as inflatable rides, youth activities, and food concessions filled the Complex in the mid-day hours. Meanwhile over on the beach itself, game tournaments included cornhole, bocce ball, and volleyball, followed by a sandcastle competition.

Back over at the Amphitheater, *The Carl Newton Review* provided some good music in a live concert. Of course, it would be hard to talk about Beach Day without mentioning the most anticipated part ... **the fireworks!** Local music favorite *The Doorsmen* entertained crowds near the Oak Island Pier from 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM; after which came an amazing fireworks display that many said was "one of the best ever!"

As mentioned, this year marked the 24th Anniversary of the town's founding. As you may have guessed, plans are already underway to make next year's 25th Anniversary even better than ever! As the day gets closer, more information will be added to the official Beach Day page on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/BEACHDAY.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





"Chop With A Cop" Event Hits Its Mark

It was the first event of its kind in this area, and one of the most unique community relationship building efforts ever undertaken by the Oak Island Police Department.

For five hours on **Tuesday, June 27, 2023**, dozens of law enforcement officers, deputies, and staff joined teens from around Brunswick County at the Throw Baxe Axe House in Southport, for the first ever ***Chop With A Cop*** event.

Thanks to all of the participating agencies and attending public, this first event was a huge success! The event brought together local first responder agencies and youth in the community, for a time fun, friendly, and furious axe-throwing competition.

The idea of Community Resource Officer, Victor Denoble, Chop With A Cop sought to capitalize on the exciting new entertainment genre sweeping the nation. Partner agencies teamed up with teens aged 13-18 to provide a fun, positive experience during their summer. One could say the event really "*hit its mark*" as everyone enjoyed the friendly competition, which culminated in a presenting of the first ever "Golden Axe Award."

Officer Denoble and the rest of the OKI-PD are already planning for the next event. To stay up to date with the Community Resource Officer program, just visit the dedicated page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/CR or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Cabana Remodel Complete

On **Friday, May 12**, the SE 46th Street Cabana was CLOSED to accommodate a complete renovation effort. While the timing of the closure at the start of the Summer season wasn't ideal, it was the most immediate availability of the remodeling contractors, which would still allow for a summer 2023 use.

Thankfully, those renovations (and the closure they caused) were ultimately short-lived. During the last week in June, the construction tape came down and the work trucks rolled out, reopening the Cabana just in time for Beach Day activities!

Improvements provided by the renovated facility include all new decking for the walkways, stairs, access ramps, and observations deck. New foot rinsing spigots, as well as a brand new Shower tower were also installed, in addition to a remodel of the restrooms themselves. The Cabana has retained its iconic peach colored exterior of the past few years.

These much-needed updates should greatly extend the life of the Oak Island Cabana, and allow for several more years of service to the community.



"Sunset on Summer"



Sunset On Summer

The only sad thing about Beach Day, and then Independence Day, is that there aren't really any holidays left to celebrate during the summer. Yep, after the last firework gets shot off, it's just a sad downhill ride to the end of of the summer fun.

- OR IS IT? -

Folks around Town during the Beach Day / July 4th weekend may have noticed some unusual flyers starting to circulate. These colorful flyers with their wild design brought a promise of some late-summer fun, and a mystery as to just what it could be?

If you weren't one of the lucky ones to receive the flyer, then allow us to let you in on the latest Oak Island (soon to not be) secret: the ***Sunset On Summer Music Festival.***

While the first week of September is often seen as the "unofficial end" to the summer season, it doesn't mean the fun has to end in the Town of Oak Island! Start marking your calendars now to attend this first-ever music festival in Oak Island, planned for **Saturday, September 9, 2023** from **NOON - 8:00 PM.**

Full details, including a band lineup and schedule of events are being added continually throughout the month of July, and will be updated on a dedicated page of the Town Website. To keep up with the latest developments on this fun new festival that caps off the summer fun, just visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/SOS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

CONTRIBUTIONS



CONTRIBUTIONS

This section features content contributed from various Town Departments, as well as the Town's municipal and non-profit partner organizations.

Regular contributing 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, please reach out to the contributing organization directly.

Fire Department Safety Brief: Junior Fire Camp

(Contributed by Tim Fleckinger) This past month, the Oak Island Fire Department hosted its annual **Fire Camp** for kids of various ages. It was again very successful and a pleasure to host. The kids got to learn the ins and outs of the trade and the tools we use on our emergency scenes. They all start off with a morning workout each day to prepare themselves physically for the tasks that day. We did workouts involving all aspects of fitness such as strength, flexibility and cardiovascular conditioning as well as some to teach them that they are stronger as a team than an individual in a lot of circumstances. I led them in these exercises and I have to say that I was impressed with all of them and the effort they put in!

As for their daily drills they did all kinds of evolutions in basic fireground skills. They learned how to properly use a fire extinguisher and how to give CPR. The kids then progressed to hose drags and applications of hose streams. They even got to experience how things were done way back when with a bucket brigade. The crews on shift each day showed them the apparatus that we use as well as the equipment on them. They got a front row seat of how we cut up a car when someone is entrapped. I'm sure they thought this was pretty cool because I know I do. Our friends at water rescue and the OIPD also spoke to them as we all work together at times to handle certain situations that arise. As stated before, we are stronger as a team working in unison. They also got to see an ambulance up close and personal in the best possible way...when you don't need them for an emergency. On the final day they got to showcase their skill and all the hard work they put in all week long to their families with a skills competition in which they were all victorious in playing hard and doing each skill well!

OIFD would like to thank and congratulate all of the kids who participated and the parents who entrusted us with them all week. It was great to meet them and work with them for the week. Its always nice for us, the fireman, to reach out and give back and in doing so effecting the lives of the next generation.

Just one safety reminder this month from us and that is to please remember to fill in your holes when you are getting ready to come off the beach. These do present a safety hazard to any unexpected person that finds themselves slip, trip or falling into one; we've already had to rescue one person who found themselves stuck in one with the tide rushing in. Even if it's not yours please take the time to fill them in, someone eventually will be very thankful you did! As stated, we are all much better off working together as a cohesive unit ensuring the safety of our residents and our visitors alike. OIFD wishes you to go out and enjoy the summertime festivities but do so safely.

For more information on the Oak Island Fire Department, and the many ways we serve our community, visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/FD or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



GET READY TO PLEDGE THE PINK, OKI!

IT'S TIME TO PARTY LIKE A FLOCKSTAR!



OCT 19-22, 2023

Middleton Park | Oak Island, NC

Pledge The Pink Returns to Oak Island

(Contributed by Laura Morgan, Founder, Pledge the Pink) A phenomenon which has swept the southeast, drawing thousands from all points of the globe, Pledge the Pink is the second largest multi-day cancer event in the country. And from October 19-22 they are coming to Oak Island with all the fun, flair and festivities that have made it a must-attend for “FlockStars” everywhere.

Comprising three days of celebrations, with walking and running courses set up across Oak Island, Pledge the Pink will draw more than 1,500 registrants and hundreds of volunteers to Oak Island. As of this writing, with six months until the event, more than 1,200 participants have signed up, representing 48 states and 11 countries. They will come to test themselves on 33.1 miles of pathways, but there's far more to Pledge the Pink than just getting some steps in.

While Pledge the Pink is all about fun, it's also all about fundraising, as evidenced by The Flocks of Love which will be on display at Middleton Park all weekend long. With each flamingo standing for \$100 in funds raised, these rows upon rows of vibrant pink flamingos represent a sizable financial impact for cancer treatment and research. All told, 7,500 plastic garden flamingos will cover the ballpark in what Morgan hopes will set the Guinness World Record for largest flock (again).

Those looking to continue Oak Island's outstanding support for Pledge the Pink are invited to come flock along and participate or volunteer. Assistance is needed with directing registrants along the courses, helping to set up The Flocks of Love flamingo display, passing out water and snacks, awarding medals to winners and more. Check out all the ways you can get involved at www.pledgethepink.com/oki.

ABOUT: Pledge the Pink was founded in 2010 and has raised over \$2,500,000 for breast cancer screening, treatment, and research. The funds are donated around the country but they tend to give a hefty amount to the community that's hosting them. To learn more, visit www.pledgethepink.com/oki or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Beach Preservation Society: Aquarium Visit

(Contributed by Cheryl Cook, Chair, Beach Preservation Society) The North Carolina Aquarium is visiting Oak Island! As part of its education mission, Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc. (BPSI) hosts monthly visits by outreach educators from the NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher. These hour-long, family-oriented programs are free to the public and serve to inform and engage residents and visitors of all ages.

Programs are held at **2:00 PM** in the **Oak Island Recreation Center**, located **3003 E Oak Island Drive**. The following programs are currently scheduled:

- **July 17: Fantastic Fish (Including Sharks)**
- **July 31: Sea Turtle 9-1-1**

Please join BPSI and the Aquarium for these excellent programs.

ABOUT: The Oak Island Beach Preservation Society, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation 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. to learn more, visit www.beachoki.org or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



**Oak Island
Beach
Preservation
Society, Inc.**



Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program: Mid-Season Update

(Contributed by Suzan Bell) July is a busy month for sea turtles! We are halfway through our nesting season and as of this writing, we have 77 nests on Oak Island! We still have nesting turtles and soon we will have hatchlings beginning to emerge from the nests! Both are exciting events for visitors and locals alike. We hope that everyone will be respectful of our sea turtles and follow the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program, and the Town of Oak Island's protocols and procedures for helping to keep our sea turtles, wildlife, and the environment safe.

Did you know that it is a federal offense to disturb sea turtles? Please, if you see a nesting turtle, stand back, always behind her a minimum of 20 feet, do not shine red or white lights on her, do not touch her, or take flash photography of her. If disturbed, she will turn around and go back into the water without laying her nest. Please do not walk on our dunes per the Town of Oak Island. Some of our nests are on top of the dunes, where the nesting turtle crawled up and laid her clutch of eggs. Please do not walk up the dune to look at the nest. The Town of Oak Island has an ordinance against walking on the dunes and fines can be given out. There are lots of other nests on the beach to look at!

Although we do not share locations of our nests per the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to make sure our sea turtles and volunteers are protected, cared for, and safe, if you see a nest with edging around it headed to the water, that nest is in the time frame for emergence. We invite you to bring a chair and sit with us in the evenings! Nest Parent volunteers will be there to speak with you and answer any questions! If hatchlings do emerge, please do not cross the line at the runway. Volunteers need a clear walkway to check to make sure the hatchlings make it to the water! Please do not use flash photography or lean over on top of the hatchling for a picture. There should not be any red or white lights on the hatchlings, the natural light is the very best for sea turtles! The hatchlings are looking for the horizon light and the crest of the waves so any other light can disorient them.

We appreciate everyone that cares for our turtles and their safety! Please call us 24 hours a day, 7 days a week if you see a nesting turtle or any hatchlings without a permitted volunteer at the nest! 910-945-8888. Thank you for helping us protect these threatened species on the Endangered Species List! We hope our 2023 Season continues to be successful! Please follow us on Facebook, or visit our website for more information at www.okiseaturtle.org.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

NEWS & NOTICES

The CURRENT

News & Notices



MEETINGS, NEWS, & NOTICES

Council, Committee, and Board Meetings

REMINDER: Televised public meetings are broadcast live on OKI-TV (Spectrum Cable channel 8), as well as livestreamed on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS. For a complete schedule of all upcoming Council, Committee and Board meetings, visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/CALENDAR.

PAR 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEE (non-televised) will hold its regular meeting on Friday, August 4, 2023 at 1:00 PM in the Par 3 Pro Shop, located at 4188 Vanessa Drive.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD (non-televised) will hold its regular meeting on Monday, July 10, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the Community Center, located at 102 SE 47th Street (beside the Town Hall).

ABC BOARD (non-televised) will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM in the Oak Island ABC Store, located at 5402 E Oak Island Drive.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (non-televised) will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, July 20, 2023** 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.

PLANNING BOARD (televised) will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, July 20, 2023** at **10:30 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

TOWN COUNCIL (televised) will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, July 11, 2023** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

CLOSURES & HOLIDAYS

LABOR DAY: Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island will be CLOSED on **Monday, September 4, 2023** in observance of **Labor Day**. Garbage & Recycling Collection will NOT be affected, however collection may take longer due to higher volume. The [Disposal Convenience](#) site will NOT be open on July 1.

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, Beach & Water Access Locations](#), and facilities will be open as well. All holiday closure dates can be viewed in the *Holiday Calendar* on the Town Website at: www.OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.

Brunswick Nuclear Plant: Siren Test on July 12

(Contributed by Duke Energy) The outdoor warning sirens around the Brunswick Nuclear Plant will be tested between **10:00 AM** and **11:00 AM** on **Wednesday, July 12, 2023**.

As part of our regular, quarterly testing, the 38 sirens within 10 miles of the Brunswick Nuclear Plant will sound for five to 30 seconds on July 12. To ensure they are functioning properly, it may be necessary to test some sirens more than once. Testing is performed in cooperation with emergency officials in Brunswick and New Hanover counties, who are responsible for sounding the sirens.

Because these are tests, local broadcasting stations will not interrupt regular programming to broadcast Emergency Alert System (EAS) messages. If there were ever a real emergency at the plant requiring the sirens to be sounded, local radio and television stations would broadcast information and instructions to the public.

For more information about nuclear emergency preparedness and outdoor warning sirens, residents can visit duke-energy.com/NuclearEP.

Duke Energy Progress, a subsidiary of Duke Energy, owns nuclear, coal, natural gas, renewables and hydroelectric generation. That diverse fuel mix provides about 12,700 megawatts of owned electric capacity to approximately 1.6 million customers in a 32,000-square-mile service area of North Carolina and South Carolina.

Duke Energy (NYSE: DUK), a Fortune 150 company headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., is one of America's largest energy holding companies. Its electric utilities serve 8.2 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky, and collectively own 50,000 megawatts of energy capacity. Its natural gas unit serves 1.6 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio and Kentucky. The company employs 27,600 people.

Duke Energy was named to Fortune's 2023 "World's Most Admired Companies" list and Forbes' "World's Best Employers" list. More information is available at duke-energy.com. The Duke Energy News Center contains news releases, fact sheets, photos and videos. Duke Energy's illumination features stories about people, innovations, community topics and environmental issues. Follow Duke Energy on Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram and Facebook.

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Town of Oak Island, NC



Christmas in July: Parade Weekend Announcement

With it being July and the middle of summer, one of the last things anyone is thinking about is the winter holiday season. However, since "*Christmas in July*" seems to be an effective campaign for retail shops, maybe it will work for some important Town announcements, too!

While the the Town's annual Tree Lighting ceremony and Holiday Craft Market are two favorite yuletide traditions, by far the biggest holiday draw is the ***Christmas By The Sea Parade***.

Traditionally held on the first Saturday in December, this event runs right right through the heart of Town down E Oak Island Drive, and hosts some of the largest crowds outside of Beach Day itself. In years past, the Parade was organized by the Southport-Oak Island Chambers of Commerce, in partnership with the Town.

For 2023 however, the Town has graciously accepted full-organizer status from the Chamber, and will be the sole sponsor and conductor of the Parade.

That changeover brings some new items of organization. In 2022 we saw the largest Parade ever, and we're only looking to improve upon those numbers in 2023! For even bigger and better things to come however, it's going to take everyone getting involved NOW.

This means the Town of Oak Island will now be the sole sponsor and organizer ALL events throughout the entire Holiday Festival Weekend, including the Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Holiday Craft Market, and now the Christmas By the Sea Parade.

So it may be white hot outside right now, but it's never too early to start dreaming of that white Christmas to come (or you know, at least the Parade part)! Registration forms and more information is expected to be posted by the end of July, so be sure to keep checking the ***OKInformation*** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

New Fire Engine: Arriving Soon

It's always fun to get shiny new things, and for the hard-working members of the Oak Island fire Department, it doesn't come any shinier than a brand new **Pierce Enforcer** fire engine!

On June 30, Oak Island fire Chief Lee Price received the latest build update on the Town's newest fire engine, a 2023 Pierce Enforcer. The new engine is being outfitted by Atlantic Emergency Solutions, which is headquartered in Manassas, VA, and has been in production at their Appleton, WI facility since March of this year.

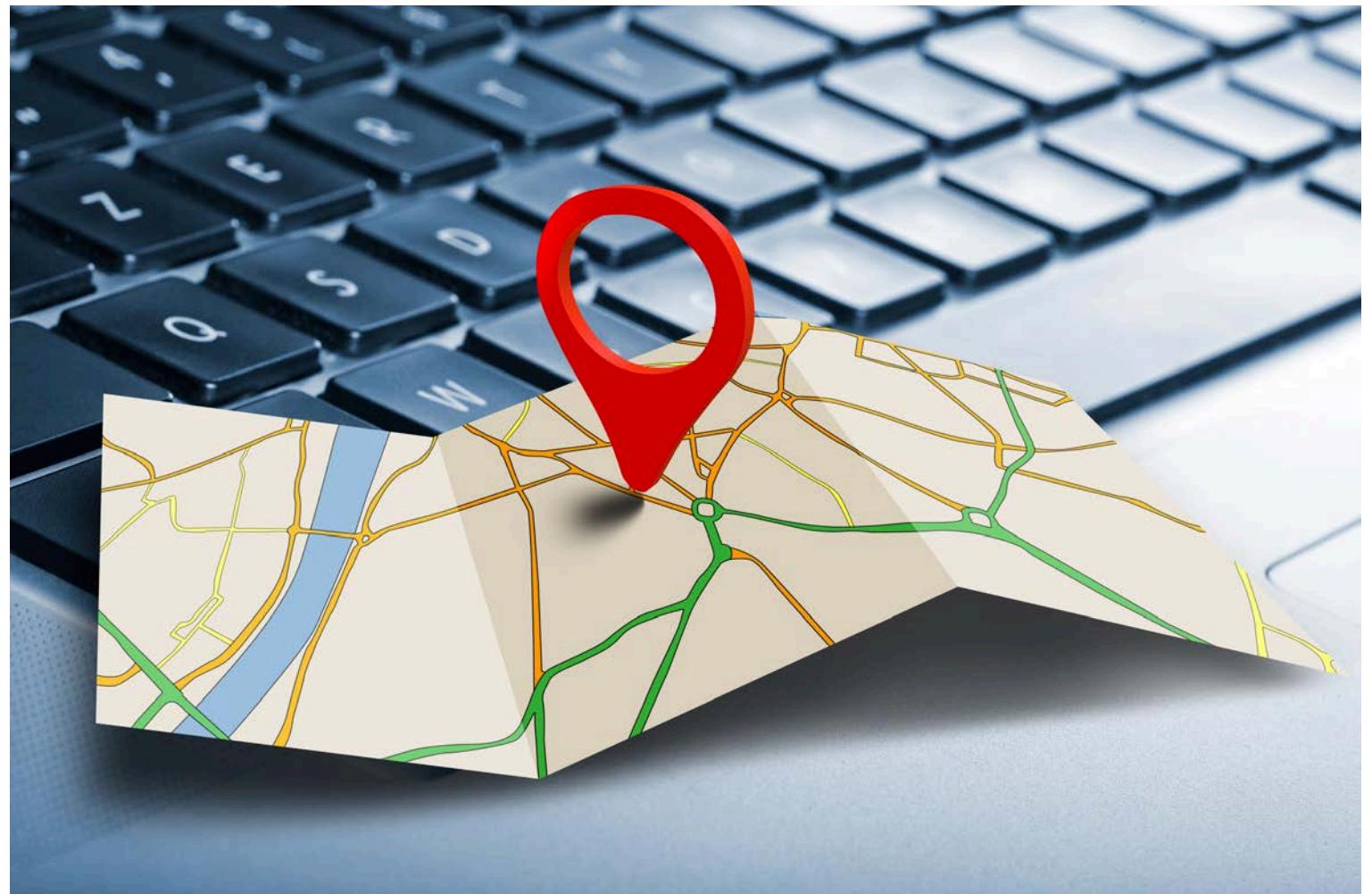
The new truck, which can carry 1,000 gallons of water and features a built-in foam delivery system, costs approximately \$850,000 and is essentially an up-fitted "stock" unit. Buying a stock unit allowed for a much quicker turnaround time than the 20-24 months typically seen on new orders. Note, this is the same tactic the Fire Department is using to locate and purchase its next fire engine, which it hopes to have by the end of this year.

Final touches should be completed early in July, after which representatives from the Oak Island Fire Department will travel to Appleton Wisconsin July 17 to see it in person. You can get your own sneak peak as well, as the truck will actually be on display at the South Atlantic Fire Rescue Expo in Raleigh, NC from **August 9 - 12, 2023**. The truck should arrive to its new home at Oak Island Station 2 immediately following the Expo on August 12.

Atlantic Emergency Solutions is comprised of more than 400 professionals who *"offer knowledgeable sales support, comprehensive parts and service capabilities, around the clock roadside assistance, master trained technicians and valuable customer training."* Throughout the build process, Atlantic has maintained regular correspondence with Administrative staff at the fire Department, and provided visual updates at each stage of the build. To view those updates and see just how a fire engine is made at each stage of build, simply visit www.AtlanticEmergency.com or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





NEW Maps & Directions Page

DID YOU KNOW? Oak Island is one of the largest island in North Carolina by land mass? It's also one of the longest as well!

With nearly 19 square miles of coastal habitat, the Town of Oak Island is full of locations to visit and explore. But for many visitors, and even some seasonal residents, it's also easy to get a little turned around sometimes.

That's why the Communications Office is excited to announce the new Maps & Directions page of the Town Website.

Whether it's finding the perfect Beach Access Location or a quiet park to enjoy some wildlife viewing, the custom, interactive maps provided on this page are perfect for helping you navigate around the community! The page is especially helpful for new Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) users looking to find their way around without crowding up busier streets (like the trusty "White Lane Bypass" to avoid the intersection of Oak Island Drive and Middleton Avenue!).

If this new page could help you get around Town, or maybe even someone you can share it with, just visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/MAPS or click 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.gov/EVENTS.

2nd Annual Dutchman Dinghy Dash

WHEN: Saturday, August 12, 2023 • 11:00 AM

WHERE: Dutchman Creek Park • 4750 Fish Factory Road

COST: The entry fee is a donation worth at least \$10 in non-perishable goods.

REGISTER: www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk

ABOUT: the Dutchman Dinghy Dash (D3) is BACK! This exciting community event challenges participants to design and build a “Dutchman Creek worthy” vessel that will successfully carry two passengers around a set course in the water. Construction materials allowed include only cardboard, duct tape, and glue. Multiple prizes will be given in Youth, Adult, First Responder Agency, and Judge's Choice categories. Register NOW and start building your boat.



Presents the Second Annual...

Dutchman Dinghy Dash

D3: Cardboard Boat Race

WHEN: Saturday, August 12, 2023 • 11:00 AM

WHERE: Dutchman Creek Park
4750 Fish Factory Road

Come join us for a fun and exciting boat race!

The *Dutchman Dinghy Dash (D3)* challenges
builders to travel approximately 400 feet in
homemade cardboard boats *without sinking*.





Oak Island Summer Concert

"Bands By The Beach!" Series • 2023

Friday, May 26: Blackwater Band

Friday, June 2: Christine Martinez Band

Friday, June 9: Autumn Tyde

Friday, June 16: Old Man Mafia Band

Friday, June 23: The Entertainers

Saturday, July 1: Carl Newton's Review

Summer Concert Series

WHEN: NOW through September 2 • 6:20 PM

WHERE: Middleton Park Complex Amphitheater

ABOUT: 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! For 15 weeks, from May to September, we turn the amps up to "11" and come together for the annual Town of Oak Island Summer Concert Series. The scheduled time for most concert events will be each Friday, from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM unless otherwise noted. Full series information, concert dates, and scheduled bands are available at www.OakIslandNC.gov/CONCERT.

Farmers' & Artisans' Market

WHEN: Mondays, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM • Now - September 4

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

COST: Free to attend / shop

PARKING: Please note that Paid Parking is NOT charged during Market times, in areas around the Middleton Park complex (SE 46th - SE 49th streets)

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.





Crabbing To Cuisine

with the Oak Island Crab Man

August 18, 2023 • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E. Oak Island Drive

Register at www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk

\$40 Residents / \$45 Non-Residents

Ages: 12 Years & Older

****Participants under age 16 must attend
with a registered participant age 18 or older**

Crabbing To Cuisine

WHEN: August 18, 2023 • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

WHERE: Ocean Education Center • 4700 E. Oak Island Dr.

WHO: Ages: 12 Years & Older

COST: \$40 Residents / \$45 Non-Residents

REGISTER: www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk

ABOUT: Crabbing to Cuisine has been a huge hit this summer, so the Oak Island Recreation Department and Steve's Crab Shack OKI are adding a **fourth** class this August! Join Steve's Crab Shack learning all about the Blue Crab! Discussions include methods of catching crabs, types of bait, local areas where crabbing is permitted, as well as how to prepare and steam your catch. Participants receive hands on practice in picking Blue Crab for a taste test that is sure to have your taste buds screaming for more!

PLEASE NOTE: Participants under age 16 must attend with a registered participant age 18 or older.

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](#)

TOWN FEATURE



DEPARTMENT FEATURE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

You've seen it before, in classic westerns or action dramas. A lone hero rides into what might as well be a ghost town, ready to save the few remaining souls still clinging on to whatever life is left in this rundown town. Broken doors and empty windows are everywhere, filled with only cobwebs, as the occasional tumbleweed rolls down the street. Somewhere you here a lone voice say *"this used to be a nice place to live."*

The "dried up town" is a common trope in TV or movies; and while it may make for a dramatic scene on TV, you don't have to look far to realize that there are places like that in real life. America is littered with near "ghost towns" that didn't recognize the changing of the times, who never adapted to new sources of economic growth, or tried to hold on too tightly to resources that slowly went extinct. However, there's usually a reason for this. It's not that anyone wants to see a town go under on purpose, they often just don't have someone dedicated to seeking out new and diverse avenues for economic development.



ENTER: Someone dedicated to seeking out new and diverse avenues for economic development.

While people may be the "life blood" of a community, it is the local economy that provides a community's heart. Businesses and industries employ people, which provides them with salaries that they spend at other businesses. An employee at the local bakery hires a plumber to fix their pipes, allowing the plumber to hire a carpenter to build their home, allowing the carpenter to pay a mechanic to fix their vehicle, a vehicle they then use to drive to the bakery for some donuts ... and let's be honest here, **donuts benefit everybody!**

While that model works great, it isn't exactly "perpetual motion." It must occasionally be infused with new plumbers, bakers, carpenters, mechanics, and whole host of new businesses, along with new spaces for them to ply their trades. Even in a place as seemingly timeless as Oak Island, the economic tides can change quicker than the sands at **The Point** after a good storm! Anyone looking around today will probably tell you that **tourism** is the main "driving factor" in the local economy, but 75 years ago it was commercial fishing; and 75 years before that it was fox hunting! Having a person or group dedicated to keeping track of what is and isn't working for the local economy is the best way to ensure it stays healthy.

That's where the **Economic Development Office** comes in. Created in 2023, the office looks to do just as its name suggests, help to develop the economy in and around the Town of Oak Island. Economic Development is "**the practice of improving a community's economic well-being and quality of life.**" It includes a broad range of activities to attract, create, and retain jobs and to foster a resilient economy. Simply put, this office will help to recruit and encourage new growth, balanced with retaining the character and charm traditionally found in the community's already established businesses.



PROFILE: Economic Development Coordinator Hallie Willis recently joined the Town of Oak Island staff in May, as the first-ever Economic Development Coordinator hired by the Town. Although new to the staff, Willis is certainly not new to Oak Island, as she grew up in Laurinburg, NC just a few hours west.

Hallie graduated from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC with a BA in International Politics; later heading for the coast, where she graduated from UNCW with an Master's of Public Administration.

That education opened the door for experience in several markets, as Willis has worked in the fields of Economic Development and marketing / tourism the Town of Wake Forest, NC, New Hanover County Government, and even Charlotte, NC.

No matter where the job takes her, she says the enjoyment from helping a community grow is always the same.

"The basic goals behind Economic Development are simple - attracting new business, retaining existing business, and growing existing business." Willis says of her profession. *"I'm passionate about putting in the work with business owners to help achieve those goals and improve the quality of life for our community."*

In her brief time with the Town so far, Hallie Willis has already been making great strides to reach out and connect with the business community. However, when she's not in the office or out meeting prospective business owners, she enjoys time at home with her dog, an 8-year-old West Highland Terrier named Archie.

While there isn't a dedicated staff for Hallie Willis, the Economic Development Office does have several tools at its disposal. Resources like the Town's ***Business Directory***, along with marketing campaigns, census and demographics data, and even ***commercial property listings*** are all things that can be utilized to leverage growth. The Economic Development Office will use these tools, and regularly collaborate with local stakeholders, to provide guidance and resources to help other businesses thrive. Because like in the "baker to mechanic" analogy above, the more one business thrives, the more every business can thrive.



Meaning more signs like these.

GROW WITH US. Oak Island boasts a thriving and supportive business community, fostering an environment that encourages growth, collaboration, and entrepreneurship. The Town's strategic location along the stunning North Carolina coastline also presents excellent opportunities to tap into a steady stream of tourists and visitors, providing a built-in customer base for various industries. With the customers already here, economic growth depends on identifying what those customers want to see when they are here. What goods, services, and industries fit their needs, and would encourage them to seek out and stay in this community? The Economic Development Office's ***Grow Your Business*** campaign aims to answer those questions, by providing a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Program to connect with entrepreneurs who feel their trades are needed in this community.



TOURISM COUNTS. For an attractive coastal destination like the Oak Island area, tourism and travel are essential in stimulating economic growth, cultivating vibrant communities, creating job opportunities, encouraging new businesses, and elevating the quality of life for residents who enjoy the area every day. In fact, many of the area's facilities and infrastructure would not exist without the tourism industry. While Brunswick County has and will continue to experience growth, it takes more than the current full-time resident population to support the multiple grocery stores, improved parks, and recreation facilities alone. The ***Chamber of Commerce's Tourism Counts*** campaign works to capitalize on that influx of the tourist population each year. Utilizing the resource of tourism helps to build the infrastructure that attracts more visitors, while at the same time supporting more amenities for year round residents.

From seeking out new opportunities, to keeping track of [current development projects](#), the Office takes a "whole community" approach to both attracting new business and preserving what's currently established. While the Economic Development Office is still a new department within the Town's administration, the obvious benefits it already provides is undeniable. If you would like to stay up-to-date with the latest news from the Economic Development Office, or learn more about the services it provides, simply visit the dedicated pages on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DEVELOPMENT or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

PHOTO REVIEW

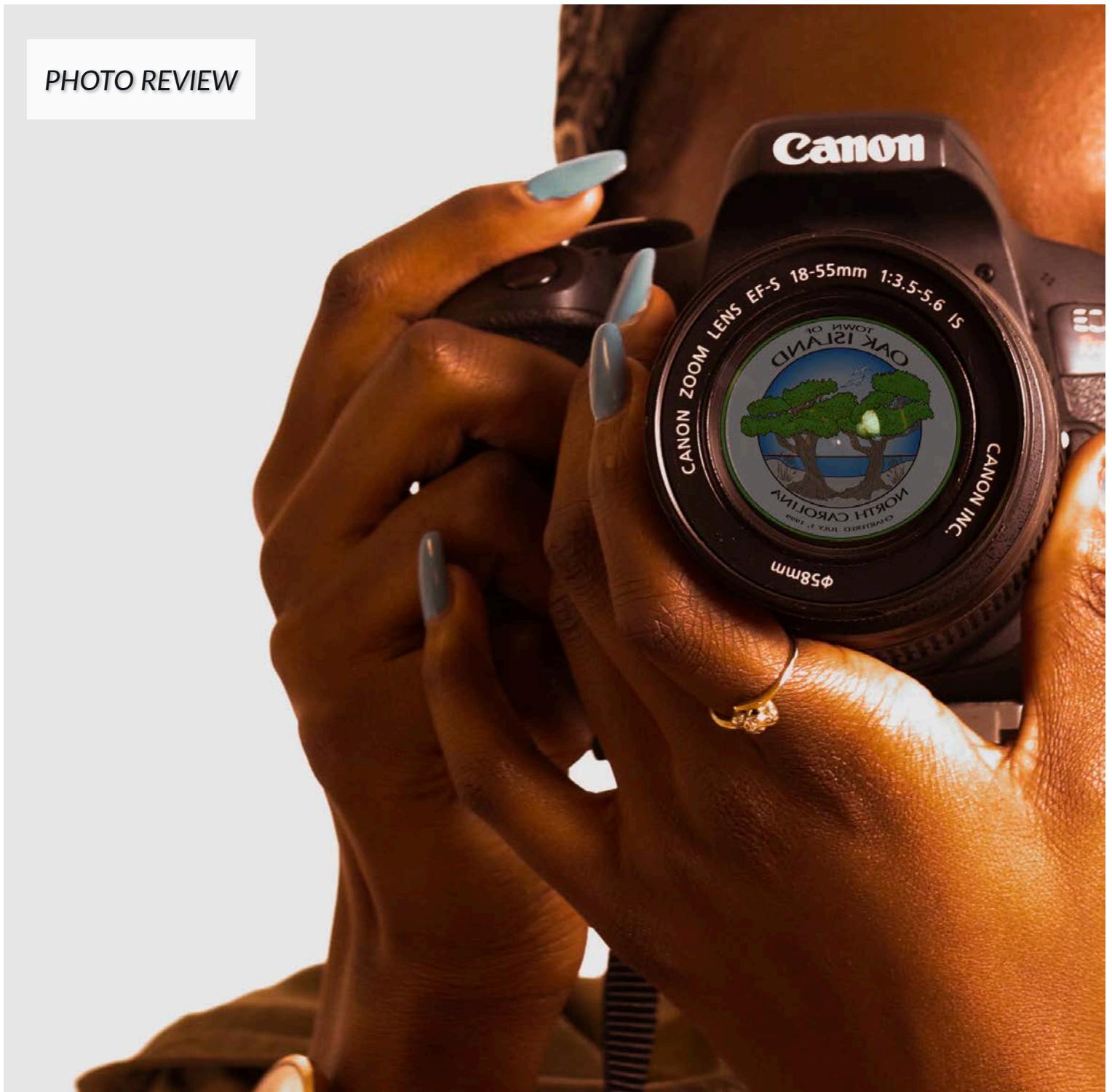
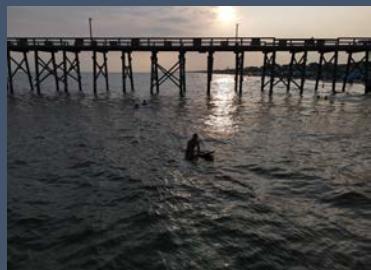
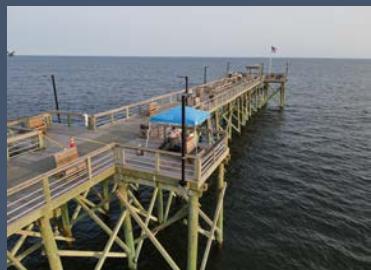


PHOTO REVIEW

Provided below are examples of the visuals seen around Town throughout the past month. This section contains officially published AND reader submitted photos. Submissions are donated and not compensated, but are properly credited in the captions below. To contribute a submission, please email the photo along with a description of the date, location, and photographer or business name to: photos@oakislandnc.gov.







Volleyball Tournament Photos Courtesy: Matthew Jennewein

THANKS FOR READING!



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