

An aerial photograph of Oak Island, North Carolina, featuring a prominent water tower with a lattice steel structure and a spherical tank labeled "OAK ISLAND". The tower stands amidst a dense forest of green trees. To the left of the tower, a multi-lane highway stretches into the distance. The sky above is a soft gradient of blue and purple, indicating twilight. The overall scene is captured from a high angle, looking down on the town and its natural surroundings.

THE CURRENT

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

November 2023

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

Welcome to NOVEMBER

WELCOME to the NOVEMBER 2023 edition of **THE CURRENT**. In America, there are two days that really stand out about November: Election Day and Thanksgiving. Thankfully, most folks have enough sense to keep the two separate. Everyone knows politics don't go over well at the family's holiday dinner table, and we're pretty certain the Election Board won't look to kindly on you bringing your "emotional support" gravy bowl to the polls.

Yet, in both of these days, we do a very similar thing. **We give**. In one, we give our opinion; **our vote** of who we feel are the best candidates to lead our community. In the other, we give thanks; **our gratitude** that, no matter how bad things may seem, or no matter what our opinion of those leading us, we are still grateful to be where we are, and live how we live.

As both new and longtime residents can confirm, there is always something to be grateful for when the peaceful beauty of Oak Island is just outside your front door. Whether you're thankful for that time spent with family, or just a quiet walk on the sand, chances are it doesn't take much to find something deserving of your gratitude. And while a typical fall feast here on the coast may involve more crab cakes than cranberry sauce, it doesn't mean the spirit of thankfulness won't still apply! So tie on a napkin and grab your favorite ladle, 'cause we're about to serve a heapin' helpin' of good news to be thankful for in the NOVEMBER edition of THE CURRENT.

MONTHLY REVIEW



REMINDER: Format Change to WEEKLY Publication

REMINDER: Beginning on **Monday, November 27, 2023**, *The CURRENT* will transition to a **WEEKLY** schedule, published every Monday.

This new format will deliver important Town news in a more streamlined, "weekly update" style, with shorter articles, less commentary, and links to view the full details on topics you care most about.

Notifications on new editions will still be emailed to all subscribers, and the all present and past editions will still be available to view anytime, online at www.OakIslandNC.gov/CURRENT.



Council Meeting Recap

The Town Council's regular meeting on **Tuesday, November 14, 2023** began with two presentations on **(1)** the Oak Island Tree Canopy Assessment, and **(2)** Year-end Report on 2023 Paid Parking Program. Both presentations will be summarized in the Minutes, and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COUNCIL REPORTS will be summarized in the Minutes, and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT (1) Council unanimously appointed Carl Steele to the Par 3 Advisory Board for one unexpired term ending Jan 2025. **(2)** Council unanimously appointed Steve Yuhasz to the Board of Adjustment, to fill an unexpired term ending March 2025 **(3)** Council unanimously appointed Jeweleen Mustard to the term ending June 2026 to the Environmental Advisory Committee (3 seats available, with terms ending in June 2024, June 2025, and June 2026).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS Department reports are available on the Town's website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DEPT. Economic Development Coordinator Hallie Willis also gave a report on the OKInsight Community Survey that started Nov 14. Reports can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

OLD BUSINESS (1) Council adopted the Oak Island Honors Flag Program and Policy, but requested the Recreation Advisory Board consider holding a ceremony to return the flags to the applicants at the end of the year and to review the lottery system for selecting honorees. **(2)** Council unanimously approved the amendment to the Moffatt & Nichol Contract for Additional Data Collection (for Bureau of Ocean Energy Management study)

NEW BUSINESS (1) Council approved the presented Budget Ordinance Amendments. **(2)** Council approved the Request for Proposals for updates to the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

CLOSED SESSION Council entered into Closed Session, during which there was no action taken. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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

Progress Made at Public Art Workshops

"Public Art ... for all of us!"

Back in 2022, the Town Council approved a budget amendment that appropriated funds for public art initiatives. After being presented with options on how to use those funds, the initiative finally found some direction with the hiring of Economic Development Coordinator, Hallie Willis earlier this year.

Recognizing the economic benefit a robust public arts scene can bring, and having worked in similar projects before, Willis immediately set out to establish and grow this new program. As "art" is subject to the viewer and reflective of the local culture, the first task was to receive input from community on what counted as local art.

On **Monday & Tuesday, October 16 & 17, 2023** the Town officially launched the ***Oak Island Public Art Trail*** through TWO workshops held at the 801 Ocean events Center. Over two dozen creative-minded attendees showed up for the workshops, to help lay the foundations of greater artistic efforts to come.

As the "Public" Art name suggests, these workshops were open to all members of the public. They presented five different arts and crafts stations to help bring out the creative side of all ages and skill levels. This effort provided an opportunity for everyone to come out and share their vision of what a Public Art Trail should include for Oak Island; whether it's to celebrate nature, remember history, or simply enrich the lives of residents and visitors alike.

Although only a first step, hosting these public workshops proved a huge step in helping to build upon the Town Council's direction to establish a public art initiative. As the Art Trail develops a dedicated page on the Town Website will be available soon! For updates on the page, just visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/ART or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





"Contractor Evening" Series Kicks Off

On the evening of **Monday, November 6, 2023** the Town's **Stormwater Department** kicked off the first of its new ***Contractor Evening*** series.

The Series, which is anticipated to become a semi-regular event, is a collaboration of the [Stormwater Department](#) and the [Environmental Advisory Committee](#), and aims to bring local builders and contractors together to learn about various construction methods that can benefit or reduce the impacts to our environment.

This first meeting saw roughly a dozen area builders show up to the Community Center, located beside the Town Hall at 102 SE 47th Street, where they enjoyed a time of networking, refreshments and information from guest speaker Gordon Singletary. Mr. Singletary is a Special Products Specialist with S&W Ready-Mix, who spoke on the "pervious concrete" and how to incorporate it into building plans that accommodate for stormwater drainage.

By educating area contractors on new products and innovative building techniques, the Series hopes to ensure the growth of Oak Island will complement the surrounding environment, instead of replacing it.

For more information on the Contractor Series, or the education efforts of the Stormwater Department, just visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/SW or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

"Peer" Fishin' Fun During Operation North State

During the last full week of October, the [Oak Island Pier](#) was proud to serve as host for the **2023 [Operation North State Peer Fishin' Festival](#)**. This annual event features brings veterans and wounded warriors to the area for a week long period of "*Fellowship and Fun Fishing Times!*"

In addition to no cost fishing for each of the participants, daily meals were cooked and served onsite by local civic group and first responders, including the Oak Island Fire Department and Oak Island Police Department. Meals were served in the neighboring [801 Ocean Event Center](#).

Operation North State (ONS) was founded in December 2010. It's a 501 c3 non-profit (ALL VOLUNTEER) veterans support services organization which provides recreational outings (fishing, golf, cycling, attending events, etc.) to wounded warriors / DVets. For 2023, ONS expects to host forty-eight (43) "unique" projects within North Carolina. Additionally, in 2023, ONS will host nearly 200 one-on-one fishing and golf outings for wounded warriors / DVets throughout the state. This includes dozens of veterans that attend the events from North Carolina's neighboring states too.

The Town of Oak Island appreciates the commitment and sacrifice of these brave individuals, and was honored to once again serve as host to this organization and its wonderful event.

For more information on Operation North state, you can visit their website at www.operationnorthstate.com, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



NEWS & NOTICES

The CURRENT

News & Notices



MEETINGS, NEWS, & NOTICES

Council, Committee, and Board Meetings

REMINDER: Televised public meetings are 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.

SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE: on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM the **TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a public meeting, to review recommended changes and receive input for the **2024 Paid Parking Season**. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive, and will also be livestreamed on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS.

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 9:00 AM the **PLANNING BOARD** will hold its next meeting (televised) in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 8:30 AM the **ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive.

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

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 4:00 PM the **RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) in the Community Center, located at 102 SE 47th Street, beside the Town Hall.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM the **ABC BOARD** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) in the Oak Island ABC Store, located at 5402 E Oak Island Drive.

Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 PM the **TOWN COUNCIL** (televised) will hold its next regular meeting in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

CLOSURES & HOLIDAYS

THANKSGIVING: Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island will be CLOSED on **Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24, 2023** in celebration of **Thanksgiving**. Garbage & Recycling Collection will NOT be affected, however collection may take longer due to higher volume. The Disposal Convenience site will be CLOSED on Friday, November 24, 2023.

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.

Beach Bonfire Season Begins

Beginning on **Thursday, November 16, 2023** after the official end of Sea Turtle Nesting Season, Beach Bonfires will once again be permitted on the public beach areas. While enjoying bonfires on the beach is a time-honored tradition for many, there are some important tips everyone needs to know, whether it's their first-ever fire or just the first for the season.

A **Beach Bonfire Permit** is **REQUIRED** from the Fire Department before any bonfire can be conducted. Permits are **FREE** to submit online, and simply provide the Fire Department with a record of when and where to expect open flames on the public beach areas.

The permit process is automated, and no direct approval response from the Fire Department is provided. After submitting, you should receive a an email copy of your Permit Application. Retain this copy, either in printed or digital form, as this may be requested by first responders if called to your areas.

Beach Bonfire Permits:

- CANNOT be submitted more than 72 hours from the date on the bonfire, to allow for accurate windspeed forecast
- MUST use the windspeed forecast provided on the Bonfire Permit Application (no third-party apps)
- CANNOT cover multiple bonfires or multiple days (one permit per bonfire, per day)
- MUST be submitted directly by the individual they will be used for - others cannot do this for you as part of a free or paid service

IMPORTANT: If at any point windspeed forecasts change to exceed 15 MPH, all permits will be effectively **CANCELLED** until windspeeds lower. If windspeeds return to safe limits before your original bonfire date expires, a new application will not be needed.

As for the bonfire itself, remember to keep safety a top priority! Do NOT place bonfires in the Emergency Vehicle Paths or on any sand dunes. Make sure the flame size stays about 4 feet in diameter or smaller. Do NOT burn yard debris, trash, or any materials other than dried firewood. Finally, be sure to clean up your site; all burned materials **MUST** be cooled and completely removed from the beach (DO NOT bury materials in the sand).

To learn more about Beach Bonfires or submit a Permit Application, just visit the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/BONFIRE or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE



OK_{Insight}

Town of Oak Island Community Survey 2023



"OKInsight" Community Survey Now Open

From **Tuesday, November 14 - Thursday, November 30, 2023**, the Town of Oak Island is hosting the NEW **OKInsight** ("OKI + Insight") **2023 Community Survey**.

The purpose of the Community Survey is to help the Town of Oak Island gather input from the community on a wide range of issues impacting the overall quality of life. The Survey looks at multiple areas, including quality of life in the Town, satisfaction with core Town services, as well as perceptions of safety and value.

The Survey is open to EVERYONE, including residents, property owners, business owners, and visitors alike!

Results of the Community Survey will provide statistically valid insights that Town leaders can use to strategically plan for the future.

The Survey will remain open until 5:00 PM on Thursday, November 30, 2023.

To participate in the Survey, simply visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/SURVEY, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

FINAL REMINDER: Christmas Parade Registration Due NOW

The Annual ***Christmas By The Sea Parade*** will be held on **Saturday, December 2, 2023** at 2:00 PM.

NOTICE: the Parade Entry Application Deadline has been **EXTENDED** to **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023** at 5:00 PM. Entry fees vary from non-profits to commercial businesses, ranging from free to just **\$25**. Details are available on the Parade Entry Application at www.OakIslandNC.gov/PARADE.

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***. **Starting at 2:00 PM** on December 2, the parade will **begin** in front of Town Hall at **4601 E Oak Island Drive**, and wind its way eastward until it ends at McGlamery Street.

Traditionally held on the first Saturday in December, this event boasts 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.

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

The only thing more exciting than watching the Christmas By The Sea Parade is being a part of it! If you or an organization you represent would like to participate in the parade, fill out a Parade Entry Application **NOW**, by visiting www.OakIslandNC.gov/PARADE, or clicking the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA



Town of Oak Island, NC



NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS ONLY

CAMPAIGN RUNS 1 OCTOBER
THROUGH DECEMBER

 MARINE CORPS RESERVE



NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS

CAMPAIGN RUNS 1 OCTOBER
THROUGH DECEMBER



MARINE CORPS RESERVE



Toys - For - Tots

Throughout the month of November, and into the second full week of December, the iconic **Toys-For-Tots** collection boxes will be placed in visible areas to raise donations for the Toys-For-Tots program.

Donations can be dropped off anonymously at any time during the regular business hours for the following Town facilities:

- Town Hall (4601 E Oak Island Drive)
- Police Department (4621 E Oak Island Drive)
- Recreation Center (3003 E Oak Island Drive)
- Oak Island Pier (705 Ocean Drive)
- ALL three (3) Fire Stations: Station 1 (101 E Oak Island Drive) / Station 2 (8510 E Oak Island Drive) / Station 3 (4151 Vanessa Dr SE)

Although there is no official "wish list" provided for the campaign, Toys for Tots reminds donors to please bring new, unwrapped toys that are preferably around the \$10 or above price range. Homemade toys are also accepted, and books are also needed. Children receive 2 toys each, and 3 books count as ONE gift! Please avoid donating realistic looking weapons or gifts with food.

ABOUT: Since 1947, the US Marine Corps and Toys-For-Tots have been working together to provide toys for children in need during the Christmas holiday season through their "Fill The Box" campaign. They remain a top rated charity, with over 97% of donations going directly to the mission of providing toys, books, and other gifts to less fortunate children. The 3% spent on support, principally covers fundraising expenses. Not one donated dollar goes to salaries or any other manpower costs. To date, the program has provided over 627 MILLION TOYS and supported over 281 MILLION CHILDREN.

To learn more about Toys-For-Tots and the "Fill The Box" campaign, just visit their website at www.ToysForTots.org, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Car Seat Check Event

On **Saturday, November 18, 2023** from **9:00 AM - 2:00 PM** the Oak Island Fire Department will be hosting a ***Car Seat Check*** event in the **Middleton Park Complex** parking lot, located at **4610 E Dolphin Drive**.

Firefighters from within the Department who are certified [SafeKids](#) Car Seat Technicians will be on hand to check and assist with installing child safety car seats.

According to [SafeKids Worldwide](#), it is important to use a car seat until children reach the maximum weight or height limit listed on the label. There is no need to rush on to the next size / type of car seat or booster seat, as every step forward reduces safety just a bit. Car Seat Check events are a crucial step to ensuring your child has the right seat, with the right fit. Doing so means providing for their safety in the unfortunate event of an accident.

For more information, contact the Fire Department directly by calling 910-278-1000, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Oak Island Fire Department

WILL HOST A CAR SEAT CHECK

- Saturday, November 18, 2023
- 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Middleton Park Complex



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.

Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

WHEN: Friday, December 1, 2023 • 5:00 PM Entertainment Begins • 6:00 PM Tree Lighting

WHERE: Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E. Dolphin Dr.


COST: FREE to Attend

AGES: All Ages

ABOUT: Spend an evening with friends and family as OKI Parks and Recreation ushers in the magic of the holiday season. Relax before the Christmas rush as the community comes together to enjoy FREE entertainment with local music, crafts, Santa mailing station, and more! Be sure to stick around as islanders welcome the arrival of good ole' Saint Nick.



CHRISTMAS BY THE SEA



Annual Parade & Festival

Town of Oak Island, NC



Christmas By the Sea Parade

WHEN: Saturday, December 2, 2023 • 2:00 PM

WHERE: Along E Oak Island Drive, from SE. 46th St. to McGlamery St.

COST: FREE to spectators • Parade float entries range from free to \$50

ABOUT: It's an Oak Island tradition! Held on the first Saturday in December, the annual Christmas By The Sea Parade runs right right through the heart of Town along E Oak Island Drive, and hosts some of the largest crowds outside of Beach Day itself. NEW for 2023, the Town of Oak Island is now the sole sponsor and organizer of the Parade.

9th Annual Holiday Craft Market

WHEN: Sunday, December 3, 2023 • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

WHERE: Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E. Dolphin Dr.

COST: Free to Attend

AGES: All Ages

ABOUT: Oak Island's Holiday Craft Market will be returning to Middleton Park this December. Discover a unique assortment of craft and homemade items that are sure for wow worthy gifts this holiday season. Enjoy holiday music while you shop until you drop, or simply peruse the market the perfect Sunday afternoon outing. With close to 100 small businesses in attendance, this year's event will one holiday opportunity you won't want to miss.





Build Your Own Gingerbread House

WHEN: Saturday, December 9, 2023 • 10:00 AM - NOON

WHERE: Oak Island Community Resource Center • 102 SE 47th Street.,
Oak Island, NC 28465

COST: \$12 Town of Oak Island Residents • \$18 Non Residents and Island
Visitors

Registration Required: www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk

ABOUT: Stop in to create your very own Gingerbread House at the Oak Island Community Resource Center this holiday season. Part of Oak Island's Twelve Days of Christmas, families are invited to build tasty homes using a variety of edible goods. Kits take approximately 30 minutes to decorate, making this drop in program the perfect weekend adventure this holiday season. Pre-registration is required, and fees are per participant, per gingerbread house.

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: ADMINISTRATION

"People ask the difference between a leader and a boss. The leader leads, and the boss drives." Few quotes have summed up the difference between these two roles better this, provided over a hundred years ago by Theodore Roosevelt. As a politician, statesman, historian, author, Rough Rider and 26th president of the United States ... Teddy had seen just about every kind of authority figure the world could produce. So it's safe to say his assessment was accurate. While society has since traded the cattle-driving range of Roosevelt's youth for a modern office setting, the roles of "leader" and "boss" are still relevant to this day. When applied to local government, maintaining the health of a Town while still ensuring safe growth takes more leaders than bosses.



By far, the most common form of government in America is the **Council-Manager**. It is most popular in cities with populations over 10,000, mainly in areas along the Pacific Coast and the Southeast (*just like Oak Island*). Under this form, the elected members of the Mayor and Town Council oversee the general administration, make policy, and approve the Town Budget. Beyond that, their main task is the selection and hiring of a Town Manager. Change out the word "leader" from Roosevelt's quote for "manager" and you get a pretty basic job description of one of the most important roles in local government.

The Town Manager is responsible for administering the daily operations of the Town, as well as structuring the long-term projects and budget planning for the Town Council's consideration. While the Council hires the Town Manager, the Manager is then responsible for the hiring and oversight of all Town employees, who are part of their respective departments and divisions. In total, 153 full-time employees and 56 additional part-time and seasonal workers are currently under the Manager's responsibility.

PROFILE: Town Manager David Kelly has long been a fixture in the Oak Island workforce, with 34 years' experience in municipal government. His job titles have included *Chief Building Inspector*, *Public Utilities Director*, and most recently before becoming Manager, the Town's *Public Services Director*. As Utilities Director, David supervised the daily operation and maintenance of the Town's utility facilities which includes two wastewater treatment plants, a collection system of gravity (35 lift stations) and vacuum (9 vacuum stations). As Public Services Director, he also supervised the Public Works Department which included the Streets, Operations, Facilities Maintenance, Garage, Solid Waste, and Stormwater divisions.

Since 1992, David has worked for the Town of Oak Island, and the Town of Yaupon Beach prior to its 1999 merger with Long Beach. He also previously worked with Brunswick County Utilities. His ties to the coastal communities run deep, as his mother Dot Kelly was Mayor of Yaupon Beach and co-Mayor of the newly formed Town of Oak Island in 1999. The Town honored her with the dedication of the Dot Kelly Butterfly Garden, located adjacent to the Nature Center on E. Yacht Dr. David and his wife raised two sons and now enjoy spending time with grandchildren. As a volunteer, David coached youth and high school football for many years, and also mentored several area youths. Several of those he mentored are now also working in local government!

Since becoming Town Manager, David has implemented plans to improve the Town's working relationship with other government entities and to continue to build a team atmosphere among Town employees. Through its \$49M annual budget, the Town provides fire and police protection, planning & zoning, building inspections & code enforcement, public works, water & sewer service, stormwater, and recreation services.

He has overseen a wide range of projects, including the post-Hurricane Matthew, Florence and Isaias FEMA Emergency Dune Restoration Projects, financing and engineering for long-term beach nourishment for proposed and future projects, Oak Island Fishing Pier Replacement Project, rebuild of the skate park, and the addition of the Splashpad, Amphitheater and Pirate Ship Playground to the Middleton Park Complex. He continues to work with NCDOT for public safety projects, and on sewer system upgrades and planned improvements to the Town's public parking areas, among many other projects.



As a Town Manager, David feels the greatest challenges are providing the same level of services even through the continued rise in costs, keeping fees and taxes as low as possible for our citizens, and keeping the island affordable for those who currently live here and for the people who will come. On the other hand, those challenges give rise to great rewards, and David says he remembers the words of his mother, that "***the greatest reward is to go home at the end of the day and know that you did the best that you could for the people you serve.***"

On a day-to-day basis, David says the tools and resources he finds most useful are definitely the people he works with. *"It's Town staff and their working knowledge of the community," says David Kelly, "all their experience and dedication they have on a daily basis to provide the best service we can to the community."*



Don't think it's all a one-person show though! From the Town Manager through the department heads and division supervisors, there's a dedicated structure in place. This helps ensure the driving directives set out by Town Council can be achieved as efficiently as possible. In addition to the Department Heads, the Manager directly oversees the Town Administration Department, which consists of the Town Clerk, Human Resources Officer, UAS Support, an Administrative Support Specialist, and the Communications Office. Recent additions now include the Economic Development Coordinator and Department, a drone operator, and reinstated Stormwater Administrator position.

Town Administration is responsible for facilitating the day-to-day activity of all Town functions and departments, such as handling human resources functions, providing administrative support to the Town Manager, coordinating with Council for agendas and meetings, processing payroll, and a variety of other support functions for the municipal government. Updates and progress reports from the Administration staff and other departments are presented to the Town Council during regular meetings. These Department Reports can be found on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DEPT.



Other staff within the Administration Department have also been featured in previous editions of The CURRENT, including the Town Clerk (September 2021), Human Resources (November 2021), and Communications Office (December 2021). To view these previous editions, just click on the **Monthly Edition Archive** tab on the bottom of the page at www.OakIslandNC.gov/CURRENT.

For detailed information on the Town Manager position and contact information, visit the Administration page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/GOVERNMENT or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

PHOTO REVIEW

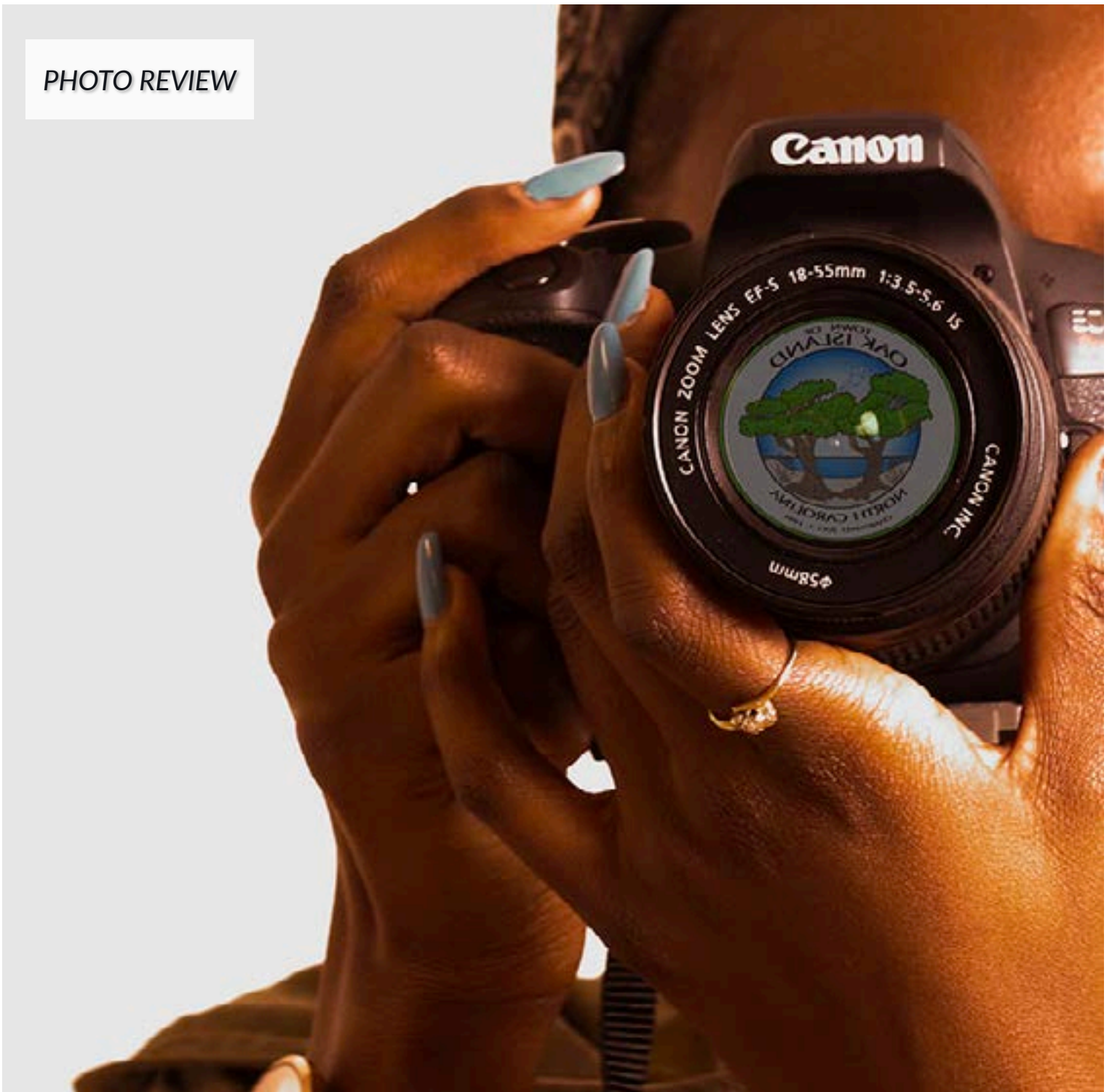
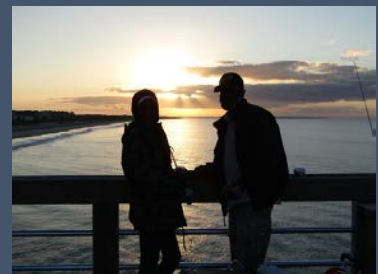
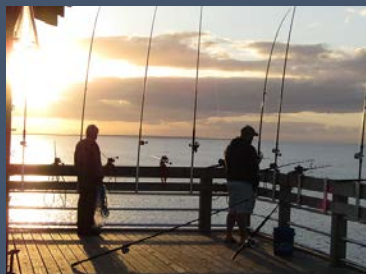


PHOTO REVIEW

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.







THANKS FOR READING!



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CREATED BY
Town of O.

Credits:

Created with images by · undefined - Christmas gingerbread house decorated inscription Welcome