



THE CURRENT

JANUARY 5, 2026

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Week of

January 5, 2026

It's a new week and a New Year, and the digital newsletter for the **Town of Oak Island** has returned after a brief "holiday hiatus" -- full of the news, updates, and recreation information Oak Islanders need to stay informed on the happenings in Town!



From fresh sand to new sidewalks, 2025 brought a lot of important improvements to Oak Island, all of which are working together provide a brighter outlook for the year ahead. So now it's time to haul away the holly, and hide your hippopotamus, because the holidays are done and we've got important Town business to cover with a vigorous swim through this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**
- **Environmental Advisory Committee**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **NEW 2026 Citizens Academy NOW OPEN**
- **Important Meeting Changes**
- **Beach Nourishment Update**
- **Live Tree Collection Reminder**
- **Community Center Cooking Demo**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Find The Shells = Fill The Holes**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **SilverSneakers Class Canceled**
- **This Week in Recreation**

MEETINGS & CLOSURES



Council & Board Meetings



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Monday, January 5, 2026** at **4 PM** in the Community Center, located at 102 SE 47th St.

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, January 8, 2026** at **8:30 AM** in the American Oak Conference Room, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr. (**NOTE:** The EAC meeting was moved from its regular date on the first Thursday, due to the New Year's Day holiday. The change in meeting date is for the month of January only.)

- To view all future meeting schedules, visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS.

Holiday Closures

Town Offices & Facilities will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, January 19, 2026** in observance of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.

- To view all Holiday Closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



Class Is Back In Session

It's one of the biggest announcements to signal a new year in the Town of Oak Island, and one of the most important programs every resident should participate in ... the **2026 Oak Island Citizens Academy** dates have been announced, and **applications are now being accepted!**



Citizens Academy is an interactive program designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government.

Citizens Academy returns for 2026 even **BIGGER** and **BETTER** than ever! Now featuring a total of **TEN (10) individual classes**, held on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** in the months of **February** and **March** (unless otherwise noted). Through on class learning and field demonstration, this course helps to provide a deeper understanding of the "**who, why, & how**" government operates at the municipal level. The program also serves to encourage stronger participation in local government, from residents of all interests.



NOTE: Course positions are filled on a FIRST-COME basis and fill up FAST! To see the full course schedule or download your own applications, visit the **Citizens Academy** page at OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY, or click the link below.



Important Meeting Changes

One of the first "orders of business" for any new year is to set set the dates for "conducting business" ... at least it is for the **Boards & Committees** which make up Town government.

While most of these groups have elected to keep the same schedules, **there are some notable changes for 2026:**

- **PLANNING BOARD** will begin a new meeting schedule with regular meetings held on the **FOURTH Tuesday** of each month at **6:00 PM**, and the first meeting of 2026 scheduled for **Tuesday, January 27** at **6:00 PM**. Meetings will still be held in the Town Council Chambers, located on the send floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.
- **TOWN COUNCIL** will **continue** to hold regular meetings on the **SECOND Tuesday** of each month at **6:00 PM**; **however**, the meeting for January has been **MOVED** to **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**. Additional schedule changes to the **2026 Meeting Dates** were also **approved by the Town Council** during the December 9, 2025 meeting.

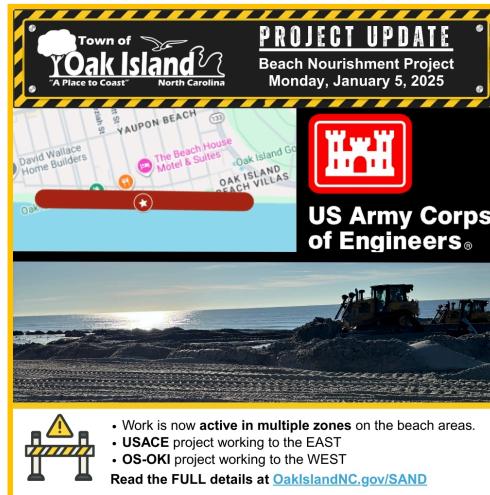
To **VIEW & SHARE** the meeting dates, video, or agendas for any meeting, just visit the **Meetings Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.



Beach Nourishment Update



IMPORTANT: Construction activity for the **2025 / 2026 Beach Nourishment Project** is now active in multiple work zones throughout the entire public beach area.



This means that machinery and equipment, as well as closed Beach Access Locations and beach areas can be seen in several locations, as the US Army Corps of Engineer's (USACE) **Wilmington Harbor Project** has begun work at the eastern area of the Town limits (McGlamery St.), adding to the work on the **Oak Island Off-Shore** (OS-OKI) project, currently in the area of **25th Pl W**.

Both of these operations are reflected in the **Progress Updates & Map** map provided on the **Beach Nourishment Project** page.

To ensure the **safety of everyone**, please **respect the boundaries** of all **closed areas**, and **DO NOT** distract crews onsite by attempting to speak with them or ask them questions. The **Project Information** page will continue to be updated on a regular basis.

To VIEW & SHARE the latest updates and full project information, visit the page at OakIslandNC.gov/SAND or click the link below.



Live Tree Collection Reminder

At this point, Christmas seems like something that happened ... well, **last year!** But if you're still squeezing every last drop of Christmas spirit out of your spruce pine, that's okay too.

As a reminder, the annual **Grinding of the Greens** program will still be collecting live Christmas trees until next **Friday, January 16, 2026**. The collection area is located in the **Middleton Park Complex** parking lot at 4610 E Dolphin Dr.

Organized by the Public Works Department, this program provides a convenient and environmentally friendly way to dispose of live Christmas trees. After collection the trees are ground up and used as mulch in various Town parks and facilities. **REMEMBER:** you **must remove ALL decorations** before dropping trees off. Additionally, trees **CANNOT** be left on the beach / dunes, or burned as part of beach bonfires!



To VIEW & SHARE this information, just click the notice on the **OKInformation** page at OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS or click the link below.



Community Center Cooking Demo

The Oak Island Community Center has updated its **Events Calendar** for the month of January, as well as adding new photos from recent events held in December. In addition to the regular events, the Center will also host a special **Cooking Demonstration with Chef John LaTour** on **Wednesday, January 28** from **12:30 PM - 1:30 PM**.

Town of Oak Island Community Center

Cooking Demonstrations
With Chef John LaTour - Certified Nutrition Educator

Wednesday, January 28, 2026
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

When: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Where: Oak Island Community Center • 102 SE 47th Street
For more information call 910-278-6552 or visit OakIslandNC.gov/CC

FREE CLASS FOR INDIVIDUALS 60 AND OVER

Chef John LaTour is a Certified Nutrition Educator with Healthy Families - Healthy Futures. Healthy Families - Healthy Futures is dedicated to empowering children, adults, seniors and families to embrace healthy eating habits by equipping them with the tools and educational support they need to make healthy food choices.

Located at **102 SE 47th Street** beside the Town Hall, the Center is open Monday - Thursday from **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** and on **Fridays for Meals & Trips** (contact the Center for specific times). The Community Center is a congregate nutrition program and senior center where individuals 60 and over can come to enjoy a well-balanced hot nutritional meal.

To learn more about the programs hosted and how to contact staff, just visit the Community Center page at OakIslandNC.gov/CC or click the link below.



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SAFETY BRIEF



Find The Shells = Fill The Holes

In case you are unaware (or you missed the first section of this newsletter), the Town of Oak Island is currently undertaking a massive **Beach Renourishment Project**. For most beachgoers, that means ***avoiding*** the noise and moving machinery of the work areas. For others however, it means actively ***seeking out*** these areas, as they are hunting for the "treasures" providing by the dredged sand.

Those sea treasures including everything from ***shells*** to ***sand dollars***. It is true, the sand taken from the ocean floor for beach nourishment can often provide a bevy of nautical decor; **but as with any popular activity, shell hunting must be done responsibly.**

Recently the **Fire Department**, along with year-round members of the **Beach Safety Unit** have been working to fill in large holes left on the beach, which were created by shell hunters digging for shells and leaving the holes behind.



Over the past several weeks, as word of the favorable conditions for "shelling" has spread on social media, the number holes being left behind has become an emerging issue.



Last year, the Town did pass an [update to Ordinance 14-142](#), which limits the depth of holes and the tools used to dig them. However, **even shallow holes can be a danger to wildlife, beachgoers, and first responders who may not see them.**

Beyond safety, it's also about simple common courtesy and respect. If applying the old adage of "*leave it better than you found it*" then there should be no problems, especially considering it takes much less time to fill in a hole than to dig one!

So please, if you find yourself out shelling in the near future, ***don't let your treasure hunt become someone else's traumatic experience ... fill in all holes!***

For more information on Ordinance 14-142 or the dangers of deep holes in general, visit the Beach Safety page at [OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY](#) or click the link below.



For questions related to any of the content in the ***Safety Brief***, or for more information on the services provided by the **Police Department** or **Fire Department**, just visit the ***Public Safety*** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY](#) or click on the link below.





EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



SilverSneakers Class Canceled

The **SilverSneakers with Maggie** class scheduled for **Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM** has been **CANCELED**.

For more information on this cancellation, please contact the **Oak Island Recreation Center** at **910-278-5518** or through the [**Department Contact Form**](#).

To view alternative Fitness Class options, visit [**OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS**](#) or click the link below.

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THIS WEEK:

In Recreation

Provided below is a listing of the recreation activities for the week ahead! For questions or additional information, contact the **Recreation Department** at **910-278-5518**.

Monday, January 5

- **Recreation Center**
 - 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie
 - 11:15 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert
- **Recreation Center**
 - 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM Dance Lessons with Casey

Tuesday, January 6



- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 8:30 AM: SilverSneakers with Susan
- 9:30 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert
- 11:30 AM: Qigong, Breath & Movement with Jude
- 12:30 PM Strength & Tone with Vicki
- 6:00 PM: Barre with Suzanne

- **Recreation Center**

- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Line Dancing Club

Wednesday, January 7

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers with Mary Beth
- 10:30 AM Yoga for Balance with Tammy

- Recreation Center

- 1:00 PM January Craft Class (pre-registration required)

- Recreation Center

- 5:00 PM Chess Club

Thursday, January 8

- **Recreation Center**

- 7:00 AM Gentle Sunrise & Shine Yoga with Jeanette
- 8:00 AM Total Body Blast with Mary Beth
- 10:15 AM Chair Yoga with Tammy
- 11:30 AM Cardio Dance with Vicki
- 6:00 PM Barre with Suzanne

Friday, January 9

- **Recreation Center**

- 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
- 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
- 10:30 AM Sculpt and Flow yoga

- **Recreation Center**

- 9:00 AM Table Tennis

Saturday, January 10

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

- 10:00 AM: Community Yoga with rotating instructors
- 11:30 AM: Barre w/ Suzanne

Monday, January 12

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**



- 7:30 AM: Mature Aerobics with Debbie
- 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie
- 11:15 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert

• **Recreation Center**

- 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM Dance Lessons with Casey

REMINDER: A full listing of all fitness classes and recreation programs can be found at OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS.

Click on the event flyers below to download, print, and share!



Fitness Calendar



Mardi Gras Festival

THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this edition of ***THE CURRENT***, and choosing to stay informed on the News & Events happening in Oak Island, NC.

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PAST EDITION ARCHIVE

DID YOU KNOW? *The CURRENT*, hasn't always been a weekly publication. Originally produced as an award-winning digital monthly newsletter, *The CURRENT* published 35 editions, spanning a period of three years from December 2020 to 2023. As a monthly publication, *The CURRENT* provided longer form, "magazine style" reading, along with added commentary, and content contributed from community partners.

Past editions of both the weekly and monthly formats are available to view anytime, by clicking the links below.