



THE CURRENT

JANUARY 12, 2026

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Week of
January 12, 2026

WELCOME to *THE CURRENT*, the weekly digital newsletter for the Town of Oak Island.

It's the second full week of 2026, and we're already two Mondays and two editions of *The CURRENT* into the new year. Why, you can hardly even call it "new" anymore!



But that's okay! While the newness of the year may be starting to wear off, it's just leading right into the great things already expected for 2026. Whether it's a **Valentines Dance**, a **Mardi Gras Parade**, or even the beauty of a **Spring Arts Show**, one thing's for sure, the "waiting in Winter" will certainly be short-lived this year!

In the meantime, there's still plenty of Town business and updates to cover, so let's get ready and dive into this week's edition of *The CURRENT*.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **ABC Board**
- **Board of Adjustment**
- **Town Council Meeting *REMINDER***

NEWS & NOTICES

- **2026 Resident Parking Permits**
- **Citizens Academy Reminder**
- **Sidewalk Project Nearing Completion**
- **Beach Nourishment Progress**
- ***Staff Spotlight: Tanya Ragonesi***

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Dive Into Your Calling!**
- **Scam Alert: Fake Email Invoices**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **This Week in Recreation**

MEETINGS & CLOSURES



Council & Board Meetings



ABC BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 11:30 AM** in the ABC Store located at 2 E Oak Island Drive.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT will hold a called meeting on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM** in the Town Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.

TOWN COUNCIL REMINDER: The January meeting has been **MOVED** from its regular time on the second Tuesday of the month (this week) to **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**, still at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

- 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.

NEWS & NOTICES




Resident Parking Permits Now Available

This week enters the middle of January, and that means the **April 1** start of **Paid Parking Season** is **less than two months away**. Recently, the Town Hall Customer Service Staff and the Town's contracted Parking Services vendor Otto Connect have been receiving calls asking when the Parking Permits will become available for purchase.

As of last week, the **RESIDENT PARKING PERMITS** are now available to purchase through either the **SurfCAST** mobile app, online at surfcast.ottoconnect.us/pay, or by calling Otto Connect directly at **910-200-1497**. As in previous years, residents and property owners may purchase up to three (3) Permits total, at a cost of \$10 per Permit.

For non-residents, an opening purchase date has not yet been determined for the **SEASONAL PARKING PERMITS** and the **BULK PARKING PERMITS**, though they will go on sale sometime before the start of the season on April 1. **NOTE:** Hourly, Daily, and Weekly Permits are NOT available in advance, as they become active immediately upon purchase. Once a

purchase date for Seasonal and Bulk Permits has been established, it will be announced on the ***Parking Information*** page of the Town Website. [UPDATE EDIT • January 14: Seasonal and Bulk Parking Permits are now expected  on sale beginning on Sunday, February 15, 2026 unless otherwise noted]

To learn more about Permit Purchasing or the Paid Parking program in general, just visit the ***Parking Information*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/PARKING or click the link below.



Citizens Academy Reminder

Last week brought one of the most anticipated announcements of the new year, the ***2026 Oak Island Citizens Academy*** is now ***accepting applications!***



This interactive program, designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government, now features **TEN (10) individual classes**, held on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** in the months of **February** and **March** (unless otherwise noted).

Through hands-on class learning and "field trip" demonstrations, 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.



Sidewalk Project Nearing Completion



It's one of the most common **New Year's Resolutions**, to get out and ***do more walking***. Well now the Town of Oak Island and is just a few "steps" away from helping to make that resolution safer and more accessible.

Phase I of the **Commercial Area Sidewalk Improvement Project** is quickly nearing to a close, as the installation of more than **1,700 linear feet** of **NEW sidewalk** has now been completed along E Oak Island Drive.



Installed on the north side of E Oak Island Drive from NE 46th St. to NE 56th St., this project provides more than half a mile of new sidewalk in one of the busiest portions of Town. Most importantly, this new sidewalk also accommodates the future installation of ***Pedestrian Crosswalks***, as NCDOT requires sidewalk on both sides of a street before crosswalks can be installed.

At current pace, the sidewalk installation is expected to be completed by the end of January. Immediately after completion, contractor Morgan Trucking and General Construction Inc., will begin installation of the NCDOT approved ***Pedestrian Crosswalk*** and lighted crossing signal at the intersection of E Oak Island Dr. and NE 51st St.

The project is currently on schedule, with a completion tentatively expected by late March. To VIEW & SHARE updates on this or any other major Town construction efforts, just visit the ***Town Projects*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/PROJECTS or click the link below.



Beach Nourishment Progress

REMINDER: The **2025 / 2026 Beach Nourishment Project** is now active in multiple work zones, as sand placement for the **Wilmington Harbor** and the **Oak Island Off-Shore (OS-OKI)** projects are both in operation on the public beach areas.



Both of these operations are reflected in the **Progress Updates & Map** map provided on the **Beach Nourishment Project** page. Over the next week, the Wilmington Harbor Project is anticipated to be in the area of the **Oak Island Pier**, while the OK-OKI Project will be working in the area of **51st PI W**.

This means that machinery and equipment, as well as closed beach areas and Beach Access Locations will be seen in several locations. 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.

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



Staff Spotlight: Tanya Ragonesi

This week the Town of Oak Island is excited to spotlight **Tanya Ragonesi**, Permit Specialist for the **Development Services Department**.



Tanya is the one of the newest Town employees, and the latest member to join the Development Services team. Tanya has a wide array of experience in the administration, payroll, human resources, office management and customer service fields. She joined the Town in early December, just at the end of 2025.



A self-described "military brat," Tanya was actually born in Italy, and grew up in multiple locations around the world. An avid nature enthusiast who enjoys walks with her dog and spending time with family, she finds the natural beauty of Oak Island is a perfect fit!

Please help us welcome Tanya Ragonesi to the Town of Oak Island! To learn more about the work Tanya and all of the Permitting Staff do to serve the residents each day, just visit the Development Services page at OakIslandNC.gov/DS or click the link below.

CLICK HERE
TO LEARN
MORE

SAFETY BRIEF



Dive Into Your Calling!

While it may only be January, the days of warm sun and seasonal crowds of Summer are not too far off. Like any good first-response agency, the **Oak Island Fire Department** is preparing **NOW** for the busy season to come. And if you're a fan of the water and have a drive to serve your community, you can ***Dive Into Your Calling*** to help as well!



DIVE INTO YOUR CALLING!



JOIN THE OAK ISLAND OCEAN RESCUE TEAM

Seasonal Positions Now Available!
2026 Academy Starts in April!

- 7 Days / Week Beach Patrol • Polaris UTV Patrol Units
- Uniforms & Equipment Provided • 10 Miles of Beachfront

Starting Hourly Rate: \$17.50 • April - October

Learn More & Apply at: OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS



Applications for the ***Ocean Rescue Team*** of the **Beach Safety Unit** (BSU) are now being accepted, with the 2026 Rescue Academy scheduled to start in April. Ocean Rescue is a challenging, yet highly rewarding part of the Beach Safety Unit.

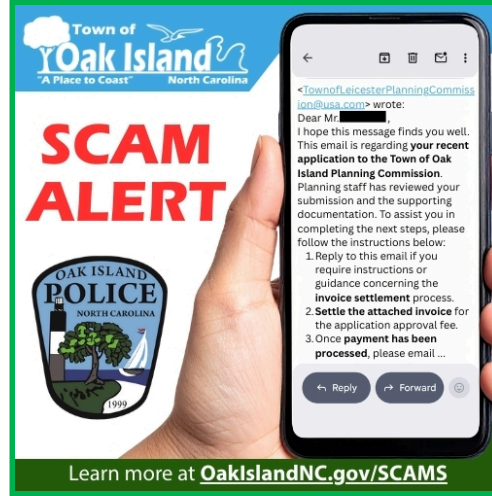
Training, uniforms, and equipment are provided for these hourly, seasonal positions. Participating in the BSU is a great way for seasoned first responders to use their experience in a non-competitive, part-time environment; or equally beneficial for learning life-saving skills that can help to build a future career.

Regardless of skill level when joining, being a part of Ocean Rescue provides a fun, rewarding way to serve your community! To learn more and SHARE this position with others, visit the Job Opportunities page at OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS or click the link below.



SCAM ALERT: Email Invoices

The Town of Oak Island Development Services and the Oak Island Police Department have been made aware of a **new scam attempt** targeting residents and property owners. In this latest effort, scammers are using publicly available information skimmed from Zoning Applications and Public Hearing Notices, to generate **FAKE Permit Approval** emails, which demand **payment of included invoices**. The emails claim the invoices **must be paid** in order to proceed with any permit approvals and authorizations.



THESE ARE A SCAM! While the Town can send invoices, in most cases they are not charged until a permit is ready to be issued. Any official invoice sent by the Town will include an **Invoice Number**, which can be used to verify charges when speaking with a Permit Specialist.

These can seem like legitimate emails at first, using real permit numbers and the names of real Town employees, however some deeper reading often reveals the telltale signs of a scam, such as:

- The email does **NOT** come from an **official Town email** address ending in “**@oakislandnc.gov**” (ex: **TownofLeicesterPlanningCommission@usa.com**).
- The email uses an “official sounding” but fictional Board or Committee name (ex: the **Oak Island Planning Commission** - Oak Island has a Planning Board, not a Commission).
- The email creates a “high-pressure” environment, demanding payment **before** services can be provided.

Remember, regardless of the claim, the purpose of scams are always the same: **to pressure you into giving away your money or personal information!**

Don't be fooled by this latest attempt or any other scam effort. Always be sure to:

- **Check the source email** and verify that it is legitimate.
- **Never click on ANY link** or download attachments, unless they are ones you are expecting
- **DO NOT forward any suspicious links** to friends, family, or co-workers

Finally, if you receive something that is unexpected, or just doesn't “feel right” you can always verify it directly with Town Staff, through the contact information found on the **Contact Us** page of the Town Website at **OakIslandNC.gov/CONTACT**. If you or someone you know feel you may be a victim of this latest effort, please contact the Oak Island Police Department, either by phone at 910-295-5595, in person at 4621 E Oak Island Drive, or through the **Department Contact Form** by clicking the link below.

**CLICK HERE
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EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



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 12

- **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 13

- **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 14

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

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

- 801 Event Center

- 11:00 AM ZUMBA (pre-registration required)

- Recreation Center

- 5:00 PM Chess Club

Thursday, January 15

- **Recreation Center**

- 7:00 AM Gentle Sunrise & Shine Yoga with Jeanette
- 8:00 AM Total Body Blast with Mary Beth
- 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Maggie
- 10:15 AM Chair Yoga with Tammy
- 11:30 AM Cardio Dance with Vicki
- 6:00 PM Barre with Suzanne

Friday, January 16

- **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

- Ocean Education Center

- 2:00 PM Book Club

Saturday, January 17

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

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

Monday, January 19

- **Recreation Center**

- **CLOSED in observance of MLK day**



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



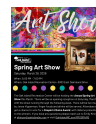
Fitness Calendar



Valentines Dance



Mardi Gras Festival



Spring Art Show

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 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.