



# THE CURRENT

**JANUARY 19, 2026**

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**Week of**

**January 19, 2026**

**"We will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope."** From his famous 1963 "I Have A Dream" speech, these words from the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. are now forever etched into the stone of his memorial in Washington, DC, just steps away from where they were first spoken more than 60 years ago.



While 2026 may seem far removed from that moment in time, the truth is those "mountains" are a lot closer than you think. Oak Island is made up of many different people from all walks of life, and each with their own story to tell. But regardless of what personal mountains we may have to overcome, there's still that special thread connecting us all in our shared love of this coastal community! So take a few moments to remember those precious words of Dr. King, be kind to your neighbor, and together help hew out those "stones of hope" for the world around you.

**PLEASE NOTE: Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island are CLOSED for Monday, January 19, 2026 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

In the meantime, you can find new ways to connect with your friends and neighbors, along with updates on Town News & Notices in this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Town Council Meeting**
- **Planning Board Reminder**

## NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Agenda Preview**
- **Website "Contributions" Opportunity**
- **Beach Nourishment Updates**
- **Citizens Academy Reminder**
- **Library "Meet The Author" Event**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **Staff Safety Training**
- **Rescue Recruitment Reminder**

## EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **2026 Excursion Adventures**
- **This Week in Recreation**



# MEETINGS & CLOSURES



## Council & Board Meetings

**TOWN COUNCIL** will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 20, 2026** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

**PLANNING BOARD REMINDER:** As of 2026, the Planning Board has **changed its regular meeting date** from the Third Thursday to the Fourth Tuesday of each month, also at a **new time of 6:00 PM**. For this month, the regular meeting will be will next **Tuesday, January 27, 2026** at **6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.

- To view all future meeting schedules, visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at [\*\*OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS\*\*](http://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\*\*](http://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).

# NEWS & NOTICES



# Town Council Agenda Preview



On **Tuesday, January 20, 2026** at **6:00 PM**, the Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting in the Town Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

**CLICK HERE to PREVIEW the Meeting Agenda**

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Sign-up sheets for commenting during the public comment period will be available in the back of the Council Chambers prior to the start of the meeting. Individual speakers will have three minutes.

To download the Meeting Agenda, watch the meeting LIVE, or view previous meetings, visit the Meetings Information page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS) or click the link below.

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## NEW Website "Contributions" Opportunity

In 2025, the Town of Oak Island had nearly **850,000 online visits!** Next month on **February 12**, the Town of Oak Island will be treating those visitors to a whole new experience as we launch a **BRAND NEW Town Website!**

In addition to some of the most **stunning scenery** in the world, we recognize the Town is also home to some of the most **gifted artists**, who capture that beauty everyday. That's why we've decided to use the launch of this new Town Website as a way to help showcase that talent!



As part of the new website, the Town will host a special "**Contributions**" page, where artists can submit visual media, including photos and hand drawn / painted scenery, for use as contributed content.

While submitting content is NOT a guarantee it will be used, selected content will have the artists and their work properly credited on a **Contributions** page, where each month the site's thousands of visitors can appreciate and learn more about the art and artists of our community.



To learn more about this exciting new opportunity and how to submit your own photos or artwork, visit the **Contributions Form** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/PICS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PICS) or click the link below.



## Beach Nourishment Update

On-beach operations for the **2025 / 2026 Beach Nourishment Project** are starting towards their final stretches, as **activity continues in multiple work zones** for both the **Wilmington Harbor** and the **Oak Island Off-Shore (OS-OKI)** projects.



At the current rate of progress, sand placement for both of these operations is expected to be completed by the **first week of February**. Once the sand placement has been completed, full demobilization and removal of equipment should take about another week or so.

In the meantime, that means machinery and equipment, as well as closed beach areas and Beach Access Locations will still 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.

As a reminder, work is being updated each Monday on the **Progress Map** provided on the **Beach Nourishment Project** page. To **VIEW & SHARE** the latest updates and full project information, visit the page at [OakIslandNC.gov/SAND](http://OakIslandNC.gov/SAND) or click the link below.



CLICK HERE  
TO VISIT  
THE PAGE

## Citizens Academy Reminder

Applications are coming in, and the number of available class seats is dwindling for the **2026 Oak Island Citizens Academy!**



As a reminder, applications are now being accepted for this highly popular, interactive program, designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government.

This year's Academy will now features **TEN (10) individual classes**, held on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** in the months of **February** and **March** (unless otherwise noted), and provide hands-on class learning and "field trip" demonstrations. Sign up to learn about the "**who, why, & how**" government operates at the municipal level.

**Positions are filled on a FIRST-COME basis**, submit your application NOW on the **Citizens Academy** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY](http://OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY), or click the link below.

CLICK HERE  
TO SIGN UP

## Library "Meet The Author" Event

[NOTE: This information has been contributed by community partner, **Friends of the Library** on behalf of the G.V. Barbee Library. For more direct information, visit [brunsco.libcal.com](http://brunsco.libcal.com)]

The **Friends of the Library of Southport & Oak Island** is pleased to announce a special **Meet The Author** event this **Friday, January 23, 2026** at **4:00 PM** at the **G.V. Barbee Library**, located at 8200 E Oak Island Drive.



**FRIENDS of the LIBRARY**  
SOUTHPORT & OAK ISLAND, NC

**Meet the Author**  
at  
Barbee Library

**K. Robert Campbell**  
Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00pm  
Barbee Library, Oak Island



K. Robert Campbell earned a B.S in Recreation and Park Administration from N.C. State University and spent several years as a ranger in various parks in NC. He then earned a law degree from Campbell University School of Law and practiced in Southport, NC until his retirement in 2020. His combined legal and outdoor experiences provide a rich background for the protagonist in his Cameron Scott series.



*Twelve Tales* offers a calendar's worth of mystery tales, each one themed to its titled month. Country lawyer Cameron Scott is portrayed as an outdoorsman and small-town lawyer whose client's seemingly simple legal problems often morph into major catastrophes.



*The Fifth Category* is book one of the Cameron Scott series. Cameron takes a court-appointed criminal case which becomes complex when his new client turns up dead. As he digs deeper, Cameron is involved with the FBI, international terrorists and a powerful category 5 hurricane.

Books will be available for purchase.  
To register stop by Barbee Library or call 910-278-4283.  
You can register online at  
<https://brunisco.libcal.com/event/15953140>

The event welcomes local author and former attorney **K. Robert Campbell**, writer of the of calendar mystery book **Twelve Tales**, and the first book in his *Cameron Scott* series, ***The Fifth Category***.

Campbell earned a B.S in Recreation and Park Administration from N.C. State University and spent several years as a ranger in various parks in NC. He then earned a law degree from Campbell University School of Law and practiced in Southport, NC until his retirement in 2020. His combined legal and outdoor experiences provide a rich background for the protagonist in his Cameron Scott series.

Books will be available to purchase during this event. To VIEW & SHARE this event, visit the ***Brunswick County Library*** website at [brunisco.libcal.com](https://brunisco.libcal.com) or click the link below.

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# SAFETY BRIEF



# Staff Safety Training



On Monday and Friday of last week, the Town hosted a series of **Essential First Aid Training** classes, designed as an ongoing safety education campaign for Town Employees. Classes like these are an important part of the helping to ensure that staff stay informed, prepared, and confident in all forms of emergency situations.



Taught by Fire Inspector and safety educator Joe Snapp (pictured above on the far right), the classes addressed the important procedures of CPR, as well as other safety topics such as wound care, choking relief, and fire extinguishers.

While we may not all be the typical definition of a "first responder" Town Employees may be the first one someone encounters when having a personal emergency. It's just one more example of how our staff works to serve the residents and visitors to Oak Island every day.

Here in the Town's **Public Safety Departments**, we are proud of the strong staff turnout for these classes, and honored to be a part of such a safety-conscious work-force. If you would like to find out ways we can help to improve safety for your business or civic group, just contact the Community Resource Officer through the Department Contact form on the Police Department page at [OakIslandNC.gov/PD](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PD) or click the link below.



## Rescue Recruitment Reminder

Last week, the **Oak Island Fire Department** announced that 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.



**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](http://OakIslandNC.gov/JOBs)

**We are already responses from interested individuals, but we still need your help to fill out the roster for the year ahead!**

Ocean Rescue is a challenging, yet highly rewarding part of the Beach Safety Unit, and is a great opportunity for both seasoned first responders wanting sharpen their skills, or those new recruits hoping to build a future career.

All training, uniforms, and equipment are provided for these hourly, seasonal positions. Regardless of your skill level when joining, Ocean Rescue provides a fun, exciting way to serve your community! To learn more about the positions available, visit the **Job Opportunities** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/JOBs](http://OakIslandNC.gov/JOBs) or click the link below.

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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](http://OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY) or click on the link below.





# EVENTS & ACTIVITIES



## 2026 Excursion Adventures

Are you looking add some **adventure** to your **2026**? Then Parks & Recreation has your back with the newly released **2026 Excursion Adventures** schedule!

### 2026 Excursions

<b>JANUARY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ingram Planetarium<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ January 22, 2026</li><li>◦ 10:00 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>JULY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NC Maritime Museum of Southport<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ July 23, 2025</li><li>◦ 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>FEBRUARY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vereen Memorial Gardens<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ February 19, 2026</li><li>◦ 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>AUGUST:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Brunswick Nature Park<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ August 20, 2025</li><li>◦ 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>MARCH:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cameron Art Museum<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ March 19, 2026</li><li>◦ 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>SEPTEMBER:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wilmington Railroad Museum<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ September 17, 2025</li><li>◦ 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>APRIL:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fort Fisher Historic Site<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ April 23, 2026</li><li>◦ 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>OCTOBER:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Trask Family Farms<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ October 22, 2025</li><li>◦ 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>MAY:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NC Museum of Natural Sciences<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ May 21, 2026</li><li>◦ 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>NOVEMBER:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lake Waccamaw State Park<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ November 19, 2026</li><li>◦ 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>JUNE:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carolina Beach State Park<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ June 18, 2026</li><li>◦ 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM</li></ul></li></ul>	<b>DECEMBER:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Holiday Excursion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ December 17, 2026</li><li>◦ Time/Details to be posted separately!</li></ul></li></ul>

Find out more and register under the "Excursions" tab at [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS). If you have any questions, please reach out to Jacob Hyle (jhyle@oakislandnc.gov).

Town of Oak Island Recreation

From planetariums to museums, to nature trails and even a special Holiday Excursion next winter ... there will be a different journey each month! Let us know which one you are excited for, and PLAN NOW to join in on one of these amazing excursions in the year ahead.

To learn more and register for an excursion visit [\*\*OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS\*\*](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS) clicking the link below.

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# Fitness Class Cancellation



**NOTICE:** The **Total Body Blast with Mary Beth** class scheduled for **Thursday, January 22, 2026 at 8:00 AM** is been **CANCELED**.

For more information on this cancellation, please contact the **Oak Island Recreation Department** 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.



## 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 19**

- Recreation Center **CLOSED** in observance of MLK Day

#### **Tuesday, January 20**

- **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 21**

- **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 22**

- **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

- **Excursions**
  - Ingram Planetarium (Pre-Registration Required)

## **Friday, January 23**

- **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 24**

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
  - 10:00 AM: Community Yoga with rotating instructors
  - 11:30 AM: Barre w/ Suzanne

## **Monday, January 26**

- **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
- **Bill Smith Park**
  - Youth Flag Football Clinic (pre-registration Required)

**REMINDER:** A full listing of all fitness classes and recreation programs can be found at [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS).

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





## Fitness Calendar



## Mardi Gras Festival



## Valentines Dance



## Spring Art Show



# THANK YOU

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**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.