



THE CURRENT

JANUARY 26, 2026

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**Week of
January 26, 2026**

It's the final week in January, and we're already building towards a great new year (*and a great NEW Town Website that YOU can contribute to!*).



Although the cold days of Winter still have their sights set on Oak Island for now, we know that warmer, sunny seasons are soon ahead, full of exciting events and activities for everyone. From **Parades** and **Festivals**, to **Dancing** and **Art Shows**, 2026 is shaping up to be another exciting year in OKI.

But before we get ahead of ourselves, there's still a lot of Town business and activity going on right now. So put on your best wetsuit, as we take a chilly dive into in this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Business Advisory Board**
- **Planning Board**
- **Town Council Retreat**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Right-Of-Way Updates**
- **OKInsight Survey Begins**
- **Beach Nourishment Updates**
- **Citizens Academy FINAL REMINDER**
- **"Grinding of the Greens" Success**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Cold Danger Reminders**
- **Home Heating Safety**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Mardi Gras By The Sea**
- **This Week in Recreation**

MEETINGS & CLOSURES



Council & Board Meetings



BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 27** at **9:00 AM** in the Train Room located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department at 4621 E Oak Island Drive.

PLANNING BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 27** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Dr.

TOWN COUNCIL will hold its Annual Retreat on **Thursday, January 29** beginning at **9:00 AM** at the Cape Fear Regional Jetport, 4015 Airport Rd SE.

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

Holidays & Closures

There are **NO holidays or facility closures** expected within the week ahead. Town Offices & Facilities will next be **CLOSED** on **Friday, April 3, 2026** in observance of **Good Friday**.

- To view all Holiday Closures, visit: [**OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY**](http://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).



Right-Of-Way Updates

Last week, during the **January 20, 2026** Regular Meeting, the Town Council voted to amend **Section 26-1** of the Code of Ordinances, regarding personal items and uses within the Town Right-Of-Way (ROW) and enforcement of ROW violations.

While the exact width of a ROW varies based on the specific street, the ordinance revisions create **new standards** for personal items and uses, **based on distance from the edge of pavement**. These standards are divided into TWO zones, identified as "**WITHIN 10 feet**" and "**BEYOND 10 feet**" from the edge of pavement, before the start of personal property.



Town of Oak Island
"A Place to Coast" North Carolina

JANUARY 21, 2026

RIGHT-OF-WAY UPDATES: NEW INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW

During the January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting, the Oak Island Town Council voted to amend Section 26-1 of the Code of Ordinances, and adjust enforcement of Right-of-Way violations.

WHAT HAS CHANGED?

This update clarifies the allowed Items & Uses based on the **distance from the edge of pavement** up to the Right-Of-Way limit (start of personal property):

- **WITHIN 10 feet:** All currently permitted Items & Uses, including Mail & Newspaper Boxes, Driveway Connections, Mulch, Gravel, Streetside Parking (where applicable), Temporary Sporting Goods, Ground-Level Landscaping
- **BEYOND 10 feet:** Temporary items and vegetative landscaping up to 3' high
- **Unimproved ROW (street ends):** Limited to driveway connections and "Temporary Sporting Goods" which can be moved by hand

Additionally these updates now:

- **ALLOW** Town Staff to approve ROW Encroachment Agreements
- **ALLOW** vegetative landscaping installed prior to July 18, 2025
- **PROHIBIT** Permanent Structures including permanently installed fencing (retaining walls necessary for structural integrity can be granted a **ROW Encroachment Agreement**) and **Hardscape Landscaping** (above ground level) within 10 feet of the edge of pavement

NEW TOOLS ADDED

A **NEW Right-Of-Way Widths Map**, along with **Charts** and **Graphics** showing common examples of Items & Uses allowed in the ROW are now on a dedicated page of the Town Website!

To VIEW & SHARE the FULL update details, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/ROW

Additionally, these updates also address the areas of public street ends, known as *Unimproved ROW, limiting them to only allow driveway connections and temporary sporting goods.*

A **NEW ROW Information** page has been created on the Town Website, to help further define the ROW uses and promote the updates to Ordinance 26-1. This page also contains additional information including a [Chart of Common Uses, Zone Distances Graphic](#), and a new [ROW Widths Map](#).

To VIEW & SHARE the new *Right-Of-Way Information* page, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/ROW](#) or click the link below.



OKInsight Survey Starts Soon

Starting **NEXT WEEK** on **February 2**, the Town's **OKInsight** ("OKI + Insight") **Community Survey** will return!



Town of Oak Island Community Survey 2026

By far the largest, most comprehensive survey the Town hosts, this effort engages residents, property owners, and businesses to provide input 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, and business owners. Results of the Community Survey will provide statistically valid insights that Town leaders can use to strategically plan for the future.



Beach Nourishment Begins Final Push

The **2025 / 2026 Beach Nourishment Project** continues with sand placement throughout **multiple work zones**, as both the **Wilmington Harbor** and the **Oak Island Off-Shore (OS-OKI)** projects begin drawing to a close this week.

[Pictured (L to R), Councilmember Terri Cartner, Assistant Town Manager Kent Jackson, and Councilmember Bob Ciullo got an onsite progress report when they toured the dredge ship **RB Weeks** this past Thursday, January 22, 2026.]



If progress continues at the current pace, on-beach operations for the **OS-OKI** project should be **concluded this week**, while the USACE wraps up the **Wilmington Harbor** project by **early next week**.

Once sand placement has concluded, it will still take a couple of weeks to fully demobilize equipment and reopen any closed Beach Access Locations. the meantime, **it is more important than ever to keep the safety of everyone as a top priority!** 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 **Beach Nourishment Information** page at OakIslandNC.gov/SAND or click the link below.



CLICK HERE
TO VISIT
THE PAGE

Citizens Academy FINAL REMINDER

This is the **LAST WEEK** to submit applications for the **2026 Oak Island Citizens Academy**, as classes start next **Tuesday, February 3**.



The 2026 Academy is **almost full** with only 3 or 4 seats remaining, so be sure to **submit your applications NOW** for this highly popular, interactive program. This year's Academy now features **TEN (10) individual classes**, held on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** from **February** into **March** (unless otherwise noted), and provides 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**, or click the link below.

CLICK HERE
TO SIGN UP

"Grinding of the Greens" Success

While the memories of Christmas 2025 may be starting to fade, the gifts of the season are just starting to continue their giving for the Towns parks and facilities!

The **"Grinding of the Greens"** program, where the **Public Works Department** collects live Christmas trees, to be ground up and used for mulch, concluded last Friday.



With your help, crews collected nearly **300 trees**, generating a volume of approximately **10 cubic yards** of beautiful, crisp smelling pathway mulch!

This program continues to provide a convenient, environmentally beneficial way to **dispose of live Christmas trees**, which live on to enhance the beauty and safety of the walking trails throughout the Town's parks and recreations areas.

To learn more about the Public Works Department and the many ways they work to keep these areas clean and safe, just visit the **Public Works** page at OakIslandNC.gov/PW or click the link below.

**CLICK HERE
TO LEARN
MORE**

SAFETY BRIEF



Cold Danger Reminders

While this past weekend seemed to thankfully spare us from an extreme wintry precipitation, it's important to note that **WINTER is NOT over yet**. As noted on the [**Storm Response Information**](#) page, the forecast for the week ahead calls for **dangerously cold temperatures**.



The **Oak Island Police Department** reminds everyone that as overnight and even daytime temperatures struggle to get above freezing, some real safety concerns will emerge.

TRAVEL in and around the immediate area may become hazardous, as standing water re-freezes each night creating black ice. **BRIDGES** will also ice over before roadways, so even if travel within Town is possible, regional travel may be limited.

Our officers and Public Works staff will continue to monitor conditions and keep updates on the Storm Response page. In the meantime, please remember that ***personal experience and driving skill DO NOT determine public safety!*** If you are visiting from, or previously lived in an area that routinely responds to winter weather, travel in this region may still be different and dangerous from what you are used to! Do not assume local road conditions and other drivers are similar to what you have previously experienced.

To view the latest updates on the ***Storm Response Information*** page, visit **OakIslandNC.gov/WX** or click the link below.



Home Heating Safety

If you heed the words of OKI-PD above and avoid unnecessary travel, chances are you'll be at home perched in front of some kind of ***heating source***. That's why the **Oak Island Fire Department** and our partners at the **National Fire Protection Association** (NFPA) offer some important ***home heating safety reminders***.





- Have the device or fireplace inspected annually to ensure they are operating optimally
- Never leave fires, space heaters, candles or other means of heat unattended
- Keep combustibles, pets, and kids 3-5 feet away from heat sources as these generate enough heat to burn, melt or ignite such items
- Be sure to verify that you use the right fuel for the right device
- Place heaters on a solid flat surface to prevent from tipping, at least 3 feet from anything that can burn
- Plug supplemental heaters directly into the outlet on the wall, and NOT with an extension cord

Additionally, some great advice that's worth following all year long is to regularly check smoke detectors, to ensure they are working and have fresh batteries. A "best practice" would be to test once a month, or at a minimum of twice a year. Adjusting clocks for Daylight Savings Time can usually serve as a good reminder.

For more fire safety tips, or to learn about the many ways the Fire Department works to keep you safe, just visit our page at OakIslandNC.gov/FD 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



Mardi Gras By The Sea Parade & Festival

We're now less than one month away from one of the most celebrated and anticipated events of the year, as well as the unofficial kickoff to the years activities!

- **WHEN:** Saturday, February 21, 2026
- **PARADE:** 11:00 AM • SE 63rd St.
- **FESTIVAL:** NOON – 4:00 PM • Middleton Park Complex

The Mardi Gras by the Sea Parade & Festival returns for 2026, featuring a traditional parade, food vendors, crafters, a kid zone and live music!

To learn more and help SHARE this event, visit OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or click the flyer below.



THIS WEEK:

In Recreation



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

Tuesday, January 27

- **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 28

- **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 29

- **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 30

- **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 31

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

Monday, February 2

- **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

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



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 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.