A photograph of a wooden boardwalk leading to a covered pavilion and a dock in a marshy area. In the background, there are several houses. The text "THE CURRENT" is overlaid in the center.

THE CURRENT

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

**** PLEASE READ! ** IMPORTANT PUBLISHING CHANGE NOTICE:** Since its inception, **The CURRENT** has always maintained a goal of being publishing by the "First Friday of each month." Equally important however, is the need to adapt to new and better ideas. Information can quickly become dated in a monthly newsletter format, especially one anchored to a fixed deadline. **Moving forward, future editions of The Current will now be published on the day after the regular Town Council meeting.**

This change will help to provide a more recent reporting of Council actions, which leads each edition of The CURRENT. (**NOTE:** *Since this edition transitions to the new schedule, it will include a "Council Recap" of both the **July 11** and **August 8** Town Council meetings.*)

August 2023

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

Welcome to August

WELCOME to the AUGUST 2023 edition of THE CURRENT. -- It. Ain't. Over!!! Sure, the fireworks have popped and the bands have played, but just because June and July are now behind us, it doesn't mean Summer has said farewell. You see, August is an interesting month. Even though we can expect sunshine and humidity right on up into October, the mere thoughts of kids going back to school, football starting, or elections taking place, seems let our minds wander away from those "*lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer.*"

In a way, it's like many view August as Summer's "over the hill" point; when it transitions from being the fun, exciting season, to the socks-with-sandals wearing middle-aged season, that's still hanging around trying to be relevant. Well, you know what else used to be "over the hill"? 40. But now they're saying "50 is the new 40." So if 50 can be the new 40, why can't August still be the fun times of Summer?

We think it can! Who cares if the kids (*or grandkids*) have back to school orientation? There are still waves to be surfed, fish to be caught, sun to be soaked in ... and a whole boat load of memories to be made. Don't give up on Summer, because one look at the thermometer will tell you Summer hasn't given up on you! So grab your class schedules and order your NFL ticket, and don't forget the sunscreen, as there's plenty of sailing left to do in the AUGUST edition of THE CURRENT.

MONTHLY REVIEW



MONTHLY REVIEW

REMINDER: Information on all news items can be found on the Town Website at: www.OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS.

Council Meeting Recap (August 8)

The Town Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, August 08, 2023 began with two PUBLIC HEARINGS **(1) Proposed Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance – Section 8.10 – Zoning District Development Standards in the Commercial Low Density (C-LD) District:** A motion to deny the proposed amendment passed unanimously. **(2) Proposed Text Amendment to the Unified Development Ordinance – Section A.3 – Definitions for the definition “Lot, front line”:** Council took no action.

RECOGNITION: **(1) Retirement of Finance Director David Hatten:** Mayor White read a Resolution and Mr. Hatten was recognized with a standing ovation.

ADJUSTMENT/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Councilman Martin removed Approval of the Minutes from the agenda. Mayor Pro Tempore Bach removed Item 1.4 from the Consent Agenda. Mayor White removed V.4 from the agenda; the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is working on an event and is still waiting for more details. The amended agenda was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Will be summarized in the Meeting Minutes; and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COUNCIL REPORTS (MAYOR & COUNCIL): Will be summarized in the Meeting Minutes; and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: **(1) Appointments to the Planning Board (three seats available with terms ending Aug 2026):** (Votes were read out during the meeting and will be made part of the Minutes). Applicants Gene Brooks, Melanie Morgan and David Purser were appointed to the Planning Board. Applicants Bill Millard, Bruce Pitt, Dara Royal and Natasha Tatum were not appointed/re-appointed. **(2) Appointment of an Alternate Member for the Board of Adjustment:** Council unanimously appointed Steve Yuhasz as an alternate member.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Department reports are available on the Town's website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DEPT. Reports will be summarized in the Meeting Minutes, and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

OLD BUSINESS: (1) Consideration of Amendment to the Policy for Boards/Committees and the Code of Ethics and Amendments to the associated Town Ordinances (Secs. 2-91, 92 and 94):Council approved the amendments to the policy and the associated ordinance amendments unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Consideration of a Performance Guarantee for The Lakes at Pine Forest: Council unanimously approved the performance guarantee. **(2) Consideration of Implementing a 3-Way Stop at the Intersection of S. Middleton Avenue and Beach Drive:** Council consensus was to request NCDOT do a study (during the summer season). **(3) Consideration of Budget Ordinance Amendments:**The Budget Ordinance Amendments were approved unanimously. **(4) Consideration of an Oak Island Heroes Flag Program:**This item was removed from the agenda. **(5) Consideration of Audit Contract:** A motion to direct staff to enter into a contract for the audit was approved unanimously.

Since there was no closed session, Council voted to adjourn at 8:59 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](#)





Council Meeting Recap (July 11)

The Town Council's regular meeting on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 began with two PUBLIC HEARINGS **(1) Proposed Text Amendment to Section 8.10 of the Unified Development Ordinance - C-LD Commercial Low Density District Dimensional Requirements:** Council voted to reschedule the public hearing to the August meeting. **(2) Proposed Zoning Map Amendment for a portion of Tax ID Parcel Number 250CI02301:** Council voted 4-1 to approve the proposed zoning map amendment.

PRESENTATION: Skip Cox provided a mid-season activity report for the Beach Ambassadors, noting that this was the 10th year of the program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Have been summarized in the Meeting Minutes; and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

COUNCIL REPORTS (MAYOR & COUNCIL): Have been summarized in the Meeting Minutes; and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Department reports are available on the Town's website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/DEPT. Reports will be summarized in the Meeting Minutes, and can be viewed by [CLICKING HERE](#).

OLD BUSINESS: **(1) Consideration of Next Steps in Acquiring or Commissioning Public Art:** Council approved having the Economic Development Coordinator begin working with individuals and groups related to the procurement and placement of public art projects. **(2) Discussion of the Recreation Center Project:** Staff presented an update on work being done to identify options for the Recreation Center expansion or replacement.

NEW BUSINESS: (1) Consideration of Creation of a Business Advisory Board: Council approved the reestablishment of a Business Advisory Board. **(2) Proposed Text Amendment - Sec. 28-44:** Council voted to approve the proposed text amendments and fee schedule. **(3) Consideration of Amendment to Sec. 22-12 Piers:** Council voted to approve the proposed text amendment. **(4) Consideration of Rules for Use of Pickleball Courts:** Council provided consensus to approve the revised rules. **(5) Consideration of Fund Balance Policy:** Council voted to adopt the Fund Balance policy as amended.

CLOSED SESSION: Council voted to enter into closed session, during which no action was taken. Council then voted to approve renewal of the Town Manager's contract, with an amendment to increase the employee pre-termination notice from 30 to 120 days. Council then voted to adjourn. 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](#)

"Filling The Gaps" - New Water Safety Stations Coming Soon!

Since their installation roughly one year ago, the Water Safety Stations provided in the public beach areas have proven a vital, lifesaving tool. Conceived through a partnership with the [Jack Helbig Memorial Foundation](#) (JHMF), the stations are posted at the entrance to ALL 65 public Beach Access Locations.

With the "new-ness" worn off, and 2023 being their first full season in use, it has given Town staff and the first responder community a chance to review their overall effectiveness. Members of the Beach Services Unit, the Fire Department, the Town's Public Works Department and Oak Island Water Rescue have all weighed in on some areas for improvement, which have led to new actions being taken!

Through the continued partnership with JHMF, a total of **11 NEW stations** are currently in production, with installation anticipated before the end of this season. These new stations will be strategically located to help fill the "gaps" - where the distance between Beach Access Locations is stretched far, but visitor turnout is still high. The location data at the top of each sign (which will be given when calling 9-1-1) will display either the exact address, or in the event of no specific address, the nearest Access Location.

New stations are planned for the areas of:

- SE 65th St.
- SE 66th St.
- SE 61st St.
- SE 58th St.
- 16th Pl E (for East of the Ocean Crest Pier)

- 4505 W Beach Dr.
- 6025 W Beach Dr.
- 6601 W Beach Dr.
- 6717 W Beach Dr.
- The Point (TWO additional stations will join the one already installed)

By providing information on the Beach Warning Flags, dune lines, Rescue Tube instructions, and of course the Rescue Tubes themselves, the Water Safety Stations are an invaluable resource for anyone entering the water.

Whether it's at one of the new stations, or any of the existing, it's always a great idea to stop and familiarize yourself with the information provided before venturing out into the water. You can even check them out before your next beach visit, on the Beach Safety page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

7TH
 Town of **Oak Island**
 North Carolina
 A Place to Coast

BEACH SAFETY INFORMATION
 DUNE BEGINS HERE | KEEP OFF DUNES

WARNING FLAGS

- Double Red**
Extreme hazards present!
Do not enter water areas!
- Red**
High surf / rip current risk!
Avoid water activity!
- Yellow**
Moderate surf conditions.
Use extreme caution.
- Green**
Low hazard conditions.
Rip currents still possible.
- Purple**
Marine Pests: jellyfish,
stingrays, dangerous fish
or marine life present.

STAY SAFE
Only use a **Rescue Tube** if you are a competent swimmer.

CALL 9-1-1
Before using the **Rescue Tube**, or **Rescue Tube**, or have someone else call 9-1-1.

REPLACE
If the **Rescue Tube** is missing or damaged, call 910-201-8083.

RESCUE TUBES

- Pull **Rescue Tube** behind you
- Use fins if possible
- Stay calm
- Kick across current towards shore

NOTE: Absence of flag does not mean water is safe!
 To view the **Current Flag Status** and learn more about **Beach Safety**, scan the QR code to the left, or visit the Town of Oak Island Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY.

In Memory Of:
 Dar & Mary
 Williams
 Larry & Mary
 Ryan





Drainage Via The Dunes

The goal of the project is to install a “dune infiltration” style drainage system, which will reduce ponding and decrease occurrences of standing water along Ocean Drive, following significant rain events. This is similar to a system which has already proven very successful in neighboring Caswell Beach. Additionally, the system will increase the width of the area’s secondary dunes, which should provide additional protection to infrastructure.

Results should be immediately noticeable, as less standing water will be seen following significant rain events and storms. Monitoring the system should be easily done through basic visual observation, which will indicate if the system needs cleanout or maintenance.

The \$466,568 contract for the project was originally approved by the Town Council during a special meeting on [February 20, 2023](#), with August being determined as the soonest availability for contractors to perform the installation.

The [Ocean Drive Drainage Study](#), performed by engineering firm WK Dickson in 2021, provided the foundation for developing the the Dune Infiltration System project.

Moving forward, all project updates will be provided on the Stormwater Projects page of the Town Website, which can be accessed by visiting www.OakIslandNC.gov/STORMWATER or clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Got Something To Say? Take The Survey!

"Change is inevitable. Growth is optional." — John Maxwell

Are you a Town resident or property owner, with opinions on how YOU would like to see future growth and development regulated?

The Town is currently hosting a Public Engagement Survey, to receive public input on modernizing the Table of Uses & Activities within the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The survey will CLOSE at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, August 15 (link provided below).

This survey is purposefully intended to be simple and brief, and does not require extensive knowledge of municipal planning, the Table of Uses, or the UDO. All that is needed is to simply share your thoughts on ways the Town can responsibly grow, while considering things like residential homes, commercial businesses, open spaces, and nature conservation!

The TABLE OF USES sets out the rules for what land uses are permitted in each of the Town's Zoning Districts. It is housed within the UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE (UDO), which contains all of the Town's regulations concerning the use and development of land and buildings. The UDO addresses concerns with zoning districts, permissible types of construction, stormwater restrictions, and natural resource conservation, among other topics.

So if you have an answer to the question "*how do YOU want to see your Town developed in the future?*" then take the survey now by visiting www.OakIslandNC.gov/SURVEY, or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
SURVEY**

CONTRIBUTIONS



CONTRIBUTIONS

This section features content contributed from various Town Departments, as well as the Town's municipal and non-profit partner organizations.

Regular contributing organizations include the [Oak Island Fire Department](#), the [Beach Preservation Society](#), the [Friends of Parks Foundation](#), the [Sea Turtle Protection Program](#), the [Friends of the Library](#), and [Oak Island Water Rescue](#), among others. For more information, please reach out to the contributing organization directly.

Fire Department Safety Brief: Storm Season

(Contributed by Tim Fleckinger) This monthly reminder provided by the OKI-FD is going to be a brief yet important one. It is upon us again ... **Storm Season!**

We here want to remind all that the time to prepare is now and not the week of any impending storm. In all actuality the time to prepare is throughout the year gathering a small stockpile of supplies that can get you through the tough few days, or weeks, post hurricane. Things to consider are going to be the obvious such as non-perishable foods and water.

Learn about Storm & Hurricane Preparedness on the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE.

This also leads to adequate supplies of fuel to prepare these items whether it's to cook the food or sterilize water to drink, if needed. Also fuel for generators if you are lucky enough to have one. A side note about the generators is to make sure it is not too close to the house to cause a carbon monoxide situation indoors. Another thing to remember is to let it cool down before refueling to limit fire hazards or explosions.

Be sure to have some kind of pre-charged power source for cell phones when they need replenishing. If your cell phone is about to die a simple trick is to update your voicemail with your status and location so anyone who may be trying to reach out can be informed. Have an escape plan for before, during, or after the storm. This is also a good thing to have ready for any other emergencies such as house fires...WINK WINK! Listen to the officials when they offer recommendations about evacuations as they spend countless hours in meetings for weeks prepping for the magnitude of landfall.

Stay informed! Sign up to receive Emergency Text Alerts at www.OakIslandNC.gov/INFO.

Lastly to tie this into last month's article, be a member of a team. Look out for each other if you do choose to stay. Check on your fellow neighbors if they hunkered down also or if not and they followed recommendations to evacuate check on their property as you can. OKI-FD and OKI-PD are fully staffed all of the time during these events to render aide to all as soon as it is possible to safely do so. Stay safe all and stay ready.

For more information on the Oak Island Fire Department and the services we provide, just visit our page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/FD or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





Police Department: Now Hiring Patrol Officers

The Oak Island Police Department is HIRING! You already know Oak Island is a great place to live, but did you know it's also a great place to work? Or *serve*? Or especially, ***to protect?***

The Town of Oak Island actually encompasses nearly 20 square miles across both island and mainland areas. This includes 10 miles of beachfront, with nearly 9,000 full-time residents, and a seasonal population of around 50,000. With such a sizeable footprint and varying population, dependable, dedicated patrol officers are a great resource for both the Police Department and Town as a whole.

Oak Island works hard to successfully maintain a balance of its bustling, vibrant tourism, with the traditional, quiet charm of a moderately sized coastal community. With competitive salaries starting at over \$47,800 for patrol officers, you can help maintain that balance and serve a wonderful community.

For full details on the positions available or to apply, call 910-201-8014 or visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Finding Nature's Bounty in Creation of a "Smart Yard"

(Contributed by David Merkle, Past Volunteer Coordinator of the Smart Yard Program) Bill and Karen Critcher must have been destined for Oak Island. They had purchased a lot some 2 decades ago in a nearby community off Oak Island with the expectation that they would build their retirement "dream house" one day. The years went on until-finally-it was time to build. In preparation they rented a home on Oak Island to slowly wait out the design and construction period of the new home. Each day they would walk to their mailbox several lots away-and 1 day they noted a vacant lot with a 'For Sale' sign. Pause....., they had come to really enjoy their temporary location that fronted on Tranquil Harbor. They both enjoyed the peaceful, serene setting with abundant wildlife, the kayaking in the waterways, and Bill's itch to fish at any old time-not to mention the quick proximity to the ocean beach. Well-long story short-they purchased the lot and built their "dream house" right there.

These two airline industry retirees-who had traveled the world-found their world on Oak Island. Karen is an avid gardener and a great appreciator of Nature-so they found a builder who was sensitive to their concerns.

The lot was full of mostly mature trees and fronted on tidal water. One goal was to keep as many trees as possible in the large 'front yard'; the much smaller rear yard to be devoid of trees and afford long views of the waterways. All this was accomplished. Bill, with much of his own labor, created a long gravel driveway and other important beds and landscapes. In this idyllic urban forest where trees, native plantings, vegetables, and seasonal blooms prevail; "Life is good here" and you might say the Critchers have landed!

So, what makes this a "Smart Yard"?

First, the retention of numerous trees and the natural fauna allows natural absorption of rain or stormwater into the soil. Secondly; the long gravel driveway facilitates storm water to percolate into the underlying soil instead of running off the homesite onto public streets or the neighbor's property. Additionally, gutters and downspouts from the roof are directed into "infiltration areas" where stormwater is collected, cleaned, and later slowly released into the soil avoiding pooling or runoff-important on this waterfront lot.

Perhaps you would like to join the brigade of homeowners who combine attractive landscaped yards with methods to wisely use stormwater for gardens and beds and save on the water bill. That would be a "Smart Yard"! To see whether your yard could have that distinction or tips on achieving it, contact Kennette Tower at the Oak Island Public Works Department 910-201-8083 or e-mail: ktower@oakislandnc.gov.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





READY BRUNSWICK

Brunswick County, North Carolina

Emergency Notification System

READYBRUNSWICK: Brunswick County's New Emergency Notification System

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article contains information about signing up for the new emergency notification system through Brunswick County. This is a separate system from [OKInformation](#), which provides notification directly from the Town of Oak Island.

(Contributed by Brunswick County) Your safety is our top concern – that's why Brunswick County wants to make sure you know about emergencies and incidents as they happen.

ReadyBrunswick is Brunswick County's new emergency notification system to make sure you know about issues that may affect your safety. Powered by Everbridge, this system allows Brunswick County to contact thousands of residents in seconds so you can find out about an emergency right away.

The success of this service relies on YOU. Having your latest contact information is the only way to ensure we can contact you in an emergency.

It only takes a minute to enroll. Sign up for ReadyBrunswick at brunswickcountync.gov/e-alerts.

HOW DOES IT WORK? The process begins when Brunswick County issues a message about a potential safety hazard or concern. Next, ReadyBrunswick sends a message through your primary contact path. If you don't confirm receipt of the message, the system will try to reach your second contact path and continues trying to reach you until you confirm receipt.

The ReadyBrunswick system sends emergency alert notifications in a variety of communication methods such as: Landline (Voice), VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), Mobile (Voice), Mobile SMS (Text Messaging), and Email.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and participation in this important program. For more information, or to sign up, visit www.brunswickcountync.gov/e-alerts 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 broadcast live on OKI-TV (Spectrum Cable channel 8), as well as 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.

PLANNING BOARD (televised) will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, August 17, 2023 at 10:30 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

PLANNING BOARD (televised) will hold a Special Meeting on **Wednesday, August 30, 2023 at 9:30 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive. The purpose of this meeting is to continue review of the Table of Uses within the Unified Development Ordinance.

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

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

TOWN COUNCIL (televised) will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive. (**NOTE:** *This is moved from the regular meeting date of the second Tuesday of the month*)

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

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

CLOSURES & HOLIDAYS

LABOR DAY: Administrative Offices for the Town of Oak Island will be **CLOSED** on **Monday, September 4, 2023** in observance of **Labor Day**. Garbage & Recycling Collection will **NOT** be affected, however collection may take longer due to higher volume. The [Disposal Convenience](#) site will **NOT** be open on Saturday, September 2, 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 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.

Barbee Blvd Access Parking Lot CLOSED

On Thursday, August 3, 2023 the Beach Access Location at Barbee Blvd was CLOSED to all vehicle traffic. Access to the beach remains available for pedestrian traffic only.

This closure is to accommodate construction as part of the ongoing Dune Infiltration System project (*previously referenced in this edition*), which began during the first week of August.

At this time, a duration of the closure and reopen date for the Access Location is unavailable. However, regular updates for the project will be provided on the Stormwater Department page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/STORMWATER or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





NEW Business Advisory Board: Applications Being Taken

The Town of Oak Island is seeking dedicated individuals to join the new Oak Island Business Advisory Board. Board members will play a crucial role in shaping the economic future of Oak Island, as well as promoting the business interests of the Town.

[CLICK HERE to download an application.](#)

The Business Advisory Board is a newly formed body, that will be comprised of 9 individuals, Members will be appointed by the Town Council through majority vote and are preferred to have professional or volunteer experience related to the fields business and economic development.

Terms on advisory boards are staggered, so these initial terms will be set up for one year, two years, or three years. Applicants can indicate their preferred term length as part of their application.

PURPOSE: The Board serves as an advisory body, working towards enhancing business interests within the Town. It acts as a bridge between local business and town government, ensuring effective, coordinated, and consistent communication.

RESPONSIBILITIES: The Board suggests policies, provides recommendations on business programs and requirements, and acts as a liaison between the business community, Town Manager, Town Council, and residents.

By joining the Business Advisory Board, applicants will have the chance to make a positive impact in the future economy of their local community. The expertise and insights contributed by each member will add to the overall effectiveness of the Board as a whole. This new advisory body will provide excellent opportunities for direct, expanded dialogue with existing and future members of the business community.

DEADLINE: Applications for the Business Advisory Board are due by close of business on **Monday, August 14, 2023**. Applications may be submitted to the Town Clerk, Lisa Stites via email at lstites@oakislandnc.gov or at the Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive, during regular business hours of Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

In addition to the link above, applications can be downloaded on the Boards & Committees page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/BOARDS, or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

REMINDER: Roll Them Back

It's been said that "*the **shopping cart** is the ultimate litmus test for whether a person is capable of self-governing.*" Returning a shopping cart is an easy, convenient task that everyone agrees is the right thing to do. Well here in Oak Island, we feel the same principle could be applied to **Garbage & Recycling** bins

Since December 2020, the Town has no longer had a contractor-provided "roll back" policy for garbage and recycling bins. As a reminder, it is the responsibility of all residents and businesses to bring their bins to the curb for collection, and return them from the roadway afterwards. (NOTE: This does not affect individuals who pay additional fees for private roll back service, or those who are provided this service as part of a property management agreement.)

As is the case ever since, a regular reminder is needed, as many bins have been noted as left out in recent weeks.

TIMING: All bins must be placed in the right-of-way, approximately five feet from the edge of pavement no earlier than 2:00 PM the day prior to collection, and at least by 6:00 AM on the scheduled day of collection, and pulled back to the house or returned to the cart rack by 7:00 PM the following day after collection. When in storage, containers should always be stored on non-elevated surfaces next to ground level homes, or underneath elevated houses.

The full policy regarding garbage Collection & Recycling can be found in [Chapter 24 of the Town Code of Ordinances](#) or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)





Mosquito Management & "Do Not Spray" List

As the heat and humidity continue deeper into the summer season, the nuisance of mosquitos and the threat of disease they bring will only increase. That's why late summer is a good time for a reminder on the Town's efforts to respond to these unwelcome spikes in the mosquito population. It is also a good time to look at steps you can take at home, as well as instructions on how to sign up for the "Do Not Spray" list.

PREVENTION: The best response to the mosquito population is to prevent it from growing. This starts at the home through the "Tip-&-Toss" method. Eliminate breeding grounds for new mosquitos by "tipping" stagnant water out of any containers in your yard. This includes items like bird baths, deck storage boxes, old pet dishes, and children's toys. Finally, take inventory of your yard and remove any containers or other items that don't need to be left outdoors. By "tossing" these items into the recycling bin, they reduce the number of spaces where new mosquitos can grow.

SPRAYING: The Town's Mosquito Management Program is administered through the Operations Division of the Public Works Department. The Department maintains trucks specifically for mosquito management through chemical spraying. These trucks are equipped with Smart Flow Technology, providing the driver with increased treatment flexibility, and improving the accuracy of each application.

"DO NOT SPRAY" LIST: For those with severe allergies or personal objections to the use of Biomist, the Public Works Department has established a "Do Not Spray" list. A link to sign up for the list if available on the Mosquito Management page of the Town Website, or directly through the link below.

[CLICK HERE to be added to the "Do Not Spray" list.](#)

For those registered on the list, the sprayer will be turned off approximately 100ft. before reaching their address, and then turned back on approximately 100ft. after passing their address. NOTE: The sprayer will continue to run and make noise, but no solution will be sprayed.

All of this information can be found in full detail on the **Mosquito Management Program** page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/MOSQUITO or by clicking the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

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.

Summer Concert Series: Finishing Strong

ONLY - 4 - MORE CONCERTS LEFT IN THE 2023 SERIES!!

WHEN: NOW through September 2 • 6:30 PM

WHERE: Middleton Park Complex Amphitheater • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

ABOUT: The sun is out, the fun is back, and the “Bands by the Beach” are once again ready to rock, groove, swing and swoon their way through the soundtrack of your perfect summer! For 15 weeks, from May to September, we turn the amps up to “11” and come together for the annual Town of Oak Island Summer Concert Series. The scheduled time for most concert events will be each Friday, from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM unless otherwise noted. Full series information, concert dates, and scheduled bands are available at www.OakIslandNC.gov/CONCERT.



Oak Island

Summer Concert

“Bands By The Beach!”

Series • 2023

Friday, May 26: Blackwater Band

Friday, June 2: Christine Martinez Band

Friday, June 9: Autumn Tyde

Friday, June 16: Old Man Mafia Band

Friday, June 23: The Entertainers

Saturday, July 1: Carl Newton's Review



**Oak Island
FARMERS' & ARTISANS'**

Farmers' & Artisans' Market

ONLY - 4 - MORE MARKETS LEFT IN THE 2023 SEASON!!

WHEN: Mondays, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM • Now - September 4

WHERE: Middleton Park Complex (Behind Town Hall) • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

COST: Free to attend / shop

PARKING: Please note that Paid Parking is NOT charged during Market times, in areas around the Middleton Park complex (SE 46th - SE 49th streets)

ABOUT: The Market is great opportunity to see and financially support the very best of Oak Island's local farmer and artisan community. Baked goods, produce, handmade crafts, and artistic masterpieces are just a few of the many treasures waiting to be uncovered at the popular annual tradition, which runs throughout the summer season.

Labor Day Surf Off

WHEN: September 2, 2023 • 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

WHERE: Ocean Crest Pier • 1409 E Beach Road

COST: \$40 per person (\$30 for additional categories)

REGISTER: www.OakIslandNC.gov/RecDesk

ABOUT: Calling all surfers! Put your skills to the test at the Labor Day Surf Off in Oak Island! All participants will meet at the Ocean Crest Pier and await instructions. There are categories for youth, teen, and adult participants and there will also be a paddleboard race and bodyboard competition as well. Make sure to sign up for the event if you plan to participate. Spectators can come out and watch for free!



SUNSET ON SUMMER



Sunset On Summer: Music Festival

WHEN: Saturday, September 9, 2023 • NOON - 8:00 PM

WHERE: Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

COST: FREE

ABOUT: While the first week of September is often seen as the "unofficial end" to the summer season, it doesn't mean the fun has to end in the Town of Oak Island! Start making plans now to attend the first ever Sunset On Summer Music Festival! Featuring live music from multiple bands, a Kids Area, Live DJ, food, craft beer, wine, spirits on site and more! For more information, visit: www.OakIslandNC.gov/SOS.

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: RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Look, let's not kid ourselves here. People don't come to Oak Island just to stand in line at the grocery store, or watch paint dry, or drive 15 mph below the speed limit in an LSV (well, okay ... **some do!**). Point being, if you're coming to this Town to live or just visit, you're most likely going to want to **DO something.**

Whether it's to fish, golf, exercise, pick up a new hobby, or simply relax by the ocean, it's no secret that one of the main reasons folks come to Oak Island is to have FUN! It's also no secret that the Town of Oak Island has one of the most successful, robust Recreation Departments in the State of North Carolina. The dedication, commitment, and overall creativity of this amazing team, allows them to regularly serve more than 10,000 residents and nearly 90,000 visitors each year!



From social clubs and athletic leagues, to educational services, and even community-wide events (can you say "*Summer Concert Series?*") the Recreation Department's efforts can be seen on almost every street in Town. Providing services and programs that interact with almost every age group available. In fact, the information related to the Recreation Department accounts for over 1/3 of the searches performed on the Town Website!

PROFILE: Recreation Director Heather O'Brien has been with the Town of Oak Island since September, 2021. For eleven (11) years prior, O'Brien had served as Director of the Marsh Creek Community Center, a 110 acre facility which also houses Raleigh's only skate park.

Heather and her family had already been frequent visitors to Oak Island for more than 15 years before the opportunity to join the Recreation Department became available.

With her degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, the NC State University graduate had been serving our State's capital in several capacities since 2001. Along that journey, her positions held included Instructor, Recreation Leader, Leisure Services, Assistant Director, and Director.

While professionally rooted in "The City of Oaks" (Raleigh), she brought more than two (2) decades of well-traveled, professional achievement to Oak Island. In just shy of two years since her arrival, she has overseen the revision of several Recreation programs, as well as the addition of multiple new special events.





EMPLOYEE PROFILE: Program Supervisor: Ryan Gordon is without doubt one of the hardest working individuals you will encounter in the Recreation Department. At least, we're pretty sure that's what people would say, if they could get him to stop working long enough to tell him. Always running from one location to another, Ryan oversees many aspects of the Recreation Department's efforts.

Since coming to Oak Island over seven (7) years ago from the Town of Hope Mills, Ryan has served the community through coordinating special events, such as the Summer Concert Series and the Farmers' & Artisans' Market; as well as overseeing the various programs like Summer Day Camps and the Senior Trips.

On the rare occasion he isn't out in the field, you can find him in his office, which adjoins the Ocean Education Center at 4700 E Oak Island Drive. This convenient location allows him to not only keep tabs on the Ocean Education and nearby Nature Centers, but is also a quick stroll down to the Middleton Park Complex; where he's usually found helping ensure the latest concert or festival goes off without a hitch!

"Recreation is a 'people-profession'" was the main theme noted when the Recreation Department was first highlighted back in the June 2021 edition of *The CURRENT*. Although the Director, staff, volunteers, and many programs have changed in the two years since then, the focus on connecting with and serving people at the individual level has remained unwavering. One of the most prominent examples of this commitment to people, can be seen in the Department's providing of Beach Wheelchairs, for the mobility impaired.

Through grant funding and community donation, the Recreation Department is able to offer the use of beach wheelchairs to residents and visitors at NO COST. These specially constructed chairs feature corrosion-resistant construction, and large, inflated tires specifically designed to tread on the top of the sand. Some chairs float, and can even be used in the water! (**NOTE:** For more information on reserving a chair, please call the Recreation Center at 910-278-5518 or visit www.OakIslandNC.gov/ADA.) Whether it's addressing a crowd of several thousand concert-attendees, or talking to few first-time visitors at the Nature Center, everyone feels directly connected to what the Department is doing for them.



Far more than just Heather and Ryan, the Recreation Department consists of full and part-time staff, along with a small army of volunteers to help provide the many programs and services the Department coordinates or oversees. Six (6) full-time staff manage the various programs, events, and group activities offered, while varying permanent and seasonal part-time staff assist in everything from equipment setup, to facility cleaning. As mentioned, individual and group volunteers who have a heart for their community also play a vital role in helping to fill the gaps of needed work from the regular staff.



The Oak Island Recreation Department is committed to providing recreation and community service in the broadest possible scope to meet the physical, cultural, and human service needs and interests of people of all ages and abilities. The Department provides a variety of athletic, programs, festivals, special events, and classes for all ages and abilities. Despite providing activities for such a wide variety of interests, they work hard to ensure that "all feel welcome" regardless of where they think they might fit in.

For detailed information on any facilities, programs, or other recreational opportunities, feel free to call the Oak Island Recreation Center directly at 910-278-5518, or visit their page of the Town Website at www.OakIslandNC.gov/REC.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

PHOTO REVIEW

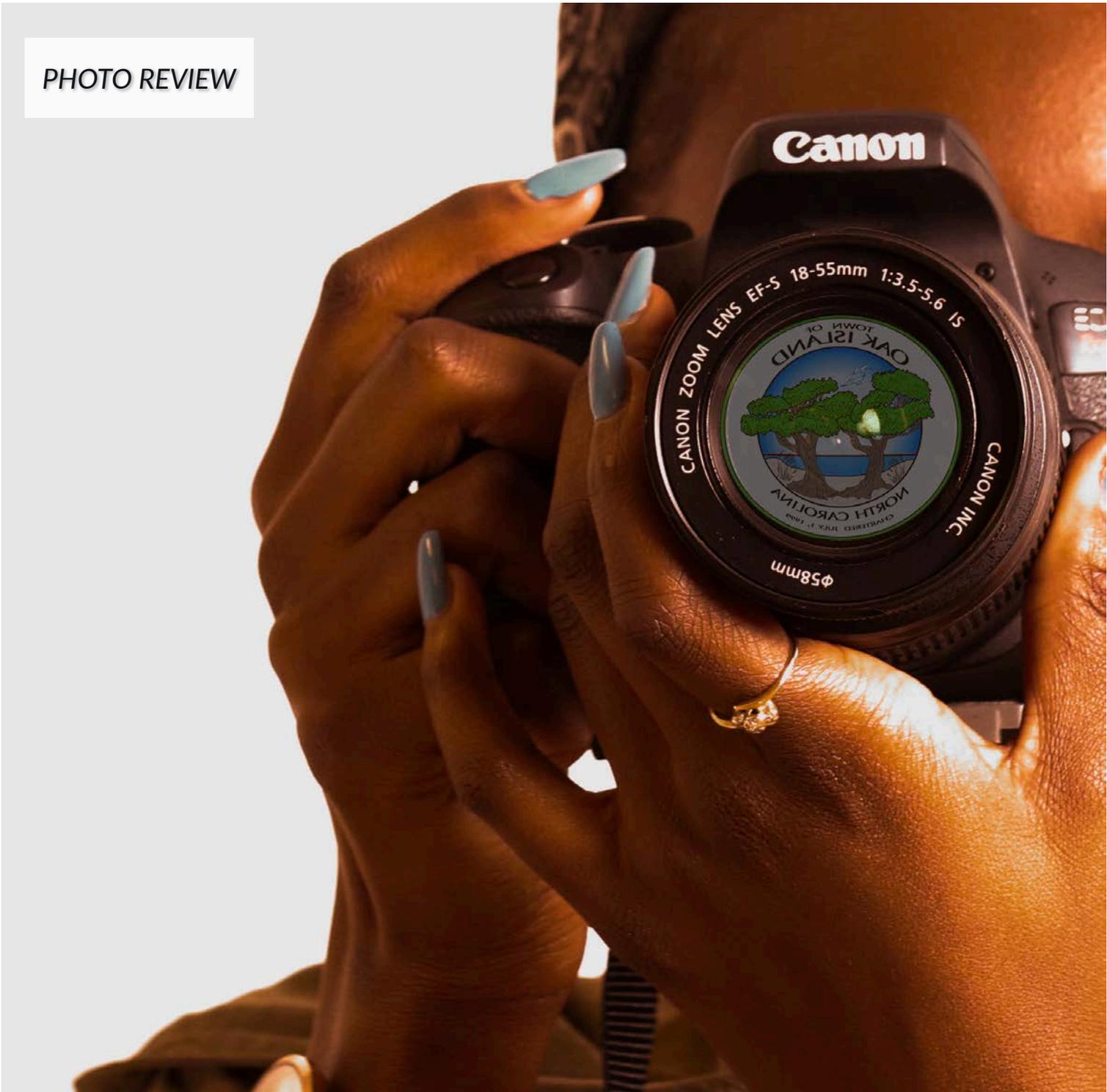


PHOTO REVIEW

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.





Additional Phot Credits: Dave Conrad & Vanessa Davison

THANKS FOR READING!



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