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Week of

March 18, 2024

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

Spring has sprung and the paint has been slung! Last week ended on a spectacular note, as we finally were able to welcome the warmer weather with the **Community Paint Day!** Take a look at the **PHOTO GALLERY** to see the more than 50 aspiring artists who showed up to help launch the **Public Art Trail**. It was a great week capped off with a great weekend, so let's keep the momentum rolling into the week ahead, as even more exciting news and events await. So put down the paintbrush and pick up the parasol, as we step into the sun for this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Planning Board**

NEWS & NOTICES

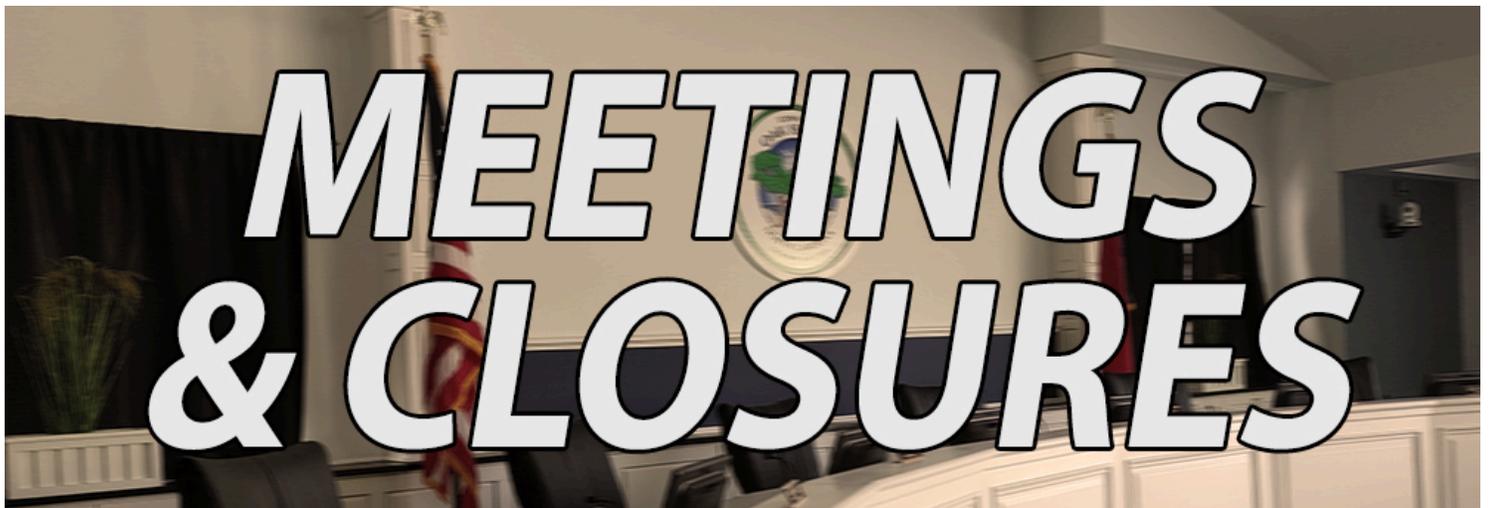
- **NEW Assistant Town Manager Named**
- **UPDATE: Customer Service Desk Closure**
- **Walkovers OPEN, Ball Courts CLOSED**
- **Accommodating Access Work Underway**
- **Spring Cleaning Reminders**

SAFETY BRIEF

- **POLICE: When One Door Closes...**
- **FIRE: Answer the Call with Ocean Rescue**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Art Teachers Needed**
- **Effective Dog Training**
- **Spring Fling: Market & Music**
- **Book Talk with Kris Emmert**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

PLANNING BOARD will hold its next meeting (televised) on **Thursday, March 21, 2024**, at **9:00 AM** in Town Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E. Oak Island Drive.

Upcoming meetings for next week include:

- **Business Advisory Board** (Tuesday, March 26)

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Information page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices and Facilities will be **CLOSED** on **Friday, March 29, 2024** in observance of **Good Friday**.

NOTE: the **Disposal Convenience Site** will also be **CLOSED** that day as well. **Garbage & Recycling** collection services will operate as **NORMAL**, however collection times may be delayed due to higher volumes over the holiday weekend.

To view all holiday closures, visit: OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY.



New Assistant Town Manager / Finance Director Named

this past **Wednesday, March 13**, it was formally announced that current **Finance Director Kathryn Adams** had accepted the position of **Assistant Town Manager / Finance Director**. The new role became effective immediately, and was met with unanimous support of the Town Council, who previously approved the position as part of the current fiscal year budget.

As the Assistant Town Manager, Adams will serve in a number of new roles, including oversight of standard daily operations, as well as the development and implementation of goals, policies, and procedures. The position will also fulfill the duties of the Town Manager in the event of an emergency or other occurrence where the Manager is unavailable. More immediately, Adams will help to provide a pivotal role during the transition to a new Town Manager, following the upcoming retirement of David Kelly in June. As the Town Council works to select a new Town Manager, Kathryn's skills, experience, and familiarity with the Town, will be key asset to ensuring rapid integration for the selected candidate.

Originally hired as the Finance Director in August of 2023, Kathryn Adams has served with distinction since taking the reins from longtime CFO, David Hatten. In her time as Director, she has skillfully lead the Town through a complete overhaul of the accounting infrastructure, successfully transitioning to Edmunds GovTech accounting software.

With Kathryn Adams' move into the role of Assistant Town Manager, it further highlights the Town's commitment to draw on the resources from within, while also recruiting future talent both far and wide.

To view the full media release announcing this position, just visit the ***OKInformation*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/NEWS)** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

UPDATE: Customer Service Desk Closure

Due to a scheduling change by the training provider, the previously reported CLOSURE of the Customer Service Desk this week has been MODIFIED.

This **Wednesday & Thursday, March 20 & 21**, the **Customer Service Desk** located on the first floor of Town Hall will be **CLOSED** from **10:00 AM - 2:00 PM** each day, to accommodate staff training on new accounting software.

While any closure of the Customer Service Desk is inconvenient, this training is crucial to implementing a new system which will better serve the residents and utility customer of the Town of Oak Island.

Limited emergency assistance will still be available as needed, however all routine transactions are heavily encouraged to be done prior to or after these closure times.

For questions or non-emergency assistance, please use the **[Customer Service Contact Form](#)** provided on the ***Finance Department*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/FINANCE](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/FINANCE)** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Walkovers OPEN, Ball Courts CLOSED

In the **Administrative Reports** during the Town Council's meeting last week on March 12, Public Works Director Scott Thornall reported that the final inspections of the **Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover** at **SE 20th St** were complete. Following some minor site cleanup and barricade removal, the walkover was officially **reopened** the next morning.

During the meeting, Council also approved a similar **contract for replacement** of the Davis Canal Pedestrian Walkover which connects **SE 9th St & 9th Pl E**. A start date for the SE 9th St Walkover has not been determined at this time, however construction should last similar to or less than the time needed for SE 20th St.

During the same report, Thornall noted that resurfacing work on the **Pickleball & Tennis Courts** was proceeding as planned. The courts were **CLOSED** last Monday to make way for the work to begin, which will include conversion of one (1) tennis court area into six (6) pickleball courts. Barring no significant delays from heavy rain or weather events, the work should be completed within 2-3 weeks. **REMINDER: ALL courts will remain CLOSED during the construction time, unless individually noted. They should NOT be entered, even if no work is active.**

To keep track of ANY current projects needing facility closures, just visit the ***Projects & Facility Closures*** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/PROJECTS** or click the link below..

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Accommodating Access Work Underway

Staying with the Public Works Report from Mr. Thornall, one specific update was met with audible praise from Town Council and those in attendance, the **SE 46th Street ADA Beach Access**.

Town Manager David Kelly further explained that there's never been a dedicated, vehicle-accessible drop off at the end of SE 46th Street. This new project not only seeks to provide one, but will also greatly expand and enhance handicap parking and beach access for the area.

As seen in this **excerpt of the project plans**, this new construction will add a **roundabout** with "drop-off" zones directly to the west of the Cabana. To the east side, a handicap-only parking lot will be installed, along with new Mobi-mat and a reduced incline pathway over the dune. The current beach access pathway at SE 46th St will move roughly 60ft eastward, to line up with the new construction. A pedestrian crossing signal light and improved markings will also assist those accessing from the Middleton Park Complex parking lot on E Dolphin Dr.

Work is currently anticipated to be completed before the start of the summer season. Although **no closures** are expected with this project, if any are needed, they will be updated on the ***Projects & Facility Closures*** page, which can be viewed at [OakIslandNC.gov/PROJECTS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/PROJECTS) or by clicking the link below..

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Spring Cleaning Reminders

The sun comes out, the weather warms up, and the windows open ... all welcomed signs of Spring! However, with the added light of longer days comes the added waste that results from Spring Cleaning.

In seasonal tradition, the **Public Works Department** takes this opportunity to offer some reminders on how to best dispose of your more unconventional items. The most important reminder being the Town of Oak Island **DOES NOT offer curbside removal of brown or white goods, such as furniture or appliances.**

While the local wildlife may fancy a **curbside couch**, a **sidewalk stereo**, or even a **vacant lot mattress**, we can assure you your neighbors won't. The **good news** however, is that residents can dispose of these items and more for FREE at the **Disposal Convenience Site**, located at 4110 Airport Road.

Hours of Operation for the Convenience Site are every **Wednesdays** from **1:00 PM - 4:30 PM**, **Fridays** from **9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**, and the **FIRST Saturday** of each month from **9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**. (NOTE: The Convenience Site will be CLOSED on Friday, March 29, 2024 for Good Friday.)

So remember to let the community enjoy the sights, sounds, and **smells** of Spring that nature provides, without adding to it through discarded curbside décor.

For full details on the **Disposal Convenience Site** or alternative disposal options, visit the dedicated page at [OakIslandNC.gov/CONVENIENCE](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/CONVENIENCE) or click the link below..

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POLICE DEPARTMENT: When One Door Closes...

"*When one door closes ... you get creative and squeeze through the doggie door!*" We're not sure if that's a saying which has ever been said, but it certainly became a reality for our **Officer Alyssa Creech** during one recent wellness check.

Highlighted in this month's edition of ***The Coastal Buzz Magazine*** (page 46), is an interesting story from back in December which could have ended in tragedy, but thankfully did not. During a routine delivery to an elderly ***Meals on Wheels*** client, neither the meal drop off or follow up phone call were answered. The family were alerted, who also could not reach the client. After this, the program's Dashboard Operator contacted Brunswick County 9-1-1, and Officer Creech responded.

Unable to enter through the door, yet sensing something just wasn't right, Creech took the extra step .. or "*crawl*" as she squeezed through the pet entry door to gain entry into the home. Once inside, she found the resident, who had fallen in the kitchen and been laying there for a ***full 24 hours***. Thankfully, a tragic end was averted, and the client was able to get the medical help they needed.

This is another prime example of how "Community Policing" works when the entire community is connected. While we provided the "safety" aspect of the program, it works because of the dedicated staff and volunteers who deliver the meals, make the calls, and if need be, alert us to potential dangers. We are thankful for the **BSRI Home Delivered Meal** program and their dedication to the seniors of our community, and to Officer Creech for trusting her instincts as a law enforcement professional. Most of all, we are thankful for the positive outcome of this potentially tragic call.

To learn more about the Police Department and how we serve our community, just visit **[OakIslandNC.gov/PD](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/PD)** or click the OKI-PD patch below.



FIRE DEPARTMENT: Ocean Rescue Recruitment

Are you ready to ***DIVE INTO YOUR CALLING*** and ***ANSWER THE CALL*** of your local community? Last year, we saw tremendous success with the initial launch of our ***Ocean Rescue Unit*** (formerly known as Beach Patrol), and are looking to ***expand even further in 2024!***

Building upon the previous success and adding crucial equipment, response, and training enhancements, we are ready to help ensure public safety in the surf and on the water this season ... ***all that's missing is YOU!***

We are currently hiring part-time staffing for the Ocean Rescue Unit, allowing you to get **paid** to help save others in one of Nature's most beautiful and physically challenging environments. Potential employees will share responsibility for driving fire apparatus, Quick Response Vehicles (QRV) or rescue watercraft. Employees will also participate in inspections, maintenance of records, and training for increased proficiency.

To learn more about the positions available, visit the ***Job Openings*** page at OakIslandNC.gov/JOBS, click the OKI-FD patch below. You can also call the Fire Department at **910-278-1000**, or use the ***Contact Form*** on the Fire Department webpage at OakIslandNC.gov/FD.





Looking for Art Instructors

- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive
- **SUBJECT:** Painting, Mixed Media, Drawing

The Town of Oak Island Recreation Center is looking for **artists** who would like to **teach art classes** in the evenings at the Center. If you or someone you know would be interested in teaching a class, please contact Emily Kinser at **910-278-6552** or e-mail ekincer@oakislandnc.gov or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Effective Dog Training

- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 23, 2024 • 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive
- **COST:** FREE to attend (presentation copies available for \$20)

Training pet parents on HOW and WHY to turn daily interactions with pets into FUN and EFFECTIVE training opportunities. While dogs are NOT invited to this seminar, you are ENCOURAGED to bring questions specific to your dog's behavior problems. Participants will have the opportunity to apply the information learned in this seminar to build fun and effective training strategies. This class is FREE to attend. Presentation copies will be available for \$20.00. Please feel free to bring snacks and drinks. Bring your learning caps for this 4 hour class.

For more information call the **Recreation Center** at **910-278-5518** or visit the ***Events & Programs*** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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Spring Fling: Market & Music

- **WHEN:** Saturday, March 23, 2024
 - **Market & Kids Zone:** NOON - 4:00 PM
 - **Concert:** 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive

Spring into the season with the Town of Oak Island as we say goodbye winter and hello spring! This event is free and no need to register. Come ready to shop at the Artisan Market, enjoy some lunch and dinner at our food vendors, let the kids play in the kids zone and then relax for some music by *The Doorsmen!*

For more information, check out the event listing on the [*Events & Programs*](#) page for the Recreation Department at OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or by click the link below.

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Book Talk with Kris Emmert

- **WHEN:** Friday, April 5, 2024 • 5:30 - 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive

Come and talk with Kris Emmert, author of *Providing Promise. A Navy Widow's Journey to Hope*. Listen to her journey and what she went through to find Hope. April 5 is Gold Star Spouses Day which honors spouses who lost their military significant other in the line of duty or because of their military service. There will be light refreshments. For more information visit OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS or call **910-278-5518**.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

REMINDER: A full listing of all coming events can be found on the [*Events & Programs*](#) page of the Town Website at OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS.

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





Looking for Artists



Spring Fling

Effective Dog Training



Book Talk

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 tabs below.

MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2023)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2022)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)

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MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)

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