



# THE CURRENT

Weekly News & Events for  
the Town of Oak Island, NC

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Week of

April 29, 2024

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

While April **MAY** be transitioning into a new month this week, there's more than just a calendar changeover happening as well! From Beach Bonfires to Sea Turtle Nests, seasons will end and new ones begin all in the course of the week ahead. Meanwhile, there's an important update in the ongoing search for a new Town Manager as well. So get ready to snuff out that bonfire and let's get down to business, as we dive into this week's edition of **The CURRENT**.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Town Council Special Meeting**
- **Environmental Advisory Committee**
- **Par 3 Golf Advisory Committee**

## NEWS & NOTICES

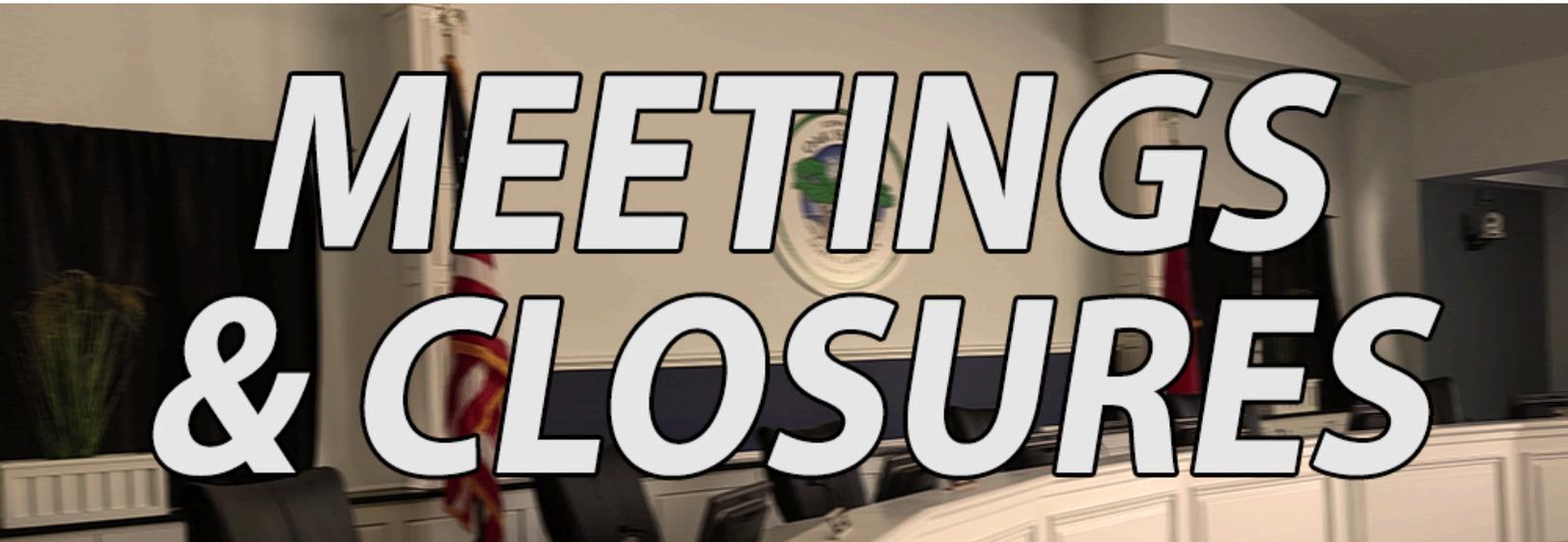
- **Special Meeting Notice**
- **Budget Workshops Wrap Up**
- **Beach Bonfire Season Ends**
- **FINAL REMINDER: Online Bill Payment Change**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **FIRE: New Firetruck Arriving Soon**
- **POLICE: Car Seats, LSVs, and YOU**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Crabbing to Cuisine**
- **Explore the Davis Canal Kayak Tour**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Farmers' & Artisans' Market**



# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

**TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a **Special Meeting** (*televised*) on **Thursday, May 2** starting at **8:15 AM** in the Town Council Chambers, located on the second floor of the Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** will hold its next meeting (non-televised) on **Thursday, May 2** at **8:30 AM** in the Ocean Education Center, located at 4700 E Oak Island Drive.

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

All Council & Board meeting dates can be found on the Meetings Information page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS).

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

There are **NO** Holiday Closures for the week ahead. The next holiday closure will be on **Monday, May 27** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

To view all holiday closures, visit: [OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY](https://OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY).



## Town Council Special Meeting Notice

Please be advised that the Oak Island Town Council will hold a **Special Meeting** on **Thursday, May 2, 2024**, at **8:15 AM** in Council Chambers at Town Hall, 4601 E. Oak Island Drive.

The purpose for calling the Special Meeting is to receive presentations from search firms proposing to work with Council on **hiring a new Town Manager**, and discussion / consideration of selecting a firm. **Action may be taken.**

As with all public meetings of the Town council, this will be livestreamed and available later for on-demand viewing from the **Meetings Information** page of the Town Website.

To access the Meetings Information page and watch this meeting, or view the video, agendas, or documents from previous meetings, just visit [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS) or click the link below.

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## Budget Workshops Wrapped Up

With meetings on **Tuesday, April 23** and **Thursday, April 25**, last week marked the final meetings in the Town Council's series of **Budget Workshops** for 2024. Throughout the month of April, a total of **SIX (6)** Budget Workshops were held, on **April 2, 4, 11, 16, 23 & 25**.

Many casual observers don't realize the intense amount of time and effort put into development of the coming fiscal year's Budget -- a process which itself began back in January with not **ONE**, but **TWO** days of Council Annual Retreat, in which the goals and objectives were initially laid out.

Each year, the Town Council hold a series of Budget Workshops to provide time to meet with the Town Manager, the Assistant Manager / Finance Director, and various department heads to provide directives on upcoming budget priorities. Town staff then take these directives, to formulate a **Recommended Budget**, which will be presented to the Town Council and Town Residents during a Public Hearing in late May.

Watching the Budget take shape during these Workshops really helps to understand how the final Budget comes to be; what priorities and concerns "factor in" to the final decision made. To view any of the 2024 Budget Workshops, along with the Public Hearing once announced, just visit the **Meetings Information** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS) or the link below.

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## Beach Bonfire Season Ends

On **Wednesday, May 1**, the **Sea turtle Nest Season** officially begins for the 2024 season. As this popular season begins, so another equally enjoyed beach season in Oak Island must end.

**NOTICE: Beach Bonfire Permit Applications** will **CLOSE** at the end of day on Tuesday, April 30 to accommodate the start of Sea Turtle Nesting. Permits will **no longer be accepted** and beach bonfires will be **PROHIBITED** until the Sea turtle Nesting Season ends on November 15, 2024.

A beach lit by the cozy fireside glow has long been a staple of the cold winter days and cool spring nights in Oak Island. The past 5 months have been no exception, whether enjoyed locally or by visitors from near and far. In next week's **Safety Brief** section, the Fire Department will break down the full statistics from the 2023-24 season, as we bid farewell to Beach Bonfires until the return of crisp autumn air this November.

In the meantime, you can learn about the exciting world of **Sea Turtles** and the conservation efforts being taken right on our shores during the **35th Anniversary** of the **Oak Island Sea Turtle Protection Program**. To read this year's special 35th Anniversary message, just read visit the **OKInformation** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS) or click the link below.

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## REMINDER: Online Bill Payment Change

For the past two editions of *The CURRENT*, we've reported on the Town's recent transition to a **NEW** online bill payment service provided through **Edmunds GovTech**. In addition to these notices, last week a direct email was also sent to those with automated utility billing payments established through the previous system, Paymentus.

As a final reminder, anyone with currently established automated payments or those looking to establish new automated payments will need a new **Customer Account Number** to make payments through **ACH / E-Check / Billpay**. **NOTE:** For non-automated, online-only payment, a new **Customer Pin Number** will also be needed, as well.

New **Account & Pin** numbers have been provided on the current printed bill, but if you need additional assistance, feel free to contact the **Customer Service Desk** at **910-201-8001** or through the **Department Contact Form**.

To view this information directly, or to make an online payment, just visit [OakIslandNC.gov/PAYMENT](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PAYMENT) or click the link below.

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# SAFETY BRIEF



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT: New Fire Engine Arriving Soon**

**Did you know**, in addition to baby chicks, cute foxes, and little bunnies, Spring is also the season when we see the birth of **new fire engines!?!** OK, ok, it may not work **exactly** like that (*ask you parents for full details*), but Spring has exciting for the Oak Island fire Department, for just that reason!

Last week, several members of our staff flew to to Pierce Manufacturing in Appleton Wisconsin, where our newest fire engine was waiting in their Customer Acceptance Area for final inspection! As pictured **HERE** - **HERE** - **HERE** - and **HERE**, this new engine is primed, painted, polished, and almost ready to hit the road!

This new unit is a 2024 **Pierce Enforcer** and is the much-anticipated "twin" to Unit 171, which entered into service back in September of last year. Like 171, this new unit also holds 1,000 gallons of water, with a 1,500gpm pump capacity. This new engine is just part of the overall landscape of change Chief Price and staff have worked hard to build in improving quality of service. We eagerly look forward to this new truck's delivery, and for our "Pushing In" ceremony once it arrives in late mid-May.

For the latest updates from the Fire Department on services provided or events like the "Pushing In" ceremony, just visit the Fire Department's webpage at **OakIslandNC.gov/FD** or click the OKI-FD patch below



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT: Car Seats, LSVs, and YOU**

This week's edition of ***The CURRENT*** has already talked about Sea Turtle Nesting Season, and Beach Bonfire Season. With the longer days and warming weather there's another "season" already upon us ... ***Low Speed Vehicle (LSV) Season.***

As we've already spoken about in the **April 8** and **April 15** editions of ***The CURRENT***, LSV safety is a ***very*** important topic to us. This brings up a crucial concern that we want to remind everyone one of as early as possible: ***Child Safety Seats MUST by law be used in LSVs, just like any other vehicle!***

Just like with our letters to the LSV rental companies and then the private home rentals, it is not just visitors to our Town that we see violations from, but property owners and even residents as well. We understand that given the open nature, easy access, and slow pace of LSVs, taking the time to properly restrain small children in their safety seats may not seem like much of a concern; or even a bit of a hassle. But trust us, you ***DON'T*** want to experience firsthand the results of what happens during even a minor accident when children aren't properly secured. That goes for us adults, too!

So please, whether it's family, friends, or grandkids coming for a visit, or even someone using your LSV for the weekend, help us by sharing the **Low Speed Vehicles Info Card**, and emphasizing the importance of using seatbelts and child safety seats.

You can download your own LSV Card or get more information about Low Speed Vehicles in Oak Island, on the ***LSV Information*** page. Just visit **OakIslandNC.gov/LSV** or click the OKI-PD patch below.



## Crabbing To Cuisine

- **WHEN:** Friday, May 17, 2024 • 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Oak Island Recreation Center • 3003 E Oak Island Drive
- **COST:** \$45 Residents / \$50 Non-Residents

Join Steve's Crab Shack learning all about the Blue Crab! Discussions include methods of catching crabs, types of bait, local areas where crabbing is permitted, as well as how to prepare and steam your catch. Participants receive hands on practice in picking Blue Crab for a taste test that is sure to have your tastebuds screaming for more! \*Participants under age 16 must attend with a registered participant age 18 and up.

For more information and **additional course dates** visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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## Explore the Davis Canal Kayak Tours

- **WHEN:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 • 10:00 AM - NOON
- **WHERE:** Tidal Waves Kayak & canoe Launch • SE 31st Street

- **COST:** \$30 Residents • \$40 Non-Residents

Enjoy Oak Island's beauty from the water! Guided trips area available through the Oak Island Recreation Department. Trips last approximately 2 hours and include kayak rentals, paddle, PFD and experienced guides. Paddle difficulty is easy.

For more information or to register, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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## Summer Concert Series

- **WHEN:** Friday, May 24, 2024 • 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive
- **COST:** FREE

The Summer Concert Series is one of Oak Island's favorite pastimes. This is a FREE event. Come and bring a chair/blanket and enjoy great entertainment all summer long. There will also be food trucks onsite in case you get a little hungry. Concerts each week start at 6:30 PM from the Middleton Park Complex Amphitheater located at 4610 East Dolphin Drive, Oak Island, NC. .

For more information and to view the *Live Band Lineup*, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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## Farmers' & Artisans' Market

- **WHEN:** Mondays, June 3 - August 26, 2024 • 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex • 4610 E Dolphin Drive

The Oak Island Farmers' & Artisans' Market is a great opportunity for the public to see, and financially support the very best of Oak Island's local growers and crafters. Farmers and artisans alike can be found in this great showcase of baked goods, produce, handmade crafts, and artistic goods.

Located steps away from the Kevin Bell Skate Park, Pirate Ship Playground, Oak Island Splash Pad, and just across the street from the beach; it's the perfect outing for the entire family.

To learn more about the Mark or view all dates, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

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

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



**Explore Davis Canal**



**Summer Concert Series**



**Farmers' & Artisans' Market**

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## 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 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 (2022)**

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**MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2021)**

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**MONTHLY EDITION ARCHIVE (2020)**

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