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**Week of**  
**May 27, 2024**

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WELCOME to **THE CURRENT**, the weekly digital newsletter for the [Town of Oak Island, NC](#).

**Decoration Day.** That is the original name given in 1868 after Civil War veteran and Union General, John Logan proposed a nationwide day for the "*strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion...*"

Many decades later, following the "**Great War**" (WWI) the holiday grew to commemorate servicemembers who had died in all wars; and more than a century after first being proposed, **Memorial Day** as it had come to be known, was officially established as the last Monday in May through the **Uniform Monday Holiday Act** of 1968.

Understanding this purpose and history helps us all to see how this three-day weekend is about so much more than barbecues and beach days. True, it is a sign of great appreciation to look a veteran in the eye and say "*thank you, for your service.*" However, that sentiment carries a much heavier depth of gratitude, when standing in front of a white marble headstone, or even a **Memorial Brick** at our own Veterans Park.

So take some time, whether it's to place a flag in remembrance, or to simply observe a **moment of silence at 3:00 PM**, and say "*thank you, for your sacrifice*" to those no longer present to return a "*you're welcome.*" From the elected officials, administration, and staff of the Town of Oak Island, we take that moment to ***honor & remember*** as we start this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

## MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **Town Council Special Meeting**
- **Business Advisory Board**

## NEWS & NOTICES

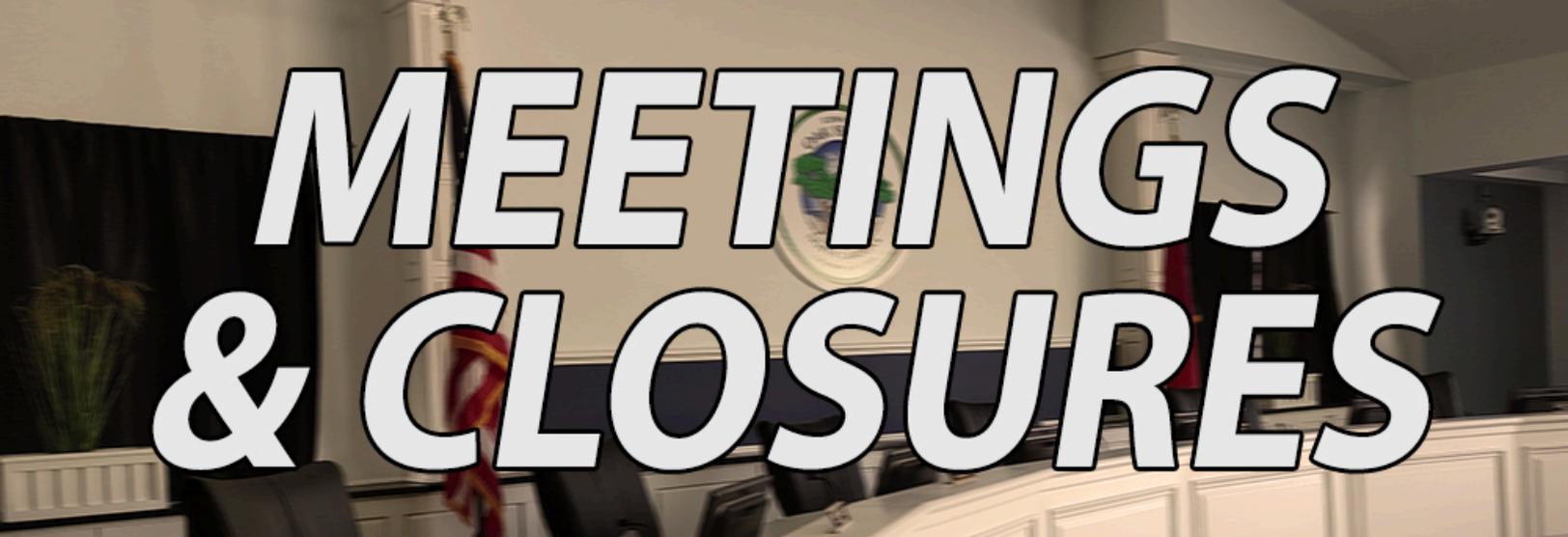
- **Special Meeting Notice**
- **Public Art Trail Now "Online"**
- **Beach Ambassador Training**
- **Hurricane Season Outlook**

## SAFETY BRIEF

- **FIRE: Summer Camp Grant**
- **POLICE: Courtroom Training**

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Education Centers Now Open**
- **Summer Concert Series**
- **Farmers' & Artisans' Market**
- **Chop With A Cop**



# MEETINGS & CLOSURES

## COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

**BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD** will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, May 28** at **9:00 AM** in the Police Department Training Room, located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department.

**TOWN COUNCIL** will hold a **Public Hearing** and **Special Meeting** on **Tuesday, May 28** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.

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

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices are **CLOSED** on **Monday, May 27** in observance of **Memorial Day**.

The next upcoming Holiday Closure will be Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day.

### Please note:

- **Fire, Police, and all Emergency Services** will be available, as always by calling **9-1-1**.
- **Garbage & Recycling Collection** will run on the normal schedule, however service may run slower than normal due to higher volume.

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

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# NEWS & NOTICES

## Budget Public Hearing & Special Meeting

Please be advised the the Oak Island Town Council will hold a **Public Hearing** and a **Special Meeting** on **Tuesday, May 28, 2024** at **6:00 PM** in Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall, 4601 E. Oak Island Drive.

The purpose of the meeting is as follows:

- **PUBLIC HEARING:** To receive citizens' comments on the **Recommended FY 2024-2025 Budget**
- Consideration of Adopting the **FY 2024-2025 Budget Ordinance**
- Consideration of Adopting the **FY 2024-2025 Fee Schedule**
- Consideration of a contract with **Slavin Management Consultants** (Town Manager recruitment search)
- Consideration of contract with **Withers Ravenel** (Land Use Plan update)

As a reminder, the Recommended FY 2024-2025 Budget is available for public review, on the ***Budget Information*** page of the Town Website at **[OakIslandNC.gov/BUDGET](https://OakIslandNC.gov/BUDGET)**.

To view the full agenda for this meeting or watch it live online, visit the ***Meetings Information*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS)** or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Public Art Trail Now Online

Back in 2022, the Town Council approved a budget amendment that appropriated funds for **public art initiatives**. After being presented with options on how to use those funds, the initiative finally found some direction with the hiring of Economic Development Coordinator, Hallie Willis in 2023.

In October 2023 the Town officially launched the ***Oak Island Public Art Trail*** through TWO workshops held at the **801 Ocean Events Center**. Those were quickly followed earlier this year with the first public art community project: the ***Hope Floats*** community painted mural mural at 102 SE 47th St. Now, this ever-growing "trail" of public art pieces throughout Town has gone **DIGITAL!**

The Economic Development Office is excited to announce the launch of the online **Public Art Trail**. This interactive online map provides users with the real world locations, photos, and descriptions of some of the amazing art that makes up this community.

To share online or "follow the trail" yourself, just visit the **Public Art Trail** page of the Town Website at [OakIslandNC.gov/ART](https://OakIslandNC.gov/ART) or click the link below..

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Beach Ambassador Training

This past **Thursday, May 23** the **Oak Island Beach Ambassadors** completed their orientation training for the 2024 Summer Season. Police Chief Charlie Morris and Fire Chief Lee Price were both on hand to welcome the new members, and provide insights on working in tandem with their departments through the coming months.

- [CLICK HERE to view the 2024 Beach Ambassadors](#)

Organized by the **Beach Preservation Society, Inc.**, (BPSI) the Oak Island Beach Ambassador Program is a great opportunity for citizens to assist in promoting clean, safe, and protected beach areas for all users.

This all-volunteer group is trained to educate and inform visitors about Town ordinances related to beach areas, and how their actions can provide a safe environment for visitors and sea turtles alike. Emphasis is on visitor-friendly communication. Ambassadors also provide monitoring and observation, reporting potential safety issues, ordinance violations and wildlife concerns. The program will run throughout the summer months, providing daily beach patrols in parallel to the Police Department's **Beach Services Unit**.

For more information on the program itself, and links to the BPSI website, just visit the dedicated subpage under **Beach Information** at [OakIslandNC.gov/BEACH](https://OakIslandNC.gov/BEACH), or click the link below..

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Hurricane Season Outlook Published

On Thursday, May 23 the **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration** (NOAA) released their **2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook**. Not encouraging was the Outlook's call for an **85% chance** to observe "*above normal tropical cyclone activity this season.*"

Like any forecast this is just a prediction, and predictions don't always come true ... but often times in the hands of experts, **they do!** However, regardless of what the weather may hold, **preparation** is always the best response to any **prediction**.

**Be ready for hurricane season!** Take action TODAY to be better prepared for if, or when the worst happens. Understand your risk from hurricanes, and begin pre-season preparations now. Make sure you understand how to interpret forecasts and alerts, and know what to do before, during, and after a storm.

For information, links, or to share resources on how get ready ahead of any storm, just visit the ***Hurricane Preparedness*** page of the Town Website at [OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE](http://OakIslandNC.gov/HURRICANE), or click the link below..

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



# SAFETY BRIEF



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT: "Our Day In Court"**

Earlier this month, the Oak Island Police Department partnered with the **District Attorney's Office**, to provide our entire staff of officers with an extensive **Courtroom Training**.

As seen **HERE** and **HERE**, and **HERE**, our officers received valuable hands-on experience in the procedures and expectations of every area of the Courtroom, from the Gallery, to the Jury Box, and even the Witness Stand.

To quote a long-running television series "*In the criminal justice system, the people are represented by two separate yet equally important groups: the police who investigate crime, and the district attorneys who prosecute the offenders.*"

Although we spend the majority of our time out in the the community, it is still equally important for us to operate well when supporting the "other end" of where justice is delivered. Through this mutually beneficial training, we can connect with courtroom counterparts to help make sure our community is protected on both ends of the judicial spectrum.

To learn more about our Department and the many ways we train regularly to help serve Oak Island, just visit our webpage at [OakIslandNC.gov/PD](http://OakIslandNC.gov/PD) or click the OKI-PD patch below.



## **FIRE DEPARTMENT: Summer Camp Grant Received**

It's now (*unofficially*) Summer time; one of our most favorite times of year, because it also means **SUMMER CAMP!!** We have some important and exciting news for 2024, as the **NC Office of State Fire Marshal** (NC-OSFM) just awarded our Department a **\$5,000 grant** to help support our Summer Camp program!

In their **MEDIA RELEASE** announcing the grant program, NC-OSFM stated the goal "*to provide financial assistance to help fire departments foster the next generation of firefighters while enhancing community engagement and safety.*"

This year launches our new ***Public Safety Camp***, which replaces our previous ***Junior Fire Academy*** and features expanded enrollment for up to **28 campers**. That's **double** the enrollment of previous years! The camp will take place from **June 10 - 14** at various locations in Town, including the Fire Stations, Police Department, and Water Rescue Station.

This Grant, along with our local program sponsors, will fund needed camp supplies like buckets, helmets, protective eyewear, a camp shirt, backpack and reusable water bottle. Snacks, lunch, and water will also be provided each day.

For more information or to register for the Public Safety Camp, visit the ***Programs & Events*** webpage at **OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS**, or click the OKI-FD patch below.



## **NOW OPEN: Nature & Ocean Education Centers**

Starting on **Tuesday, May 28** the **Ocean Education Center** and the **Oak Island Nature Center** will **OPEN** for the Summer Season!

- **Oak Island Ocean Education Center:** Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A seasonal conservation center that is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Free to visit, visitors can explore self led displays, attend scheduled programs, and enjoy hands on materials related to life by the sea. Program projects will change weekly. \*\*\*\*Materials are available while supplies last.

- **Oak Island Nature Center:** Wednesdays, Thursdays, & Fridays • 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

A seasonal conservation center that is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers. Free to visit, visitors can explore self led displays, attend scheduled programs, and enjoy hands on materials related to island and marsh life. Program projects will change weekly. \*\*\*\*Materials are available while supplies last.

To learn more about the **Oak Island Nature Center** or the **Ocean Education Center**, just visit their webpages at [OakIslandNC.gov/NATURE](http://OakIslandNC.gov/NATURE) or [OakIslandNC.gov/OCEAN](http://OakIslandNC.gov/OCEAN), or click the link below to download their **Summer Events Calendar**.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Summer Concert Series: *Christine Martinez Band*

- **WHEN:** Friday, May 31, 2024 • 6:30 PM
- **WHERE:** Middleton Park Complex, 4610 E Dolphin Drive
- **COST:** FREE

This week enjoy the sounds of regular fan favorite, ***Christine Martinez Band***.

The Summer Concert Series is a FREE event, so bring a chair or blanket and enjoy great entertainment on the amphitheater lawn in the Middleton Park Complex. There will also be food trucks onsite in case you get a little hungry.

Concerts each week start at 6:30 PM. For more information and to view the ***Live Band Lineup***, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## 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. Market events are held each Monday morning throughout the summer season.

For more information or to view the full Market Schedule, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS](http://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

## Chop With A Cop

The Oak Island Police Department & recreation Department are excited to announce the RETURN of **CHOP WITH A COP** as this wildly popular and unique event returns for its SECOND year in a row:

- **WHEN:** Tuesday, June 25, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
- **WHERE:** 806 N Howe Street, Southport, NC
- **COST:** FREE!!!

**“Calling all teens, let’s bury the hatchet!”** This FREE program allows teens aged 13-18 to join officers from four different agencies in axe throwing competition. This event provides teens with one hour of practice and one hour of competitive throwing. Only 48 spaces available ... which agency will YOU HELP take home the Gold?

In partnership with the Southport Police Department NC, Brunswick County Sheriff's Office, NC, and the Boiling Spring Lakes Police Department; teams will be randomly assigned, however selected time slots will be honored.

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

[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](https://OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS).

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



Education Centers Calendar



Sunset On Summer



Farmers' & Artisans' Market



Chop With A Cop

# 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 (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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