



THE CURRENT

JANUARY 13, 2025

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Week of
January 13, 2025

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

While it may not be as spooky as a Friday in October, "*Monday the 13th*" can still be scary enough, because **it's still a Monday!** The good news is, Monday is just one day in a week that is FULL of important happenings on Oak Island. From important meetings, to exciting news about the Town's innovations in public safety, there's a lot to cover.

So shake off last weekend's snow (*that missed Oak Island*), and suit up for a brisk, refreshing swim through this week's edition of ***The CURRENT***.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- **ABC Board Meeting**
- **Town Council Meeting**
- **Planning Board Meeting**
- **Town Council Retreat**

NEWS & NOTICES

- **Town Council Meeting Agenda**
- ***This Week: Tree Trimming Class***
- **Grinding of The Greens Ends Soon**
- **Oyster Shells Safety**
- ***Manager's Message: Budget Season Begins***

SAFETY BRIEF

- **Leading The Way in Drone Safety**

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Class Cancellation Notice**
- **This Week In Recreation**
- **Event Flyers**



COUNCIL & BOARD MEETINGS

ABC BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 14** at **10:00 AM** in the Oak Island Administration Building at 5402 E Oak Island Drive.

TOWN COUNCIL will hold its regular meeting on **Tuesday, January 14** at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

PLANNING BOARD will hold its regular meeting on **Thursday, January 16** at **9:00 AM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

TOWN COUNCIL will hold its Annual Retreat on **Thursday, January 16** at **1:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall.

To view all upcoming future schedules visit the *Meetings Information* page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Town Administrative Offices will be **CLOSED** next **Monday, January 20, 2025** in observance of *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*.

- **NOTE:** The *Garbage & Recycling Collection Schedule* will **NOT** be affected, however service may run slower due to higher volumes over the holiday.
- Police, Fire, and Emergency Response services will be available by **calling 9-1-1**

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



Town Council Meeting Preview

The Oak Island Town Council will hold its regular monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025**. The meeting starts at **6:00 PM** in the Council Chambers, located on the second floor of Town Hall at 4601 E. Oak Island Drive.

The public is welcome and invited to attend. Sign-up sheets for commenting during the general comment period are available in the back of the meeting room prior to the meeting. Speakers have three (3) minutes.

CLICK HERE to View the Agenda Summary

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To watch this meeting live or anytime on demand, as well as previous meetings from the Town council and various boards, just visit the *Meetings Information* page at OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

This Week: Tree Trimming Class

On **Wednesday, January 15** beginning at **NOON**, the Stormwater Permitting Division will be hosting a **Tree Trimming Class** with **Certified Arborist, Todd Stevenson**. The class will be held in the Police Department Training Room, located on the 2nd floor of the Police Department at 4621 E Oak Island Drive (beside Town Hall). A field demonstration will be conducted immediately following the classroom instruction, with the entire course expected to last until 4:00 PM.

The Town's Tree Canopy Manager, Brice Taylor is excited to host Mr. Stevenson as the guest speaker, as he provides guidance on *Proper Techniques for Pruning Trees*, a crucial step in ensuring their healthy growth and continued development. Todd Stevenson is the owner of **Total Tree Care, Inc.**, located in Myrtle Beach, SC. He is a member of the **American Society of Consulting Arborists**, and certified through the **International Society of Arboriculture**, providing consultation services in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia.

Seats are still available but space is limited. For more information or to register for this course, email dhorn@oakislandnc.gov or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

Ending Soon: Grinding of The Greens

This coming **Saturday, January 18** will be the **FINAL DAY** to dispose of live Christmas Trees as part of the ***Grinding of the Greens*** program. The collection station is available in the the **Middleton Park Complex parking lot** at 4610 E Dolphin Drive.

Provided by the Public Works Department, the program offers a convenient and environmentally beneficial way to dispose of live Christmas trees, which are ground up and used as mulch in various Town parks and facilities. **Remember, all decorations must be removed before dropping off your tree!**

To learn more about alternative disposal options for trees, visit the Public Works page at OakIslandNC.gov/PW or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Oyster Shells Disposal Safety

Speaking of disposal options, the Public Works Department was recently made aware of oyster shells still being discarded near the garbage and recycling carts in Veterans Park, at 1504 E Yacht Drive.

The Department realizes this may be due to lingering confusion, or simply "old habits" from the early days of Veterans Park (*originally named Waterway Park*) when the Living Shoreline project was first started there. While the NC Department of Environmental Quality notes that recycled oyster shells are valuable resources in the state, used to build new oyster reefs, such a program no longer exists at Veterans Park.

Although well-intentioned, it is important to note that **Veterans Park is NOT a collection area for oyster shell disposal**. Additionally, **oyster shells are banned from disposal in North Carolina landfills** and cannot be used as groundcover by landscape contractors. The good news is that there are multiple **Oyster Shell Drop-Off Sites** within Brunswick County, even as close as neighboring Southport.

To view all of the Drop-Off Site locations, or learn more about the Oyster Shell Recycling Program itself, just visit the NCDEQ website at [NCDEQ.gov](https://www.ncdeq.gov) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

Manager's Message: Budget Season Begins

We are now just two weeks into a new year, but we have already kicked off one of the most important times in local government ... ***Budget Season!***

The development of an Annual Budget is a process that operates on a near continual basis, where each month's revenues are analyzed to help project next year's budget. However, the most visible portions of the process are with the Town Council Retreat this Thursday, leading into the following schedule:

- **JANUARY:** During the annual Town Council Retreat (***this Thursday, January 16***), the Council sets the goals and priorities for the coming year.
- **FEBRUARY - MARCH:** The Town Manager and Finance Director work closely together with department directors to identify capital and operating needs, as well as potential cost-savings.
- **APRIL:** The Town Council hosts several "Budget Workshops" in which the Town Manager and Finance Director present the needs and priorities of all departments and services. The Town Council provides directives on where to increase or decrease spending for the final draft of the Recommended Budget.
- **MAY:** The Town Council holds a special meeting in which the Recommended Budget for the coming fiscal year is formally presented to both the Council and the public. This releases the Recommended Budget for public review before a **Public Hearing** is held to receive input from residents.
- **JUNE:** Town Council must adopt the new Budget by June 30.

The best part of this schedule is **YOU** get a ***front row seat to every part!*** All publicly held workshops, special meetings, and public hearings are open to the public, and will be broadcast on OKI-TV, as well as livestreamed on the [Meetings Information](#) page.

While it is true our employees are the heart of Town government, the Annual Budget provides the framework for that heart to beat. To learn more in the meantime, just visit the Budget Information page at [OakIslandNC.gov/BUDGET](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/BUDGET) or click the link below.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Leading The Way In Drone Safety

On **Thursday, January 9** and **Saturday, January 11** the Oak Island Fire Department hosted the ***Reading Smoke & Using IR Thermal Cameras*** training course in Fire Station #2 at 8510 E Oak Island Drive. While the *Reading Smoke* curriculum has been around for many years, this class was distinctly different, as it was focused on **drone use**.

First responders representing the drone units for nearly a **dozen** different agencies in the police, fire, and rescue fields, all came out to learn about applying existing techniques to new technology.



This course utilized the Town's innovative **Drone Unit** as part of a larger curriculum for public safety being developed in-house by the Town's **Chief Public Safety Drone Pilot, Shawn Barry**. The coursework Barry is developing has been approved through the Law Enforcement Drone Association (LEDA), and is being taught in partnership with Brunswick Community College.

The Reading Smoke adds to the **three (3) courses** being taught in this Spring semester, which also includes ***Basic Public Safety Drone Pilot*** in February and ***Water Rescue Skills & Techniques*** in March.

The innovation and leadership the Town of Oak Island has taken with incorporating drone technology into our public safety is being **recognized on a national level**. The Town Administrative staff, along with the Fire and Police Departments, continue to proudly promote the work done by Chief Drone Pilot Barry and the entire team who operate these valuable life-saving tools everyday.

To learn more about the Drone Unit, and the services they provide to the residents and visitors of Oak Island, just visit the dedicated page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/DRONE](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/DRONE)** or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

For questions related to any of the content in the ***Safety Brief***, or for more information on the services provided by the **Police Department** or **Fire Department**, just visit the ***Public Safety*** page at **[OakIslandNC.gov/SAFETY](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/SAFETY)** or click on the Department Patches below.



Class Cancellation

The *Total Body Blast with Mary Beth* class scheduled for **Thursday, January 16** has been **CANCELLED**. For more information on this cancellation, please contact the Oak Island Recreation Department at 910-278-5518 or through the [Department Contact Form](#). To view alternative fitness class options, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/PROGRAMS).

THIS WEEK: *In Recreation*

Provided below is a listing of the recreation activities for the week ahead! For questions or additional information, contact the **Recreation Department** at **910-278-5518**.

Monday, January 13

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
 - Mature Aerobics with Debbie 7:30 AM
 - SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie 9:00 AM
 - Senior Yoga with Mert 11:15 AM
- **Community Center**
 - Bingo 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

Tuesday, January 14

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 8:30 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
- 9:30 AM Senior Yoga with Mert
- 11:30 PM Qigong for Beginners

Wednesday, January 15

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
 - 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Mary Beth
 - 4:30 PM Yoga for Balance with Tammy
- **Recreation Center**
 - 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Floral Arrangement Class (pre-registration required)
- **Bill Smith Park**
 - 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Striders walking Club

Thursday, January 16

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 8:00 AM Total Body Blast with Mary Beth (CANCELED)
 - 9:00 AM Silversneakers with Maggie
 - 10:15 AM Chair Yoga with Tammy
 - 6:00 PM Slow Flow Yoga with rotating instructors

Friday, January 17

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**
 - 7:30 AM Mature Aerobics with Debbie
 - 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
 - 10:30 AM Sculpt and Flow Yoga with Tammy or MB
- **Recreation Center**
 - 8:00 AM: Table Tennis
- **Ocean Education Center**
 - 2:00 PM Between the Lines- Book Club

Saturday, January 18

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
 - 10:00 AM Community Yoga with rotating instructors

Monday, January 20

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**
 - Mature Aerobics with Debbie 7:30 AM

- SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie 9:00 AM
- Senior Yoga with Mert 11:15 AM

REMINDER: A full listing of all fitness classes and recreation programs can be found at [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/PROGRAMS).

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



Fitness Calendar



Mardi Gras Festival



Spring Fling



Spring Art Show

THANK YOU

Thank you for reading this edition of *THE CURRENT*, and choosing to stay informed on the News & Events happening in Oak Island, NC.

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PAST EDITION ARCHIVE

DID YOU KNOW? *The CURRENT*, hasn't always been a weekly publication. Originally produced as an award-winning digital monthly newsletter, *The CURRENT* published 35 editions, spanning a period of three years from 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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