

The CURRENT



Week of

March 16, 2026

WELCOME to **THE CURRENT**, the weekly digital newsletter for the [Town of Oak Island](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Home) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Home>).

It's technically still the final week of Winter, but thankfully Spring is already in full ... well, "swing" here in Oak Island! Throughout a Winter full of cold, and even a few snowy days, warmer weather is waiting like a light at the end of the tunnel, almost perfectly visualized by this week's cover photo **From Under the Oak Island Pier** by contributing artist **Kim Ramsey** (reminder, you can view all website contributions at [OakIslandNC.gov/PICS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/PICS) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Contributions>)).

But before we get all toasty and **Fling into Spring** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/Town-Events/Spring-Fling-Market-Music>), there's still plenty of important Town Business & events to cover. So take your antihistamines and put on some goggles, as we take a pollen-soaked Springtime swim through this week's edition of **The CURRENT**.

MEETINGS & CLOSURES

- Town Council Meeting
- Town Council Workshop

NEWS & NOTICES

- Arbor Day Celebration
- Political Signage Reminder
- CoastWise Kickoff Review
- Citizens Academy Graduation
- Staff Spotlight: Connor Wheat

NEW SECTION: JOIN THE TEAM

- Job Opportunities with Oak Island

SAFETY BRIEF

- Beach Safety Preview
- Coffee With A Cop This Week

THIS WEEK AT THE REC

- Program Schedule at the Recreation Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Coffee With A Cop
 - Spring Fling: Market & Music
 - Spring Art Show
 - Ride The Tide
-

Meetings & Closures

Council & Board Meetings

- **TOWN COUNCIL REMINDER:** The regular meeting for the month of March was **MOVED** to this **Tuesday, March 17** at **6:00 PM**, still in the Council Chambers, located on the 2nd floor of Town Hall at 4601 E Oak Island Drive.
- **TOWN COUNCIL** will also hold a Special Meeting on **Thursday, March 19** at **1:00 PM**.

To view the notices and full agenda for both of these meetings, visit the **Meetings Information** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/MEETINGS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/MEETINGS) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Government/Clerk/Meeting-Agendas-Minutes-Video>) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Home/Tabs/News/Two-Town-Council-Meetings-This-Month>)

Holidays & Closures

- There are **NO** holidays or facility closures expected within the week ahead.
- The next holiday closure for all Town Offices & Facilities will **Friday, April 3, 2026** in observance of **Good Friday**.

To view all Holiday Closures, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/HOLIDAY](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/HOLIDAY) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/meetings>) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/meetings>)

News & Notices

Arbor Day Celebration

In case you haven't heard, the Town of Oak Island has again been named a **Tree City USA** (<https://www.arboday.org/our-work/tree-city-usa>) by the Arbor Day Foundation! As part of the public announcement, and to help commemorate this achievement, the Town will host an **Arbor Day Celebration** on **Friday, March 20, 2026** from **3:00 PM – 5:00 PM** in **Bill Smith Park**, located at **4410 Fish Factory Road**.



<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/files/assets/town/v/1/clerk/images/boards-amp-committees/arbor-day-celebration-notice.jpg?dimension=pageimage&w=480>

The event will feature a Tree Planting Ceremony of **TWO Live Oak trees**, along with a Check Presentation to the Town from Tree Peace OKI. Attendees will also be able take home a **FREE one-gallon Live Oak seedling**, donated by **Penderlea Farms** (<https://www.penderleafarms.com/>), of Burgaw, NC.

This year's celebration is being coordinated by the **Environmental Advisory Committee** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Government/Clerk/Boards-Committees/Environmental-Advisory-Committee>), with partnership from the Town's **Public Works Department** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Government/Public-Works/Stormwater-Maintenance-Permitting>) and **Tree Peace OKI** (<https://treepeaceoki.org/>), a 509(a)(2) non-profit community organization.

Through programs like **Tree City USA** and events such as the **Arbor Day Celebration**, the Town of Oak Island is again reaffirming its commitment to the restoration and preservation of one of our most important natural resources. To learn more about these efforts, visit the **Tree Preservation** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/TREES** (<http://www.oakislandnc.gov/TREES>).

To view and share the **FULL** Celebration Announcement, visit the **OKInformation** page at **OakIslandNC.gov/NEWS** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Home/Tabs/News/Arbor-Day-Celebration-Event>), or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Home/Tabs/News/Arbor-Day-Celebration-Event>)

Signage Removal Reminder

While the month of March may seem like it's flying by already, it wasn't that long ago when the **2026 Election Primary** was held. Unfortunately, you may still be seeing reminders of this in the Town Right-Of-Way (ROW) through forgotten campaign signage.



(JPG, 1MB) (</files/assets/town/v/1/images/news-images/yard-signs-removal-graphic.jpg>)

As reminder, according to North Carolina General Statute, **political signs must be removed by the 10th day following a primary or election**. While most have done a great job removing campaign signage, there are still a few being spotted "out in the wild."

For those with working calendars, that 10 day time limit expired at the end of last week. So as a friendly reminder, please take this opportunity to show your support for your favorite candidates, by being a good steward of their name and removing signage in a timely manner.

For more information on the recent Primary or the upcoming General Election, visit the **Brunswick County Board of Elections** webpage at www.brunswickcountync.gov/Elections (<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/802/Board-of-Elections>), or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.brunswickcountync.gov/802/Board-of-Elections>)

CoastWise Kickoff Success

What better way to kickoff the Spring season than with a hugely successful **kickoff to our CoastWise initiative** (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1A7GgRT38U/>), and that's just what happened this past **Saturday, March 14** at the Oak Island Nature Center.



(<https://youtu.be/OKVGdrRFGey?si=FR3qVNxXY9Ljvtx5>).

This event served as the official start to the fieldwork being done as part of the CoastWise Initiative, and provided further information on upcoming volunteer opportunities and initiative activities. Dozens of attendees from within the community and surrounding areas were on hand, and included representatives from the UNCW College of Science & Engineering (UNCW), the Oak Island Environmental Advisory Committee, and the St. James Conservancy.

The partnership has truly hit the water running with multiple events already planned for next month, including the first **Speakers Series on April 9** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/files/assets/town/v/1/administration/coastwise/coastwise-speakers-series.jpg>) and a workshop on April 25.

To learn more about the **CoastWise Initiative**, the **Speakers Series**, or the Town's partnership with UNCW, visit the dedicated page at [OakIslandNC.gov/COASTWISE](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/COASTWISE) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/CoastWise>) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/CoastWise>)

Citizens Academy Graduation

Earlier this month, the Town of Oak Island celebrated the completion of the **2026 Oak Island Citizens Academy**. This year's class featured nearly 20 graduates, as seen in the photo below, ranging from new transplants to longtime residents.



(JPG, 426KB) ([/files/assets/town/v/1/administration/images/citizens-academy/2026-citizens-academy-graduates.jpg](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/files/assets/town/v/1/administration/images/citizens-academy/2026-citizens-academy-graduates.jpg)).

Citizens Academy is an invaluable program that Town offers at a level few others can compete with. It provides an interactive and truly "hands on" experience, designed to educate and familiarize residents with the departments and services provided by their local government. Over the past few years, this program has grown to become a staple for engaged residents, filling their Tuesday and Thursday nights in the months of February and early March.

Please help us to congratulate all of the residents who participated, as well as the Town Staff, who took their evenings to help present and demonstrate their daily work to the citizens they serve.

If you missed this year's class, don't worry! Plans are already underway for 2027. In the meantime, you can learn more about the program by visiting [OakIslandNC.gov/ACADEMY](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/ACADEMY) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Citizens-Academy>) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Citizens-Academy>)

Staff Spotlight: Connor Wheat

This week the Town of Oak Island is proud to shine the spotlight on one of our newest team members, **Conner Wheat** with the **Public Works Department**.



(JPG, 808KB) ([/files/assets/town/v/1/images/news-images/staff-spotlight.jpg](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/files/assets/town/v/1/images/news-images/staff-spotlight.jpg)).

Conner joined the Public Works Department as a **Maintenance Worker I** earlier this month. He is a great fit for the department, as he loves being outdoors and enjoys activities that help to protect the environment and stay active, such as hiking, disc golf, and basketball.

Originally from Cincinnati, OH, Conner still enjoys NHL but also loves the atmosphere of Oak Island. Speaking of "atmosphere," you might even catch him on Instagram where he shares his celestial and environmental photography.

So please help us welcome Conner Wheat as the newest Town of Oak Island Employee!

... and speaking of Town Employees, check out this **NEW** section below for information on how **YOU** can join the TEAM!

Join The Team

The Town of Oak Island is committed to providing the municipal services to our residents and visitors in a professional, timely manner. That means having the right people in place to achieve success as a team! **Do you have what it takes to join the team?**

Check out the latest Job Opportunities listed below to find out!

- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Ocean Rescue EMT
- Accounting Analyst
- Parks and Recreation Director
- Zoning Technician
- Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Day Camp Counselors
- Youth Sailing Instructor/Seasonal Summer Camp
- Police Officer

To learn more or apply for these and any other opportunities as they become available, just visit the **Job Openings** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/GOBS](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/GOBS) (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Government/Administration/Human-Resources/Job-Openings>) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Government/Administration/Human-Resources/Job-Openings>)

Safety Brief

Beach Safety Preview

Spring is here, and that means warmer temps and busier beaches! In addition it means that the **Beach Warning Flag** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Beach-Information/Beach-Safety>) forecasts will soon be restarting on **April 1** as well. While the **Beach Safety Division** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Government/Public-Safety/Fire-Department/Beach-Safety-Division>) is hard at work to to prepare equipment here in Town, our administrative team is also working to prepare our knowledge as well.

Assistant Chief David Wagoner, who oversees the Beach Safety Division just visited the **National Weather Service** (<https://www.weather.gov/ilm>) station in Wilmington, for their annual **Beach Partner Meeting**. This meeting is held with partner agencies throughout the region, offering a chance for open discussion on observations with first responders who serve on the beaches daily.



(JPG, 81KB) [./files/assets/town/v/1/public-safety/images/fire/2026-03-16-nws-visit.jpg](https://files/assets/town/v/1/public-safety/images/fire/2026-03-16-nws-visit.jpg)

- (Pictured L-R: Victoria Olivia, NWS Meteorologist / Surf Program Leader • Kim Waller, Oak Island water Rescue • David Wagoner, OKI-FD Asst. Chief • Shawn Phelan, Oak Island water Rescue)

This year, the meeting included additional beach safety partners, with discussions on new tools and research from the National Weather Service. It also included a time for open discussion on any topic attendees wanted to talk about.

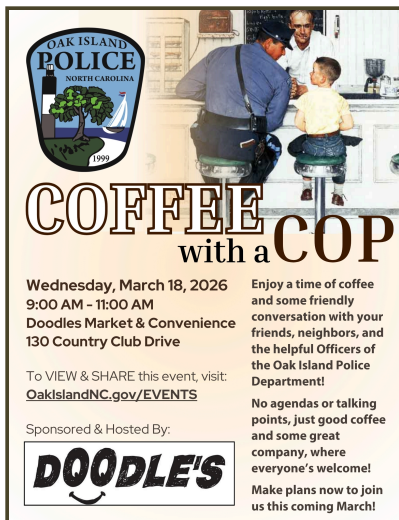
Meetings like this are a great way for different agencies to collaborate, and share ideas about what is and is not working in the field of ocean rescue. We value the partnership and guidance from the National Weather Service each day our team is out there serving the community. With the lesson learned, and new information gathered, we are truly looking forward to another great season in Beach Safety.

If you'd like to "freshen up" on your Beach Safety knowledge as well, please visit and SHARE to the **Beach Information** page at [OakIslandNC.gov/BEACH \(https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Beach-Information\)](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Beach-Information) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Residents-Visitors/Beach-Information>)

Coffee With A Cop This Week

This week on **Wednesday, March 18** from **9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**, enjoy a time of coffee and some friendly conversation with your friends, neighbors, and the helpful Officers of the Oak Island Police Department! Hosted by **Doodles Market & Convenience** located at 130 Country Club Drive, the ever-popular **Coffee With a Cop** returns for 2026.

The poster features the Oak Island Police logo on the left, which includes a tree and the year 1959. The central image shows a police officer in a blue uniform talking to a young child sitting on a stool at a counter. The text 'COFFEE with a COP' is prominently displayed in a stylized font. Below the title, the event details are listed: 'Wednesday, March 18, 2026, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Doodles Market & Convenience, 130 Country Club Drive'. It also includes a call to action to view and share the event on the website, the sponsor 'DOODLE'S', and a friendly message: 'Enjoy a time of coffee and some friendly conversation with your friends, neighbors, and the helpful Officers of the Oak Island Police Department! No agendas or talking points, just good coffee and some great company, where everyone's welcome! Make plans now to join us this coming March!'.

(<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/Town-Events/Coffee-With-A-Cop>)

This is a great way to meet the law enforcement officers who serve you daily, in a warm, friendly environment. No agendas or talking points, just good coffee and some great company, where everyone's welcome! Make plans now to join us this coming Wednesday!

To view & share this event with friends or neighbors, just visit the Events Calendar at [OakIslandNC.gov/EVENTS \(https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/Town-Events/Coffee-With-A-Cop\)](https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/Town-Events/Coffee-With-A-Cop) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Events-calendar-directory/Town-Events/Coffee-With-A-Cop>)

"This Week At The Rec"

"This Week At The Rec"

Provided below is a listing of the fitness programs, education classes, and events happening at the **Oak Island Recreation Center** (<https://www.oakislandnc.gov/Town/Residents-Visitors/Parks-Facilities>), located at 3003 E Oak Island Drive. For questions or additional information, contact the Recreation Department at **910-278-5518**.

Monday, March 16

- **Recreation Center**
 - 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie
 - 10:15 AM Cardio Dance with Vicki
 - 11:15 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert

- **Recreation Center**

- 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM Dance Lessons with Casey

Tuesday, March 17

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 8:30 AM: SilverSneakers with Susan
- 9:30 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert
- 11:00 AM: Qigong, Breath & Movement with Jude
- 6:00 PM: Barre with Suzanne

- **Recreation Center**

- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: Line Dancing Club

Wednesday, March 18

- **Recreation Center Fitness Classes**

- 8:00 AM Strength and Tone with Vicki
- 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers with Mary Beth
- 10:30 AM Yoga for Balance with Tammy
- NOON Zumba with Emily

- **Recreation Center**

- 4:30 PM Teen TV & Film Acting Class (pre-registration Required)

- **Recreation Center**

- 5:00 PM Chess Club

Thursday, March 19

- **Recreation Center**

- 7:00 AM Gentle Sunrise & Shine Yoga with Jeanette
- 8:00 AM Total Body Blast with Mary Beth
- 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Maggie
- 10:15 AM Community Deep Stretch with Rotating Instructors
- 5:00 PM Zumba with Emily
- 6:00 PM Barre with Suzanne

- **Excursions**

- 1:00 PM Cameron Art Museum (pre-registration required)

Friday, March 20

- **Recreation Center**

- 9:00 AM SilverSneakers with Susan
- 10:30 AM Sculpt and Flow yoga

- **Recreation Center**

- 9:00 AM Table Tennis

- **Recreation Center**

- 2:00 PM Book Club meeting

Saturday, March 21

- **Recreation Center fitness classes**

- 10:00 AM: Community Yoga with rotating instructors
- 11:30 AM: Barre w/ Suzanne

- **Middleton Park Complex**

- NOON – 4:00 PM Spring Fling

Monday, March 23

• **Recreation Center**

- 9:00 AM: SilverSneakers Fitness with Maggie
- 10:15 AM Cardio Dance with Vicki
- 11:15 AM: Senior Yoga with Mert

• **Recreation Center**

- 4:15 PM – 5:00 PM Dance Lessons with Casey

To view and register for any Recreation Center programs, visit [OakIslandNC.gov/PROGRAMS](https://oakislandnc.gov/PROGRAMS) (<https://parksrec.egov.basgov.com/oakislandnc>) or click the link below.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE (<https://parksrec.egov.basgov.com/oakislandnc>)

Upcoming Events

Click on the Event Flyer below for more information, or to download and print your own!

(JPG, 2MB) ([/files/assets/town/v/1/calendar/town-events/coffee-with-a-cop.jpg](https://files/assets/town/v/1/calendar/town-events/coffee-with-a-cop.jpg))

(JPG, 583K)

Coffee With A Cop

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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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