

# 2024 general Schedule for Information and Announcements:

## **SUNDAY**

5 p.m. "The Weekly News Summary"

## **DAILY**

11:30 a.m. Event PSAs

8 a.m. Activities of the Day

9:30 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative Messages and  
Tips

10:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m. This Day in History: Shipwrecks, Events, and Music

12 Noon School News

1:30 p.m. Dare County messages

7 p.m. Night Skies

:15 and :45 Station Announcements

## **Emergency Bulletins:**

As we receive them and at the top of every hour.

Announcements at :15, :30 and :45

# NEWS:

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for Sunday, January 21, 2024.**

### **Huge homeowners insurance rate hike proposed**

The North Carolina Rate Bureau has filed a request with the North Carolina Department of Insurance that proposes to increase homeowner insurance rates in Dare County by 45.1 percent for properties located in beach communities and increase by 33.9 percent for properties located in inland areas.

Based on \$200,000 in coverage, these proposed rates would result in a substantial increase in the cost of Dare County homeowners insurance policies: an increase of \$1,312 for those with homes in the beach communities and an increase of \$602 for those with homes in the inland areas of the county.

The Dare County Board of Commissioners strongly opposes these astronomical homeowners insurance rate increases, which, if implemented, would make homeownership unattainable for many first-time buyers and be extremely difficult for current homeowners to afford.

In addition, these excessive homeowners insurance rates would also be passed along to those who rent homes in Dare County, leading to significantly increased rental rates in a market where there is already a severe lack of housing for members of the area's essential workforce.

The Dare County Board of Commissioners has expressed its opposition and concerns to the North Carolina Rate Bureau's proposed homeowners insurance rate increases in a letter sent to North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance Mike Causey's office.

In this letter, the board states that "all North Carolinians need attainable coverage at reasonable rates" and requests that the 2024 homeowners insurance rate increases be denied by North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance Mike Causey or that a hearing be scheduled. **Submit Public Comment to the North Carolina Department of Insurance:**

By Email to 2024 homeowners at NCDOI dot gov by Friday, February 2

Or by Mail to Kimberly W Pearce, Paralegal II, 1201 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699 – 1021.

### **An annual review of the real estate market is offered**

"As you might expect, real estate results for the year were mixed," writes Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka in a review of the 2023 real estate market indicators.

While the supply of homes for sale was still quite limited with only 88 residential island properties for purchase, the inventory available for buyers increased in the fourth quarter.

In another piece of good news, the selling prices of houses, which had been strong throughout the year maintained that pattern when compared to 2022. Through December, the median sale price was \$590,000.

Mortgage interest rates, which began the year in the low 6 percent range, climbed as high as 7.63 percent in October and finally headed downward again in December, ending the year around 6.6 percent.

On the other hand, monthly residential sales remained low and finished 38 percent below year end 2022.

The strong selling prices did not offset the effect of lower sales. The result is the total dollar value of sales in 2023 was among the lowest in the past five years.

Finally, the number of homes under contract to be sold were the lowest in December of any of the previous months during the year. This indicator points to future sales.

Turning to the market for undeveloped lots, all major market indicators except selling prices declined in 2023 when compared to 2022.

The bright spot in the undeveloped lots market was the strength in selling prices. Through the end of the year, the median selling price of building sites was \$149,000.

To provide perspective, over the past five years, the Hatteras Island real estate market peaking in 2021 in terms of sales and the total dollar value of sales. This was most likely the effect of the Covid pandemic which started in 2020. When so many people began working from home, a significant number decided to take advantage of the situation and purchased the vacation home about which they had been dreaming. Looking ahead to 2024, pundits at the national level, as might be expected, are forecasting everything from a strong housing market to a major decline. Considering this is an election year and that the Federal Reserve is expected to continue to reducing interest rates, the argument for an improving real estate market may have the advantage, writes Hranicka.

He would like your opinion. Write [radiohatteras dot org](http://radiohatteras.org).

### **A brief weather update.**

On Tuesday, January 16, really thick fog visited Hatteras Island.

Twice during the day, the Hatteras-Ocracoke ferry operations were suspended and then reopened.

Driving north from Hatteras Island, across the Oregon Inlet Bridge, very little fog was encountered.

### **Striped Mullet is a hot topic**

The Department of Environmental Quality is adding restrictions to mullet harvest after it found the stock is overfished.

In a contentious meeting Thursday, January 18, the Northern Regional Advisory Committee recommended weekend closures on commercial striped mullet harvest, including stop net harvesting, with a six to one vote. The advisory committee abstained from voting for recommendations on recreational restrictions for mullet or adaptive management framework for the fishery, reports the Island Free Press.

Commercial fishermen, charter fishermen, and tackle shop owners expressed concerns, including economic impact and stock assessment inaccuracies, about mullet regulations during the public comment section of the meeting.

The Island Free Press has an extensive article about the meeting. Go to [island free press dot org](http://islandfreepress.org).

### **New ABC store started**

Construction on a new Alcohol Beverage Control store in Buxton officially started January 8. The new store is expected to open in Spring 2025, reports the Island Free Press.

The Contractor is A. R. Chesson Construction. The new store with 6,000 square feet is across NC 12 from the existing store in the Osprey Shopping Center.

### **Conduit and cable inspected this week**

This upcoming week, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative's contractor, New River Electrical, will conduct a routine inspection of the conduit and electric cables attached to the Oregon Inlet and Rodanthe Bridges.

The bridges will remain open to traffic during the inspections, however, motorists should expect daytime lane closures on the Rodanthe Bridge Monday, January 22, and Tuesday, January 23, followed by lane closures on the Oregon Inlet Bridge on Wednesday, January 24 and Thursday, January 25, weather permitting.

The closures will be no longer than a half mile long, and flaggers will alternate traffic directions during the closure.

### **NCBBA presents check**

North Carolina Beach Buggy Association President Al Adam had the pleasure of presenting a \$5,000 check to Cape Hatteras United Methodist Men in recognition of the organization's outstanding community service work in 2023.

NCBBA recognizes many organizations for their service to the community. Cape Hatteras United Methodist Men works closely with Social Services in Dare County to recognize those who need special help. The organization is celebrating its 46th year of service in 2024, and donations and support are continually needed to keep all initiatives going strong.

For more information, go to [hatteras Methodist me dot org](http://hatteras Methodist me dot org).

### **Happening this week**

Scholarship Night with the Outer Banks Community Foundation set for January 25

The Outer Banks Community Foundation manages over 60 scholarship program for students in Dare and Currituck counties and on Ocracoke.

Learn how to apply for all scholarships in one place online at the Fessenden Center Annex, Thursday, January 25, from 3:30 to 4:30 in the afternoon.

The Hatteras Island Rescue Squad is offering a public CPR class on Thursday, January 25, at 6 o'clock at its station in Buxton, located at 48103 NC 12.

The one-night, three-hour class will cover adult, child, and infant CPR and the use of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED). The class is part of a long-term effort to train as many islanders as possible on how to perform CPR in an emergency.

Attendance and completion of the class is \$5 if participants do not need an American Heart Association certification card.

The cost of the class is \$12 per student, which covers the \$7 cost of the American Heart Association certification card and a \$5 pocket mask, which participants will be able to keep at the end of the session. Payment must be in cash and in exact change on the night of the class.

Pre-registration is required. Islanders can call the station at 252-995-5490 and leave their name, a contact telephone number, and the number of students wishing to attend. Walk-ins are welcome on a space-available basis in case of vacancies or cancellations.

The class is open to island residents and property owners, simply because an increased number of residents who know CPR equals an increase in survival across the board after a cardiac arrest event.

On Thursday, January 25, St. John United Methodist Church members will be serving a free dinner. The menu calls for meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and carrots and dessert and iced tea. Supper starts at 5 o'clock and it's free. Enjoy the meal and fellowship. Take out is available.

On Saturday, January 27, Hatteras Island Community Response Team will demonstrate the team's emergency Starlink communications system to team members and the public. Demonstration and operational instruction will take place from 11:30 to 2 o'clock at the Salvo Day Use Area as part of the Winter Field Day event for amateur Ham radio operators. All are welcome and invited to attend! Learn how to make free wifi calls from your cell phones during a communications outage.

**Thanks for spending some time with Radio Hatteras this evening. Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.**

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for Sunday, February 4, 2024.**

At the start of the New Year, Dare County commissioners adopted the 2023 Stormwater Master Plan.

The county received a FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance grant to update the 2001 Stormwater Master Plan for the unincorporated areas of the county. The consultant was WithersRavenel.

Public input and stakeholder engagement identified specific project areas within the County.

WithersRavenel developed models to simulate hydrology and hydraulics.

In total eight areas of concern were identified and modeled. The eight identified areas show problem, solution and range of cost estimates. Five of those areas are on Hatteras Island.

**Rodanthe:** Problem: Ponding/Altered Drainage Channel

Re-Establish North Drain Connectivity. \$500,000 to \$1 million

### **Avon – Ocean View Drive**

Problem: Ponding.

Installation of Infiltration Trenches and Swales. \$1.5 million to \$2 million

### **Buxton – Old Lighthouse Road**

Problem: Ponding

Installation of Infiltration Trenches, Culverts and Storm Drainage Network. \$500,000 to \$1 million

### **Frisco**

Problem: Ponding

Culverts and swale maintenance/enhancement. \$500,000 to \$1 million

### **Hatteras Village**

Problem: Ponding

Installation of Detention Swales. \$250,000 to \$500,000

**Countywide:** Develop a comprehensive stormwater management policy with emphasis on implementing Low Impact Development, \$50,000 to \$250,000

**Countywide:** Program Management:

Develop a stormwater Asset Inventory, Mapping, and Maintenance Program, \$150,000 to \$250,000

### **New parking area coming north of Buxton**

A new 16-car parking area is under construction on the Cape Hatteras National Seashore just north of Buxton. The area is close to a stretch of oceanside shoreline that is popular with surfers and beachgoers, reports the Island Free Press.

The clay and shell-based parking area, adjacent to soundside ORV Ramp #60, is being constructed by DOT Construction, Inc.

The national seashore expects the parking area to be opened in late February.

### **Hatteras Light Station Restoration Update**

On Monday, January 22, workers from Thorpe Landscapes, Wilmington, North Carolina, began erecting fencing and preparing the grounds surrounding the Cape Hatteras Light Station as a first step of the \$19 million dollar restoration of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, writes John Havel, the local lighthouse expert.

Stone and Lime Historic Restoration Services of North Brookfield, Massachusetts was chosen to be the prime contractor in October 2023, and have since been busily planning hundreds of details of this massive project.

One of the first orders of business for Thorpe upon arrival was to move the thirty-six engraved granite stones that formed the “Keepers of the Light Amphitheater.” The stones were moved to a safe storage location until they could be relocated once again during the last phase of the project.

The grounds of the Light Station are open, including the park store and Museum of the Sea. For more updates on the restoration project, visit: [go dot n p s dot gov slash c a h a lighthouse restoration](http://go.nps.gov/cahlighthouse).

### **2024 Fireworks in Avon will happen**

The Avon Property Owners Association recently announced that the Fourth of July fireworks display will go on as scheduled in 2024, reports Island Free Press.

The association feared the annual Independence Day fireworks display in Avon would be canceled due to a lack of funds.

Association President Terry Ponton signed a two-year contract with PyroStar, a family owned business from Newton, North Carolina. The cost is locked in at \$32,540 for two years.

Fundraising efforts continue. Additional funds are needed to create a sustainable solution for fireworks in the years ahead.

To make a donation, go online to [avonpoa dot org slash donate](http://avonpoa.org/donate). Donations can also be mailed to APOA Fireworks, P.O. Box 9, Avon, NC 27915.

### **Internet outages**

Twice Spectrum users on Hatteras Island have been without network and/or cell services or both.

On Tuesday, January 30 at 11:15, Dare County Information Technology advised that an interruption in network services were experienced by several county facilities. A fiber optic cable on Roanoke Island was cut where installation of new cable was underway. Service was restored about 7 o'clock that evening.

The same thing happened on the previous Tuesday, January 23. The cut happened at 2:45 that afternoon. Service was restored late that Tuesday evening.

### **Dare County State of County video released**

Dare County has released a two-hour video of the 2024 State of the County event that was held on Tuesday, January 23, at Captain George's Seafood Restaurant in Kill Devil Hills. The theme for this annual event was “Teamwork.” Each of the seven Dare County commissioners presented information and updates on several topics of local interest. To view the video, go to [youtube dot com slash darecounty](http://youtube.com/darecounty)

### **Cancer Center opens in Nags Head**

Outer Banks Health opened the Carol S. and Edward D. Cowell, Jr. Cancer Center, a 15,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility made possible through the collaboration of Outer Banks Health, ECU Health, Chesapeake Regional Healthcare and the generous support of the Outer Banks community. The center opened its doors to patients on January 29, 2024.

Of the 1,300 critical access hospitals nationwide, Outer Banks Health Hospital is one of only eight accredited by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons and is also distinguished as the only one in the country with an accredited breast program.

### **Walking and using a smartphone**

At the end of January, Axios reported on an article in the New York Times about walking and using smartphones at the same time.

The action changes the way we move.

Three separate effects of walking with your smartphone are changes to your stride, changes to your mood and risks of injury.

People walk about 10% slower when they're on their phones. That means a sidewalk full of phone users can cause quite a jam. On top of that, looking down at a screen while walking can put strain on your neck and upper back.

Multitasking generally causes stress, which means when you're walking and using your phone, you may lose the mental benefits of the walk. As Axios has reported, walk in nature is one of the most effective ways to boost your mood, but [one study](#) found that taking that nature walk with a phone chipped away at those benefits.

Between 2011 and 2019, there were 30,000 injuries that came from distracted walking with phones, per an [analysis](#) of government data by University of Florida researchers. The injuries were especially prevalent among young people between the ages of 11 and 20.

Maybe ditch your phone for your next walk, and note the difference!

### **On the calendar for the upcoming week**

**Dare County Board of Commissioners** meets Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room, 954 Marshall C. Collins Drive, Manteo.

Several interesting items are on the agenda:

—A resolution to sponsor the Southern Hatteras Island Offshore Sand Assessment Study. Dare County would submit a grant application to identify sand sources for future beach nourishment events in Avon and Buxton. Total cost is \$500,000, with a county match of \$250,000. The beach nourishment fund has sufficient funding for the project, states the agenda sheet.

—Two resolutions about fishing. The first requests the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission hold a quarterly meeting in Dare County each year. The second resolution opposes proposed Amendment 2 to the Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan “due to Outdated, Unreliable Data.”

—Financing for building Dare County Early College. County Manager Bobby Outten will brief the board on the county’s Capital Improvement Planning Committee meeting. A debt calculation shows Dare County can borrow \$25 million in Calendar Year 2025 and pay back without general fund monies or increase in property taxes.

—Dare Guarantee Scholarship. A request is made for the board to consider expanding the scholarship opportunity to individuals in Dare Challenge and to the individuals who participate in the Recovery Court Program.

—Manns Harbor Civic Association is asking Dare County’s Board of Commissioners to review four suggested modifications to reduce excessive speed through the intersection at the western end of the Virginia Dare Bridge.

**Dare County Planning Board** meets Tuesday, February 6 at 6 p.m. in Manteo in the Board of Commissioners meeting room.

On the agenda is a preliminary plat review for Edgecamp Estates Subdivision Lots 1 through 9 in Salvo as well as review of major subdivision labeled Burnside Estates and an amendment to a Special Use Permit for Outer Banks Dare Challenge Residential Dormitory in Wanchese.

### **The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, as one of the seven original Life-Saving Stations built in North Carolina in 1874.**

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. Island Free Press publishes these feature stories online.

Here is a brief Legacy of Life-Saving also written by Carlson.

### **All in a Day’s Work** By Jen Carlson

Sometimes it’s being in the right place at the right time...

On August 15, 1882, the sloop, Unqua, encountered rough weather and sprung a leak. The two-man crew missed the Oregon Inlet channel and ran her aground about 2 ½ miles south of the Bodie's Island station.

The stations were closed for the season but Surfman Wise of the Oregon Inlet station saw her strike land and hurried to her assistance. Along with a friend, Wise waded on board and they manned the pumps, soon getting the leak under control.

It was a struggle to get the sloop back into the channel but then the wind broke the mainsail and once again, the Unqua drifted ashore. They had to wait for high tide before she would float to where they anchored her in the Roanoke Sound.

The captain of the vessel requested a new mainsail from New York and waited until November before repairs could be made. During that wait, the sloop broke her moorings in a heavy gale and once again came ashore.

By now, the station was open for the season and the entire Oregon Inlet crew assisted with getting her back into the water and safely on her way through the Pamlico Sound.

The sloop was ill-fated, however, because only weeks later, she was driven ashore yet again near Fort Macon but this time, she was out of reach of assistance from any lifesaving station and became a near total loss so her master decided to sell her for a small sum.

**Stay safe out there. Thanks for listening.**

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for Sunday, February 18, 2024.**

### **This past week's one-day storm**

The National Weather Service warned us to expect coastal flooding.

It came and it came fast!

First, around noon, Tuesday, February 13, NCDOT announced the closure of NC12 on the north end of Ocracoke Island between the ferry terminal and the pony pens.

The road remained closed until mid-day February 14. Ferry service between Hatteras and Ocracoke was suspended, but restarted at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, February 14.

Elsewhere, on Tuesday, soundside flooding was on NC 12 in several locations between the Rodanthe Bridge and the Etheridge Bridge and in Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. And soundside flooding eventually reached Avon, Frisco and Hatteras.

As quickly as the tide came up, it started its retreat. NC 12 was declared open and passable throughout Hatteras Island on Wednesday morning with some minor saltwater puddles.

NCDOT employees worked through the storm to strengthen the berm at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Traffic was stopped both ways for about five minutes while sand is dumped by trucks and a bulldozer pushes the sand up. And then repeated the process.

### **In Rodanthe, a body is located**

The call about a missing person came to 9-1-1 a little after 11 at night, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2024. The caller said a person was missing for several hours, reports The Coastland Times.



Dare County Sheriff's Office mobilized. A person and canine searches were launched. A request for assistance was sent to Rodanthe Station 50, Chicamacomico Banks Volunteer Fire and Rescue. Fifteen volunteers responded.

The U.S. Coast Guard was notified and responded around 2:30 to 3 in the morning and deployed its helicopter

At 4:22, without success, the nighttime search was called off.

The search re-started at first light and again at Noon on Feb. 14.

Searchers gathered at 5 o'clock, low tide, to resume the search.

A citizen deployed a drone and located the body in a marsh south of the North Beach Campground in Rodanthe. The notice came a little after 6 p.m.

The Dare County Sheriff's Office, the lead agency, continues the investigation. The body was recovered and transferred to the Medical Examiner in Greenville. The person's identity has not being released.

Also assisting the Dare County Sheriff's Office with the search were volunteers from Avon Volunteer Fire Department Station 46, who twice searched the beach from Avon to Salvo. Dare MedFlight during a test flight flew over Rodanthe as requested. The National Park Service deployed its drone around 1 p.m. and flew from Midgett Drive to Sea Haven Drive, for about 40 minutes, mostly over the ocean.

### **Little change in real estate market**

The business news this week focuses on real estate market indicators through January.

Essentially, the major market indicators showed very little change since the end of the year, writes Radio Hatteras Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka.

Interest rates for a 30-year fixed mortgage, which had dropped below 7 percent in December, rose slightly to 6.69% last month.

In a piece of good news, the number of houses for sale on the island in January held steady at 88.

Beginning in October the inventory of residential properties available for purchase rose over 12 percent, providing some relief for buyers looking for a vacation home.

Reflecting a traditionally slow period during the winter months, only 15 houses were sold during January, which is the same number sold in January 2023.

The median residential selling price last month remained strong at \$650,000.

The island market for undeveloped lots recorded declines in most major indicators during January.

The average selling price was \$372,500, the highest seen in the past year. However, only six buildings were sold on the entire island last month with one sale over \$1 million dollars, which undoubtedly influenced the average.

In other measures of the Hatteras Island economy, the final numbers for 2023 showed meal tax receipts increased by 2.42 percent while occupancy tax receipts increased by 3.46 percent. These results suggest that it was a relatively flat year for food service and vacation rental industries, writes Hranicka.

### **Restoration of Cape Hatteras Lighthouse starts**

On February 14, 2024, Cape Hatteras National Seashore symbolically broke ground on a Cape Hatteras Lighthouse restoration project.

The project, which started in January 2024, includes repairs to deteriorated masonry, metal components, windows, marble flooring, and the lantern. Historically significant architectural components, such as, missing pediments over the lighthouse windows and missing interior doors will also be restored. New paint coatings will be applied on the interior and exterior of the lighthouse. And finally, a first-order Fresnel lens replica will be installed and operating as the new light.

The National Park Service awarded a \$19.2 million contract to Stone & Lime Historic Restoration Services, Inc. (contractor) on Sept. 25, 2023, for the lighthouse restoration and landscape enhancement.

### **Early voting has started**

Primary contests are available for Democratic, Libertarian and Republican candidates in elections for President, North Carolina Governor, North Carolina Lt. Governor, Attorney General and other council of state members. Below is a listing of primary contests for local elections.

During early voting, people who are not registered to vote may complete a same-day registration and vote.

During a partisan primary election, an unaffiliated voter may choose any one political party's ballot or a nonpartisan ballot (if available).

Primary day is Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

In Dare County, only the local Republican Party has primary contests, but Democrats and Libertarians can cast votes for President, Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and other council of state members.

Republicans and unaffiliated voters can cast votes for:

Board of Commissioners District 1 incumbent Wally Overman or challenger Carson Creef.

Board of Commissioners District 2 Challenger Christian Thomas Hayman or incumbent Robert L. (Bob) Woodard Sr.

Board of Commissioners District 1 unexpired term incumbent Bea Basnight or challenger Mike Burrus.

In Dare County, early voting is available Monday through Friday, February 19 through March 1 from 8 in the morning to 7:30 at night and on Saturday, March 2 from 8 to 3 o'clock. On Hatteras Island, the polling place is the Fessenden Center Annex (the old bank building), 47017 Buxton Back Road, Buxton. Voters can also vote in the Dare County Administration Building, 954 Marshall C. Collins Dr., Manteo, and at the Kill Devil Hills Town Hall, 102 Town Hall Drive, Kill Devil Hills, during the same hours.

### **Veteran's counseling services now available**

Dare County's Veterans Services Division is announces a new mental health counseling service available to local Veterans through the Vet Center in Greenville, North Carolina. A service of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the Greenville Vet Center is one of many small, non-medical counseling centers across the country available exclusively to Veterans.

Dare County Veterans Services Officer Patty O'Sullivan noted that individual, family and group counseling is available by appointment and can be held in Dare County. Services include counseling for depression, grief, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the psychological effects of Military Sexual Trauma.

Veterans may be eligible for services regardless of discharge status or eligibility for VA health care. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, contact Greenville Vet Center Readjustment Counselor James O'Neil at 252-947-1537 (cell) or by email to james dot o'neil2 at va dot gov.

### **Sea turtles released**

The North Carolina Aquariums and U.S. Coast Guard stations at Hatteras Inlet and Fort Macon released a large number of rehabilitated cold-stunned sea turtles from December and January stranding events.

On Jan. 30, Station Hatteras Inlet released 22 rehabilitated sea turtles from the Sea Turtle Assistance & Rehabilitation (STAR) Center at the Aquarium on Roanoke Island. These recovered sea turtles were small, juvenile Kemp's ridley and green species.

On Feb. 12, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Richard Snyder released 59 turtles as part of its cruise from Station Fort Macon. The healthy turtles were transported to Station Fort Macon thanks to the help of volunteers from the Network for Endangered Sea Turtles and the Karen Beasley Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Center along with biologists from the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission. The 59 sea turtles released Monday included N.C.'s most common species: loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley.

### **Some 31 homes to be elevated**

Dare County recently received a FEMA hazard mitigation assistance grant of more than \$5 million to improve disaster resilience by elevating 31 flood-prone homes throughout the county in 2024. This grant was awarded to Dare County by FEMA in December 2023 due to extensive damage that area homes sustained during Hurricane Dorian, which was declared a federal disaster in 2019.

The 31 homes that will be elevated in 2024 were selected from applications that homeowners submitted in 2019 and are located in various areas throughout Dare County, including Kitty Hawk, Manteo, Wanchese, Stumpy Point, Manns Harbor, Avon, Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras.

Over the past 25 years, Dare County has completed the elevation of nearly 100 homes with FEMA assistance—including 27 residences that were elevated in 2023 with funding from a hazard mitigation assistance grant of \$6 million that was awarded as a result of damage caused by Hurricane Florence, which was declared a federal disaster in 2018.

### **Cape Hatteras Secondary's Drama Club wins contest**

The Cape Hatteras Secondary School (CHSS) Drama Club announced its selection as the first school in North Carolina to produce *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: High School Edition*.

In December of 2023, the school's Theater Arts class entered a national contest to become the first school in North Carolina to produce *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: High School Edition* through a contest by Broadway Licensing Global. In January of 2024, Broadway Licensing Global contacted Drama Club Sponsor, Blake Taft, and informed him that Cape Hatteras Secondary School had been selected to be the first in the state to produce the show.

The contest, launched in November 2023, asked schools to create a short video outlining why their school was the most magical place in their state. The Cape Hatteras Theater students worked together to write an original storyline and script, and filmed it during fourth-period class.

CHSS is currently in production of its spring musical: *Disney's The Little Mermaid* which will open April 19, 2024. The pilot production of *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child: High School Edition* will open November 8, 2024.

For a fuller report and the contest submission, go to Island Free Press.

At Cape Hatteras Secondary School Thursday night, Coach Earl Fountain was celebrated for his 30 years of coaching and numerous seniors were honored. More information about that event will come next week.

### **Hatteras Waterfowl Festival next weekend**

Hatteras Waterfowl Festival at Hatteras Village Civic Center is set for February 23 for Fin, Feather and Bourbon event and February 24 for free festival activities from 10 in the morning to 5 in the afternoon. The Saturday festival includes education exhibits, decoys and wood art exhibits, guided brant painting workshop, falconry demonstrations, guided bird walk, Cape Hatteras Secondary Art Show, Duck Call competition and more.

For tickets to the Fin, Feather and Bourbon event go to [Hatteraswaterfowlfestival.com](http://Hatteraswaterfowlfestival.com). Tickets are \$75 each.

On Saturday, Hatty Q Grill features barbecue, hamburgers and hot dogs.

### **Some upcoming events this week**

On Tuesday, February 20, at 10 o'clock go to the Fessenden Center in Buxton for a Walk through Winter.

On February 23 at 4 o'clock, Hatteras Library is hosting a Memory Makers Crafting Program. All welcome to this dementia-friendly program working on hand and eye coordination.

**The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, as one of the seven original Life-Saving Stations built in North Carolina in 1874.**

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. Island Free Press publishes these feature stories online.

Here is a brief Legacy of Life-Saving also written by Carlson.

**All in a Day's Work**

By Jen Carlson

Sometimes it's just being a guide to those who are in need: On September 28, 1882, the mid-watch patrol of the Whale's Head LifeSaving station (originally named Jones Hill) stumbled upon seven men wet and shivering on the beach. Earlier the previous evening, the Cuban steamer, Damuji, had anchored about half a mile from shore about two miles south of the station. She made no signal and showed no sign of distress when the crew from the station first noticed her. About midnight, the Whale's Head south patrol had passed the steamer on his way south in her same location. When he returned about two hours later, he came upon the Damuji crew who had literally jumped ashore after her cables broke and the steamer was driven onto the beach nearly high and dry. He guided them to the station where they were provided with food and warm, dry clothing as they were made comfortable for several days until the Damuji could be towed to port for repairs.

**Now, be safe out there. Thank you for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.**

**This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for February 25, 2024.**

**Dare County School System Earns National Recognition**

Dare County Schools achieved national recognition for its large percentage of highly trained educators, with over 30% of teachers and counselors in the district attaining National Board certification.

Dare County Schools proudly ranks among the top 14 districts nationwide, earning recognition as a National Board Accomplished District, reports a media release.

During the 2022-23 school year, six educators in the district obtained their National Board Certification for the first time, alongside 12 teachers who successfully earned their Maintenance of Certification.

Teachers in Dare County Schools number 77 with national board certification.

**Hatteras Ocracoke vehicle ferry shut down Saturday**

NCDOT suspended ferry operations on the Hatteras-Ocracoke route due to the closure of NC 12 at the north end of Ocracoke. NCDOT promised more information at midday Saturday.

**Ocracoke passenger ferry starts service May 23; make reservations now**

The *Ocracoke Express* passenger ferry between Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands will begin service for the 2024 season on May 23, and online reservations will be available starting on February 23.

The passenger ferry, which is now in its sixth season, transports passengers via a 70-minute trip between Hatteras Village and Silver Lake Harbor in Ocracoke Village. A free tram operated by Hyde County is available to carry visitors around the village to shops, restaurants, accommodations, and attractions, including Ocracoke's seasonally lifeguarded beach.

The *Ocracoke Express* will have the four departures from May 23 through at least June 30, 2024 on Tuesdays through Fridays and three departures Saturdays through Mondays.

One-way fares are \$7.50, with an additional \$1 charge for bicycles. Children three and under who can share a seat with an adult can ride for free.

For more information on ferry routes and schedules, and for online reservations, visit NCDOT dot gov and click on Ferry Services close to the bottom of the opening page.

### **Marine Fisheries Commission advances Striped Mullet plan for departmental and legislative review**

On Feb. 22, 2024, the N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission elected its preferred management options for the Draft Striped Mullet Fishery Management Plan Amendment 2.

The commission selected the Division of Marine Fisheries' recommended management options, which were revised from what was proposed in November based on public comment, states the commission's media release.

The preferred management measures for the **commercial** fishery are estimated to generate a 34.9% reduction in harvest:

- Saturday-Sunday Closure from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30.
- Saturday-Monday Closure Oct. 1 to Dec. 31.
- Manage the stop net fishery with the same measures as the rest of the striped mullet fishery.

The preferred management measures for the **recreational** fishery are:

- Recreational individual bag limit of 100 fish.
- Recreational vessel limit of 400 fish.
- An exception for For-hire Vessel Operations to possess a bag limit for the number of anglers fishing up to the 400-fish maximum (including in advance of a trip).

The draft amendment is scheduled for final commission approval in May 2024.

And this from NOAA Fisheries. The 2024 recreational fishing season for golden tilefish in federal waters of the South Atlantic will end February 29, 2024.

NOAA Fisheries predicts that recreational golden tilefish landings will reach the recreational annual catch limit of 2,635 fish for the 2024 fishing year by February 29, 2024.

The recreational sector for golden tilefish in the South Atlantic federal waters will be closed from March 1 through December 31, 2024.

### **Midgett house at Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station**

Sometime during the night of July 2, 2017, one of the most popular structures at the Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station in Rodanthe – the 1907 Midgett House – was hit by lightning, begins an extensive article by Island Free Press.

The lightning strike made contact with the original wiring in the home, which is no longer in use, but nevertheless runs through the entire two-story structure.

From there, the effects of the strike rippled throughout the home – damaging the roof and the original panel box, causing old paint to shake loose from the walls, and destroying the brick chimney.

A campaign followed to replace the roof, and the Midgett House reopened to the public weeks after the damage occurred.

Now, years later, issues associated with that 2017 lightning strike are starting to resurface, and a team effort is underway to ensure the house can open to the public, and remain one of the Rodanthe landmark's most popular attractions, reports Island Free Press.

The primary issue that needs to be fixed is the flooring, in order to make the house safe for the public. For more information and to make a donation online, go to Chicamacomico dot org.

### **Read Across America set for March 2**

On Saturday March 2, the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association (RWSCA) will host its annual celebration of reading and literacy from 10-11:30 in the morning at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building.

Nearly 20 years ago, the association began hosting an annual “Dr. Seuss Birthday Party” as part of Read Across America.

Promoting reading across every age and interest, the event highlights reading as fun and important to an engaged community.

A book swap is also being added this year. Bring books to pass on, says April Contestable the event leader.

Activities include:

- Kid-friendly games and crafts
- Free gently used books for children
- Book swap for all ages
- Pop-Up Library for the entire community, courtesy of Michelle Lord, Branch Manager at the Hatteras Library.

Check out a book from the Dare County pop-up library, socialize with your neighbors, and have some refreshments.

The event is held at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building located at 23646 NC 12 in Rodanthe. Go to [rws.civicassociation.org](http://rws.civicassociation.org) for more details.

### **Senior Games registration now open**

The 36th Annual Outer Banks Senior Games and Silver Arts will take place from April 15, 2024, to April 27, 2024. Registration is currently open online at [DareNC.gov/SeniorGames](http://DareNC.gov/SeniorGames), and closes on March 21, 2024.

The Outer Banks Senior Games and SilverArts is a two-week sporting and arts event designed exclusively for men and women who are residents of Dare County aged 50 years or older. Participants will compete in a wide range of events including heritage and visual arts, table tennis, basketball shooting, swimming, shuffleboard, pickleball, and more.

The Outer Banks Senior Games and SilverArts are coordinated by The Thomas A. Baum Senior Center in Kill Devil Hills, in partnership with the Virginia S. Tillett Community Center in Manteo and the Fessenden Center in Buxton. For specific competition locations and dates, see the event calendar at [DareNC.gov/SeniorGames](http://DareNC.gov/SeniorGames).

This Dare County program is one of 54 local games sanctioned by North Carolina Senior Games, Inc., and is sponsored statewide by the North Carolina Division of Aging. Participants in the Outer Banks Senior Games compete to qualify for the state finals which will be held in the fall of 2024 in North Carolina.

### **And a couple of events**

American Red Cross Blood Drive set for Tuesday, February 27 at Cape Hatteras Secondary School in the auxiliary gym. The drive runs from 10 to 3.

The Cape Hatteras Secondary varsity girls soccer team members invites girls from ages 5 to 12 to the Cape Hatteras Secondary gym for an indoor soccer session. The program is offered Saturday, March 2. It starts at 10 and goes to 11:30.

**The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, as one of the seven original Life-Saving Stations built in North Carolina in 1874.**

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. Island Free Press publishes these feature stories online.

Here is a brief Legacy of Life-Saving also written by Carlson.

**All in a Day's Work** By Jen Carlson

Sometimes it's just being ready for trouble: On September 23, 1896, the Kitty Hawk station look-out reported seeing a steamer appearing to be floating without engines. Experience dictated a rescue would be needed so Keeper Samuel J. Payne summoned aid from adjacent stations and started up the coast with his own crew and beach apparatus towards the direction of the vessel. The station crew reached the scene shortly after the steamer came ashore but between the combination of the wind, current, and only a light draft of four feet, the seventeen men from the Fred'k de Barry landed over the side of the vessel without accident and without assistance. The men were taken to the station where they were provided with dry clothing. Throughout the day, surfmen landed personal belongings and all articles that could be saved from the vessel. The following day, all but three proceeded to Norfolk while the captain, mate, and chief engineer remained at the station for over a week while they waited for the steamer to be refloated so it could be towed to Norfolk.

**Early voting for the March primary** is now open at the Fessenden Center Annex on Buxton Back Road. For this week, Monday through Friday, voting is open from 8 in the morning to 7:30 at night. On Saturday, the hours are 8 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon.

**Now, be safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras**

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for Sunday, March 3, 2024.**

### **Severe weather preparation week starts today**

The 2024 North Carolina Severe Weather Preparedness Week starts today and runs through March 9. During this week the National Weather Service and the North Carolina Department of Public Safety are teaming up to bring a severe weather safety campaign to all of North Carolina's residents.

Severe weather topics covered during this safety campaign include: ways to receive severe weather alerts, staying safe when high winds, hail, and tornadoes strike, lightning safety, flash flood safety, and tips for making a written severe weather safety plan.

The Statewide Tornado Drill will occur on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 9:30 in the morning. Every school, business, workplace, and family across the state is strongly encouraged to participate in this drill. For more information, go to [weather dot gov slash morehead city slash severe prep](http://weather.dot.gov/morehead-city/severe-prep).

### **At the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse**

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse District a unique construction zone these days.

This past week, a crane arrived at the lighthouse to aid in the ongoing assembly of scaffolding. The four support tower legs that hold up the main scaffolding infrastructure are currently being assembled to serve as the foundation base. The foundation base will reach the 2nd level of the lighthouse where the next 25 deck levels of scaffolding will sit.

The scaffolding is engineered to withstand the dynamic loads and elements at Cape Hatteras and will essentially be a standalone structure, reports a post by the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Also, the multi-use pathway around the lighthouse district is now marked with filter cloth and stakes. Construction calls for a 10-foot wide concrete path.

### **NCDOT issues emergency contract for sandbags along NC 12 on Ocracoke**

The N.C. Department of Transportation has awarded an emergency contract to replace and repair sandbags along N.C. 12 on Ocracoke Island.

The \$489,000 contract was awarded to Barnhill Contracting of Rocky Mount.

The work set to begin Monday involves replacing approximately 800 sandbags that were damaged or displaced during recent storms and restoring the protective barrier between N.C. 12 and the Atlantic Ocean on the northern end of Ocracoke Island.

Single lane closures will be in effect while the sandbag replacement is taking place.

And, the Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to dredge Sloop Channel where two ferries cannot pass.

Also, pending, the state pipeline dredge is supposed to clear out a shoaled area pinching the basin at South Dock, reported the Ocracoke Observer. The goal is to dredge out 37,000 cubic yards of sand from the basin area, which could be deposited on top of the sandbag area at the north end to repair the area from the recent overwash.

### **Mann's Harbor Fire**

On Tuesday afternoon, February 27, all Hatteras Island volunteer fire departments responded to a major fire in Mann's Harbor at the Manteo Furniture & Appliance Warehouse and Valentino Custom Boats buildings.

Additionally, units from Tyrrell County and Corolla Volunteer Fire Department/Currituck County Fire and Rescue came to the fire. Dare County EMS and Currituck EMS were at the scene. Dare County Sheriff's deputies and North Carolina Highway Patrol responded as well as did the North Carolina Forest Service, Dare County Emergency Management and the county's Fire Marshal's workers.

The fire was reported shortly after 3 o'clock with flames coming from the back of the building, which was fully involved. The buildings were evacuated, and no injuries were reported.

The Manteo Furniture warehouse collapsed. Crews continued to work to contain the fire and protect surrounding structures on the mainland.

The Valentino Custom Boats building did not collapse, but experienced significant damage.

A house and shed on the north side of the industrial complex caught fire as well. A residential building in front of the warehouses did not burn, reports the Island Free Press.

The fire departments used three ponds to pump water into tankers and shuttled water to the scene of the fire, reports the Island Free Press.

The cause of the fire remains unknown at this time.

### **Dare County Emergency Management provides new equipment to island fire departments**

Chicamacomico Banks Volunteer Fire and Rescue posted this message on Facebook:

Remember that time (okay, timeS) the fiber optic cable at Pea Island was cut and all of Hatteras Island dipped back into the 1920s? No internet, no TV, no phone, no cell... and no 911 service

Thanks to Dare County Emergency Management and AT&T FirstNet, all fire stations on Hatteras Island will now be equipped with an emergency backup cell tower! You won't be able to stream Netflix or call Grandma, but you will be able to make 911 calls within a 2-mile radius of each tower. For us in northern Hatteras Island villages, that means emergency coverage throughout the villages!

We spent this past Monday learning how to use this nifty device. Fingers crossed we won't need to use it any time soon, but we sure are thankful to have it just in case

### **Dare Libraries are now dementia friendly**



In the fall of 2023, Hatteras Library Branch Manager Michelle Lord launched a monthly crafting session focusing on those in the community with dementia and Alzheimer's disease, as well as their caregivers and family members. Although Lord was familiar with the topic, she called on Dianne Denny and Jan Collins of the Outer Banks Dementia Friendly Coalition for assistance and additional information. Together, they developed ideas for future programs that addressed the needs of attendees through visual and tactile activities.

Inspired by these programs, Dare County Librarian Meaghan Leenaarts Beasley asked Denny and Collins to provide training for staff at all three Dare County Library branches. The training sessions, which took place over December 2023 and January 2024, taught staff how to assist patrons with dementia and Alzheimer's disease and how to help their caregivers locate useful library resources. As a result, all three Dare County Library locations now sport the Outer Banks Dementia Friendly Coalition's signature purple seahorse sticker on their doors, letting the public know that they are "dementia-friendly" certified establishments.

And, Hatteras Island Librarian Michelle Lord brought a popup library with a great book selection to the Read Across America event in Rodanthe on Saturday.

### **Third annual duck calling contest winners**

In Hatteras Village at the Wildlife Festival, the third annual duck calling competition was waged.

In the open division, George Powell finished first, Tom Cormany in second and Brian Jones in third.

In the Junior Division, winners are George Powell in first Ryle Carpenter in second and Wyatt Jones in third.

Congratulations to all and to George Powell for first place finishes in both division. Brian Van Druten organized the competition.

### **Dare Commissioners meet Monday, March 4**

Dare County Board of Commissioners meets Monday, March 4, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room at 954 Marshall C. Collins Dr., Manteo.

Public comment can be made in person in Manteo or at the Fessenden Center (not the annex due to voting). The address is 46830 NC 12, Buxton.

The commissioners will delve into planning matters.

Dare Challenge is asking for an amendment to its already-issued SUP #6-2020 for its group development.

The amendment would add square footage to two dormitory buildings and staff house while reducing the square footage of the multi-purpose building.

A preliminary plat review is slated for Edgecamp Estates Subdivision, located in Salvo, between Wind Over Waves and Farrow Shores. The proposal is for nine lots, with three common driveways to access NC 12 and two lots accessed by Otter Way.

A discussion will ensue about whether Dare County should stay in the East Albemarle Regional Library or become a stand-alone county system.

Four items on the agenda deal with Dare County borrowing money to finance capital projects, namely the Manteo Youth Center, the Kitty Hawk EMS Station and the Mann's Harbor EMS station.

### **Free Concert Monday**

On Monday, March 4, a string quartet and a woodwind quintet from the North Carolina Symphony will present a free, open to the public, concert on Hatteras Island.

The community concert will be held in the Cape Hatteras Secondary School auditorium at 7 o'clock.

The concert is sponsored by the Don and Catharine Bryan Cultural Series.

**The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, as one of the seven original Life-Saving Stations built in North Carolina in 1874.**

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. Island Free Press and The Coastland Times publish these feature stories online.

Here is a brief Legacy of Life-Saving also written by Carlson

#### **All in a Day's Work**

Sometimes it's all about disaster relief: On August 25, 1918, a Category 1 hurricane hit the Outer Banks. The Nags Head Coast Guard station crew headed out into their community after the storm to assist where they were needed. They ended up bringing eighteen women and children to the station whose homes had been washed away in the storm. They also spent some time recovering their furniture and clothing from the debris field.

#### **Here's a fun story from Cape Hatteras Elementary kindergarten teachers**

We want to send a huge thank you to everyone that took time to send our kindergartners a Valentine's Day card. We reached our goal of getting a Valentine card from all 50 states. As of today, we have received 653 cards and packages from the United States. We tallied each state and Pennsylvania was the state that sent the most cards with a total of 59. We also received 14 cards from other countries around the world. The outpouring of love for our CHES students has been truly remarkable.

**Now be safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.**

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for Sunday, March 17, 2024.**

### **Major Market indicators mixed**

The business news this week focuses on the real estate market indicators through February of this year. Essentially, the major market indicators are showing mixed results.

30-year fixed mortgages interest rates, which dropped below 7 percent in December, remained slightly below that level last month.

On a standalone monthly basis, the number of houses for sale which peaked at 95 in October returned to the upper 70s which we saw for most of 2023.

Only seven houses were sold on the entire island during February, the lowest number in the past 14 months. Home sales continue to be constrained due to a limited inventory of properties for sale and possibly the level of interest rates.

The selling prices that are being reported continue to be strong. The median sale price of homes last month was \$636,000.

Another piece of good news is that there were 54 residential properties under contract to be sold. This is considered to be an indicator of future sales.

Turning to the market for undeveloped lots, February was a slow month with noticeable declines in selling prices and the total dollar value of sales. The bright spot was an increase in the number of undeveloped properties to sale.

In other measures of the Hatteras Island economy, the results for January, which just became available, show that meal tax receipts decreased by 14.3 percent while occupancy tax receipts declined by 89.3 percent. January is historically a very slow month for the island's food service and accommodation businesses, writes Radio Hatteras Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka.

Finally, the Cape Hatteras National Seashore recently reported that 2023 was the fourth busiest year with nearly 2.9 million visitors.

### **Legal settlement throws out standard real estate agent commission**

This past week, the National Association of Realtors announced a legal settlement that would eliminate real estate agents' standard 6 percent commission.

The settlement with groups of home sellers agreed to end landmark antitrust lawsuits by paying \$418 million in damages and eliminating rules on commissions.

If the settlement wins final approval, real estate agents would be able to compete for business by taking smaller commissions. Lower commissions could lead to lower prices.

The National Association of Realtors, which represents more than 1 million Realtors, also agreed to put in place a set of new rules. One prohibits agents' compensation from being included on listings placed on local centralized listing portals known as multiple listing services, which critics say led brokers to push more expensive properties on customers. Another ends requirements that brokers subscribe to multiple listing services — many of which are owned by association subsidiaries. Another new rule will require buyers' brokers to enter into written agreements with their buyers.

### **Beware of fictitious emails**

The Dare County Department of Health & Human Services is warning residents of recent fictitious emails that seek to gain personal information from college students who are Food and Nutrition Services recipients.

The emails falsely claim that students are automatically eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits if they are enrolled in the academic year and are eligible for large sums of money if they apply. Those sums of money vary from \$15,000 to \$30,000.

If a suspicious email comes, contact the division of social services at 252.475.5500." Do not share social security numbers, bank information, EBT card or PIN numbers with suspicious organizations or individuals. Along with contacting the local agency, residents are encouraged to report any suspicious activity or fraud to the USDA Office of the Inspector General at 1-800-424-9121.

### **Cape Hatteras Lighthouse project update**

On Wednesday, March 13, concrete was poured for the multiuse pathway at the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The project is starting closest to the lighthouse and will proceed to the Lighthouse District entrance on NC 12. The project is funded by the National Park Service and funds raised by Outer Banks Forever, the non-profit partner of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Sam Walker with OBX News dot com reports on Island Free Press that over 20,000 Southern Living magazine readers for The South's Best 2024 lists ranked the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in Buxton as one of The 23 Best Local Treasures in Every Southern State.

### **More storms and water**

Overnight on March 10, westerly winds blew Pamlico Sound water into Hatteras Island villages. NC 12 was covered with sound water. When the wind laid down, the flooding receded.

### **Large Item Pickup starts Monday**

Large item pickup by a Dare County contractor starts Monday, March 18, 2024 and runs continuously for about 12 to 15 days.

A strict one pass only will be enforced due to budgetary and time constraints. Items should be sorted into like piles. If the contractor comes and leaves something in the pile, the item has been rejected and must be taking care of by the homeowner.

### **Scholarship applications due April 1**

The Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association is currently accepting scholarship applications through April 1, 2024.

Applicants must reside or be the dependent of a permanent resident of Rodanthe, Waves or Salvo. Graduating seniors and 2023 graduates are eligible to apply. Applicants can attend public, private or home school.

A two-year window for the scholarships is available to provide renewal the second year or single scholarships in the two-year period. An application and a brief interview are required.

Scholarships are funded solely by donations and community fundraisers. There are no administrative fees.

More details and application forms are available [rws.civicassociation.org/scholarship](http://rws.civicassociation.org/scholarship).

### **Support the Cape Hatteras Secondary's Drama Club**

At Froggy Dog in Avon, a fish fry and bake sale will happen on Saturday, March 23 from 4 to 7 o'clock. All proceeds and donations go to the Cape Hatteras Secondary Drama Club to help purchase new equipment for the club's spring musical, *The Little Mermaid*.

### **Visit by archaeologist**

British historic archaeologist Mark Horton will be visiting Hatteras Island in March and will be hosting a special presentation to help resolve the mystery of the abandoned English colony on Roanoke Island, reports the *Island Free Press*.

Horton has been excavating on Hatteras Island for the last decade to uncover the remnants of the 16th and 17th-century Native American settlements, where it is believed the English settled.

The presentation will take place at Goodwinds Restaurant in Rodanthe at 6 o'clock, Tuesday evening, March 19, and the event is free and open to the public.

Also on March 18 and 19, Horton will be at The Lost Colony Museum in Buxton.

### **Opening tomorrow**

**The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site and Museum will open for visitors March 18, 2024, which marks an early start for the site's season.**

The historic site is open from 10 to 5, Monday through Friday.

Although the majority of the site will be open for exploration, including the main 1911 station, there may be sporadic construction-related closures of the 1874 station as it undergoes an extensive renovation.

The renovation of the 1874 original station and repairs to the 1907 Midgett House tie in with an upcoming 150th anniversary that is planned for October 2024.

The popular Shipwreck Rescue Reenactment is also returning for 2024, starting on May 28. The reenactment, which demonstrates a traditional beach apparatus drill, is a highlight of the historic Rodanthe site, and it has been held every Thursday during the summer months for decades.

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. *Island Free Press* and *The Coastland Times* publish these feature stories online.

Here is a brief *Legacy of Life-Saving* also written by Carlson.

### **All in a Day's Work**

Sometimes it's about prevention: On December 23, 1892, the schooner, *Chautauquan*, found herself in need. Her mast was broken, and the crew was compelled to drop her anchor as they were also out of drinking water. Seeing her boat preparing to come ashore, the *Kitty Hawk* station alerted the sailors to not to attempt to land through the heavy surf. Instead, the crew went out to her to supply her crew with

water and returned to shore to send a telegram requesting a tug to tow the schooner into port for repairs.

As a closing thought, Hatteras Village reminds us: As the village begins to open up and we can again visit our favorite places, here's a reminder that no matter how busy we get and how many people are here, the beauty is always around us!

**Stay safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.**

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly news summary for Sunday, March 24, 2024.**

*Radio Hatteras is covering the current storm throughout the day and evening. Here's some of the other items that are going on.*

### **A cluster home development moves to Board of Commissioners**

In March, Dare County's Planning board considered a Special Use Permit Application for constructing eight, three-bedroom, wood-framed individual dwellings at 23244 Midgetts Mobile Court in Rodanthe as a cluster home development. The parcel is 1.3 acres and is zoned S-1, which permits cluster housing. "The proposed design meets the minimum requirements of the Ordinance," wrote county planner Morgan Potts.

The parcel is vacant, but contains a sand mine borrow pit and fencing. Derek Hence is the owner and House Engineering, the firm that proposes the system to fill the pit. The pit will be backfilled in four layers. Each layer will be laid, compacted and then watered down. One of the conditions is that a third-party engineer be hired to certify the materials used will support vehicular traffic, emergency vehicles, the proposed dwellings and building pads.

Parking is one space per bedroom, with two paved parking spaces provided under the dwelling and a third between units. The wastewater system will be engineered and fees collected for monitoring and maintenance.

The proposal calls for a homeowners association to be formed. The development has two years to secure building permits. The developer and then the homeowners association will also maintain the landscaping. A road to access the dwelling units will be built and the developer and then the homeowners association will maintain. A fire hydrant must be installed and a lock box key for a gate must be provided to the Chicamacomico Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

The board voted unanimously that the conditions in the draft special use permit are reasonable and appropriate. The special use permit request moves to the Board of Commissioners.

### **Cape Hatteras Concert Band earns Superior rating**

The Cape Hatteras Secondary School High School Concert Band traveled to Riverside High School in Williamston to participate in the North Carolina Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment. The students performed for the judges on stage and earned straight Superiors, the highest rating. The students then moved to the sight reading room, where they looked at a new piece of music for five minutes and played it for a judge. They earned another Superior!

A donation from the Hatteras Youth Education Fund made this trip possible. The Hurricane Concert Band is excited to return this historic Straight Superior rating to Hatteras Island.

### **Residents, Businesses Burning Trash is Against State Law**

The open burning of trash, metal, plastic and all other man-made materials harms the environment and poses a public health risk and it is against state law.

*If it doesn't grow, don't burn it.* Open burning is only allowed in limited circumstances and only for vegetative materials like leaves, limbs and yard debris.

The open burning rules are the oldest air quality regulation in state.

The Division of Air Quality enforces the state open burning rule, partnering with local law enforcement, firefighters and fire marshals, and the N.C. Forest Service to ensure compliance. Violators can be fined up to \$25,000 per violation per day. To submit an open burning complaint, contact Department of Environmental Quality at the Washington Regional Office at 252-946-6481.

Careless debris burning is the leading cause of wildfires in North Carolina. The N.C Forest Service may require an open burning permit before certain fires are lit, including fires in protected areas. The Division of Air Quality does not issue burn permits. Burn permits are available through the N.C. Forest Service's online application at [nc forest service dot gov slash burn permit](https://ncforestservice.gov/burn-permit).

### **Lane Closures Required for CHEC Maintenance of Bridge Cables**

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative's contractor, New River Electrical, will complete maintenance work on the conduit and electric cables attached to the Rodanthe Bridge from March 26–29 and from April 1–5, weather permitting.

The bridge will remain open to traffic during the work, however motorists should expect daytime lane closures. The closures will be no longer than 1/2 mile long, and flaggers will alternate traffic direction during the closure.

A 10 minute outage Friday, March 22, was the result of a prescribed burn in Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge. Smoke from the burn arched, knocking out power to the Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands.

### **In observance of Good Friday, all Dare County offices and facilities will be closed on Friday, March 29, 2024.**

In addition, Dare County Public Works—which provides trash collection for the unincorporated areas of the county has announced a revised collection schedule for the week of Monday, March 25, 2024.

The Dare County C&D Landfill, Buxton Transfer Station and Manteo Recycle Yard will be closed on Friday, March 29 in observance of Good Friday. These sites will reopen on Saturday, March 30, 2024.

Residential trash collection for the week of Monday, March 25 changes for Hatteras Island.

Monday is normal. Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras are picked up.

Tuesday is normal. Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon are picked up

Wednesday is not normal. Buxton Frisco and Hatteras are picked up.

Thursday is not normal. Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon are picked up.

No residential trash collection will occur Friday, March 29.

Commercial trash collection will take place on Monday and Thursday.

### **Cape Hatteras Secondary opens new pier**

Cape Hatteras Secondary School hosted a special ceremony on Friday, March 15 to celebrate the re-opening of a newly constructed pier into Pamlico Sound.

The new pier will allow the school to resume its hands-on coastal studies programs and camps after the original wooden structure was destroyed during Hurricane Dorian in 2019.

The pier, constructed by Endurance Marine Construction, features durable concrete panels designed to withstand coastal elements.

The Sound location offers students the opportunity to research and contribute to the sustainability of the rich resources of the Albemarle-Pamlico estuarine system. Through these marine science programs, students gain hands-on learning experiences and develop an appreciation for the unique coastal environment and wildlife.

During the ceremony, Ian Adams, Director of Facilities for Dare County Schools, expressed gratitude to Dave Swanner and his team from Endurance Marine Construction for its craftsmanship and generosity, noting that the company provided a reduced rate on labor costs. Dare County Schools and Cape Hatteras Secondary School gratefully acknowledge the support from the community and the Hatteras Island Youth Education Foundation for contributions toward this project.

**Be careful. A scam is afoot.**

Recently fictitious emails seek to gain personal information from college students who are Food and Nutrition Services recipients.

The emails falsely claim that students are automatically eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits if they are enrolled in the academic year and are eligible for large sums of money if they apply. Emails claim that \$15,000 or \$30,000 might be available. If you receive a suspicious email, contact Dare County Division of Social Services at 252-475-5500.

**The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site and Museum opened for visitors this week**

The historic site is open from 10 to 5, Monday through Friday.

Although the majority of the site will be open for exploration, including the main 1911 station, there may be sporadic construction-related closures of the 1874 station as it undergoes an extensive renovation.

The renovation of the 1874 original station and repairs to the 1907 Midgett House tie in with an upcoming 150th anniversary that is planned for October 2024.

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. Island Free Press and The Coastland Times publish these feature stories online.

Here is a brief Legacy of Life-Saving also written by Carlson.

All in a Day's Work

Sometimes is just being reliable in a time of need: In late 1884, the Little Kinnakeet Life-Saving Station surfmen helped recover the Adamant after she broke her cable during a storm. Nearly a year later, on September 4, 1885, her captain reached out to the station for help once again. This time, the crew assisted him with hauling the schooner out to the beach and put her up on blocks for repairs. After the repairs were completed, the crew returned to the beach to assist in launching the vessel.

**Stay safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.**

## **This is Radio Hatteras. Weekly News Summary for Sunday, March 31, 2024.**

### **About Buxton Beach Access**

About 100 people showed up to hear Cape Hatteras National Seashore Superintendent David Hallac report about Buxton Beach Access petroleum contamination and remnant infrastructure now showing up due to beach erosion.

The meeting was held in the Fessenden Center gymnasium in Buxton.

The agencies involved are the National Park Service which manages the land and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for remediation of Formerly Used Defense Sites. The U.S. Coast Guard Sector North Carolina for pollution events and the U.S. Coast Guard Engineering Unit in Cleveland which manages Coast Guard infrastructure are also involved.

From 1956 to 1982, the U.S. Navy was permitted to use the land as an undersea surveillance station. The U.S. Coast Guard used the Buxton Beach Access as a base from 1984 to 2010, when it decommissioned the site.

Both the U.S. Navy under its permit and the U.S. Coast Guard under a Memorandum of Understanding and then a General Agreement were obligated to restore the land. The Navy left the buildings. The Coast Guard did not plan to use several. A contractor was hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove those unwanted buildings. However, on Wednesday the rectangular foundation of the Driftwood Club was revealed on the beach.

In 1998, the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) approved the Buxton Beach Access as a Formerly Used Defense Site (FUDS) and began acting in response to petroleum contamination in several areas. Some remediation was done. Between 2000 and 2005, 4,006 tons of contaminated soil was removed. The site's groundwater is monitored annually for the presence of petroleum products.

When the Coast Guard pulled out in 2010, a soil assessment was completed, showing the presence of metals, pesticides, and PCB compounds present in soil at concentrations above EPA standards.

At the end of the slide show, somebody said "I'm a little angry."

Hallac responded, "We're pretty frustrated as well."

A surfer said, "we've been smelling it for years."

Hallac said that Kevin McCabe was the first to call him. The date was Sept. 1, 2023.

In response to another comment, Hallac said "the Corps has not responded at this time."

Interestingly, on the very day of the meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers sent a media release to The Island Free Press at 5 p.m., one hour before the meeting was to start. The media release was not sent to Cape Hatteras National Seashore. The Island Free Press immediately posted the full media release on its website.

The Corps media release summarizes its Buxton site visits from September 2023 through February 2024. In the second paragraph, the Corps recommends another student.

The next-to-last paragraph seems to state the position of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The media release says "...remedial action using the FUDS Program is not authorized due to an unknown source [of petroleum]. Additionally, the concrete structures that were uncovered after years of erosion on the beach were not associated with the petroleum or the initial cleanup of the area that occurred in the 1990s, which also means those remnants are currently ineligible for removal under the FUDS Program."

The National Response Center is taking calls about the petroleum smell and items on the beach.

Said another person said, "we don't need to do more studying. We need to come up with an action plan."



The consensus of the folks gathered seemed to be to get serious about emailing elected officials and those in charge of various agencies. A full list is posted on Island Free Press and Brett Barley Athlete's Facebook page.

John Couch, Outer Banks Preservation Association, said "we formed a group. Got something done. Get organized!"

Dare County Commissioner Ervin Bateman was at the meeting. He reported that Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman Bob Woodard, Vice Chairman Wally Overman and Commissioner Danny Couch, as well as Dare County Manager/Attorney Bobby Outten traveled to Washington, D.C. this week to meet with staff members from the offices of U.S. Senator Thom Tillis and U.S. Senator Ted Budd about Buxton Beach Access.

### **Public Health Advisory issued again**

The Dare County Division of Public Health joined by the state's Division of Public Health and Cape Hatteras National Seashore have issued a public health advisory for the Seashore's Buxton Beach Access. The public health advisory is due to petroleum contaminated soils exposed by erosion at the former site of Naval Facility Cape Hatteras, U.S. Coast Guard Group Cape Hatteras at the end of Old Lighthouse Road. The first advisory was issued September 1, 2023

Until the petroleum contaminated soils are mitigated, and the area is declared safe, environmental and public health officials recommend that visitors to the area avoid swimming, wading or fishing in this area in Buxton, from the last beach front house on Old Lighthouse Road and the first jetty, about three-tenths of a mile. If skin comes in contact with contaminated sediment or water, thoroughly wash the affected area with soap and water.

Hazards to swimmers, surfers and beach goers are also in the ocean water and along the beach.

If you notice any plumes, sheens, or fish kills in this area, avoid coming into contact with these waters and report these conditions by calling the EPA/National Response Center at 800-424-8802.

### **More storms came this way this week**

This week, the storms came one after another, with a brief breather in between.

Wednesday, March 27, the very day of the Buxton Beach Access meeting, a survey of the beach reveal extensive damage, especially to the ocean front houses along Old Lighthouse Road. Stairs led to nowhere; concrete under at least one home was completely broken up. Go to Island Free Press to see Don Bowers photos.

This section of the beach was recently re-nourished.

A second system came the next evening. Rains came. In Rodanthe, 1.88 inches of rain fell; in Frisco, 1.3 inches. Roadways were flooded and stayed with puddles through at least Saturday.

The north end of Ocracoke was finally reopened Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock with a warning to slow down where crews were replacing sandbags. The North Carolina Ferries are running an amended schedule.

### **Property tax relief programs available to seniors and disabled.**

Dare County Tax Department reminds citizens about three property tax relief programs. Qualifying seniors age 65 and older, disabled individuals and disabled United States veteran homeowners must meet other requirements specified by the North Carolina General Statutes.

The programs are:

--Seniors and Disabled: Homeowners who are age 65 and older or 100 percent disabled can receive an assessment reduction of \$25,000 or up to 50 percent of home value, whichever is greater.

--Circuit Breaker Tax Deferment: Seniors and those with 100 percent disability and occupied the home for five years can received a tax bill that is not more than 4 percent or 5 percent of income.

--Disabled Veterans: Veterans with a 100 percent total and permanent service connected disability can receive a \$45,000 assessment reduction regardless of income.

To qualify, you must be a resident of Dare County who owns and occupies your home as your primary residence as of January 1, 2024.

Property owners must file an application for the programs by the June 1, 2024 filing deadline.

For detailed information about each program and the requirements that must be met in order to qualify, go to Dare N C dot gov slash Tax Relief.

### **Seashore proposes paving project**

Cape Hatteras National Seashore is seeks public comment on a small paving project. The proposal is to pave 400 feet, 25 wide along Flowers Ridge Road from its intersection with Lighthouse Road in Buxton. The current roadbed is gravel.

Public comments may be submitted electronically at [parkplanning dot nps dot gov slash flowers ridge road](http://parkplanning.dot.nps.gov/flowersridge), or mailed to: Superintendent, 1401 National Park Dr., Manteo, N.C. 27954

### **A challenge issued to first responders**

Chicamacomico Banks Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department officially challenges all first responders in Dare County to a fundraiser-off, like a cookoff!

The station or team with the highest shavee participation (percentage of active membership) and the station or team that raises the most money will win!

Funds go to St. Baldrick's Foundation to conquer kids' cancer and find a cure.

Go to St (that's s t) Baldricks dot org slash events slash Station 48 and click "join us" to register.

The Shave the Brave event is slated for Monday, April 29 from 4 to 7 at Chicamacomico Banks Volunteer Fire Station, 27209 Roth Road in Salvo.

### **The Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station Historic Site and Museum is celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.**

The historic site in Rodanthe is open from 10 to 5, Monday through Friday.

Although the majority of the site will be open for exploration, including the main 1911 station, there may be sporadic construction-related closures of the 1874 station as it undergoes an extensive renovation.

The renovation of the 1874 original station and repairs to the 1907 Midgett House tie in with the upcoming 150th anniversary that is planned for October 2024.

Stories about the seven 1874 Outer Banks Stations have been written by Jen Carlson. Island Free Press and The Coastland Times publish these feature stories online.

Here is a brief Legacy of Life-Saving also written by Carlson.

### **All in a Day's Work**

Sometimes it's about being a good host: On November 28, 1883, a wrecking steamer, the Victoria J. Peed arrived on scene to examine a stranded vessel, the Annie S. Carll. The crew of the Annie was being sheltered at the Nags Head Station, so the Nags Head crew was expecting the arrival of the steamer. Rough weather delayed the landing so it wasn't until December 2<sup>nd</sup> an attempt was made to reach the shore. Seeing a boat being lowered from the Victoria, the surfmen hurried to assist them in landing in the rough waters.

Thankfully the station crew was nearby as the boat capsized and threw the men into the surf. Wading into the water, the life-savers were able to help the people safely ashore and took them to the station and provided dry clothing. Increased winds forced the Victoria to pull away into deeper waters leaving

the six men ashore. They stayed at the station for two days until the weather allowed the steamer to return and the crew then took the men out in the surf-boat to board the vessel.

**Now stay safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.**

## **Public Service Announcements:**

**Thursday, March 28, 2024:**

**Insert when ready. And then again at 3 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a weather update.

The National Weather Service has issued its last predictions for the current low pressure system.

**Winds:** Moderately strong winds of 30-40 miles per hour are expected, producing minor impacts, especially along the coast. A few gusts to 45 miles per hour are possible along the Outer Banks.

**Coastal Flooding:** Minor soundside flooding of one to two feet above normally dry land is expected for Hatteras Island.

**Ocean Overwash:** Large surf and ocean overwash is expected for beaches from Hatteras Island North.

**Rainfall:** The heaviest rain has ended, but light to moderate rain will continue through this afternoon, with minor/nuisance flooding. The risk of flash flooding is decreasing.

**Dangerous Marine Conditions:** Hazardous winds and seas will occur Thursday through Friday. Gale Force wind is predicted for all waters.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

**Thursday, March 28, 2024:  
Insert at noon, March 28, 2024**

This is Radio Hatteras with a storm update.

The National Weather Service has issued High Surf and Coastal Flood advisories.

For High Surf Advisory, large breaking waves of four to seven feet will occur in the surf zone. The advisory is in place until 8 o'clock Friday morning.

The Coastal Flood Advisory kicks in at 8 o'clock tonight and runs to 2 o'clock Friday afternoon. One to two feet of inundation above ground level are possible in areas along Pamlico Sound on Hatteras Island.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

**Sunday, March 24, 2024:  
Insert when ready and at 6, 7, 7:30.**

Good afternoon. This is Radio Hatteras with a late day weather update.

The Coastal Flood Warning has been downgraded to a Coastal Flood Advisory for the soundside locations of Southern and Southwestern Pamlico Sound, as winds have peaked and will be slowly diminishing, reports the National Weather Service.

The winds are very gradually diminishing in Rodanthe. The winds are North Northeast at 22 miles per hour with a gust to 36. The temperature is 45 with gust to 35. Wind chill is 35.

In Frisco, the wind is Northeast at 16 miles per hour with a gust to 38. The temperature was 47 with wind chill at 41.

The Coastal Flood Warning continues for the Oceanside of the Outer Banks from Duck to Cape Lookout, that's Cape Lookout. Long period northeasterly swell will continue to bring the threat for ocean overwash and beach erosion. Moderate flooding of 2 to 4 feet possible. The warning is in place until early Tuesday morning.

A Frost Advisory has been issued for most interior counties, reports the National Weather Service. Light to calm winds overnight into Monday morning allow for frost to develop.

Unfortunately, due to continued strong winds and overwash, NCDOT did NOT reopen NC12 on Ocracoke Island on Sunday. NCDOT writes in an update "We will continue working to reopen the highway at some point Monday." Ferry service between Hatteras and Ocracoke remains suspended.

Here's an update from the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

On Sunday afternoon, March 24, 2024, the Cape Hatteras National Seashore temporarily expanded the beach closure at Buxton Beach Access due to petroleum odors and sheen on water.

The expansion closes the Buxton Beach Access, located at the end of Old Lighthouse Road, and a total of three-tenths of a mile to the first jetty. On Sept. 1, 2023, two tenths of a mile were initially closed.

The odors and sheen were observed by Seashore staff near the site formerly used by the Navy and Coast Guard.

Observations were reported to the National Response Center. The Coast Guard's Sector North Carolina has responded and is working with the Seashore to monitor the situation. The U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will meet with the staff from the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

**Saturday, March 23, 2024:**  
**Insert at 5, 6, 7 March 23, 2024**

This is Radio Hatteras with a late day weather update.

It's the calm before the second storm of the weekend.

In Rodanthe, around 4 this afternoon, the southwest wind was 11 miles per hour. Rain total has moved slightly up to one and a ¼ inches.

In Frisco, the wind was northwest at 17 miles per hour. The accumulated rainfall totals a third of an inch.

So, prepare for the second storm.

Tonight, a north wind will swoop in blowing 23 to 33 miles per hour with gusts as high as 50 along with some rain.

On Sunday, most sunny skies will greet the day. The high temperature will be 49 and it is still blowing around 33 miles per hour with gusts to 50. The wind drops a little Sunday night and the gusts will be as high as 45 miles per hour.

Be safe out there.

This is Radio Hatteras.

**Saturday, March 23, 2024:**

**Insert when ready and then 1:30, 2, 3 and 4.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a weather and road update.

The National Weather Service has upgraded to a Coastal Flood Warning to account for the more impactful northerly component of this weekend's coastal storm.

In Rodanthe, the wind has calmed for a bit from a 40-mile per hour gust early today. At noon, the wind was switching from south to southwest and blowing 19 miles per hour. Over an inch of rain has fallen today.

On Ocracoke, NC 12 on the north end of the island was closed at 8:26 this morning. It is expected to reopen at noon on Sunday, March 24. Ferry service between Hatteras and Ocracoke is suspended.

On Hatteras Island, NCDOT reported that at noon, NC12 was open and passable. Earlier today, crews cleared sand and water from the roadway as overwash was reported on NC 12 between Hatteras and Frisco and at the north end of Buxton. The highway crews will be back tonight around high tide.

Here's an update on the weather service pronouncements:

A coastal flood advisory is in effect until 8 tonight. The Coastal Flood Warning takes over at 2 this morning and extends to early Tuesday morning.

The northerly portion of this storm is the greatest threat. The weather service predicts 2 to 4 feet of inundation above ground level on the Oceanside north of Buxton and 1 to 2 feet from Avon south.

The high surf advisory is in effect until 8 o'clock Wednesday morning. Large breaking waves of 10 to 15 feet are expected in the surf.

Our friends at the Hatteras Island Community Emergency Response Team urge: "If you have to be out on the roads, please be cautious and courteous to other drivers." We agree.

This is Radio Hatteras.

**Friday, March 22, 2024:**

**Insert at 11:30 or when ready, noon, 1, 2, 3**

This is Radio Hatteras with advisories from the National Weather Service.

Coastal Flood, High Surf and Wind advisories for Hatteras Island have been issued by the National Weather Service.

The flood advisory calls for one to two feet of inundation above ground level in low-lying areas near shorelines and tidal waterways from midnight tonight to 8 o'clock Saturday evening.

For the High Surf Advisory, in effect from 8 to 8 on Saturday, the weather service predicts large breaking waves of seven to 14 feet in the surf zone. Expect dangerous swimming and surfing conditions with localized beach erosion.

The wind advisory is in effect Saturday from 2 o'clock in the morning to 2 in the afternoon Saturday for Hatteras Island. Sustained south winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour with gusts up to 50 miles per hour are expected. Use extra caution if driving.

Stay safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **Friday, March 22, 2024:**

**Insert at 9:30, 10, 11, noon, 1 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a weather update from the National Weather Service.

A strong low pressure system will impact Eastern North Carolina this weekend, bringing heavy rain, thunderstorms, two surges of strong winds, oceanside and soundside flooding, and dangerous marine conditions.

From Friday evening through Monday, expect:

- Areas of heavy rainfall with the potential for minor flooding to poor drainage areas Friday night and Saturday. Up to two to three inches of rain are forecast for Hatteras Island.
- A few severe thunderstorms possible, especially along the coast
- Strong wind gusts of 44 to 48 miles per hour along Hatteras Island with peak winds southerly Friday night into Saturday afternoon and northerly Saturday night through Sunday.
- Coastal impacts with minor to moderate flooding likely oceanside and soundside. Ocean overwash, rough surf and beach erosion are possible. Impacts linger into Monday along the coast.
- Dangerous marine conditions expected across all waterways. A gale warning is in place for all waters.

Be safe out there. This Radio Hatteras.

### **Saturday, March 9, 2024:**

**Insert at 5:15 or 5:30, 6, 7:30 and 9 p.m.**

Coastal Flood Watch, Wind advisory issued

The National Weather Service has issued a Coastal Flood Watch and a Wind Advisory in effect from Sunday evening through early Monday afternoon.

The weather service predicts up to two to four feet of Pamlico Sound water above ground level on Hatteras Island. Flooding will extend inland from the waterfront threatening some homes and businesses.

The Wind Advisory states that Northwest winds will blow 25 to 35 miles per hour with gusts up to 45 miles per hour.

Both the Watch and Advisory start at 7 o'clock Sunday evening. The Wind Advisory lapses at noon Monday and the Watch goes away at 2 o'clock Monday afternoon.

Be careful out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **March 8 2024. Insert at 6, 7, 7:45 and 9 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatters with a weather update

A frontal system impacting Hatteras Island this weekend could produce strong to severe thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, strong wind gusts, and sound-side coastal flooding, says the National Weather Service.

Heavy Rain and Thunderstorms capable of producing a brief tornado and damaging wind gusts are possible Saturday afternoon and evening. Strong westerly wind gusts up to 30 to 40 miles per hour will result in elevated water levels for sound-side Outer Banks north of Ocracoke Inlet Sunday night into Monday morning.

This is a low probability, moderate/high impact event. There are many uncertainties with this weather system, says the Weather Service. Listen for an update by 9 Saturday morning.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024:**

#### **Aired at 11 a.m. and again at 11:15 a.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a message from Dare County Schools.

Due to increased rainfall estimates for later today, all Dare County Schools will be implementing an early dismissal schedule today, March 6. At Cape Hatteras Elementary dismissal time is 11:30 and at Cape Hatteras Secondary, early dismissal is noon.



All after-school activities and after-school enrichment programs are canceled today. Families with concerns about student transportation should reach out directly to student's school

The early morning weather announcement from the National Weather Service states:

Heavy rainfall associated with a low pressure system is expected this morning through early tonight with widespread two to four inches of rain over coastal North Carolina. There is potential for even heavier rain to fall over the Outer Banks with up to six to seven inches possible.

With the recent heavy rains, additional rainfall will quickly runoff resulting in the potential for flash flooding.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **Insert at 5, 6, 7, 7:45 and 9 pm., March 5, 2024**

This is Radio Hatteras. A Flood Watch in effect Wednesday for Hatteras Island

The National Weather Service issued a flood watch for Hatteras Island starting at 3 a.m. Wednesday morning running through Wednesday evening.

The watch also includes Mainland Dare, Northern Outer Banks and Ocracoke Island.

A low pressure system will move through the area Wednesday. The system is capable of dropping two to four inches of rain. With the recent heavy rainfall, additional downpours could cause flooding for low lying areas and flood prone locations.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **Feb. 21, 2024:**

#### **Air when ready and at 4 and 5 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a high surf advisory.

The National Weather Service has issued a high surf advisory for the beaches north of Cape Hatteras.

The advisory runs from 7 this evening to 8 o'clock Friday morning.

Four to seven feet of large breaking waves are expected in the surf zone. A low, powerful easterly swell generated by a low pressure system well offshore peaks during this time period. Localized beach erosion may occur.

**Feb 13, 2024:  
Break in at 2:45 and 3 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a flooding report

Around noon, Tuesday, NCDOT announced the closure of NC12 on the north end of Ocracoke Island between the ferry terminal and the pony pens. It will remain closed until conditions allow for safe travel. Ferry service between Hatteras and Ocracoke has been suspended.

Elsewhere, soundside flooding is on NC 12 in several locations between the Rodanthe Bridge and the Etheridge Bridge and in Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. Slow down. Go around.

With the shift of wind to west northwest, soundside flooding in northern Hatteras Island is retreating. However, flooding reports are now coming from Frisco and Hatteras village.

NCDOT is working to strengthen the berm at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Traffic is stopped both ways for about five minutes while sand is dumped by trucks and a bulldozer pushes the sand up.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

**Feb. 13, 2024:  
Aired at 4 and 4:45 p.m.**

Parks & Recreation - Hatteras Island Division & Fessenden Center

Dare County Parks & Recreation has announced several program cancellations today, February 13, 2024 due to weather impacts along N.C. Hwy. 12. The Fessenden Center in Buxton will close at 5 p.m. today. In addition, the following activities are cancelled:

Youth Basketball Practices  
Youth Dance Classes  
4 p.m. Yoga  
5:15 p.m. Pound Class

The Fessenden Center will reopen on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. Please contact the Fessenden Center office at 252.475.5650 for assistance.

The Dare County Library's Hatteras location closed at 11:45 a.m. today, February 13, 2024 due to weather impacts on the roads within Hatteras Village. The Hatteras Library will reopen on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 12 p.m.

**Monday, Feb. 12, 2024: Insert sometime during the noon hour, then at 1, 2, 3, and 4 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a daytime weather warning

The National Weather Service has issued a Coastal Flood Watch and Wind Advisory for the Outer Banks, including from Oregon Inlet to Frisco for tonight through Tuesday.

The prediction is for two to three feet above ground level of soundside flooding and in vulnerable areas a possible four feet above ground level.

After blowing northeast, east, and southeast and south, the winds will come southwest around 3 o'clock tonight. The southwest winds are predicted to peak around 9 tomorrow morning at about 51 miles per hour in Frisco.

Minor coastal flooding of one to two feet above ground level is also expected for sound-side areas near Hatteras Inlet

Gale Force Winds are anticipated across all area waters including all coastal waters, sounds, and inland rivers.

Two to three inches of rain are predicted.

Be safe out there. Prepare now. The Weather Service is scheduled to issue another bulletin around 6 tonight. This is Radio Hatteras

**Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, Insert at 5:45, 6, 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m.**

This is Radio Hatteras with a weather update.

The National Weather Service reports a period of strong northerly winds starting tonight and lasting into Thursday morning will result in coastal flooding impacts.

A Coastal Flood Watch has been issued for the Outer Banks.

High tides Wednesday and Thursday mornings could produce two to three feet of inundation, beach erosion, and ocean overwash along portions of Highway 12 in the Outer Banks.

A High Surf Advisory is in effect from Duck to Cape Hatteras, with rough surf and minor to locally moderate beach erosion expected.

Wind Gusts up to 45 miles per hour along Hatteras Island are expected. Gale Force Winds are forecast for coastal waters and Pamlico Sound.

The next weather update will be Tuesday morning.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **Insert on Thursday, 1/18/2024, at 8 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.**

Tonight, Thursday, January 25, at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon supper will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and carrots and dessert and iced tea.  
Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, Thursday, February 1, at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon supper will be five different soups which are chicken noodle, chili, hambone, potato and white beans and sausage along with bread, dessert and iced tea.  
Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, Thursday, February 8, at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon supper will be ham, green beans, macaroni salad and fruit cocktail and dessert and iced tea.  
Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, Thursday, February 15, at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon supper will be chicken pot pie, green beans, peaches and dessert and iced tea.  
Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, Thursday, February 22, at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon supper will be tacos and black beans and rice and dessert and iced tea.  
Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, Thursday, February 29 at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon supper will be barbecue, slaw, baked beans and macaroni and cheese and dessert and iced tea.  
Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock.

Tonight, Thursday, March 7 is the last Thursday community supper for this winter at Saint John United Methodist Church in Avon. The supper will be turkey, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas and carrots, sweet potatoes and dessert and iced tea.

Supper is free. Take out available. Serving starts at 5 o'clock

## **Second January 2024 storm**

### **Insert at 5, 6 and 7 p.m., Jan. 11, 2024.**

Weather Service issues Wind Advisory for Friday evening

The National Weather Service has issued a Wind Advisory in effect from 7 o'clock Friday evening to 7 o'clock Saturday morning, January 13.

The Weather Service is expecting south winds 25 to 35 miles per hour.

Strong winds may hamper ongoing cleanup efforts from the recent round of severe thunderstorms.

Some trees weakened with the last weather system may be more prone to damage with this event.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **9 p.m., Jan. 12, 2024**

This is Radio Hatteras with a weather update.

The National Weather Service is now calling for three to four feet of tide in the Pamlico Sound.

It's warm out there. In Frisco, the temperature is 64. In Rodanthe, 62 degrees.

The wind is blowing southeast in Rodanthe at 15 miles per hour with a gust to 24.

In Frisco, the wind was from the South at 25 with a gust to 35 miles per hour.

Hatteras Island is under a wind advisory until 3 this morning. Winds are expected to turn southwest after midnight and possible reach 45 miles per hour.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **Inserted 9:45 a.m., 1.10.24**

This is Radio Hatteras with an NC 12 report.

"It was awful," said Pat Weston. She traveled from her Avon home to Nags Head this morning for an appointment. She encountered lots of water on NC 12. She estimates she went through at least a foot of water from the south end of Salvo to Wind-Over-Waves subdivision. Then a brief break. More water on NC 12 from Camp Hatteras to Kitty Hawk Kites. And, still more water on the roadway from the north end of the Rodanthe Bridge to the Pea Island Visitor Center.

Pat's advice: Don't try it. Cancel the appointment.

In Rodanthe, the wind is blowing from the west at 22 miles per hour sustained with a gust at 32.

Be careful. This is Radio Hatteras

### **Insert at 5 and 6 p.m., Jan. 9, 2024**

This is Radio Hatteras with a storm update.

Hatteras Island is now under a coastal flood and high wind warning.

At Frisco, the winds were blowing 28 sustained with gusts to 40 miles per hour.

Rodanthe had wind speed at 26 miles per hour and gusts to 34 miles per hour.

Temperatures are following the prediction. In Frisco, the temperature was 63 degrees. In Rodanthe, 61 degrees.

No rain is coming down in Frisco or Rodanthe at this time.

The cold front is expected to pass over Hatteras Island around 10 o'clock tonight.

The National Weather Service reports that from 8 to midnight Hatteras Island may experience severe weather.

School announcement:

Shortly after noon today, Dare County Schools announced that schools will open two hours later than usual on Wednesday, January 10. Meet buses two hours later than usual.

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras. Insert at 7:45 p.m., Jan. 9, 2024

This is Radio Hatteras with an early evening storm update.

A tornado watch is in effect for Dare County until 9 o'clock tonight

Around 4 this evening, sea foam was pushed over dunes between Hatteras and Frisco.

In Frisco, the winds were still south blowing 30 miles per hour with gusts to 44.

The temperature is steady at 62 degrees.

An observer in Frisco reported a lightning bolt, a clap of thunder and five minutes of rain.

At 6:30, a light rain was falling in Frisco and Buxton and intermittently in Rodanthe, which had a temperature of 61 degrees.

### **Announcements**

At 4:40 this afternoon, the Hatteras ferry operations group suspended service. Yesterday, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper signed an Executive Order declaring a State of Emergency ahead of the severe weather. The Order waives truck weight, size and hours of service restrictions so that vehicles carrying

essential supplies such as food, medicine or fuel or transporting livestock and crops can get their jobs done quickly. The Council of State unanimously concurred with the Emergency Declaration.

Call us with information. The station phone number is 995-6000.

Stay safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.

### **Jan. 9, 2024**

9:00 p.m.

This is Radio Hatteras with an evening storm update.

The cold front is rapidly approaching Hatteras Island.

At 8:30, the temperature in Frisco was 63 degrees, remarkably stable.

In Frisco, a light rain was falling. Wind was from the South at 33 miles per hour with gust to 48.

In Rodanthe, it was 64 degrees with a south wind at 29 miles per hour and gusts to 39.

The front will be over Hatteras Island soon. Severe weather is likely.

Be careful and stay safe. This is Radio Hatteras.rt at 10 p.m., Jan. 9, 2024

This is Radio Hatteras with a storm update at 10 o'clock.

A severe thunderstorm warning is in place for Dare County along with a tornado watch which is in effect until 11 o'clock. The thunderstorm is moving at 85 miles per hour with 70 mile per hour winds reported.

In Buxton, lightning and thunder are occurring. It is raining. The winds are not stirred up.

In Frisco, the South wind blew at 23 miles per hour with a gust of 31.

In Salvo, winds blew from the south at 36 miles per hour with a gust 48.

Be safe out there. Take precautions. This is Radio Hatteras. when ready.

This is Radio Hatteras.

At 10:55, the National Weather Service officially declared the severe weather threat over for all of Eastern North Carolina. Storms have moved off of the Outer Banks.

The weather service and Radio Hatteras hope everyone is safe.

We'll await the arrival of west wind.

This is Radio Hatteras.

Insert when ready. Then 8 a.m.

Good morning from Radio Hatteras.

At 7 this morning, NCDOT reported that NC 12 is open and passable with sand skim and water from rain from the Oregon Inlet bridge to Hatteras village.

Only NC 12 on Ocracoke is closed due to Ocean Overwash.

The National Weather Service promises sunny skies today, but the wind is still blowing. In Frisco, the winds were west at 22 with gusts to 60 miles per hour and soundside water is coming up.

In Rodanthe, the wind blows from the West southwest at 29 miles per hour with gusts to 37.

It's a little cooler. In Frisco, it's 56 degrees. In Rodanthe, 53 degrees.

In Frisco, almost an inch of rain has fallen since midnight.

Hope all are safely through the night. This is Radio Hatteras.

Broadcast at 8:30

This is Radio Hatteras with a message from Dare County Schools.

Due to the weather situation, Wednesday, January 10 will be a teacher workday.

No school for students today.

From Salvo and Rodanthe, the Pamlico Sound is sending water up Brick Creek covering NC 12 in Salvo. Also, the cut at Camp Hatteras is rising quickly.

NCDOT reports that several secondary oceanside roads in and around Rodanthe received some minor ocean overwash and NCDOT's crews will be out to clear those today.

This is Radio Hatteras.