

Weekly news Summary for Sunday, November 17, 2024

The Cape Hatteras National Seashore has closed the beach in Rodanthe due to debris. During the overnight hours of Nov. 14-15, an unoccupied house collapsed at 23241 Surf Side Drive in Rodanthe. Efforts to respond to and begin cleanup operations were currently limited due to severe weather conditions. Cape Hatteras National Seashore staff is also monitoring unoccupied threatened structures at G A Kohler Ct and Sea Oats Dr.

Due to hazardous debris, the beach in front of Rodanthe is temporarily closed to Ocean Dr just south of the Rodanthe Pier. The Seashore is also urging its visitors to avoid the beach and ocean for potentially many miles south of Rodanthe. Debris has been seen at Ramp 27. Six houses have collapsed in Rodanthe since May 2024. On Saturday, some National Park Service staffers worked to drag debris up dunes. It was not possible to drive on the beach.

NC 12 was closed in Pea Island at 7:30 Saturday morning. The Atlantic Ocean was still overwashing the highway. Barricades were placed at the Oregon Inlet Bridge and in Rodanthe. NCDOT had no scheduled time for the reopening of NC 12. However, crews pushed up a berm and NCDOT was able to reopen the highway at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

A NCDOT traffic camera showed ocean water coming across at the north end of Buxton and a NCDOT front end loader pushing sand off the highway. With a northeast wind, tide was coming up in southern Hatteras Island. At 7:30, 3-4" were already surrounding a home in Frisco. A 66 mile per hour gust was recorded at the same home.

In Business news: this week focuses on the real estate market performance through October of this year. The October report is not a lot different from last month's results. The bright spots in the October report are:

--The number of both residential properties and undeveloped lots for sale are significantly higher than for the January to October period in 2023.

--Residential sales, while down slightly in comparison to the first 10 months of last year, more than doubled from September results.

--Residential median sales prices remain in the \$500,000 to \$600,000 range with the average at \$590,000.

--Residential properties under contract to be sold took a 28.6% move upward, potentially signaling strong end-of-year sales.

--The interest rate on 30-year fixed rate mortgages, however, rose to 6.72 percent. We will have to see the impact, if any, of the recent decrease by the Federal Reserve Board, writes Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka.

--Sale results for undeveloped lots were quite limited with only two lots sold on the entire island during October.

In other news concerning the Hatteras Island economy, the year-to-date occupancy tax receipts through September declined 13.8 percent and year-to-date meal tax receipts were unchanged from last year.

At the November 4 board meeting, Dare County commissioners agreed to purchase the old Dare Building Supply property at 25691 NC 12 in Waves for \$2.1 million. The property with 5.5 acres and a borrow pit will be used to construct a new EMS station to serve Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. The station is currently lodged in the Chicamacomico Banks Volunteer Fire Department in Rodanthe.

A request for a Special Use Permit for a warehouse caused attorneys and clients to huddle separately during the time leading up to the matter being called. The back-and-forth exchange resulted in amendments to the proposed permit requested by Dale Petty and Annah Petty of Surf or Sound Realty for 40177 Westerly Lane in Avon.

The amendments addressed a visual buffer of a fence and planting evergreen trees. Exterior lighting is to be activated by switch. No employee lunch area is permitted in the northeast corner. A motion to approve the permit with amendments was adopted unanimously.

This year, Cape Hatteras National Seashore staffers counted 303 sea turtle nests. Some 98% of the nests were loggerhead sea turtles along with four green sea turtles, one Kemp's Ridley and 2 leatherback sea turtle nests. Some 19% of all sea turtle nests in North Carolina are found on Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches.

Park staffers have taken inventory of 258 nests and counted 29,073 eggs. The average eggs per nest was 113. The incubation time was 61 days. Emerged hatchlings are estimated at 19,060.

The N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission will meet in person Nov. 20 through 22 at the Islander Hotel & Resort, 102 Islander Drive, Emerald Isle. The meeting will also be livestreamed on YouTube.

The meeting begins at 6 o'clock, Wednesday, November 20; at 9 o'clock Thursday morning, November 21; and at 9 o'clock Friday morning, November 22. The commission will hold public comment sessions at 6 o'clock on Wednesday and at 9 o'clock Thursday.

The public may appear in-person to deliver comments or deliver written comments online at the Marine Fisheries Commission webpage, or by mail to Comments, P.O. Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557.

The YouTube link will be posted on the Marine Fisheries Commission webpage. After the meeting, a recording will be posted online.

Agenda items for this meeting include:

- Review of public comment and recommendations on the draft Spotted Seatrout Fishery Management Plan Amendment 1, and a vote to select the commission's preferred management options.
- Presentations on the draft Eastern Oyster Fishery Management Plan Amendment 5 and draft Hard Clam Fishery Management Plan Amendment 3, as well as votes to approve the draft amendments for public and advisory committee review.
- An update on the commission's request to begin work on Amendment 4 to the Southern Flounder Fishery Management Plan.
- A vote on a slate of nominees for the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council obligatory seat.
- A presentation on the new ESA Section 10 Incidental Take Permit.
- Election of a vice chair.

Island-wide food drive underway

The 32nd Annual Island-Wide Food Drive to benefit the food pantry at the United Methodist Church in Buxton is underway and will run through December 31.

"Without your support, the pantry will be unable to meet the needs of our island community," said Food Drive organizer, Linda Browning. "Monetary donations are always appreciated, and they're tax deductible. If you don't have time to shop, send a check to Cape Hatteras Food Pantry, United Methodist Men, P. O. Box 1591, Buxton, NC 27920." Questions? Give Linda a call at (252) 995-3662.

These items are in demand: Laundry soap, Dishwashing detergent (for handwashing), Shampoo and conditioner, Bath soap, Shaving cream, Toothpaste and toothbrushes. Please also remember pets with dog and cat food and cat litter.

Take these items to one of the following places: Our Lady of the Seas Catholic Parish Social Hall in Buxton (24-hr. drop-off box on the porch of the social hall, not the church), Frisco Market/Rod and Gun; Surf-or-Sound Realty in Avon or Salvo; Midgett Realty in Hatteras, Avon, or Rodanthe; Sun Realty in Avon; and United Bank in Buxton.

Room in the Inn is now open

Dare County's only homeless shelter, OBX Room In The Inn, has reopened for its sixteenth season. Room in the Inn is open to those who are in need of immediate or short-term shelter during the winter months on the Outer Banks. For more information, visit obxroomintheinn.org.

Blue Zone Challenge in Hatteras Library

Show up for a Blue Zone Challenge at the Hatteras Village Library to make holiday cards for clients of Hatteras Island Meals. The date is November 20. The start time is 12:30. Snack and supplies provided.

Hatteras Library in Rodanthe, November 21

Hatteras Library will be holding a Pop-Up library on Thursday November 21 from 9 until 11 at the RWS Community Building. Check out books, pick up reserved books and more! Children's program (all ages) is from 9:15-9:45 with Miss Tami. Save a trip to Hatteras, support our library and promote reading in our community!

Parks and Rec's assessment survey is due November 22.

This needs assessment survey will be used to gather feedback about the community's preferences for recreational offerings. Survey results will aid in the prioritization of future Dare County Parks and Recreation projects, programming and initiatives. The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, November 22, 2024.

Dare County residents and property owners are strongly encouraged to provide their input by participating in the needs assessment survey before it closes. Go to [Survey monkey.com slash the letter r slash dare rec survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/dare-rec-survey) to share your vision, concerns and ideas for improving recreation in our community!

Surfin Turkey 5K on Thanksgiving Day

The Surfin' Turkey 5K and Puppy Drum Fun Run is scheduled for Hatteras Village Thanksgiving Day.

Thanksgiving-themed costumes are encouraged, and folks can walk, jog, or run at their leisure through the scenic course in historic Hatteras Village.

All of the proceeds from the event support the students on Hatteras Island by providing equipment, materials and life changing experiences that would otherwise not be available through public funding.

Online registration is currently open at [Runsignup dot com slash Race slash NC slash Hatteras slash Surfin Turkey 5K and Puppy Drum Run](https://www.runsignup.com/Race/NC/Hatteras/Surfin_Turkey_5K_and_Puppy_Drum_Run)

The Surfin' Turkey 5K starts at 8 in the morning, while the Puppy Drum Fun Run launches at 9 on Thanksgiving morning

For more information on the charity event or to donate to the organization, visit the Hatteras Island Youth Education Fund's website at [hatterasyouth dot com](https://www.hatterasyouth.com)

Tell the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create a Restoration Advisory Board

During the public meeting at the Fessenden Center in Buxton November 4, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, invited the attendees to take a survey to gauge interest in establishing a Restoration Advisory Board for the Buxton Naval Facility, a Formerly Used Defense Sites property located within Cape Hatteras National Seashore of North Carolina.

To take the public interest survey, visit [surveymonkey dot com slash the letter r slash buxton public interest survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/buxton-public-interest-survey). The deadline for submission is Dec. 4, 2024.

Christmas parade in Hatteras village

The Hatteras Village Civic Association is taking signups for Christmas Parade to be held December 14 at 2 o'clock. Please sign up by December 7 so the parade organizers can plan. Go to [hatteras events @ yahoo. com](mailto:hatteras_events@yahoo.com).

Tree Lighting Events

On Tuesday, December 3, at 6 p.m., Hatteras villagers will gather at the village center to light the community Christmas tree. After the lighting, a take home soup and salad dinner will be served at the community building.

On Saturday, December 7 starting at 5:30 in the evening at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building, villagers will light the community Christmas Trees. Sweets, cider and cocoa and a special visitor are all expected to be there.

Now, be safe out there. Thanks for listening to this community radio station. This is Radio Hatteras.