

## **Weekly News Summary for Sunday, July 28, 2024.**

### **First, we want to reach out and thank some folks.**

This Wednesday, July 31, 2024, is National Lifeguard Appreciation Day.

On Hatteras Island, two organizations work tirelessly to keep beachgoers safe.

In northern Hatteras Island, the Chicamacomico Banks Water Rescue Team patrols the beach daily. On the southern beaches, the Hatteras Island Rescue Squad patrols the beaches. Both organizations respond to 9 1 1 calls about rescues needed in the Atlantic Ocean and the Pamlico Sound.

Also on Hatteras Island are three lifeguarded beaches spread down the island. Those staffed lifeguard chairs are at Rodanthe Beach Access, Old Lighthouse Beach in Buxton and the Frisco Beach Access.

Thanks to the lifeguards, the water rescue team and rescue squad members for keeping our beaches safe.

And for our listeners: Remember. Live like a local. Love the Beach. Respect the Ocean.

### **Bathroom at Lighthouse almost funded**

One of the projects of Outer Banks Forever is assisting the National Park Service with installing a new accessible restroom and shower facilities along the pathway now under construction.

On July 16, 2024, Dare Commissioners agreed to partner with Outer Banks Forever in seeking a North Carolina Public Beach and Coastal Waterfront Access Program grant.

The bathroom features four unisex family facilities, flushing fixtures, exterior showers with privacy screen, a concrete structure designed to withstand flooding, wind and rain.

Initial funding for the bathroom has come from Dare County Tourism Board and Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative. Donors generously donated \$25,000 in Giving Tuesday.

Jessica Barnes, Director of Outer Banks Forever, just announced a receipt of a \$220,000 grant from the National Park Foundation.

If the grant from North Carolina is awarded, the project will be fully funded.

The pathway project also sponsored by Outer Banks Forever is expected to be completed and a ribbon cutting held this Fall.

### **Commissioner action**

On July 16, 2024, Dare County Commissioners accepted a \$250,000 grant from the Coastal Storm Damage Mitigation Fund for the Southern Hatteras Island Offshore Sand Assessment. The grant funding provides 50% matching funds for the project.

The commissioners also set up a budget in Emergency Management Department for a \$425,000 grant awarded to the Frisco Volunteer Fire Department for a feasibility study on a new facility for the department.

### **Grants for resiliency**

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Division of Coastal Management has awarded two grants to Dare County for projects on Hatteras Island.

The funding comes from the Resilient Coastal Communities Program.

The primary objective of Phase 3 of the RCCP is to provide funding to assist communities with the engineering and design of prioritized projects identified in the Resilience Strategy.

Dare County received a Phase 3 grant of \$234,000 for the Salvo Flood Mitigation Project, which will provide a detailed drainage study for NC 12 around Brick Creek and Wind over Waves Subdivision.

Phase 4 projects implement the shovel-ready projects designed in Phase 3.

Dare County was awarded \$160,000 to construct bioswales to store and filter water in Hatteras village.

The Resilient Coastal Communities Program receives funding from a combination of state and federal sources. The grants require no matching funds. Dare County Commissioners approved the application for the two grants June 3, 2024.

### **The Blue Envelope Program Comes to Dare County**

In partnership with Dare County and local law enforcement agencies, Outer Banks Health is bringing the Blue Envelope Program to Dare County. The program is designed to provide a communication awareness tool for law enforcement when interacting with community members diagnosed with conditions or disabilities like autism spectrum disorder, dementia, and anxiety. The blue envelopes distributed to community members through the program contain tips for law enforcement, a card that identifies the individual and specifies their condition or disability, and room for pertinent documents such as a vehicle registration and proof of insurance. The program allows an individual with a condition or disability to present the blue envelope to law enforcement or other community service personnel during an interaction so that they are not perceived as being uncooperative or combative.

The program is supported by the Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, Manteo, Southern Shores, Duck and Nags Head police departments, along with the Dare County sheriff's office. Blue envelopes are available for free throughout Dare County, including at medical practices, libraries, law enforcement offices, senior centers and high schools. The program is entirely voluntary and self-implemented.

### **Sea turtle hatchlings: female or male?**

When a sea turtle lays a nest, the eggs will incubate under the sand for an average of 60 days. During this time, the temperature of the sand surrounding the eggs determines whether the hatchlings will be female or male. Cooler temperatures result in males, and warmer temperatures result in females. In order for sea turtle populations to be stable, both males and females need to hatch. Because of climate change, there are concerns that globally, sea turtle hatchlings are starting to skew towards more females than is sustainable.

The beaches at Cape Hatteras are at the northern end of the nesting range for sea turtle populations in the western Atlantic. This means that nesting numbers are relatively lower here, since nesting density generally increases southward towards the equator. But this also means that more males are hatching here than at beaches further south, so protecting sea turtle nests at Cape Hatteras is very important, writes the National Park Service.

A total of 252 sea turtle nests have been counted on Cape Hatteras National Seashore Beaches this season. Some 157 of those nests are on Hatteras Island, where one nest has hatched.

As to shorebirds along the national seashore beaches, the July 25 Field Summary shows:  
Oystercatchers with five chicks and six fledglings.  
Colonial waterbirds with 74 active nests, 23 chicks and 31 fledgling  
One piping plover has fledged on South Point on Ocracoke.  
Wilson's plovers have three chicks at South Point.

### **Frisco chase results in arrest**

About 7:13 on the morning of July 23, a Dare County Sheriff's Deputy working Hatteras Island noticed a vehicle parked at the Frisco Bath House. The vehicle belonged to a person that was wanted for two outstanding warrants. The Deputy made contact with the person, but the person did not listen to commands and left in the vehicle and headed north on NC 12. The vehicle refused to stop despite sirens and blue lights. A Lieutenant with the Sheriff's Office deployed stop sticks on the vehicle in the area of Spencer Lane, Frisco. The stop sticks deflated all the vehicle tires. The vehicle and driver continued north until reaching the parking lot of Phillip's Boat Works in Buxton where it lost control and came to a stop. The vehicle was blocked from leaving from pursuing units and the driver was taken into custody after a brief struggle. George Thomas King, 60, Buxton, was arrested and charged with the initial two warrants for misdemeanor Larceny and then charged with felony Flee/Elude with Motor Vehicle, misdemeanor Resist, Delay and Obstruct, Reckless Driving to Endanger, Carry Concealed Weapon and Unsafe Tires. King was given a \$20,000 secured bond. NC State Highway Patrol and Dare County EMS assisted with this incident.

### **Coming up this week.**

#### **Hurricane Forum**

The National Weather Service is holding a Hurricane Community Forum in Avon on Tuesday, July 30, at the Avon Fire Station. The forum starts at 2 in the afternoon.

The free public discussions include a presentation from a meteorologist with the National Weather Service on hurricanes and their impacts on Eastern North Carolina.

The forums will cover why the public should never focus on just the category of the storm, and will also discuss all of the impacts any tropical cyclone can bring.

Remember, hurricane season does not peak until September," reminds the Weather Service. Are you ready?

For more information on the local forecast from the National Weather Service, visit [weather dot gov slash m h x](http://weather.gov/slash/mhx).

#### **Beach cleanup**

The Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge is hosting its last beach cleanup along the beaches of the refuge throughout the summer. Volunteers from the community are invited to attend on Thursday, August 1. Those who would like to participate are asked to meet at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center, located midway between Oregon Inlet Bridge and Rodanthe, at 10 o'clock in the morning. Participants are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing, sturdy shoes and work gloves.

For more information contact the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center at 252-987-2394.

### **Bazaar in Avon**

St. John United Methodist Church in Avon is hosting a community bazaar Thursday, August 1, starting at 7 in the morning and continuing until 2 in the afternoon.

The daylong event features homemade meals for breakfast and lunch, kids' activities, music, a yard sale and silent auction.

The United Methodist Women will be selling homemade biscuits and sausage gravy in the morning, followed by a Barbecue Lunch.

Celebrating its fourth year in 2024, the annual bazaar served as a fundraiser toward Ret's Retreat, a new building project that will create a retreat center for local youth.

The St. John United Methodist Church is located at 40336 McMullen Road in Avon Village, and everyone is welcome to come visit throughout the day to join in the fun.

### **A concert and two 5Ks are planned for Hatteras Island this fall**

On Labor Day, a brand new 5K race is launching in the shadow of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse and will give participants an up-close look at the ongoing restoration project while supporting a several of Hatteras Island charities.

The Barrier Island Group, in cooperation with the National Park Service, is hosting the 5K run or walk through the newly-designed Cape Hatteras Lighthouse grounds and surrounding park and pathway.

For more information and to register for the event, visit [barrierislandgroup.com](http://barrierislandgroup.com). For sponsorship opportunities, call 443-928-8007.

"This inaugural event will also support local charities on Hatteras Island, so it is a win-win," stated an organizers.

### **Concert set for September 19 in Rodanthe**

A Concert for Chicamacomico Life-Saving Station is set for Thursday, Sept. 19, 2024, from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Station in Rodanthe.

Featured artists are The Sweaters, Skylar Cudasz, Barbara and Bryan Blake, Mary Joy McDaniel and Grace Waters.

Tickets at \$20 are available online at [Chicamcomico.org](http://Chicamcomico.org). The station is located at 23645 NC 12, Rodanthe.

### **Cancer Foundation's annual 5K is set**

One of Hatteras Island's favorite fall events, the Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation's 5K race, is returning for its 21st year Saturday, October 12, and pre-registration is currently open to join the popular event.

This year's event is being held in honor of Donna Peele, a beloved founding member of the Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation, who lost her own battle with breast cancer on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

The annual race in Kinnakeet Shores in Avon is one of the primary fundraising events for the foundation. Founded in 2000, the foundation provides assistance to local residents dealing with cancer to help with needs such as travel expenses, prescriptions, and medical supplies, as well as medical bills that are not covered by insurance. Since its inception, the HICF has assisted hundreds of islanders fighting cancer and their families with grants totaling over \$1 million dollars.

The cost to join in the 5K is \$25 in advance and \$30 on the day of the race. Children 12 and under are \$15. Children in strollers are free.

Folks are encouraged to wear pink in honor of Donna Peele, and to mark October's significance as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Participants can pre-register for the October 12 event at [hicf.org](http://hicf.org) and punch the button for events.

**Here's a story in preparation for the ceremony scheduled this fall celebrating the 150th anniversary of the lifesaving service.**

### **Willing Risk-Takers**

On February 14, 1895, H. C. Miller, the master of the sloop, Inez, found himself caught up in ice off of Hatteras Banks. He was about three miles off shore and was in a dangerous situation as he was sailing alone. He hoisted his flag signaling for assistance and began a long wait.

About an hour and a half later, Keeper Edward O. Hooker and the crew from the Little Kinnakeet LifeSaving Station were seen chopping ice along the way to clear a path to the sloop. It took the crew another hour and a half to actually make it to the side of the Inez where they carefully transferred Miller to the surf boat before slowly returning to shore. The return trip was harrowing and took about two hours to reach safety as they again had to cut their way through the ice. However, everyone reached shore safely though exhausted, wet, and cold. Wanting to share his appreciation for their efforts, Miller sent a letter to the General Superintendent expressing his gratitude for their kindness and heroic efforts and acknowledging the risk they made to bring him to safety. Without their efforts, he felt as if he wouldn't have survived the cold.

Be safe out there. Remember Love the Beach. Respect the Ocean. This is Radio Hatteras.