

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, December 14, 2025.

The 2025 Hatteras Village Christmas Parade brought fun, great floats, children shouting Merry Christmas, three vintage automobiles, and lots of candy tossed to lots of parade watchers.

The parade was a little longer this year, 30 minutes instead of 20 minutes.

The award winners were spectacular.

The float in first place brought Mario to life with blocks and Mario Karts Racing to Good Health with small cars and drivers. The float was staffed by folks from Outer Banks Family Medicine in Avon.

The second place float really “let it snow” as it moved along the route with a snow machine on each side of the trailer. Dancers wore special shirts celebrating 40 years of the Dare County Dancing Program. And, then the wintertime cheerleaders ages 7 to 12 shouted “Merry Christmas” in unison. It was a great display by Fessenden Center dancers, cheerleaders and snow.

The Cape Hatteras Marching Band, the Secondary School’s award winning musicians and color guard, marched down the street playing tunes. The band captured third place.

In the golf cart category, Linda Sue Boehmer played her piccolo from a creatively decorated cart and captured the golf cart category win.

The temperature was mild with little southwest wind. Big crowds gathered at homes and stores where refreshments were served.

The parade is sponsored by the Hatteras Village Civic Association, which it has been organizing the parade for 34 years.

Five Dare County Commissioners said Merry Christmas. Walking the route were Board chairman Bob Woodard, vice chairman Steve House, Commissioners Mary Ellon Ballance, Ervin Bateman and Mike Burrus.

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative unveiled its massive, towed, tracked machine to put poles in less that stable ground.

Midgett Realty celebrated 12 Lights of Hope on Hatteras Island and saluted organizations that keep the island strong, safe and supported. A dozen Midgett Realty employees marched in a single line with out-stretched hands carrying lanterns saluting these 12 organizations: Outer Banks Forever, Outer Banks Hotline, Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation, Hatteras Island Meals and Cape Hatteras Food Pantry, Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, U.S. Coast Guard Station Hatteras Inlet, Radio Hatteras, Hatteras Island Rescue Squad, the island’s volunteer fire departments, the Hatteras Island Youth Education Fund, and Hatteras Island Wildlife Rehabilitation.

Traffic Stop Leads to Multiple Felony Charges

On December 11, 2025, at approximately 07:53 p.m., Dare Sheriff deputies stopped a vehicle in Rodanthe for a traffic violation. A Sheriff’s Office K9 alerted on the vehicle and a search was conducted, resulting in the discovery and seizure of an amount of methamphetamine, cocaine, controlled substances, and drug paraphernalia.

Matthew C. Farrow, 46, of Avon, and Brittany H. Farrow, 41, of Avon, were arrested and charged with four felonies and three misdemeanors and a traffic citation for Matthew Farrow. Matthew and Brittany Farrow have each been issued a \$20,000 secured bond related to these charges.

Dare County Public Works warns about illegal dumping.

“In response to a recent rise in items being illegally discarded along roadsides and other unauthorized areas throughout unincorporated Dare County, Dare County Public Works is issuing a reminder to residents, visitors and property owners that illegal dumping is a serious offense under North Carolina law. Improper disposal of waste—including household trash, appliances, and abandoned and unlicensed vehicles or vessels—can lead to substantial fines, as well as misdemeanor or even felony charges.

“Illegal dumping not only creates unsightly conditions; it also poses risks to public health and safety, threatens local wildlife and harms Dare County’s sensitive natural environment. Dare County Public Works officials emphasize that the proper disposal of unwanted items protects residents and visitors, keeps communities clean, and helps maintain the county’s scenic natural landscape.”

Dare County’s Legal Disposal Sites

Dare County Public Works provides a legal disposal location on Hatteras Island for residents, property owners and commercial businesses to drop off construction and demolition debris as well as unwanted white goods, such as appliances, metals, home furnishings and auto tires.

These items may be brought to:

- Buxton Transfer Station

Address: 47027 N.C. Highway 12, Buxton

Hours for Residential Haulers: Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 3:45. Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to Noon.

Hours for Commercial Haulers: Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 3:45. Friday from 8:30 to Noon. No dumping is permitted for commercial haulers in Buxton after Noon on Fridays or anytime on Saturdays.

Phone: 252-475-5883

Large Item Pickup

Dare County Public Works also operates an annual large item pickup program—typically held each spring—for the unincorporated areas of Dare County.

Report Illegal Dumping

If you witness illegal dumping in progress, do not approach the individual(s) involved. For your safety, call the Dare County Sheriff’s Office Communications Center (Dare Central) non-emergency line at 252-473-3444 to report the crime. If you can do so safely, try to gather identifying details such as license plate numbers or vehicle descriptions to provide to telecommunicators.

To report an existing illegal dump site or provide information about past incidents, contact the Dare County Public Works Department at 252-475-5844.

Residential Trash collection changed on four roads in Buxton

Dare County Public Works is modifying trash can collection procedures for four roads located off Old Lighthouse Road in Buxton beginning Monday, December 15, 2025. These changes are necessary due to severely deteriorated road conditions, including sand buildup and low-hanging tree limbs, which have made sections of these roads too narrow or unsafe for collection trucks to access.

Place trash cans out the night before collection and return it to your home after collection.

Residents on these affected roads may also choose to place their trash cans on Old Lighthouse Road, which will serve as an alternative collection location.

Ocean Drive

All trash cans must be placed on the **north side** of Ocean Drive. This allows the truck to safely back down the road, collect all cans on one side, and then pull straight out. The truck can only back as far as the Cape Hatteras Seashore cottages before the road becomes impassable.

Cottage Avenue

All trash cans must be placed on the **north side** of Cottage Avenue. The truck will back down the road, collect cans on the same side, and pull out. The truck can safely back nearly the full length of the road before reaching sand buildup.

North Tower Circle Road

All trash cans must be placed on the **north side** of North Tower Circle Road. The truck will back in, collect cans, and pull straight out. The truck will proceed only as far as conditions allow before reaching sand.

South Tower Circle Road

All trash cans must be placed on the **south side** of South Tower Circle Road. The truck will pull in forward, collect cans, and then back out safely. The truck will travel only as far as it can before sand prevents further access.

Tower Circle Road (Connector Road)

This road, which connects North Tower Circle and South Tower Circle, is no longer accessible by truck from either direction due to severe sand and road narrowing. Residents on this stretch must take their trash cans to North Tower Circle Road or South Tower Circle Road and follow the instructions provided above or take trash cans directly to Old Lighthouse Road.

Cape Hatteras Secondary's auditorium to be named for Braxton B. Hall

The Cape Hatteras Secondary School auditorium will be named in honor of Braxton B. Hall, a longtime teacher whose 36-year career at the school influenced generations of Hatteras Island students.

The Dare County Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the naming, following a recommendation from the board's naming committee.

Hall, who taught history and civics to high school students until his retirement in 2009, was widely known for founding the school's theater program and for his involvement in a range of academic and extracurricular activities. Over more than three decades, he produced numerous student plays and helped build the school's performing arts offerings.

The decision follows a public campaign by Drama Club Director Blake Taft, along with former students, colleagues, and community members seeking to recognize Hall's contributions. Letters submitted to the board described his impact in the classroom and on the stage, noting his role in encouraging critical thinking, creativity, and confidence among students.

Elementary students raise funds to battle cancer

Every year in November, Cape Hatteras Elementary School students bring in handfuls of spare change, bills, and checks in order to raise money for the Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation. This November, the students came together to raise \$2,446.36 for their local friends and neighbors.

The Hatteras Island Cancer Foundation is a non-profit, all-volunteer organization that assists Hatteras Island community members with medical bills not covered by insurance, and travel expenses for cancer treatments.

The annual "Coins for Cancer" event is a school-wide competition that rewards the winning class (or the class that raises the most funds) with a cupcake party.

Jordyn Riggs' 3rd grade class took home the first-place honor – and the cupcakes – by raising a total of \$570.58 for foundation.

Second place went to Pablo Oregon's 2nd grade class with \$412.88 in donations, and third place went to Julie Conner's 3rd grade class with a total of \$266.65.

Energy assistance applications available

Dare County started accepting applications for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program Tuesday, December 10, offering eligible households help with their primary heating expense through a one-time annual vendor payment.

From December 10 through December 31, applications will be accepted from households that include a person aged 60 or older, or someone receiving disability benefits and services through the North Carolina Division of Aging and Adult Services. All other households may apply between January 1 and March 31, or until program funds are exhausted.

Households may qualify for if they:

- Include at least one U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen
- Meet the program's income requirements
- Are responsible for their home's heating costs

Dare County residents can apply in person, by phone, or online via ePass.

- In person: Visit the Dare County Department of Health & Human Services' Division of Social Services in Manteo or Frisco
- By phone: Call 252-475-5500

Pastor Tim Fitch leaves Clarks-Bethel

For eight years, Tim Fitch has served Clarks Bethel in Salvo. Together with his family, he said goodbye to the community at a dinner Saturday, December 13, 2025. Pastor Fitch has served as a chaplain and firefighter at Chicamacomico Banks Volunteer Fire Department during his time in Salvo, Waves and Rodanthe.

Some happenings

In Frisco, the Volunteer Fire Department hosts its second annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Monday, Dec.15. Santa starts by riding through the village on a Frisco fire truck and finishes at the fire station for the tree lighting around 7 p.m. The firefighters are serving pizzas and hot dogs while children visit with Santa.

On Dec. 16, Santa begins his ride through Hatteras village around 5:15 p.m. and finishes at the fire station around 6:30. Cookies and cocoa will be served.

On Tuesday, December 16, a Christmas Sing-Along will happen at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building. The festivities start at 1 o'clock. MaryAnn Toboz and friends will lead the music. It's free and open to the public. Older adults and young parents with infants and children are welcome. Christmas cookies and apple cider available.

On Sunday, December 21, be a guest at the Cape Hatteras Baptist Church in Frisco at a Christmas Community Dinner, which starts at 4:30. The menu features turkey, ham, green beans, pasta, stuffing, corn, mashed potatoes and lots of gravy. The church address is 50195 Buccaneer Drive in Frisco.

The Coastland Times is accepting children's Letters to Santa for publication. Letters should be received no later than noon December 18 to ensure publication before Christmas. Email them to news@thecoastlandtimes.com, drop them off at the office: 207 Queen Elizabeth Ave., Ste. 4 in Manteo or mail them to The Coastland Times, Attn: Santa, PO Box 400, Manteo, NC 27954. Teachers, preschools, churches, etc. are always welcome to submit groups of letters. Please include child's name, age and school (if applicable). Photos, artwork and seasonal poems may be included.

Be safe. Stay warm. This is Radio Hatteras.