

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, April 26, 2026.

Beach nourishment for Avon starts soon

Dare County's contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, is planning to start beach nourishment in Avon, prior to performing beach nourishment in Buxton. The exact location where they will begin in Avon has not yet been determined by the contractor. Great Lakes expects to start pumping sand onto the beach in Avon between May 6, 2026 and May 14, 2026, depending on weather conditions, states a posting on Darenc.gov under More Beach to Love. Great Lakes currently estimates that it will take about 2 weeks or 14 days to place about 375,000 cubic yards of material on the beaches in Avon. The contractor also expects it to take approximately one week to demobilize all of their equipment and begin moving it to Buxton. Great Lakes expects to start pumping sand on the north end of Buxton and then continue working south; however, this is subject to change based on their ability to do so. Great Lakes expects to start placing material on the beaches in Buxton the first week of June 2026. Great Lakes expects for the base amount of about 1.35 million cubic yards to take about 65 days to place on the beach in Buxton. If the county receives notification from FEMA regarding additional funding, more material will be placed on the beach, which could extend the project in Buxton until end of September 2026.

On Monday, May 4, 2026, the Dare County Board of Commissioners will hold a public hearing about financing the beach nourishment projects in Avon, Buxton and Nags Head for \$56.5 million and acquisition, construction, renovation, redevelopment, equipping, and improvement of a public works facility on Roanoke Island for \$51.7 million.

Additionally, the commissioners will consider placing as security for the financing either a new deed of trust in the Public Works facility or an existing deed of trust.

Business news rounds up real estate

The business news this week focuses on the performance of the island's March real estate market.

After starting the year very slowly, all major market indicators have steadily improved from January through March, although they are not setting the world on fire, writes Radio Hatteras Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka.

To give the individual results a little more perspective, consider these benchmarks.

The number of homes for sale have consistently increased with the March supply of 202 properties being the highest we have seen in the past three years.

Homes sold have not kept pace with the growth in homes for sale, averaging about 19 residential closings per month over the same period.

The median sale price of homes sold has remained flat in the mid \$500,000 to the mid \$600,000 range since 2023.

30-year fixed rate mortgage interest rates, after dropping to 5.98 percent in February, rose again in March to above six percent.

Turning to the undeveloped lot market, after a strong showing in February, this segment returned to a pattern of mixed results in March.

In other news associated with the Hatteras Island economy, meal tax receipts through February of this year of were down slightly in comparison to 2025. Occupancy tax receipts for February

were flat. It is still too early in the year to predict whether 2026 will be another challenging year for vacation rentals.

Restoration board meets August 30

The Restoration Advisory Board for the Buxton Naval Facility Formerly Used Defense Sites property will meet April 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 at the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club at the end of Light Plant Road in Buxton. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide updates on environmental restoration projects. The meeting is open to the public.

Buxton Civic Association posted the following information from the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

“We successfully completed excavations on April 11 and have begun demobilization, with our team scheduled to vacate the site by May 7. Please be advised that upwards of 60 trucks will be traveling to and from the site daily during this period for the safe disposal of contaminated soil and water. Looking ahead, the revised work plan for the petroleum comprehensive sampling contract is expected by May 15, with fieldwork anticipated to begin in late September following its approval.”

Beach fires temporarily banned in national seashore

Cape Hatteras National Seashore has temporarily banned beach fires due to abnormally dry conditions that may increase the risk of beach fires spreading into dune vegetation, forested areas, or developed neighborhoods adjacent to seashore beaches. The N.C. Forest Service has issued a ban on all open fires across the state.

Drought conditions have expanded in North Carolina. Forty-seven counties are now experiencing extreme drought, and most of the rest of the state is in severe drought, according to the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council.

Rainfall totals recorded by gages across the state are 10 inches or more below normal for the last six months, based on data from the Southeast Regional Climate Center. Groundwater and streamflow levels across the state are also below normal levels, says the state’s monitoring network.

Hatteras village announced playground closure

Unfortunately, this past week the community had to close the village’s playground next to the library. The playground was vandalized and is unsafe for children. Repairs are underway and the hope is to open this upcoming week.

Target Shooters success

Saturday, April 25, was a day of firsts for the Hatteras Island Target Shooters! At the North Carolina Wildlife Resources State Championships, the Hatteras Island team brought home trophies. Cape Hatteras Senior Black team was the 2nd Place Senior Team in Hunter Skills and are the Overall State Runners Up.

Outstanding teachers at Cape Hatteras Secondary

Cape Hatteras Secondary School recognized the outstanding contributions of staff members. Nathan Snead is the secondary school’s Teacher of the Year. Classified Employee of the Year is Sabrina Polk. The school also honored Brooke Roberson as New Teacher of the Year. The awards were presented in the school’s atrium with all students present.

Cape Hatteras Secondary Prom

The Cape Hatteras Secondary Prom 2026 was a truly unforgettable experience. Students were stunning and had an amazing time dancing and singing together. Prom Queen Gabby Baker, and Prom King Owen Austin, were announced. Theme was Meet me at Midnight.

Events coming up this week

Meetings about plan for NC 12 in Pea Island on April 28 and 29

The public is invited to attend meetings to learn more about a plan that aims to improve public access to N.C. 12, Hatteras Island's highway along 11 miles in Pea Island.

NCDOT and its partnering agencies have scheduled the informational meetings. Two of the three meetings are on Hatteras Island, Drop in between 5:30 and 7:30 on

Tuesday, April 28 at the Hatteras Village Civic Center

Wednesday, April 29 at the Rodanthe Waves Salvo Community Building, in Rodanthe

A team of state, federal, and local officials is developing the Solving Access for N.C. 12 in Dare County (SAND) Plan to evaluate short- and long-term solutions to reduce travel disruptions between the Oregon Inlet Bridge and the Rodanthe Bridge.

The N.C. Department of Transportation is leading the development of the SAND Plan with assistance from the Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service and other federal and local agencies. Their work began in January.

The SAND project is funded with \$1.86 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost Saving Transportation, or PROTECT, grant program.

Mobile Recovery Unit is Salvo April 29

On Wednesday, April 29, the Mobile Recovery Unit will be available from 10 to Noon at the Volunteer Fire Station in Salvo. The recovery unit brings resources such as testing kits and food to the station. Savings Lives Task Force sponsors the van.

Sand Soccer kicks off for second year May 2

Play and watch Sand Soccer with the background of the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday, May 2.

Hatteras Island Futbol Club hosts the event called the Cape Hatteras Sand Soccer Showdown.

The games start at 9 o'clock at Off Road Vehicle Ramp 43 in Buxton.

The soccer games follow a community-wide beach cleanup on Friday, May 1. Participants are encouraged to clean their preferred beach areas before gathering at Ramp 43 to collect and document the results.

Already the sand soccer event is growing. Adult teams from Virginia and North Carolina will play. On the schedule, children play first, followed by high school and adult teams.

Teams can have up to 10 players, though only five are allowed on the sand at one time. To register, email hatterasislandFC at gmail dot com. Remember to purchase a beach driving permit at recreation dot gov. Fee for each team is \$350 or \$35 for each member on a team with 10 players.

Be safe out there. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.