

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, November 23, 2025.

In a letter sent to all members of the North Carolina General Assembly, Dare County Board of Commissioners Chairman Robert L. Woodard Sr., asked for help.

Woodard writes Dare County has always taken care of its own. Dare County and five of its oceanfront communities have invested more than \$275 million in local beach nourishment projects and millions more to keep our inlets open-ensuring our fishermen can access their "highway to work."

However, today, small areas of our oceanfront in the villages of Buxton and Rodanthe have deteriorated to the point where we can no longer sustain these efforts alone. **We need help-your help**, says the letter.

Woodard points out three specific ways the state can make a meaningful difference:

First, Beach Nourishment Fund:

Several years ago, the General Assembly established a Beach Nourishment Fund but never allocated resources to it. Woodard asked the legislature appropriate funding to this account on an annual basis to assist coastal counties in protecting the shoreline and the state's tourism economy.

Second, Proactive Solutions for N.C. Highway 12:

NCDOT crews continue to do an outstanding job responding to sand and water overwash, working tirelessly to reopen the road as quickly as possible. However, proactive, long-term solutions are urgently needed before portions of the road become permanently impassable. The N.C. 12 Task Force with members from two counties and four additional organizations worked collaboratively over several years to develop a comprehensive plan to maintain N.C. 12 in both the short term and the long term that would ensure sustainable access to both Dare and Hyde counties. The full report can be viewed at Dare NC dot gov slash NC 12.

Lastly, Hardened Structures:

Current state policy prohibits the use of hardened structures such as groins along the coast. Nourishment alone is no longer sufficient. Dare County needs the ability to use every proven tool available to stabilize the shoreline and safeguard Dare's communities. Woodard asks the General Assembly respectfully to lift the ban on these protective measures.

Woodard writes "Dare County's leaders and citizens have always worked hard to address challenges on our own but the situation has now reached a critical point. With your support, we can preserve our coastline, protect public infrastructure, and sustain the economic engine that benefits all of North Carolina."

Coastal Resources Commissioners to look at beach stabilizing

At the Coastal Resources Commission meeting this past week, the discussion continued about threatened houses in Buxton and Rodanthe.

Stakeholders invited to the table included Dare County Manager Bobby Outten, National Parks of Eastern North Carolina Superintendent David Hallac, Buxton Civic Association Co-vice President Brian Harris, and coastal engineer Jay Overton of Albemarle & Associates. Each described escalating conditions on the ground and the limits of existing tools, reports Island Free Press.

Hallac reported a rapidly deteriorating situation on Cape Hatteras National Seashore beaches. “Today, there are 52 threatened oceanfront structures in Buxton and 48 in Rodanthe,” he said. “Over the last month, 16 wastewater systems broke open and potentially spewed raw sewage onto your National Seashore beach.”

He said NPS staff have removed “nearly 500 full-size pickup truckloads of debris” from the shoreline in six weeks, diverting personnel from core responsibilities. “The entire beach in front of the village of Buxton is closed right now because of all of these dangerous homes,” he said. “The consequences of this are massive.”

Commissioners and speakers repeatedly returned to the limitations of sandbags, the financial and physical constraints of nourishment, and the state’s statutory ban on hardened structures.

The discussion concluded with agreement that the CRC Science Panel would begin evaluating potential shoreline-stabilization options—including, but not limited to, hardened structures—and report back with an outline at the Commission’s next meeting in February.

Read a full report on Island Free Press.

Dare offices closed; one residential trash pickup thanksgiving week

All Dare County offices and facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28, 2025 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

These closures include the Dare County C&D Landfill in Manns Harbor, the Buxton Transfer Station and the Manteo Recycle Yard, all of which will reopen and operate with their regularly scheduled hours on Saturday, Nov. 29, 2025.

All other Dare County offices and facilities will reopen with normal operating hours on Monday, December 1, 2025.

Dare County Public Works, which provides trash collection for the unincorporated areas of Dare County, announced a revised schedule for residential and commercial trash collection during the week of the 2025 Thanksgiving holiday.

Only one residential pickup per Hatteras Island village will happen during the week of Thanksgiving.

Residential trash collection for Thanksgiving week is as follows:

- Monday, November 24: Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras. Regular trash collection will resume on Monday, December 1
- Tuesday, November 25: Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon. Regular trash collection will resume on Tuesday, December 2, 2025.
- No residential trash collection Wednesday, November 26, Thursday, November 27 and Friday, November 28.

Commercial dumpster collection for the unincorporated areas of Dare County will happen Monday, November 24 and Wednesday, November 26. Regular commercial trash collection will resume on Monday, December 1, 2025.

Donations by NCBBA

The North Carolina Beach Buggy Association continues to provide ongoing support to local community Fire and Rescue departments. The week before Thanksgiving, NCBBA President Bill King presented \$750 donation checks to several area volunteer fire departments, including

Hatteras, Frisco, Buxton, and Avon, and the Hatteras Island Rescue Squad. The donations were primarily funded by proceeds from the Red Drum Tournament held in October.

Recognition

Dare County Schools' Board of Education recognized Darren Moore as a finalist for the 2026 Burroughs Welcome Fund NC Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year Award. Moore teaches marketing at Cape Hatteras Secondary School and was selected for his dedication to developing students' leadership, skills, and interest in business career fields. He will join the other 23 finalists in December for a week of professional development in Greensboro, and the winner will be announced December 4.

Congratulations to Manteo High School's Soccer team on winning the state 2A Soccer championship.

Events coming up

Before and on Thanksgiving

On Monday, November 24, enjoy a Free Dinner at Buxton United Methodist Church. Serving begins at 5 o'clock. All are welcome.

Thanksgiving Pie and Bake Sale – Wednesday morning, November 26 at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building starting at 10 and ending at noon or until sold out. An assortment of baked goodies and pies to add to the Thanksgiving table are offered. Sponsored by the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Civic Association. The Community Building address is 23646 NC 12 in Rodanthe. Cape Hatteras Anglers Club hosts Bingo Wednesday, November 26. Doors open at 6 and games start at 7. The club is located at the end of Light Plant Road in Buxton.

Surfin' Turkey 5K is run on Thanksgiving Morning, November 27. The 5K race starts at 8 and the Puppy Drum Fun Run at 9. This is the 14th running of the Thanksgiving 5K. Benefits go to Hatteras Island Youth Education Fund. Register at HatterasYouth.com/surfin-turkey-5k.

Registration fee is \$45 for the 5 K. The Puppy Drum Fun Run is free. Packet pickup and same day registration at Hatteras Village Civic Center.

After Thanksgiving day

The annual Hatteras Island Arts and Crafts show is offered Friday and Saturday, November 28 and 29 from 10 in the morning to 3 in the afternoon. The location is the Cape Hatteras Secondary gymnasium on NC 12 in Buxton.

On Friday, November 28, Hatteras Island Meals is hosting a fundraising event from 6 to 10 o'clock at the Hatteras Village Civic Center. The evening features Songs from the Road Band. Tickets are \$35 and are available at Tavern on 12 and Hatteras Island Meals Facebook page or at hatteras island meals dot org.

On Saturday, November 29, walk the Holiday Trail of Lights along the sea Breeze Trail in Hatteras Village. Experience peace and tranquility along the extravagantly lit trail. Open nightly weather permitting. Ends in early January.

On December 1, a Christmas Light Festival opens at Frisco Woods Campground at 5 o'clock. Walk or drive through the campground until 8 o'clock. The festival is on-going nightly until December 15. Admission is \$10 per car or group and all proceeds benefit the Frisco-Buxton Pathway.

On Saturday night, December 6, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., visitors can enjoy a number of activities and enticements in addition to a hayride cruise with Santa himself, including Santa pictures, music, bounce houses, hot dogs, hot cocoa, cookies, and much more. The event is free, but like the Light Festival, all donations towards the pathway are appreciated.

This is Radio Hatteras.