

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, October 13, 2024.

Avon Volunteer Fire Department Chief Frankie Hopkins, Assistant Chief Andrew Dickerson, and Firefighter Ryan Albaugh delivered donations to Black Mountain on Tuesday to help victims of Hurricane Helene. The three men left for western North Carolina early Tuesday morning and returned Wednesday evening. Community members donated water, drinks, fruit, snacks, non-perishable food, toiletries, clothes, batteries, tarps, medical supplies, cleaning supplies, and pet food to the fire department on Saturday and Sunday. “We’re thankful to a very generous community for the donations,” said Chief Hopkins. “If anyone knows what it’s like to go through a devastating storm, it’s the Outer Banks.”

The Avon Volunteer Fire Department donated two pallets of water and 100 storm buckets filled with cleaning supplies, which were leftover from Hurricane Irene.

During their weekly training on Monday, eight members of the Avon Volunteer Fire Department loaded the donations onto two of the department’s trucks and a 24-foot trailer, which Assistant Chief Dickerson provided. Dare County has sent several emergency units to the western part of the state since Hurricane Helene hit the area on September 27. Four linemen, a supervisor, and three trucks from the Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative headed to Western North Carolina to help restore power to the region.

On Sept. 28, four first responders from the county’s Emergency Medical Services deployed to Rutherford County. The next day, five sheriff deputies from the county’s Sheriff’s Office deployed to Henderson County. Chicamacomico Fire and Rescue also collected donations for the western part of North Carolina..

To volunteer for relief and recovery efforts with North Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster go to ncvoad.org/volunteer.

At its October 7 meeting, the Dare County Board of Commissioners approved a special use permit for a cluster housing development project on Big Kinnakeet Drive in Avon. The project calls for construction of 18 two-bedroom single family dwellings with 800 square feet and 36 parking spaces. These homes must be rented or occupied as long-term housing, defined as 31 days. The site is behind the Avon Post Office and opposite the wastewater treatment pond. Wastewater for the proposed development will be served by the existing Kinnakeet Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant. A Willingness to Serve Letter dated June 28, 2024 from the treatment plant operator, Carolina Water Services of North Carolina has been received by Dare County.

On October 7, 2024, the Dare County Board of Commissioners voted to apply for a FEMA grant that could be used to buyout oceanfront houses threatened by rapid beach erosion along Rodanthe writes Sam Walker with OBX News and reprinted in Island Free Press. The Flood Mitigation Assistance grant would be used to target around 20 properties in Rodanthe that are located close to the ocean and within 300 feet of stable vegetation, according to Barton Grover, Dare County’s Grants and Waterways Administrator.

Rodanthe has one of the highest erosion rates on the East Coast, and in recent years, it has accelerated.

Ten houses have collapsed since 2020, including three over a five-day period last month. Around an additional two dozen considered to be in imminent danger.

Grover explained on Monday the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant would be for homeowners in Rodanthe who are both insured and have experienced repetitive flood losses with at least two claims, or severe repetitive flood losses with four or more claims.

According to an email sent by the county on Wednesday, the grant program could provide up to \$360,000 per property to cover the costs of acquisition, demolition and other related expenses.

Grover told commissioners a project development specialist recently hired by North Carolina Emergency Management is already reaching out to eligible homeowners.

The FEMA grants typically take three to four years from application to award, and any acquisition or demolition must occur after the grant is awarded.

Go to Island Free Press dot org for the full article.

The Dare County Department of Health & Human Services in partnership with the Saving Lives Task Force, hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its Mobile Recovery Support Unit on Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 4 o'clock at the Dare County Administrative Building, which is located at 954 Marshall C. Collins Drive in Manteo. The public is invited to attend and refreshments will be served.

The new mobile unit will augment the important harm reduction work being done by the department's Recovery and Overdose Support Services team.

The Mobile Recovery Support Unit will be staffed by Peer Support Specialists Jesse Ruby and Katy Haslar. The unit will offer syringe services, harm reduction tools, naloxone, fentanyl testing kits, support services, education, treatment resources, and rapid HIV and hepatitis C testing. The vehicle has space for staff to meet one-on-one with individuals, who can request treatment support by contacting staff confidentially. In addition to these harm reduction services, the unit will also provide personal care items and is partnering with the Beach Food Pantry to offer food for those in need.

The Mobile Recovery Support Unit was made possible through Easter Seals/Port Health Services, which has agreed to lease/donate the vehicle as well as the Outer Banks Community Foundation, which awarded a \$9,000 grant for the mobile unit's wrap as well as supplies to stock the unit.

Dare County Parks and Recreation Department has announced the launch of a needs assessment survey. Upcoming public drop-in sessions will be held in various locations throughout Dare County. The sessions will be held to talk about future projects, programming and community initiatives and to gather feedback from residents and property owners about the community's preferences and priorities for recreational offerings in Dare County.

Attending these public input sessions provides community members to engage with McGill Associates, the firm contracted to conduct the assessment. The public input meetings will be held in a drop-in format from 4 to 7 p.m. at the designated locations.

Those who are unable to attend any of the public input sessions are still strongly encouraged to provide their input by participating in the needs assessment survey. The feedback gathered from the results of this needs assessment survey will be used to prioritize Dare County Parks & Recreation projects, programming and initiatives.

Complete the needs assessment survey and attend one of the four drop-in public input sessions listed in the schedule to share your vision, concerns and ideas for improving recreation in Dare County!

Public Input Sessions

Monday, Oct. 21, Lions Club Center, 1000 Westcott Park Road, Manteo

Tuesday, Oct.22, Dare Youth Center, 602 Mustian Street, Kill Devil Hills

Wednesday, Oct. 23, Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building, 23646 NC 12, Rodanthe

Thursday, Oct. 24, Fessenden Center, 46830 NC 12, Buxton

Each of the drop-in public input sessions will feature open-ended discussions about the community's ideas for improving the delivery of recreational services in Dare County. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a visual preference exercise to determine new amenities, facilities and programs—and to take the needs assessment survey to share additional information in more detail.

These four public input sessions are open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend in order to voice opinions and share thoughts on current and future Dare County Parks & Recreation projects.

A fiber optic cable was damaged Tuesday morning in Nags Head, knocking out services to Spectrum internet customers on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands. Some Hatteras Island customers said their internet was restored around 2:10 p.m.

At the Buxton Naval Base property in Buxton, the Island Free Press is reporting an ongoing initiative by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to excavate and remove petroleum-contaminated soils at the Buxton Beach Site has resulted in the removal of large sections of left-behind military infrastructure over the past several days. The infrastructure and debris removal was not strictly intentional, but was necessary for the crew to access patches of petroleum contamination under the shoreline's surface.

In an email to the Island Free Press, the Army Corps has removed 16,500 pounds of concrete, [including] concrete footing, the manhole, and rebar, along with approximately 45.5 cubic yards of impacted soil and approximately 210 feet of metal and PVC pipes has been removed," she added.

The 16,500 pounds of concrete included large slabs of Building 19, (or the Terminal Building), which was used for submarine monitoring activities by the Navy during the height of the Cold War.

A recent media release from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports excavation of petroleum-impacted soil continues as part of an ongoing phased response action at the Buxton Naval Facility, located within Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

In recent activity, the contractor has graded and widened a temporary hauling route, in coordination with the National Park Service, to create minimal impact to local traffic and aid the heavy equipment hauling the petroleum-impacted soil to an off-site waste management facility. Excavations began Oct. 2, 2024, and are anticipated to take about 60 days to complete, states the media release issued October 9.

The contract for the comprehensive sampling of soil and groundwater within the project area, which will define the nature and extent of the petroleum contamination, is anticipated to be awarded in November.

Library Pop-UP is BACK! Join the Dare County Library in the renovated RWS Community Building on Thursday October 17 from 9-11 in the morning. Special guest, Children's Librarian Tammy Batschelet will host an all-ages program from 9:15 to 9:45 during the popup.

Hatteras Library Branch Manager Michelle Lord is available to help browse library materials, sign up for a card, return books or pick-up reserved materials. She will also have some items from the seed library (or you can bring some to donate!) Michelle is a wealth of information about other services and tools, including delivery of items to our homebound residents and "book club in a bag."

Now be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras