

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, July 5, 2026

Dare County commissioners to meet July 7

Two public hearing are scheduled.

The first public hearing is on a definition change of the word family to make Dare's definition comply with the state's current 2018 North Carolina Building Code.

Dare's Current language: One or more persons occupying a single-family dwelling unit; provided that unless all members are related by blood or marriage, no such family shall contain more than five persons.

Proposed Language: Family is an individual, two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or law, or a group of not more than eight persons living together in a dwelling unit."

The second public hearing is consideration of a proposed ordinance that prohibits the sale of Kratom products to individuals under 21 years of age and prohibits the sale of adulterated Kratom products within Dare County.

Two presentations will be made:

Donna Creef, President of the Dare Housing Foundation, will provide the Board with an update on the Foundation's ongoing efforts, including recent progress, current initiatives, and future plans to support affordable housing opportunities in Dare County.

Ben Sproul, Executive Director of the Dare Education Foundation, and Steve Basnight, Superintendent of Dare County Schools, will present an update on the proposed expansion of the Teacher Housing at Run Hill Ridge. The presentation will include plans to expand the existing 24-unit development by constructing eight additional townhomes, with a possible alternative 12-unit expansion option for the Board's consideration.

The commissioners will also consider an application for a Beach and Waterfront access grant for the purchase of the old, now vacant land, Channel Bass Restaurant property n Hatteras Village for a small park.

Avon Beach Nourishment update

Dare County's contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, completed the beach nourishment project in Avon on Thursday, June 25, 2026, placing about 375,000 cubic yards of sand along the beach from just south of Avon Pier to the project's southern boundary near Greenwood Place.

Buxton Beach Nourishment

Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company has announced an updated timeline for the Buxton beach nourishment project, with sand placement now expected to begin the week of July 20, 2026.

This schedule reflects adjustments to the contractor's construction timeline as the dredge that will perform the work, the *Liberty Island*, completes repairs and scheduled maintenance before arriving in Buxton.

The contractor has begun to demobilize equipment in Avon and transition to Buxton. Residents and visitors will begin seeing mobilization activities in Buxton over the coming weeks in preparation for the start of beach nourishment. These activities will primarily consist of staging and stockpiling equipment on private lots located along Cottage Avenue, Cape Court and Old Lighthouse Road.

Great Lakes currently expects the dredge to arrive in Buxton in mid- to late-July, at which point sand placement will begin. About 2 million cubic yards of sand will be placed on Buxton's oceanfront beaches over a period of approximately 95 days, depending on weather and ocean conditions

For more information about beach nourishment projects in Dare County, visit [MoreBeachToLove dot com](http://MoreBeachToLove.com).

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Announces Closure of Billy Mitchell Airport for Repaving

Beginning Sept. 8, Cape Hatteras National Seashore will close the Billy Mitchell Airport to accommodate a runway pavement rehabilitation project. The project will provide full resurfacing of paved areas, new reflective paint, and new tie-downs and anchors, improving visitor safety and enhancing the overall visitor experience.

The park expects the project to last 90 days. Updates to the project schedule, including starting and ending dates, will be provided on the Seashore's website. The North Carolina Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation is contracting and overseeing the paving project on behalf of the Seashore.

The National Park Service's First Flight Airport and Ocracoke Island Airport, and the Dare County Regional Airport will be available for daily flights during the runway paving project.

Ferry Division update

This is always the busiest week of the year at the Ferry Division. Last year, ferries transported about 56,000 passengers systemwide over the July 4th week, 19,000 of those between Hatteras and Ocracoke alone!

So, if you're traveling by ferry this weekend, remember that there will be heavy traffic both on the roads and at the ferry terminals. Arrive early, plan on extra travel time, and please be patient with ferry employees as they work hard to get everyone where they're going safely and efficiently.

The North Carolina General Assembly approved a draft budget that requires the payment of tolls on all state ferries. If approved by the governor, the tolls would be established by the NC Ferry Division and would take effect next year. The long-awaited budget is now before Governor Josh Stein.

No Dare Planning Board meeting

The agenda for the Dare County Planning Board Meeting scheduled for Tuesday evening, July 7, at 6 o'clock shows no new business to discuss. Notice received from the Planning Department indicated the Board's July meeting has been canceled. The next scheduled meeting is Aug. 4, 2026.

Family Block Party July 17

Dare County invites the community to attend the Dare County Parks and Recreation Department's Family Fun in the Park Block Party Family Fun in the Park Block Party on Friday afternoon, July 17 from 4 to 8 o'clock.

This free event will transform a loop along Mustian Street in Kill Devil Hills into an evening of outdoor adventure, hands-on activities and family-friendly fun.

The Block Party route begins at Family Recreation Park, continues along Mustian Street, winds through the Outer Banks Arboretum and Teaching Garden and into Aviation Park. Along the route, children can enjoy a variety of activities, including a water slide, games, scavenger hunts, work vehicle displays and more. Free hot dogs will also be available for attendees.

The fun begins at the Veterans Drive entrance to Family Recreation Park (between the baseball fields), where participants will pick up an event map and set off on an adventure. Participants who visit each activity station and collect stamps along the way can return their completed maps for a chance to win exciting prizes.

This is a free event, and everyone in the community is invited to attend! For more information about the Dare County Parks & Recreation Department's Family Fun in the Park Block Party, view DareNC dot gov slash BlockParty.

Opportunity

The OBX Carolina Blue Tour is coming to the Parks and Recreation in KDH on July 24. This is the UNC Tarheel Men's Basketball Team for the 26-27 season! Through a gracious donation, the Fessenden Center has a table reserved to take 10 kids to this event for free. This is available to kids aged 8-12 years old that are residents of Hatteras Island. Fessenden Center will transport the kids up and back from the event. The center is taking names until 5 o'clock on July 10 and then do a drawing on July 13 to select Hatteras Island's Tarheel kids. Call 252-475-5650 to add your child to the list if interested.

A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the Cape Hatteras Anglers Club, Tuesday July 7 from 11 to 4. Call 1-800-RedCross to make an appointment or go to RedCrossBlood dot org and enter Anglers. The Anglers Club is on Light Plant Road in Buxton.

Hatteras Village's Golf Cart Parade was filled with creative and patriotic decorated carts with lots of people riding down NC 12. Some 41 carts were registered for the parade.

Free hot dogs or hamburgers were offered and folks lined up before and after the parade to make a selection.

Some 650 people were served. Wow!

Three categories of decorations were announced. For the humorous cart, judges selected one titled "Bad day to be a hot dog." At least four hot dogs were on the cart roof. Red, white and blue were ample. For the creative award, a completely covered cart with blue and green painted boards was titled "The Mystery Machine." The patriotic cart carried a two-layer cake with white icing and a firecracker on top. Lots of balloons hung off the back. On the cake were the words "Happy Birthday USA."

Be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.