

## Weekly News Summary for Sunday, May 17, 2026.

Dare County dealing with financing for major beach nourishment projects in Avon and Buxton and new public works facilities on Roanoke Island and the new budget. On May 4, 2026, Dare County Manager Robert L. Outten presented the Manager's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027 to the Dare County Board of Commissioners. A public hearing is scheduled for June 9, 2026. The proposal is on [darenc.gov](http://darenc.gov) under Finance.

On the same date, the board held a public hearing on financing for the beach nourishment projects and the public works improvements. No one spoke. Subsequently, the commissioners adopted a resolution authorizing negotiation of financing contracts or amendments. The resolution calls for financing not to exceed \$108,200,000 with \$51.7 million going for the Public Works project and \$56.5 million for beach nourishment. On May 11, 2026, the commissioners amended the original financing resolution to add additional sand and costs to the final bill.

### **Additional financing items approved May 4, 2026 and of interest to Hatteras Islanders**

**Wanchese Marina** - Dare Day Dockside Event Funding. The commissioners appropriated \$10,000 for a Dare Day event at 4457 Mill Landing Road, Wanchese. The event will be held Saturday, June 6 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Shallow Draft Cost Share Resolutions.** The state's Shallow Draft Navigation Channel Dredging Fund provides a 75% state match for dredging activities. Resolutions from Dare County commissioners are required. Dare County budgets \$3 million each fiscal year for dredging activities in and adjacent to Oregon Inlet and \$250,000 for dredging activities in Hatteras Inlet. With State match, this provides \$12 million and \$1 million respectively for dredging in each area beginning July 1, 2026. The resolutions indicate the 75% requested from the state fund:

-Connector Channel and Ocean Bar Hatteras Inlet: \$806,250.

-Walter Slough and Crack Dredging: \$1.55 million

-Old House 2 Dredging: \$394,500

-17 Extension to Wanchese and Range 4 Dredging: \$771,000

-Oregon Inlet: \$6.4 million.

**Fire Alarm System** upgrades. Dare County Schools requested authorization to use Lottery Funds for upgrading fire alarm systems at Cape Hatteras Secondary School: \$313,693.80; Cape Hatteras Elementary School: \$113,856.33; Manteo High School: \$165,898.84. These projects are within the Dare County Schools Capital Improvement Plan.

**The Cape Hatteras National Seashore confirmed** a water-related fatality in the ocean off Avon on Wednesday, May 13. On the afternoon of May 13, a water-related fatality occurred off a beach in front of the village of Avon, North Carolina. Cape Hatteras National Seashore rangers and the Hatteras Island Rescue Squad provided immediate assistance and Dare County Emergency Medical Services provided additional medical care to the adult individual. On Saturday, May 16, the Cape Hatteras National Seashore released the identity of the individual who died in the waters off Avon on Wednesday, May 13. The deceased has been identified as Robert Sloan Scroggin, 41, from Fayetteville, Arkansas. No other information has been released reports the Outer Banks Voice.

**Real estate market shows mixed results.** The business news this week focuses on the performance of the island's April real estate market.

The major residential market indicators for January through April present mixed results, writes Business Correspondent Tom Hranicka.

To give the individual categories more perspective, consider the following benchmarks.

The number of homes for sale have consistently increased with the April supply of 210 properties being the highest 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 trend line for 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 in March to above six percent and remained there through April.

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

In other news associated with the Hatteras Island economy, meal tax receipts through March of this year were down significantly by 13.5 percent in comparison to the first quarter in 2025. Occupancy tax receipts for March were flat in comparison to last year. It is still too early to predict what the vacation rental market will look like this year.

**Avon Beach Nourishment starts May 18.** Dare County's contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, currently expects to begin mobilizing equipment for the beach nourishment project in Avon on May 18, 2026. Pumping/sand placement is expected to begin May 24-26, 2026, depending on weather.

Great Lakes estimates that it will take approximately 2 weeks (14 days) to place approximately 375,000 cubic yards of material on the beach in Avon. The exact location where they will begin in Avon has not yet been determined by the contractor.

Ramp 38, the staging area for the Avon project, will be closed until July 15, 2026 or completion of the project, whichever comes first.

Great Lakes then expects it to take approximately one week to demobilize all of their equipment and begin moving it to Buxton. The contractor currently expects to begin beach nourishment in Buxton in mid-June 2026, placing 2 million cubic yards of sand onto the beach over a period of approximately 95 days, depending on weather.

Visit [More Beach to Love dot com](http://MoreBeachToLove.com) for the latest information about all 2026 beach nourishment projects taking place in Dare County. This includes projected timelines and answers to the most frequently asked questions.

**Memorial Day Trash schedule.** All Dare County offices and facilities will be closed Monday, May 25, 2026 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. These offices and facilities will reopen and operate with their regularly scheduled hours on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. These holiday closures include the Dare County C&D Landfill, Manns Harbor Transfer Station, Buxton Transfer Station and Manteo Recycle Yard.

However, Dare County Public Works has announced no changes in the trash collection scheduled for Memorial Day week. All areas whose trash collection and sanitation services are provided by the Dare County Public Works Department will therefore operate on the normal schedule during the week of Monday, May 25 through Friday, May 29, 2026.

**Fires in trash trucks.** Over the past month, Dare County trash trucks have had three fires occur inside sanitation collection trucks.

Dare County Public Works Director Shanna Fullmer reported, "Fortunately, no one was hurt and damage to the sanitation trucks was minimal, but these incidents highlight how important it is for everyone to properly dispose of hazardous materials and items that can easily ignite or react during collection."

Many common household items can ignite, spark or explode when crushed during the trash collection process. These types of fires, often referred to as "hot loads," place sanitation workers, firefighters, residents, businesses and surrounding property at risk.

**Speed Limit changes on NC 12.** The summertime speed limits are posted on NC 12 on Hatteras Island. The Speed limit is now 35 in Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo, Avon and portions of Frisco. The speed limit between Avon and Buxton is now 45 miles per hour.

Off-season speed limits return September 15

### **Upcoming activities this week**

Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative holds its annual meeting Monday, May 18. Dinner is served from 6 to 6:45. The business meeting starts at 7 o'clock at the Cape Hatteras Secondary School in Buxton.

Businesses opening this week are Sticky Bottom Produce in Hatteras on May 20 at 10 in the morning and Buxton Village Books on Thursday, May 21 also at 10 in the morning.

On Saturday, May 23, the traditional Hatteras Village Fish Fry takes place at the Hatteras Volunteer Fire Department. Serving starts at 5 o'clock. Large plates with two pieces of fish are \$18 and small plates with one piece are \$13. Both plates have all the fixings.

**Thanks so much for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.**