

Weekly News Summary for Sunday, October 19, 2025

Since Friday, ocean water has streamed across NC 12 in north Buxton. Another house fell in the Ocean. This one collapsed at 7:45 Saturday night. The house was at 46006 Cottage Avenue in Buxton. The cottage was just purchased in May by people from Raleigh. It has one story, three bedrooms and has a fireplace. It was originally built in 1956.

A Pennsylvania man died, and another man was injured after the yacht they were on capsized Saturday afternoon in Oregon Inlet in Dare County at the Outer Banks. According to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, two adults were taking a 50-foot sportfishing yacht from Cape May, New Jersey, to Florida but had to make a stop in Beaufort, North Carolina, for repairs to a damaged prop. While navigating Oregon Inlet, the vessel capsized, the wildlife commission said in a news release.

Both men were in the water without life jackets, officials said. One occupant, Taylor Flannery, 29, of Point Pleasant, New Jersey, was found by the U.S. Coast Guard. Flannery was taken to the Outer Banks Hospital with minor injuries. The other occupant, Francis Hennigan Jr., 50, of Glenmoore, Pennsylvania, was found unresponsive in the water and died at the scene, the news release said.

Dare has received a stormwater grant for Hatteras village. On Oct. 16, in Marshall, NC Governor Stein announced \$6M in grants from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality's Flood Resiliency Blueprint program to help reduce flood risks across the state.

The announcement includes projects to restore the French Broad River Basin after western North Carolina experienced catastrophic flooding from Hurricane Helene last fall.

Funding in this announcement will go toward 11 projects in the river basins of the Cape Fear, French Broad, Neuse, Tar-Pamlico, and Lumber rivers.

Dare County is the recipient of one of the grants. The county will install two bioswales and associated culverts within the NCDOT right-of-way to create flood storage and to treat approximately 1.8 acres of stormwater drainage along a frequently flooded portion of NC12 through the "Hatteras Village Stormwater" project. This project award is \$65,000.

The business news this week focuses on the performance of the real estate market through September of this year. All of the major patterns that we have been seeing were basically unchanged in September.

The most significant news is that 30-year fixed rate mortgage interest rates dropped to 6.3 percent at the end of September. Future reductions are anticipated, but the timing of these changes is uncertain.

The number of homes for sale continues along an upward trend line with the number holding fairly steady in the 170 to 180 range.

The number of homes sold, while showing monthly variations, is essentially exhibiting a flat pattern.

The median sale price of residential properties remains unchanged between \$550,000 and \$650,000.

Properties under contract to be sold, which is seen as a leading indicator of future sales, are not sending any signals of a significant change in the residential market.

Looking at the undeveloped lot market, year to date sales are down in comparison to September of last year although the properties under contract to be sold were the second highest in the past nine months.

In other news related to the Hatteras Island economy, meal tax receipts through August were flat in comparison to last year, while occupancy tax receipts were down almost 2.5 percent reflecting weakness in the vacation rental market.

Finally, in a piece of good news, Home to Go, an online booking site, listed Hatteras village as the top spot in North Carolina in its 2025/2026 list of affordable shoulder-season vacation destinations.

Salvo Post Office rededicated. A wonderful crowd gathered at the rededication of the Salvo Post Office on Saturday, October 18. A festive spirit was by embraced all and was highlighted by a local band.

Jimmie Hooper presented a history of the building and its postmasters and postmistresses.

Alex McCune, owner of Alex's Shrimp Shack undertook the task to refurbish the building, inside and out. He searched the United States for historic pieces, like original postal boxes and many remembrances of the people who staffed the post office.

The building measures 96 square feet making it the second smallest Post Office ever used by the U.S. Postal Service. Since 1993, the Salvo Post Office has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The coalition that implements the Hatteras Island Angel Gift program is seeking sponsors, donors and applicants for the upcoming holiday season. The program is provided in collaboration with individuals, businesses, churches and other organizations committed to providing Christmas joy for children on Hatteras Island.

In addition, Donation Boxes are located in businesses for donors. Monetary and toy donations are accepted.

For those families in need of assistance this Christmas, applications for Hatteras Island Angel Gift are available to pick up and drop off at the Frisco Campus of the Dare County Department of Health & Human Services. Applications are due November 7, 2025.

Participants do not need to be a client of the Department of Health & Human Services to receive Angel Gift. Here are three of the places where contributions are accepted:

Frisco Market/Rod and Gun in Frisco

Food Pantry, Buxton 24-hr., drop-off box beside Buxton United Methodist Church

Surf-or-Sound Realty with offices in Avon, Salvo and Hatteras

Some upcoming events

Let's celebrate art! The 12th annual tiny art show sponsored by Swell Art Gallery in Buxton starts at 5:30, on October 22. Each tiny art painting is \$20.

A Cape Hatteras Alumni Soccer match is scheduled for Oct. 22. Alumni will take on the current high school team with kickoff at 7 o'clock.

Next Saturday at 2 o'clock, a Halloween Parade kicks off in Rodanthe. Show up in costume for a walk on NC 12. Meet at the Rodanthe Beach access. The parade goes to the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building where refreshments will be available.

Operation Green Light is scheduled for November 4 to 11. For the third consecutive year, Dare County will honor local veterans by participating in Operation Green Light, a National Association of Counties initiative that encourages residents and businesses to show their support to veterans in their community by shining green lights in their homes and businesses.

Stay safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.