

This is Radio Hatteras with a weather forecast and the Weekly News Summary for Sunday, January 19, 2024:

The National Weather Service is confident that brutal cold will last over much of the upcoming week. Snow will impact the area starting later Tuesday into Wednesday. Some freezing rain or sleet may mix in with the snow, especially near the coast. A second icing event is possible starting later Thursday.

Expect morning temperatures on Tuesday and Wednesday at 26 degrees and wind chill at 14 to 15 degrees

Dare Emergency Management published the following:

If you have pipes that freeze, take action to protect them.

Make sure you have supplies you need should conditions keep you at home.

Find the snow shovels, ice scrapers, blankets, winter coats, hats and gloves now.

If you have backup generators make sure you have fuel on hand and that they are ready to run.

As temperatures drop, only use approved heating sources.

Take care of the pets and keep an eye on your neighbors who may need a hand.

Home Insurance Settlement reached; rates go up

On Friday, January 17, a settlement between homeowners insurance companies and the North Carolina Department of Insurance was announced. The agreement calls for increasing insurance rates over the next two years.

The North Carolina Rate Bureau, which represents companies writing policies in the state, will not be allowed to request an additional increase until June 2027.

Island Free Press has extensive coverage.

A chart by territories shows new and renewing homeowners policies from Carova to Ocracoke, known as Territory 110, will increase by 5.1% starting on June 1, 2025, and then 4.8% in June 2026.

In Territory 130, which covers mainland Currituck, Dare and Hyde counties, rates will go up by 2.8% each year.

Camden, Chowan, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell and Washington counties will increase by 1% this year and 0.9% in 2026.

Communications outage reported

A communications outage was reported on Wednesday morning around 11, affecting cell phone and internet service on Hatteras and Ocracoke Islands.

According to an alert from the Dare County Sheriff's Office, 911 service on the islands may be impacted. Residents and visitors who need emergency services or communications are advised to try texting to 911, or to go to their nearest fire department or EMS station.

The outage was not affecting the power grid, and there were no power outages on the island, according to an update from Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative.

According to multiple reports, the outage is affecting some but not all cell phone and internet customers, and affected providers include Verizon, Brightspeed, AT&T, and others.

Sandbag work at Pea Island visitor center

Work has started to place sandbags alongside N.C. 12 at the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. It's a temporary solution to protect the highway from ocean overwash caused by extreme tides and storms.

The project will take about a week to complete, with single-lane closures in the area while the work is ongoing. The total cost of the project is \$400,000.

The state's transportation department will repair 1,300 feet of primary dune, and install 1,100 feet of sandbags.

Allow travel time for the lane closures. See an article on Island Free Press for additional information.

Kratom is dangerous

On January 6, 2025, Dare County's Board of Commissioners had an extensive discussion about kratom, a plant native to Southeast Asia

This week, Dare County's Department of Health and Human Services publish a warning to residents about kratom, which is available for purchase at stores in the county and on the internet.

The department's director, Sheila Davies said in the published warning "Kratom is often marketed as a safe alternative to traditional medicines, but it is not regulated by federal health authorities and has a significant potential for abuse. We urge residents to exercise extreme caution when it comes to this product."

The warning continues, "Primarily consumed by oral ingestion in the form of a tablet, capsule or extract, kratom can produce stimulant effects in low doses and some opioid-like effects at higher doses when consumed. Kratom is often used to self-treat conditions such as pain, coughing, diarrhea, anxiety and depression, opioid use disorder, and opioid withdrawal. Recent studies and reports from health professionals, however, indicate that kratom can lead to serious health complications, including addiction, respiratory distress, and even death."

Congratulations to Cape Hatteras Secondary middle and high school art students who received awards for their artwork at the Glenn Eure Art Show in Nags Head. Congratulations go to the seven students who received the Outer Banks Women's Club Choice Awards. These students' art work will go forward to regional and state level judging:

- Sylvia Syrrist 7th Grade
- Audrey Jennette 6th Grade
- Kyndle Stowe 10th Grade
- Sam Schena 11th Grade
- Kynnedi Gauthier 8th Grade
- Cammy Hedgepeth and Alejandra Palestina 6th and 7th Grade (Owl)

Superintendent's awards were presented to

- Sophia Bartell 6th Grade
- Gracie White 12th Grade
- Ella Baker 10th Grade

Different trash schedule

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is January 20, 2025. All Dare County offices and facilities will be closed in observance.

Dare County Public Works has announced a revised collection schedule for residential and commercial trash.

On Hatteras Island, residential trash collection for next week is as follows:

- Monday, January 20: Closed - No trash collection.
- Tuesday, January 21: Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras.
- Wednesday, January 22: Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon.
- Thursday, January 23: Buxton, Frisco and Hatteras.
- Friday, January 24: Rodanthe, Waves, Salvo and Avon.

Commercial trash collection takes place Tuesday, January 21 and Friday, January 24, 2025.

More hours at Frisco Clinic

Community Care Clinic of Dare is expanding clinic hours at the Frisco Clinic. Health Care providers will see patients on the second and fourth Thursdays each month from 9 to 1.

The clinic is held in the Hatteras Island offices of Public Health, across the street from EMS at 50347 NC 12, Frisco. Call (252) 261-3041 to make an appointment.

Lots of events coming up this week and notes about two February activities

Path to School Readiness

On January 22, Cape Hatteras Elementary School will host an event for parents and children from ages 2 to 5.

The late afternoon event runs from 4 to 5:30 and features information about school readiness, fun activities, and teachers and staff to answer questions.

Free dinner in Hatteras Wednesday

Hatteras United Methodist Church will host a free meatloaf dinner at the church on January 22 from 5:30 to 6:30. It's a great opportunity to pick up dinner to share with family and friends.

Limited seating is available at the church for those who want to dine together.

To ensure enough meals are prepared, please call or text (252) 475-4390 or (252) 423-6130 by January 17 to reserve your meal.

Hatteras Library Pop-Up at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building

On Thursday morning, January 23, from 9 to 11 a pop-up library will take place at the Rodanthe-Waves-Salvo Community Building, 23646 N.C. 12, Rodanthe

Children's librarian Tammy Batschelet will host an all-ages children's program from 9:15 to 9:45.

Free dinner in Avon Thursday

On Thursday evening, January 23, a free community dinner in Avon is offered at St. John United Methodist Church, 40336 McMullen Road. Serving starts at 5 o'clock and goes to 6:15. Come out and break bread and enjoy a home-cooked meal!

And February events are:

Starry Nights, a celebration of stargazing on one of the darkest stretches of the East Coast, is coming to Hatteras Village on Saturday, February 8, for the second consecutive year.

Last year, the kid-friendly event received such rave reviews that organizers are bringing it back for February 2025 as well.

The totally child-centered event features a mobile planetarium that will be set up at the Hatteras Village Fire Station. The afternoon and evening events are sponsored by the Hatteras Village Civic Association and are free to the island community.

Events planned for Saturday, February 8, include the following:

Mobile Morehead Planetarium Shows: 1:30, 2:30, 3:30

Children's Programming and Activities: 1:30 to 4:30

Pre-Sky Watching Soup at the Civic Center: 5 to 6:30

Guided Sky Watching: 6:30 to 8:30 Attendees can head to the Sandy Bay beach access just north of Hatteras Village for a guided tour of Hatteras Island's dark skies. Morehead educators will bring along the telescopes and will guide attendees through fun observations of stars, planets, moons, nebulae, and other celestial objects that are easily spotted from the shorelines of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

And the **Hatteras Village Waterfowl Festival** set for February 22 at the Hatteras Village Civic Center. Falconry returns as does the duck call competition. Activities for children throughout the day. The day is free and open to all.

Be very careful out there. Stay warm. Thanks for listening. This is Radio Hatteras.

1-22-2025

