#### A Note from the Mayor...

On behalf of the Duck Town Council, I am writing this message with the sincere hope that each of you and your loved ones are safe and well. During my 10 years as Mayor, nothing we have faced has had such a lasting impact as the COVID-19 pandemic. The largest impacts felt by the Town included a shift to live/virtual public meetings, the closing of our town offices to the public, and the cancellation of all Town hosted events in 2020. However, we also welcomed a surge of new and returning visitors well into the fall and winter. Throughout the year the Town council and staff have worked alongside the entire Outer Banks community to promote the information and direction provided by the state and county to keep our residents and visitors safe.

The increasing vaccination rates and declining number of positive cases gives us an optimistic view of the upcoming season. Things will still look different this year when compared to past years. We remain cautiously optimistic for a return to normalcy later in the summer into the fall. In the meantime, we must remain patient and follow the guidelines that we know work. We remain confident that the Duck Town Park will again be filled with people, music, and that magic that makes this a unique and eclectic coastal community. We continue to wish you all well and look forward to seeing everyone now or in the future in the Town of Duck!

- Mayor Don Kingston



### **Welcome Town Manager Drew Havens!**

The Town Council and staff are pleased to welcome Drew Havens as the Town Manager of Duck. Following an extensive search process, the Council voted unanimously to appoint Havens in December 2020. His role with Duck began in February 2021.

After graduating from Syracuse University in 1984 with a BA in Liberal Arts, and a Political Science concentration, Drew received his Master of Public Administration in 2009 from Walden University. He is a graduate of the Public Executive Leadership Academy at UNC Chapel Hill and holds the Credentialed Manager designation from the International City and County Management Association. In addition to municipal management experience in small and large towns, Drew had an early career in public safety as a police officer and firefighter.

Drew and his wife Kim live in Kill Devil Hills with their dogs. If you have not yet seen his smiling face around town, you can check out a short interview with Drew on our YouTube page.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to work with the Mayor, Council, and a great group of professional staff members to continue to provide a high level of quality service to those who live in and visit Duck. I look forward to meeting those I serve and working in this organization that values transparency and collaboration, and with co-workers who are empowered to carry out the vision established by the community." - Drew Havens



#### **Community Development**

#### Joe Heard

Director of Community Development <a href="mailto:iheard@townofduck.com">iheard@townofduck.com</a>

#### **Sandy Cross**

Senior Planner

scross@townofduck.com

#### Steve McMurray

Building Inspector

smcmurray@townofduck.com

#### Kay Nickens

Deputy Town Clerk/Permit Technician knickens@townofduck.com

### **Community Development**

#### **BRIC Grant**

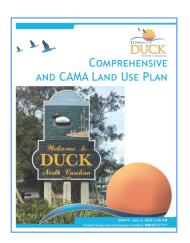
The Town of Duck has submitted a \$1.69 million grant application through FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC) program to help fund infrastructure improvements in a quarter-mile stretch of Duck Road adjoining the Currituck Sound in the northern section of Duck Village. The main components of this coastal resiliency project include a living shoreline (marsh restoration/shoreline stabilization), sidewalk/bike lanes, and elevation of Duck Road (with associated stormwater management improvements) in that area. Notice of the grant award is expected by July 2021. The Town recently contracted with VHB for design, engineering, and permitting, and plans to bidthe project in time for potential construction to begin in late fall 2021.



Map of the coastal resiliency project area

### **Comprehensive & Land Use Plan**

In August 2020, the Duck Town Council adopted a new Comprehensive & Land Use Plan (CLUP) for the community. Planning consultants from Stewart, with valuable assistance from a nine-member advisory committee appointed by Town Council, facilitated the process of obtaining public input and updating the CLUP. The planning process provided the Duck community with an opportunity to help shape its distinct vision and unique identity. Once authorized for final adoption by the N.C. Coastal Resources Commission, the CLUP will serve as a guide for community decision making by Town staff and elected leaders.



Questions on any of the these projects or other Community Development projects can be directed to Director of Community Development Joe Heard at the contact information listed above.

#### **Beach Renourishment**

The Town of Duck has submitted information and applications for permitting the beach renourishment project scheduled for construction in 2022. The renourishment project will occur in the same area as the 2017 project, a 1.7 mile stretch of beach/dunes north of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Research Pier. The Town hopes to obtain permits by July 2021 and bid the project in August 2021, with construction to begin in spring/summer 2022.



Completed 2017 Beach Nourishment project

#### **Coastal Resiliency**

The Town of Duck was recently awarded grants and accepted into the state's Resilient Coastal Communities Program (RCCP). Over a three-year period, this program will provide up to \$170,000 in grants and technical assistance to support a locally-driven process for identifying, prioritizing, and implementing projects to enhance our community's resilience to coastal hazards. The Town plans to use RCCP funding to study local rain and groundwater flooding and develop potential mitigation options for affected neighborhoods.



Flooding on Duck Road in the proposed resiliency project area

### **Hazard Mitigation Plan**

The Town's recently adopted hazard mitigation plan identifies measures to protect people and property from the effects of natural and human-caused hazards, maintains eligibility for mitigation funding and disaster relief assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and helps improve Community Rating System (CRS) scores with the goal of reducing local flood insurance rates. More information on the plan can be found on the Town website at <a href="https://bit.lv/20f9dIo">bit.lv/20f9dIo</a>.



Residential flooding resulting from a rain event

### **Newly Adopted Flood Ordinance**

On May 20, 2020, the Duck Town Council adopted the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance containing development standards intended to improve the Town's resiliency to coastal flooding and minimize property damage due to flooding. These standards have the additional benefit of improving the Town's CRS rating and reducing insurance rates. The full adopted ordinance can be viewed at <a href="mailto:bit.ly/3tideug">bit.ly/3tideug</a>.

Questions on any of the these projects or other Community Development projects can be directed to Director of Community Development Joe Heard at the contact information listed above.

### **Community Development Endnotes**

#### **Contact Database**

The Town continues to maintain a comprehensive database of property owner contact information. The goal of this effort is to allow quick access to owners when issues arise related to their properties. We ask that you contact Senior Planner, Sandy Cross to provide your name, telephone number, email address, resident type (i.e., full-time/part-time/non-resident), property management information and/or Airbnb/VRBO number.



American Beach Grass

#### **Plants Across the Sand**

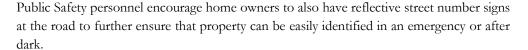
And that's a wrap! Our fourth season of the Town's volunteer-based beach grass planting program has come to a close. Nineteen planting dates were completed, nearly 100,000 sprigs were buried in the sand, and more than 85 volunteers participated throughout the season. Many thanks and KUDOS on another job well done from a dedicated group of volunteers. We are already looking forward to this fall.

#### **House Numbers**



Reflective house number at street

Town staff would like to encourage property owners to take inventory of their house numbers. As homes age, house numbers can fade and begin to blend with their background or may simply disappear from storm events. NC Building Code R319.1 Address Identification requires that house numbers be displayed on the building in plain site from the road. Numbers should be a minimum of 4 inches and should have a contrasting background.





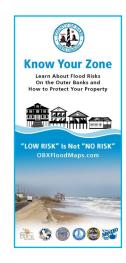
Correctly displayed house number

#### **Inspector's Corner**

Flood vents are an important way of protecting your home during a major flood event. If your vents have manual louvers, like the one shown here, be sure to remove the louvers so that the vent may work as it is designed to do. Further questions about flood vents can be directed to Floodplain Manager Sandy Cross.



Manual Louver flood vent



# Community Rating System (CRS)

After many months of work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and new Floodplain Prevention Ordinance, the Town underwent its five-year FEMA audit for National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) compliance. We are happy to report that preliminary notice indicates that we have improved from class 7 to class 6. This change will result in a 20% discount for flood insurance policies located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and 10% discount for non-SFHA properties. The adjustment will go into effect October 1, 2021.

Questions on any of the below programs and information can be directed to Senior Planner Sandy Cross at the contact information listed on the page 2.

#### New Residential Trash Schedule

The Town's residential solid waste contractor, Waste Management, has proposed a change to the residential waste collection beginning May 1, 2021. After conducting a survey with almost 400 responses, predominantly in favor of evaluating the schedule, the modified schedule has been approved for trial this summer. We would like to collect feedback throughout the summer – please feel free to call the office at 252-255-1234 or email Christian Legner (clegner@townofduck.com) or Sandy Cross (scross@townofduck.com).

This change only affects TRASH collection, not recycling, which is collected by a separate company.

The Town will now be divided at the Army Corps Field Research Pier, with color coded routes. It is our hope that the modified schedule will result in fewer collection issues.



#### **Duck Park Trash Can Relocations**

In order to help reduce windblown litter and the attraction of our critter neighbors, the Town is working to strategically relocate our Big Belly compacting trash and recycling units in the Park and on the Boardwalk. You will also see new lids on our traditional trash cans that are better able to withstand wind and wily racoons.

This process will also include the installation of signage around the Park and Boardwalk guiding users to the nearby containers and will foster the **Leave No Trace** principle.



Big Belly compacting trash and recycling units in the park

### **Duck Sweep**

No one likes a dirty beach, trail, or sidewalk! In 2020, the Town of Duck began the Duck Sweep program to ensure that our slice of paradise stays as clean as possible. Volunteers would meet weekly, working in groups and individually, picking up trash in the Park, on the beach, Duck Trail, and throughout Town. Sixteen scheduled sweep days and over 175 volunteer hours of collection were logged resulting in:

- 2,095 pounds of litter collected
- 215 miles walked
- 38,454 items collected

Duck Sweep is back at it in 2021 and invites you to help make a difference. For more information on this program and how you can help please Contact Sandy Cross at <a href="mailto:scross@townofduck.com">scross@townofduck.com</a> or call 252-255-1234.



#### **Duck Public Safety**

1259 Duck Road

#### **Duck Fire**

Chief Donna Black

Deputy Chief Trey Batschelet

Capt. Anthony Bartolotta

Capt. Jeffrey Del Monte

Capt. Jared Smith

MFF Brandon Boyd

MFF Jake Dempsey

FF Christian Dick

FF Matt Munden

FF Jose Ramirez

FF Cameron Whitaker

#### **Administrative Assistant**

Nicole Martin

#### **Duck Police**

Chief Jeff Ackerman

Lt. Melissa Clark

Sgt. Jason Garrett

Sgt. Joe Knight

PO Chuck Edwards

PO John Gilreath

PO Justin Naquin

PO Timothy Armstrong

PO Jaclyn Kiene

PO Jeremy Davis

PO Kyle Kuhar

PO Mitch Ardinger



### **Public Safety**

**Duck Fire** Phone: 252.261.3929 Fax: 252.261.5961

info@duckfire.org

**Duck Police** Phone: 252.261.1112

Fax: 252.261.2108

Non-Emergency: 252.473.3444

policeinfo@townofduck.com

### **Direct Connect Program Discontinued**

To enhance our level of customer service, the Duck Police Department discontinued the Officer Direct Connect program in April. This long-standing program allowed citizens to

directly contact the on-duty police officer by phone. When the program was first introduced, the department was smaller and there was typically one officer on duty. As our in-season population and the department have grown, there are multiple officers on duty for most shifts. When a community member has important and timely information to relay to the officer, they may find their direct connect call cannot be quickly handled if the officer is responding to other calls. This system can be frustrating to both the officer and caller.



To prevent this potential delayed response and frustration, I request that all nonemergency calls for service, or requests to speak with a police officer, be routed through the Dare Central Communications Center by calling (252) 473-3444. The telecommunicator who answers will prioritize your request against other incidents that our officer may already be handling. When the call is dispatched, all on-duty officers will receive the information by radio and electronically on their in-car mobile data terminal. This allows the closest officer to handle the call, creating greater efficiency and allowing us to respond to your request as quickly as possible.

- Chief Jeff Ackerman

### **Duck Police Business Check Program**

Your Duck police officers frequently visit businesses throughout the Town during normal business hours. The reason for this is not only to get to know business owners and their employees, but to also interact with customers who live, work, and vacation in Duck. When the lights turn off, our commitment to business security is just getting started. Your night shift officers spend a significant portion of their shift monitoring closed businesses and checking doors and windows to ensure businesses are safe and secured.

### Tee Shirt Shop

Everybody loves a Duck Fire Tee! Get the whole family covered with sizes ranging from 4T to Adult. Adult caps have been restocked and a new design is in the works. Duck Police tees are also available. They also offer online ordering for free local pickup (during designated hours) or domestic shipping. Check them out at: bit.ly/3fREdcq.



### **Newly adopted Fire Ordinance**

Duck Fire Department's priority is keeping the community safe. Regulation of certain activities is necessary to safeguard the life, health, property, and public welfare of the community. Over the past year, we have placed all fire prevention and protection information together to clearly define and better organize the information. In July 2020, the Town Council approved Chapter 96 of the Town Code, Provisions for Fire Prevention and Protection. Below we have highlighted key sections and how they apply to all community members in the Town of Duck.

Section 96.03 Fire Prevention Code Adoption is pertinent to commercial properties and multi-family dwellings. Through our fire inspection program, these properties are regularly inspected to ensure they are safe for both patrons and employees. This section summarizes the adoption of the NC Fire Prevention Code and includes appendices and amendments as it relates to the inspection process.

The most frequently asked questions can be found in Section 96.04 Fires. Here you will find explanations for allowed or prohibited types of fires and any requirements associated with them.

While there are currently no regulations on charcoal or propane grills, grilling on decks or near vegetation is highly discouraged.

Section 96.05 Life Safety provides information on items that help public safety personnel during emergencies. These items include, but are not limited to, defining clear access to fire hydrants, accessibility of streets for fire apparatus, visibility of addresses on properties, and commercial building access. Regulations regarding sprinkler and alarm systems are also explained.

To view the entire document, visit <u>bit.ly/3wo6b5v</u>. Questions about the ordinance can be directed to the Duck Fire Department during regular business hours at 252-261-3929 or email <u>info@duckfire.org</u>.

- Chief Donna Black

### **Emergency Response on Your Streets**

Spring has arrived and that means that that many people are engaging in landscaping projects. Please remember that in an emergency every second counts. Please ensure that the following requirements are met:

- Minimum three (3) foot radius around hydrants
- At least fourteen (14) foot vertical clearance between road and vegetation

If there is a fire emergency in your neighborhood, the fire department must be able to clearly access the street. Once on scene, we need to ensure a firefighter in full protective gear carrying a large 5-inch supply hose can access the fire hydrants to provide water.

If you have any question regarding street or hydrant access, please feel free to contact the office at the information listed on the previous page.

#### Section 96.04 Fires

#### Prohibited:

- Fireworks, including sparklers
- Sky Lanterns
- Beach Fires
- Bonfires
- Pit Fires
- Un-contained recreational fires

## \*Allowed With Restrictions:

Contained fires/ manufactured fire pits:

- Container made of a fireproof material
- Located a minimum of 10 feet from any structure or combustible material
- Only wood burning or propane. Materials such as synthetics, rubber or materials that may produce heavy, dark, or dense smoke are prohibited.

Burning small amounts of tree branches or brush:

- Contained in a fireproof container (burn barrel)
- 25 feet from any structure or combustible material
- Allowed between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

\*All fires must be monitored by a competent person 16 years or older with an extinguishing agent or water present.

#### **Public Relations**

#### Christian Legner

Director of Public Information, Marketing, and Special Events

clegner@townofduck.com

#### **Betsy Trimble**

Assistant Public Information Officer and Summer Event Coordinator

btrimble@townofduck.com



#### **2021 Summer Events**

Things are looking up! As restrictions begin lifting, we are optimistic about bringing back our in-person events later this year. In-person events for the months of June and July have, unfortunately, been cancelled. However, we anticipate bringing them back starting late summer and running into the Fall. That's right! Concerts, Fitness, and more will be back in a limited capacity for the 2021 summer.

Until our in-person events return, we will continue exploring new ways of engaging with residents and visitors. These will include virtual and individual activities to entertain while maintaining social distancing.

Our fitness classes with Village Yoga and the OBX Fitness Collective will begin virtually June 15 and 16 at 7:30 a.m. These classes will transition to in person on the Green as health and safety protocols allow and continue through the end of September.

Be sure to keep an eye on the Town website and social media for all the latest updates.



Virtual Fitness begins in June

### 4th of July Celebration

Due to limits on outdoor gathering sizes, we are sad to announce that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Community Celebration has been cancelled for this year. But that does not mean there will not be a holiday celebration! Why limit the celebration to just one day? This summer, businesses all over Town will be participating in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Storefront Decorating Contest. Contest dates and more will be announced as we get closer to the summer. For the latest details and up to date information check out the Town's 4<sup>th</sup> of July webpage: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/39YgROJ">bit.ly/39YgROJ</a>.





The Duck Jazz Festival presented by PNC is in the works for 2021. The week of October 4 will be filled with jazz themed events leading up to a Concert on the Green, on Saturday, October 9, and a full day of jazz on two stages on Sunday, October 10. Follow our Facebook, Twitter, and web pages to stay informed and plan your trip to the OBX this fall.

### **Volunteering in Duck**

The active and engaged community of Duck is a part of what makes this town unique. The support of our volunteers is the backbone of the Town and why we thrive as a community. We are seeing many new faces as people have relocated to the community over the past year. Volunteering is a great way to get out and meet new people in your community. Our volunteer opportunities include event assistance, beach grass planting, trash and litter clean up, and more. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the volunteer email list, contact Betsy Trimble.



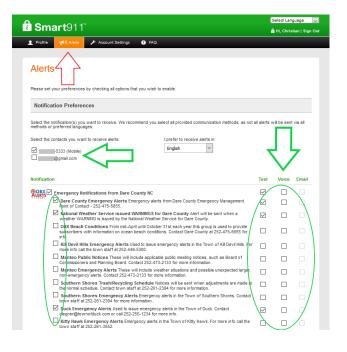


Dare County and the municipalities now have a new alert and notification platform: OBXAlerts. With this new platform you can still customize your notifications and choose how you would like to receive them. Emergency alerts, including severe weather warnings and evacuation information, notifications regarding trash collection delays, town-specific updates and other non-emergency information can be added to your profile.

If you were subscribed to the ReGroup system, you will have to re-register with OBXAlerts due to the switch in service provider. Find registration information, links, and instructional videos on our website: townofduck.com/emergency-alerts.

### **Need to Manage your Alerts?**

- 1. Visit smart911.com
- 2. Click SIGN IN at the top right
- 3. Choose "Alerts" at the top of your profile
- 4. Uncheck the boxes for any alert you don't want to receive
- 5. Check the box for any alert you do want and how you'd like to receive it
- 6. Click Save



### **Storm Awareness and Preparedness**

Here on the Outer Banks, we are no strangers to severe weather throughout the year and it is important to remain prepared. Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30. Now is a great time to review your hurricane preparedness.

- 1. Review your risk
- 2. Know your evacuation plan
- 3. Check your disaster supplies
- 4. Make copies of important paperwork
- 5. Prepare to secure outdoor items as needed
- 6. Go over your plan with family and friends

For more information visit the Storm Preparedness webpage on the Town's website at <a href="https://doi.org/bit.ly/3cUocAt">bit.ly/3cUocAt</a> and ReadyNC.org.



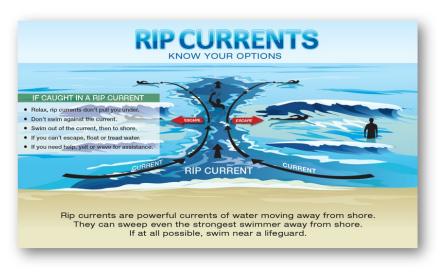
Get and stay prepared

### **Ocean Safety**



- Text "OBXBeachConditions" to 77295 to receive updates from OBX lifeguards during your stay in Duck. If you're already signed up for OBXAlerts, you can opt in to OBX Beach Conditions in your profile.
- Swim Near a Lifeguard.
- Never swim alone. Lifeguards and information located on lifeguard stands provide beach goers with valuable information about current beach conditions. Always obey lifeguard warnings and "No Swimming" flags.





### **Pedestrian and Bike Safety**

Walking or biking is a great way to see the Town of Duck! Help everyone stay safe with a few tips.

#### **Pedestrians:**

- Walk/run facing traffic on the sidewalks in the Village or on the multiuse path outside the Village.
- Use marked crosswalks and stay alert for vehicles.
- Wear bright clothing or use lights at night.
- Keep your pets on a leash and clean up after your pet.

#### **Cyclists:**

- Ride with traffic in marked bike lanes in the Village.
- May ride on the multiuse path outside the Village, passing pedestrians on the left.
- Use appropriate head and tail lights on your bicycle and wear reflective clothing at night.

Motorized vehicles, including electric scooters and bikes, Segways, and golf carts, are prohibited on trails and sidewalks in Duck.





#### **End Notes...**

#### **Town Council Meetings**

All Town Council meetings will take place on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Paul F. Keller Meeting Hall (Regular Meeting) and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. (as needed). Virtual options will continue to be made available for the public to view and participate. Some attendance in person is welcome but subject to social distancing and mask requirements.

### **Planning Board Meetings**

All Planning Board meetings will take place on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Paul F. Keller Meeting Hall (Regular Meeting) and 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. (as needed). Virtual options will continue to be made available for the public to view and participate. Some attendance in person is welcome but subject to social distancing and mask requirements.

### FY 2022 Budget Schedule

\*May 19, 2021– 1:00 p.m.- Town Council Budget Work session

June 2, 2021– 6:00 p.m.- Public hearing and adoption of FY 2022 Budget

\*Additional work sessions may be added as required. Please check the Town events calendar for updates. All meetings will be available on YouTube as soon after the meetings as possible.

#### **Rotating Art Show**

Fault Lines, Through Lines by Lynne Scott Constantine and Suzanne Scott Constantine
April 30 — July 28, 2021

#### Paintings by Christina Forte and Meg Rubino

July 30 — October 27, 2021

Opening Reception Wednesday, August 4 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

#### Paintings by Taunya Moore

November 5, 2021 — January 16, 2022

Opening Reception Saturday, November 6 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

### **Recycling Tips**

For recyclable materials to have a second life and create new products, they must be clean and free from contaminants. When trash makes its way into your recycling container, it reduces the likelihood that any of your items can be recycled. Improving the quality of your recycling is as easy as recycling ONLY clean bottles, cans, paper, and cardboard. For a list of acceptable recyclable items visit <a href="https://bit.ly/3ghOw7k">bit.ly/3ghOw7k</a>.

Town of Duck residents, property owners, and businesses do a great job of recycling and keeping Duck clean and green. Help us spread the word to our visitors! For recycling educational and outreach materials, contact clegner@townofduck.com.

### **Recycling Collection**

Residential Recycling for the Town of Duck is provided by Tidewater Fibre Corporation utilizing leased BLUE containers. Collection days are as follows:

- Every Monday from May 1st through October 31st
- 1st and 3rd Monday of the month from November 1st through April 30th

If your recycling container was missed on the regular collection day, please contact the Town office at 252-255-1234. Please report any missed collection by 10:00 a.m. on the same service day or service may not be available until the next scheduled recycling collection date.





#### **Town Council**

- Don Kingston
   – Mayor
   <u>don.kingston@townofduck.com</u>
- Monica Thibodeau
   – Mayor Pro
   Tempore
   monica.thibodeau@townofduck.com
- Nancy Caviness
   <u>nancy.caviness@townofduck.com</u>
- Robert Mooney rob.mooney@townofduck.com
- Sandy Whitman sandy.whitman@townofduck.com

1200 Duck Road Phone: 252.255.1234 Fax: 252.255.1236 info@townofduck.com www.townofduck.com Town of Duck
P.O. Box 8369
Duck, NC 27949



**Drew Havens** 

Lori Ackerman

Town Manager

Town Clerk

dhavens@townofduck.com

lackerman@townofduck.com

#### Connect With Us



The Town of Duck strives to keep all constituents informed and connected to Town news and events. Thanks to social media and the internet, there are more ways to stay engaged.

**WEBSITE:** The Town of Duck's website is townofduck.com. It contains easy-to-find information regarding Town meetings, events, ordinances, and services.

**EMAIL LIST:** The Town of Duck maintains an email list which provides weekly updates on meetings, events, and other news that occur between the printings of this newsletter. To be added to our list, please visit townofduck.com, enter your email in the middle of the home page and click on "Subscribe" and use the automated form to complete your subscription.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** Find us on social media for the most up-to date happenings in the Town. Facebook: Town of Duck and DuckJazz Festival Instagram: @townofduck Twitter: @DuckOBX and @DuckJazzFest

**YOUTUBE:** Find the latest video features on a variety of aspects of the Town of Duck as well as Town Council meetings at the YouTube channel DuckPR.

**Share your photos!** Follow Town of Duck on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Share your photos with #DuckNC for a chance to be featured on our pages.

**BEACH CONDITIONS:** Text "OBXBeachConditions" to 77295 to sign up for text alerts from Outer Banks lifeguards on beach conditions.