



# TOWN OF KITTY HAWK

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www.kittyhawknc.gov



## Town Manager Message

Guided by TIDES: A Year of Progress and Promise

2025 was a year of momentum for the Town – a year marked by visible progress, thoughtful planning, and a deep commitment to service. From major capital investments to behind-the-scenes improvements that strengthen daily operations, the Town continued to move forward with purpose, guided by teamwork, integrity, dedication, engagement, and service.

One of the most significant milestones of the year was the completion and opening of the new Police Department building – only the second vertical construction project undertaken by the Town in more than 20 years. This modern facility supports public safety today while positioning the department for future growth. At the same time, residents enjoyed progress on the Town Hall Trail, with Phase 1 completed through a true community effort involving staff, Recreation Committee members, and volunteers. Infrastructure improvements continued with roadway paving, a culvert replacement on N. Midgette Road, and the opening of a new EMS/Fire Bay, strengthening emergency response capabilities town-wide.

Strategic investment and careful stewardship of resources played a key role throughout the year. The Town successfully secured multiple grants supporting pedestrian and bicycle planning, crosswalk lighting, cybersecurity, public safety messaging, and the Life-Saving Service Memorial. These awards – paired with local matching funds and private donations – allowed important projects to move forward while minimizing the burden on taxpayers. Work is also underway to support future coastal protection efforts, with sand surveys completed and professional services procurement in progress.

Behind every project is a strong team, and 2025 was a year of growth for Town employees. Departments across the organization advanced through training, certifications, leadership development, and promotions. The Police Department reached full staffing for the first time in several years, while Public Works, Fire, Planning, Finance, and Administration staff achieved new professional milestones. Employee wellness and engagement remained a priority, with creative programs and events designed to strengthen connections and support a healthy workplace culture.

As 2026 begins, the Town stands on strong footing – with new facilities, better systems, a well-trained workforce, and a clear direction ahead. The work accomplished this year not only addressed today’s needs, but laid the groundwork for what’s next. With continued community support and a shared commitment to service, the Town is well-positioned to keep moving forward, together.

Sincerely,

*Melody E. Clapton*

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# Town Calendar

**Planning Board Meeting**

Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6 pm

**MLK Day- Admin Offices Closed**

Monday, January 19, 2026

**Recreation Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 6 pm

**Planning Board Meeting**

Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 6 PM (if needed)

**Town Council Meeting**

Monday, February 2, 2026 at 6 pm

**Planning Board Meeting**

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 6 pm

**President's Day- Admin Offices Closed**

Monday, February 16, 2026

**Planning Board Meeting**

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6 PM (if needed)

**Town Council Meeting**

Monday, March 2, 2026 at 6 pm

**Primary Election Day**

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

**Planning Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6 pm

**Planning Board Meeting**

Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 6 PM (if needed)

**Keep it Clean Trash Clean Up**

Saturday, March 28, 2026 at 10 am

# Town News

## 2025 Town of Kitty Hawk Employees of the Year

See our Employees of the Year in action in our latest Destination Dare video linked below:



We are proud to recognize the outstanding dedication and service of the 2025 Employees of the Year across our public safety departments:

Fire Department Officer of the Year – Captain Joe Case

Firefighter of the Year – Tobi Wild

Police Department – Marisa McCormick

These individuals exemplify professionalism, leadership, and commitment to our community. Their work, both on the front lines and behind the scenes, helps keep our town safe, prepared, and strong.

Please join us in thanking them for their service and congratulating them on this well-deserved recognition!

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# Town News

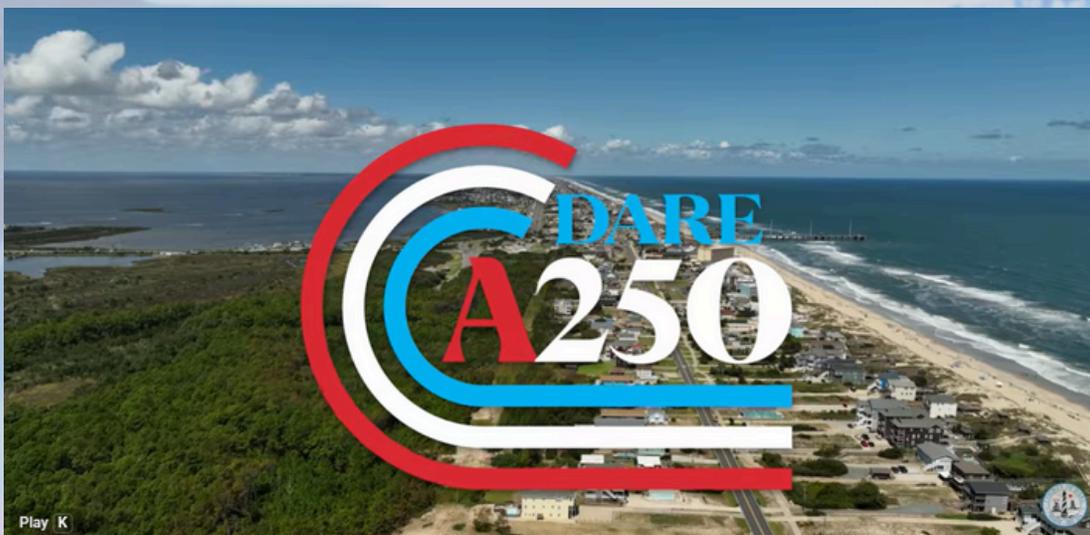
## Dare County A250 Celebrations

In 2026, America will celebrate a remarkable milestone, 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. To help our community stay connected throughout the A250 celebration, Dare County has launched a dedicated website, [dare250.org](http://dare250.org).

The Kelly St. Patrick's parade March 15<sup>th</sup> will kick off Dare County's A250 celebrations. The excitement continues April 18th with Dare County's A250 Faire. This event will take place at the Wright Brothers National Memorial and features live music, family-friendly activities, historical storytelling, as well as local vendors offering food, beverages, and arts/crafts.

The interactive A250 Passport Program to help residents and visitors explore our county's unique history firsthand. The program features thirteen stops across Dare County, including museums, historic sites, cultural centers, and natural landmarks. Visit [dare250.org/passport](http://dare250.org/passport) for details!

Find out more about A250 local events and how you can get involved in the celebrations by watching the video linked below:



# From the Finance Department

## Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Preparation Calendar

The Town's annual budget preparation process is guided by a calendar that emphasizes transparency and public participation. Throughout the budget cycle, a series of publicly noticed meetings and hearings will be held to allow residents to review budget assumption, discuss priorities, and provide input before the budget is finalized. These public budget meetings are an essential part of the process and ensure that the Town's financial planning reflects community needs, complies with statutory requirements, and supports informed decision making by elected officials.

<b>January 9, 2026</b>	Department Heads receive budget worksheets from Finance
<b>February 12, 2026</b>	Draft Department Budgets due to the Finance Director
<b>February 16 - 20, 2026</b>	Meetings with Department Heads, Town Manager, and Finance Director
<b>March 20, 2026</b>	Budget Work Session with Town Council Location: Kitty Hawk Police Department Time: 9:00 a.m.
<b>April 15, 2026</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Budget Work Session with Town Council (as needed) Location: Kitty Hawk Town Hall Time: 9:00 a.m.
<b>May 4, 2026</b>	Budget Draft Presentation FY 2026 -2027/Set Public Hearing Location: Kitty Hawk Town Hall Time: 6:00 p.m.
<b>June 1, 2026</b>	Final budget presentation FY 2026-2027

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# Kitty Hawk Public Works Department

## NOW HIRING PART-TIME RECYCLE CENTER TECHNICIAN

**WE ARE  
HIRING**

**Part Time  
Recycle Technician**

We are looking for a dependable team player who is self-directed, service-oriented, and brings a positive, can-do attitude to their work. Join this smiling team in Public Works!

Check out this job on our website!

Applications available online or at Town Hall



The Town of Kitty Hawk is currently seeking a part-time, customer-focused attendant for our Recycling Center, located at 4190 Bob Perry Road.

This is a great opportunity to serve the community while working in a supportive team environment.

Visit

<https://www.kittyhawknc.gov/town-jobs/> for details!

## CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

The Town of Kitty Hawk requests that residents place their undecorated, tinsel-free live Christmas trees along the curbside on normal trash collection days where they will be picked up in a timely manner.

Undecorated, tinsel-free live Christmas trees may also be dropped off at the Kitty Hawk Bathhouse Beach Access in the grassy area to be used for dune restoration.



# Kitty Hawk Public Works Department

## WINTER SAND FENCING UNDER WAY



The winter sand fencing project is underway.

The contractors have started at the Town line and are working north. Existing damaged fencing will be replaced and new fencing is installed sand covered areas.

This project is a large undertaking that is paid for with Beach Nourishment funds.

## EAST KITTY HAWK ROAD BEACH ACCESS REPAIRS

In two weeks, contractors will begin the refurbishing of the beach access at East Kitty Hawk Road.

This project will involve new decking and rails.

The beach access will be closed during repairs. Specific dates of repair will be advised soon on the Town's social media and website.



# KITTY HAWK POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Policing in Paradise!*

## Officer Drew Weston Named Officer of the Quarter

Kitty Hawk Police Department is proud to recognize Officer Drew Weston for earning Officer of the Quarter for Q4 of 2025! We thank Officer Weston for his exemplary service to our community and the Town of Kitty Hawk. Criteria for consideration includes productivity, leadership, community engagement, customer service and involvement. The leadership team collectively agreed that Officer Weston demonstrated excellence in all five criteria.



# Kitty Hawk Police Department

*Policing in Paradise!*

## Officer Chase Gardner Sworn In

The Town of Kitty Hawk is thrilled to welcome Officer Gardner as the police department's newest police officer.

Alongside his fiancé and colleagues, Officer Gardner was sworn in by Mayor Charlotte Walker. We are proud to have him join our team and look forward to his contributions to our community.

Please join us in offering Officer Gardner a warm Kitty Hawk welcome!



# KITTY HAWK FIRE RESCUE

## Fire Department Promotions

Kitty Hawk Fire Rescue is pleased to announce several exciting milestones within the Fire Department. Recently, we celebrated the pinning of three new firefighters: Pierce Jamieson, Charles Black, and Citrus Triplett.

In addition, we are proud to recognize Stephen Hines on earning the distinguished rank of Master Firefighter. We also recognized two newly promoted Lieutenants, Greg Sellers and George Hardison, for their leadership and commitment to service.

Please join us in congratulating these individuals on these well-earned achievements!



# KITTY HAWK FIRE RESCUE



## Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter, be fire smart!

 <p><b>Half of all home heating fires</b> occur in December, January and February.</p>	 <p>Heating equipment is involved in <b>1 in every 6</b> home fires and <b>1 in every 5</b> home fire deaths.</p>	 <p>Keep anything that can burn <b>at least 3 feet</b> from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.</p>
 <p>Keep portable generators <b>outside, away from windows, and as far away</b> from your home as possible.</p>	 <p>Install and test carbon monoxide alarms <b>at least once a month.</b></p>	 <p>Plug only <b>1 heat-producing appliance</b> (like a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.</p>
 <p>Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents <b>every year.</b></p>	 <p>Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it <b>outside at least 10 feet</b> from your home and any nearby buildings.</p>	



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit [usfa.fema.gov/winter](http://usfa.fema.gov/winter) and [nfpa.org/winter](http://nfpa.org/winter).

# IMPORTANT REMINDERS

## Follow us on Facebook!

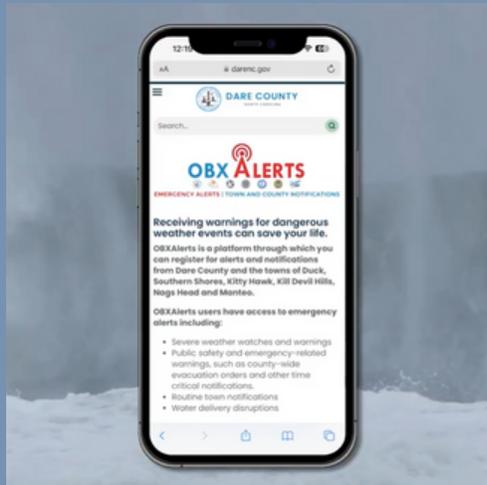
The Town of Kitty Hawk has launched its official Facebook page! Follow us to stay connected to the latest community news, events and meeting announcements.

*Click Here*



Receiving warnings for dangerous weather events can save your life.

OBXAlerts is a platform through which you can register for alerts and notifications from Dare County and the towns of Duck, Southern Shores, Kitty Hawk, Kill Devil Hills, Nags Head and Manteo. Click the image to learn more!



**LOVE THE BEACH  
RESPECT THE OCEAN**

**To receive beach-related weather alerts from the National Weather Service and text alerts from Outer Banks ocean rescue services...**

**Text "OBXBeachConditions" to 77295**

# Kitty Hawk Town Council & Leadership

Mayor, Charlotte Walker	321-446-3744	charlotte.walker@kittyhawkknc.gov
Mayor Pro Tempore, Jeff Pruitt	252-207-9055	jeff.pruitt@kittyhawkknc.gov
Councilman, Dylan Tillett	252-202-3802	dylan.tillett@kittyhawkknc.gov
Councilman, David Hines	252-573-9547	david.hines@kittyhawkknc.gov
Councilman, Peter Mantz	252-489-0793	peter.mantz@kittyhawkknc.gov
Town Attorney, Casey C Varnell	252-261-2126	varnell@ncobxlaw.com
Town Manager, Melody C Clopton	252-261-3552	melody.clopton@kittyhawkknc.gov
PIO/Town Clerk, Lauren Garrett	252-261-3552	lauren.garrett@kittyhawkknc.gov

*The Town of Kitty Hawk's newsletter is sent via email to anyone who would like to receive it. Hard copies are available at Town Hall. The newsletter does not present or represent opinions of the Town Council.*

**For the Town's current Trash Schedule and latest updates, [click here.](#)**

**Don't forget about our Recycling Center located at 4190 Bob Perry Road!**

