

## **Weekly News Summary for Sunday, December 8, 2024.**

**A Restoration Advisory Board to be organized for Buxton Naval Facility.** In early November, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers launched a survey as to how concerned citizens would like to receive updates regarding the Formerly Used Defense Site at the Buxton Naval Facility. The deadline for response was Dec 4. The Buxton Civic Association announced the following information from Colonel Ron Sturgeon of the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, about the survey: “The results indicate an overwhelming desire to establish the Restoration Advisory Board. My team will be taking the next steps to ensure the appropriate representation are on the board and will set a date for the kick-off meeting.”

**Cold Stunned Sea Turtles.** Volunteers have been busy collecting cold-stunned sea turtles from the soundside shoreline with this week’s cold spell. According to Stacey Saunders of N.E.S.T., more than 180 cold-stunned sea turtles were identified and rescued by local N.E.S.T. volunteers, reports Island Free Press.

“As cold-blooded reptiles, sea turtles derive heat from their surroundings, and when they become too cold, their metabolism slows, prohibiting them from moving and migrating to warmer waters. This cold-stunned scenario can turn deadly, as once in an immobile and lethargic state, the sea turtles can have difficulty raising their heads above water to breathe, and can eventually drown,” states the article.

The volunteers primarily search for stranded turtles along the soundside, covering private property in the villages and areas that are not routinely patrolled by the National Park Service. After braving the cold conditions, the volunteers meet at a staging site, where turtles are measured and labeled before hitching a ride to the STAR Center at the North Carolina Aquarium on Roanoke Island, where more N.E.S.T. volunteers are waiting.

If you spot a sea turtle on land this time of year, call the stranding hotline with your location on Hatteras Island. The number is 252-216-6892, which is the Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Sea turtles in North Carolina are protected by the Endangered Species Act and managed by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission. For more information on NEST, and to make a donation or learn about volunteer opportunities, visit [nestonline.org](http://nestonline.org).

**St. John United Methodist in Avon has new church van.** The congregation is excited to share the purchase of our new church van with you. It is a 2024 15-passenger Ford Transit. This purchase was made possible by using \$30,000 from a gift from Gloria O’Neil’s estate and \$35,000 from generous donors like you from near, far, and wide. Thanks to you all.

The congregation’s ongoing ministries include serving 3,000 community dinners each winter, free produce giveaways, stocking our Tiny Food Pantry, supporting our recovering substance abuse community, Vacation Bible School and other children’s ministries, Youth activities including Pilgrimage held in Rocky Mount each year, and other conference camps and leadership opportunities.

In addition to these ministries, the congregation will soon begin constructing a 5,400-square-foot retreat center that will sleep 22. Our dream is to have a facility that can house youth groups, hold adult retreats, be a gathering place for local teens, and accommodate disaster relief workers.

Here’s some Hatteras Island Happenings:

**Frisco Woods Campground is presenting the Christmas Light Festival.** The campground is adorned with many lights to delight walkers or passenger vehicles passing through campground.

However, on Wednesday, the winds were not nice to the festival displays, causing many areas to be reset. The festival was not opened on Thursday night. The festival proceeded with an event on Saturday with its Hayrides with Santa.

The Christmas Light Festival continues through Sunday, December 15. The campground asks for a donation of \$15 per car or group of walkers. Donations benefit the Frisco-Buxton Pathway.

**In Hatteras Village, December 14 is a big celebration of community.** From 8 to 11:30, Breakfast with Santa kicks off the day. This feast along with activities for children and a visit with Santa takes place at the Hatteras Village Civic Center. The cost for adults is \$15 and for children 5 to 12, \$6. The breakfast benefits the Hatteras Community Pre-School.

Starting at 2 in the afternoon, the Hatteras Village Christmas Parade starts with a new route that starts at the village center and proceeds down NC 12. Winners are announced at the Hatteras Village Civic Center, where refreshments will be served.

**On December 14.** Kids Shop Free for Christmas Gifts to give to family members at the Salvo Fire Department. Call Sara Fitch for an appointment. Her number is 305-0656.

Parents Night Out on Saturday, December 14, is set for 5 to 8 o'clock at St. John United Methodist Church in Avon. Bring the children.

**On Dec 21,** Shuck Hatteras III is scheduled for the KOA Resort in Waves. Lots of music. An Oyster Cook-off Challenge runs from 1:30 to 3:30.

**At Cape Hatteras Secondary:** This past week, the atrium at the Secondary School was festooned with 15 decorated Christmas trees. The "Trees for the Community" project spreads holiday cheer to local families and fosters a sense of giving and teamwork among students and staff. "We would like to thank everyone once again for participating in this school-wide project that will brighten the homes of many residents throughout the season, and will brighten the faces of many children on Christmas morning," said Keith Durham, CHSS carpentry teacher.

The custodial staff won first place for coin donations, which totaled \$82.81 in "votes." The total amount of money collected through this project this week was a whopping \$437.69 that will go to purchase gifts for Hatteras Island children on Christmas morning.

Runner up was the Cape Hatteras Secondary Band. In third place was the Cross Country and Track Teams; fourth place was the carpentry classes and fifth place was the Middle School Student Government Association.

**Some final notes at Cape Hatteras Secondary:**

**Basketball:** The Cape Hatteras Hurricanes will play Manteo at home Friday, December 13. The Junior Varsity starts playing at 4:30. The varsity girls start around 6 o'clock and the varsity boys around 7:30.

This next week, Monday through Thursday, **tap dancing** will be taught in the Rehearsal Room. Tap dancers are needed for the Spring Musical.

**Now, be safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.**