

## Weekly News Summary for Sunday, October 4, 2026.

This was the message from NCDOT Saturday morning. “Here’s some GREAT NEWS for your Saturday: We will be opening NC12 at the Pea Island Visitor Center to two-lane, unrestricted traffic by the end of the day TODAY! Thank you for your patience while we made the needed repairs.”

And thank you NCDOT employees and the road crews from three contractors, for the ferry workers and for all those sitting in the Dare County Emergency Operations Building making decisions and sending out information.

On a gray evening, the reopening of NC 12 to two-lanes happened about 7 o’clock.

This adventure started Thursday morning, September 24. NCDOT announced NC 12 from the Oregon Inlet Bridge to the Rodanthe Roundabout was closed to all traffic. The dune at the Pea Island Visitor Center was breached. The initial estimate of highway damage was 500 feet of undermined or broken pavement. That was later changed to 1,000 feet. Weather was not cooperating. A Coastal Flood Warning was in effect. High tides brought more overwash and more damage to the road and to places in Rodanthe and Waves. The ocean calmed down after Sunday morning’s high tide. Ferries were closed down. Decisions were quickly made.

A temporary roadway opened to northbound, one-way traffic at 3 o’clock Tuesday, September 29, 2026, providing a one-lane gravel detour for traffic leaving Hatteras Island and traveling north. That’s six days after the initial breach and three days after the ocean calmed.

Meanwhile three constructing companies, with already signed contracts, worked on a second lane. Around 7 o’clock Saturday night, a solid line of southbound vehicles was travelling south along a patched together NC 12. It was slow going initially as traffic was backed up while NCDOT made the switchover. But traffic seemed to be free-flowing near the Pea Island Visitor Center. NCDOT writes “Please continue to drive with extreme caution in the area, as there is still water on the road and shoulders are soft.”

**And, thanks.** To those who kept this island running; of those who opened homes and businesses for folks camping out in cars and trucks. It was amazing how the communities and folks on Hatteras Island reached out.

And, thanks to those who kept the pharmacies open on Saturday and Sunday and Monday.

On Tuesday, September 30, Beach Pharmacy posted a listing of all who worked to keep the pharmacies staffed and filled with medicine. It’s an amazing listing.

“Now that we have had a moment to catch our collective breaths, Matt & Laura want to thank everyone for their kind words and encouragement over the last few days.

It is of utmost importance to us that EVERYONE on this team knows how important they are to us and how important their contributions and commitment to the community are.

This will be a long one, so hang in there with me...

When people reference “Matt and the Crew” - these are the people who are getting it done:

Marsha Holmes, Sarah Davis, Krystle Woods, Paisley Kostick, Chris McDavitt, Kim Latsch, Val Murphy, Jennifer Bettano, Morghan Midgett, and Hannah Schichtl.

They are awesome every day, but over the past few days, just a few details to share:

- Krystle and Sarah are full time pharmacy techs AND they are also college students who got in early, stayed late, and kept working throughout the weekend during their EXAM WEEK.

- When her road was impassable, Paisley WADED THROUGH HER FLOODED NEIGHBORHOOD to get a ride to work in the pharmacy on the weekend.

- Chris and her family OPENED THEIR HOME to Jenn who lives up the beach and could not get off the island.

- Jenn hunkered down in Hatteras and worked all week straight through the weekend to take care of patients until she could get home ON A BOAT.

- Morghan jumped right back in even though she is ON MATERNITY LEAVE with her precious boys.

- Kim forgot that she is “RETIRED” and worked tirelessly through Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday to keep the lines moving.

- Val continued to keep the front store rolling throughout the chaos with THE SMILE on her face that gives us all hope even when there was no end in sight!
- Hannah took her FIRST FERRY RIDE ever in a vehicle completely packed to the brim to restock the pharmacy.
- 30+ years in the pharmacy, and Marsha REFUSES to slow down, did EVERYTHING that needed to be done, and most importantly, KEPT MATT IN LINE.

It is also important to recognize how much support we received from the community over this past week. This is just a sampling of the people who stepped up and jumped in. There were so many that went above and beyond and we are grateful for each of you.

- Dr. Crabtree for coming in while on his vacation to run crowd control and play bouncer at the door in Avon.
- Aaron Felton for keeping an eye on everything and keeping patients and staff safe.
- While visiting the island ON VACATION from Nebraska, pharmacy owner and Managing Network Facilitator Staci Hubert and husband, Dave, came in and volunteered ALL DAY LONG on Monday running the front register, calling for patients, and offering support in any way possible.
- NCDOT and the Emergency Ferry Workers for their (continuing) tireless efforts to get people and goods on and off the island.
- David Thomas - transporting our daily orders to keep the pharmacy shelves stocked, never knowing what NC12 will have in store for him.
- Sheila Davies, James Wooten, Jessica Nonnemacher - Huge thanks for the coordination from Dare County to prioritize needs and avoid medical emergencies.
- Mike Daugherty and Chicamacomico Banks Fire & Rescue for getting us across the sand again and again.
- Bethany Davis, Heather Jeanette, KinnaSweet Bakery, and everyone else who brought food and sweets to the stores to keep the team going.
- Volunteers who stepped up to help manage traffic and crowd control at both Hatteras and Avon doors
- Our local patients who were gracious and understanding despite the frustrations of increased volume and wait times resulting from the emergency situation.
- Our visiting patients who were gracious and understanding despite the stress of finding themselves in an unplanned emergency situation.”

### **Dredging has restarted in Buxton**

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company announced beach nourishment operations in Buxton resumed following the recent coastal storm, with the dredge *Liberty Island* returning to the project site earlier in the week to begin the remaining work.

Last week, Great Lakes suspended beach nourishment operations ahead of the storm and moved both dredges working on the project—the *Liberty Island* and the *Amelia Island*—to safe harbor as weather and marine conditions deteriorated.

The *Amelia Island* will not return to the project site, and the *Liberty Island* will complete the remainder of the work, which is expected to take approximately seven days to complete once pumping operations are fully underway (weather and marine conditions permitting).

Approximately 250,000 cubic yards of sand remain to be placed along the shoreline in the project area to complete the project.

As a result of the weather-related pause, completion of the Buxton beach nourishment project, previously anticipated by the end of September, is now expected during the first week of October.

Once the project is completed, approximately 2 million cubic yards of sand will have been placed along Buxton's oceanfront beaches from the Haulover Day Use Area to just south of the Buxton Beach Access.

### **Additional news**

Dare County will host a community meeting on **Monday evening, October 5, at 6 o'clock** at the **Fessenden Center in Buxton** to provide residents with information about the one-quarter cent sales tax referendum that will appear on the November 3 General Election ballot. Even though the tax increase dollars go into the general fund, if approved by voters, the sales tax increase is promised by this group of commissioners to provide funding for improvements, renovations and expansions to Dare County Parks and Recreation facilities and fields, supporting projects identified through a countywide recreation assessment and community input. The meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the sales tax referendum and proposed Parks & Recreation improvements. The Fessenden Center is located at 46830 NC Hwy 12, Buxton. For more information and answers to frequently asked questions, visit [DareNC.gov/QuarterCent](http://DareNC.gov/QuarterCent).

**The Cape Hatteras Electric Cooperative** right-of-way contractor Xylem Tree Experts is returning to finish its trimming work in Rodanthe, Waves and Salvo. The crew will start Monday, October 5 in Waves in the area of Sea Vista Drive and in Salvo on Rampart Street. Trimming improves service reliability.

**Cape Hatteras Secondary School's** Middle School, Junior Varsity, and Varsity Lady Hurricanes brought the energy and played some amazing volleyball against Northeast Academy for Aerospace and Advanced Technologies from Elizabeth City.

The Varsity Lady Canes kept everyone on the edge of their seats, battling through five nail-biting sets and coming out with the win! They fought for every point, never gave up, and showed what it means to play with Hurricane pride.

**A new project at Cape Hatteras Elementary** aims to show the school's amazing teachers just how appreciated they are. It's Called Hatteras Heart Project. Themes established are October: "You're crushing it." All things orange: oranges, Reeses, Fanta orange. November: Thankful. All things Brown. Pretzels, Snickers. December. Keeping them warm. Hot cocoa. Coffee. Cookies. Items can be dropped off at the front office.

**Cape Hatteras Secondary School** will honor local veterans and active-duty military personnel during its annual veterans celebration on Friday, Nov. 13.

The event is open to all veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families and will begin at 9 o'clock in the school cafeteria. Veterans will be treated to coffee and breakfast prepared by students in the school's Foods and Nutrition classes.

Following breakfast and fellowship, veterans will join the entire student body for a recognition ceremony at 10 o'clock in the school gymnasium.

The annual program recognizes local veterans who have died during the past year, honors veterans attending the ceremony and recognizes Cape Hatteras Secondary graduates who are currently serving in the U.S. armed forces. Veterans, active-duty military members and their families are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact event coordinator Keith Durham at [durham ke at dare to learn dot org](mailto:keith.durham@ DareCountyNC.gov).

**Stay safe out there. This is Radio Hatteras.**