

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- **STAY OFF THE DUNES.** This is a town ordinance and could result in a fine from KBPD. Please make sure that your guests and renters are aware.
- **Only owners are permitted to have pets.** Renters and guests are not permitted to have pets.
- **Please pick up after your pet.** There are pet waste stations throughout the community for your convenience.
- **Grilling is not permitted on the decks or inside the carports.** The use of a grill within 15 feet of the building is against fire code and will result in a fine. There are several grilling stations located at the picnic and gazebo areas.
- **Extension cords cannot be used when charging golf carts.** This is against the fire code and will result in a fine if an extension cord is found being used.
- **Please make sure all your contact information (including mailing address) is up to date in your CAMS Owners Portal.**
- **OWNER PASSES:** All owners need to have an Ocean Dunes Parking sticker on their vehicle front window on the driver side. For your guests/family we have pink hanging tags. Both of these can be picked up at the Rec Center.
- **RENTER PASSES:** All Renters must be provided with the proper Parking and Rec Center passes. We have specific passes for renters. These can be picked up at the Rec Center.
- **Please remember that CAMS needs to have a key or a code to access your unit in an emergency.** If you change the key or the code, please advise the CAMS on site management team and provide this information.



SHELLO to our newest four flipper neighbors

On July 23rd, an Ocean Dunes owner reported we have a new neighbor to welcome. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to a nest of sea turtles in front of the 1000 building. Now, don't rush over there to shake hands or create excitement, as this new nest of neighbors needs to rest and grow before checking out of the Ocean Dunes Nest in 60 days or less. Their anticipated "due date" would be sometime after September 9th. Until they "check out," let's all make sure they have a fabulous experience at our resort!

I had the opportunity last October, very late for the nesting season, to watch the last sea turtle release on the island last year, and I can say it was an experience of a lifetime! Right before they swam into the ocean, the last few baby sea turtles seemed to look back and tell the Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project team thank you for keeping them safe. Before this event, I adored sea turtles. After watching this release, I felt a responsibility to support this endangered sea creature. While I love our place at Ocean Dunes, I know this area belonged to the sea turtles for millions of years before the first unit was built. I respect the importance of sea turtles in the ecosystem and our place as their protectors.

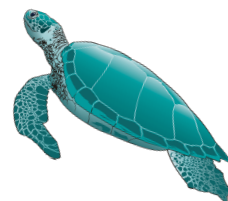
In response to a question on our HOA's Facebook Group, Ocean Dunes Owners Group, I agreed to write an article with facts and tips on how our neighborhood could collectively "shellabrate," protect and save our local sea turtles. Feel free to share this information with renters, as the more we know, the more we can do! Fill the holes you dig, turn off your porch lights, pick up trash, and be ready to welcome our newest Ocean Dunes neighbors in a few short weeks!

- Kim Short (2300 building owner)



Sea Turtle Facts

- Sea turtles have been on the earth for more than 220 million years.
- Sea turtles are an endangered species, so they should be protected.
- Out of 7 known sea turtle species, 5 of them can be found off the coast of North Carolina:
 - Green, Hawksbill, Kemp's Ridley, Leatherback, & Loggerhead
 - The most common sea turtle in our area is the Loggerhead.
 - Loggerhead shells can grow to be 3-4 feet and average 350 pounds.
- Sea turtles spend most of their life in the ocean and underwater, coming onto shore to lay eggs.
- Sea turtles will come back to the same beach where she was born, which means the sea turtle who laid her nest last week has the potential of being a charter Ocean Dunes family member.
- May 17th is annual World Turtle Day (NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher shellabrated this year by hosting fun activities.)
<https://www.wwaytv3.com/nc-aquarium-at-fort-fisher-hosting-world-turtle-day-shellabration/>
- Nesting season in North Carolina is from May to November.
- Each nest can house 80-120 eggs. Females may lay several nests during a season or skip the next season or two.
- Temperature determines the gender of the baby turtles. Females will be born if the temperature of the egg is high and males if the temperature of the egg is low.
- The babies hatch during the night and use moonlight to find their way to the sea.
- Sea turtles will eat a plastic bag because they think it is a jellyfish, which is their favorite snack. This mistake can kill a turtle, as the plastic is not easily digestible to humans or sea turtles.
- Factors that can negatively impact the successful birth and life of a sea turtle: poaching, loss of nesting or feeding areas, accidentally being caught or injured, ocean pollution, and weather changes.
- Sea turtles can live for 70-80 years.





How can we do our part as neighbors to protect sea turtles?

- If you see a nesting turtle, hatchlings, or know of a turtle emergency or stranding, please immediately call the **PISTP Hotline 888.290.1065 (or call 911)**.
 - **PISTP, Pleasure Island Sea Turtle Project**, is a non-profit volunteer organization whose mission is “to ensure the preservation and protection of threatened and Endangered sea turtles, working within federal and state guidelines. Learn more about this organization or how to become a volunteer at <https://seaturtleproject.org/> , or email general questions to pistp@seaturtleproject.org.
- Enjoy building castles, digging holes and pitching umbrellas & tents during the day. However, when you leave before 7PM, fill in the holes and remove all furniture and belongings from the beach. Sea turtles and hatchlings need a smooth surface to nest and to make their first journey to the ocean.
- Remove all trash from the beach. In addition to picking up the beautiful NC seashells, take a bucket with you on your walks and pick up any and all trash, (including cigarette butts and small items). Sea turtles will mistake dangerous human items as a snack.
- Turn off your boat motor if you see a sea turtle nearby. Turtles are likely not swimming alone, and you don't want to injure their shells with the propellers.
- Do not go near, shine a flashlight on, or take pictures with a flash of a nesting sea turtle or her hatchlings. They will become disoriented and may abandon the nest and be unable to find their way to the ocean.
- Keep ocean facing porch lights off at night. Nesting and hatching sea turtles will mistake your porch light for the moon and get lost in the sand and dunes, thinking they are heading to the ocean.
 - **If you are in the 1100 building where a nest is currently located**, please keep your ocean facing lights off starting right after Labor Day and until the nest has hatched.
- If you see signs of a nest getting ready to hatch, you can also call the PISTP Hotline. They will have a team present to protect and support the hatching.

