

# The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

## Mayor's Minute

There is some bad stuff going on in the world these days--a war with ISIS in Syria and Iraq; a fight against Ebola in Africa and now Texas. And, in between sensationalized newscasts about these crises, there is a constant stream of political ads about how bad everything is. We are facing tough issues as a nation and I'm confident we will persevere. But, it's not doom and gloom everywhere. As we head toward the end of 2014, I am happy to report that things are good in Atlantic Beach.

By all indications this summer was one of the busiest in our history. Several local businesses have reported that they had their best season ever and one of our businesses, AB Surf Shop, celebrated its 50th Anniversary. Aside from some heavy traffic on the roads, the town staff handled this huge influx of visitors and seasonal residents without missing a beat. Things are good in Atlantic Beach.

We kicked off this summer with our first annual AB Beach Music Festival and drew thousands of people to the Circle to listen to Beach Music and shag on the hallowed ground of the former Pavilion along the Boardwalk. The bands are already booked for next year's festival. We also set new attendance records at our Seaside Cinema movie nights and in our Junior Lifeguard Program. We hosted many other events in town including two fireworks shows, a surf music festival and the finish of the Tuna Run 200, which brought 1,000 runners to Atlantic Beach in October. Things are good in Atlantic Beach.

Despite historic levels of rainfall from July through September (approximately 50 inches), the major stormwater improvements we have installed in recent years all performed very well. Areas that used to remain flooded for days were dry shortly after a storm. With as much rain as we had, we were bound to discover new problems. We have already addressed a couple of these areas and our engineers are working on solutions for others. Torrential rains are going to cause flooding; they do everywhere in the world. But, our proactive approach to handling stormwater is working and we will continue to address flooding hotspots throughout town. Things are good in Atlantic Beach.

The latest feature at our town park—a splash pad—opened this spring and was a huge success. Every time I passed the park this summer, there were groups of children playing in the water and in the park. The success of the splash pad is a clear affirmation of the Town Council's efforts and future plans to increase family oriented activities at our park. The next phase of the park will be the construction of a skateboard park this winter and we will soon be designing a miniature golf course for the site. If the little ones in your life enjoyed the splash pad, wait until they see what is coming next. Things are good in Atlantic Beach.

After years of inactivity due to a poor economy, things are now happening at the Circle. Important infrastructure has been installed. Lots of public parking has been returned to the streets. Several attractive single family dwellings are going up on the

*continued on page 2*



Fall 2014

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Eddie Briley Councilmember  
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**Board Members**

**Planning Board**

Ray Langley Chairperson  
Larry Burke  
Neil Chamblee  
Steve Joyner  
Norman Livengood  
Llewellyn Ramsey  
Scott Rice

**Board of Adjustment**

John Kurek Chairperson  
David Cox  
John Lotspih  
Vada Palma  
Gary Plough  
Cynthia Chamblee Alternate  
Judy French Alternate

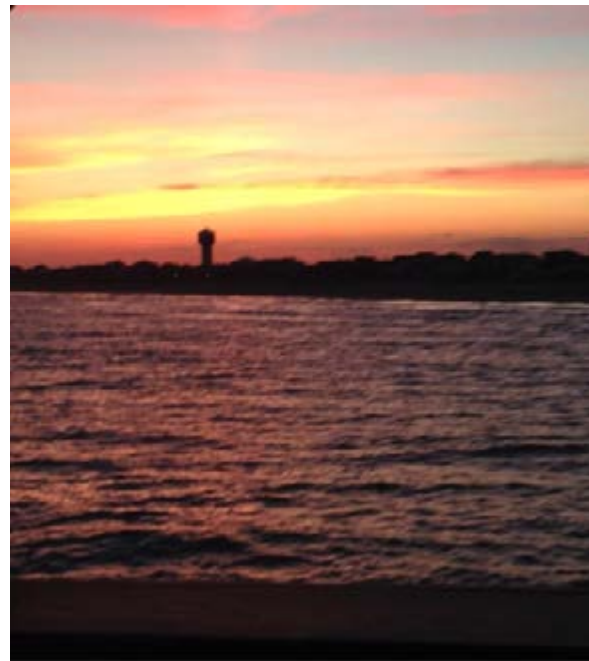


**A**s we enter the holiday season, we can now look back and review the accomplishments of a very active and successful year for the Town. Our tourist season was kicked off by a great first annual Beach Music Festival which saw fantastic crowds return to our Boardwalk to enjoy a day of nostalgia, fun and music for which this Town is known. It's great success assured that it will return again next year. We opened up our Splash Pad at the Town Park and it has proven to be one of the best area attractions for young and old.

Following up on the results of our citizen survey regarding the location of Town facilities, we have begun planning the move of our public works department from its current location behind Town Hall to the west-end water tank site. Once this relocation is completed, we will then establish a new police facility on the old public works site and tie it into the fire station, which will also be receiving extensive renovations. Finally, upon completion of the second phase of work, the current town hall building will be remodeled at its present site for administrative, utility, and planning and inspection use. This entire process may take as long as several years to complete.

We were successful in continuing to acquire state grants for the renovation of two more beach access locations and await the results of a grant for site improvements at the bridge abutment entrance into the Town for better use of this water access site. We continue to install storm drainage projects around the Town, and have more on the drawing board as we receive the permits required to bring relief to the pockets of flooded areas.

We were successful at obtaining Carteret County Commissioners funding commitments towards the Master Plan of improvements at our Town Park, and our next phase will be construction of a modern skate park facility. After a long dormant period we are finally seeing new construction take place at the Circle, as well as a mini-building boom throughout the town.



We will end the year by bringing back a night Christmas parade around the Circle and Town Christmas Tree with the theme of “Light Up the Night” and encourage local participation by the decoration of boats, autos and trucks for a great visual display of local pride and festivity. We will then cap off the year's end with a bonfire, music and celebrations.

Here's hoping you have had a great year as well. Your Council, employees and staff will spend the winter months of the “off season” lining up the planning and projects needed to make next year even better.

See you on the beach!

David Walker  
Town Manager

## Mayor's Message con't.

edges of the neighborhood and will bring new residents and visitors alike to our “downtown”. New commercial development is also underway at the Circle with two new restaurants currently under construction which we hope will pave the way for more shops, restaurants and nightlife in the heart of our town. Things are good in Atlantic Beach.

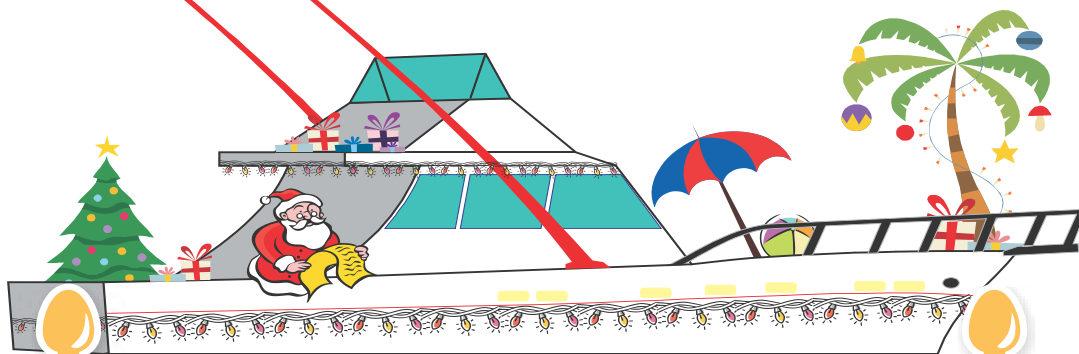
2014 was a great year for your beach town. Your town staff and Town Council continue to do an amazing job. I truly appreciate you making Atlantic Beach your beach and I am excited for next year. Things are good in Atlantic Beach, and they are getting even better.

A.B. “Trace” Cooper, III  
Mayor



EIGHTH ANNUAL

# Christmas in Atlantic Beach



## LIGHT UP *the* NIGHT

### ATLANTIC BEACH CHRISTMAS PARADE

Show your Christmas Spirit by decorating and lighting up the night with boats, floats, cars and trucks.

**SATURDAY**

## DECEMBER 6th

**at 6PM**

PARADE ROUTE IS FROM DUNES CLUB WEST DOWN FORT MACON ROAD  
AND AROUND THE CIRCLE

**Santa will meet kids after parade at AB Fire Department.**

Join in the Crystal Coast Countdown



SMOKE ON THE WATER  
**ANNUAL BON FIRE**  
with SELAH DUBB

MONDAY

**DECEMBER 29**

6-8PM at the CIRCLE



ANNUAL  
**PENGUIN PLUNGE**

THURSDAY

**JANUARY 1**

1PM at the CIRCLE

FOR PARADE ENTRY INFORMATION : [events@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:events@atlanticbeach-nc.com) or 252 725 2808



# Things are Good in Atlantic Beach



# Things are Good in Atlantic Beach





## Fire Department Unveils World Trade Center Memorial

The fire department officially unveiled its World Trade Center 9/11 Memorial on September 11, 2014. The piece of World Trade Center steel is 3 feet by 8 feet long and weighs 2,200 lbs. The memorial is located in front of the Atlantic Beach Fire Department for all to visit and view. The acquiring of this steel was a two-year project for the fire department. Chief Snyder and two of his personnel drove to JFK Airport, New York City, to pick up the piece of steel. The Town is very fortunate to have such a tragic piece of American history that will ensure that we will never forget the senseless loss of life and the acts of heroism that took place on September 11, 2001. Please stop by and visit the piece of steel as it is displayed 24 hours a day in front of the fire station.



## 2014 Paid Parking Program a Success!

The 2014 paid parking summer season was a success. The Town served 13,528 vehicles with paid parking. With the influx of rain experienced this summer, we fell short of our annual trend of exceeding \$100,000 in revenue, but came in close at over \$97,000.

- \$86,301 paid parking
- \$7,550 seasonal parking sticker sales
- \$3,300 parking violation fees collected

**Gross Revenue: \$97,151**

These funds equate to a savings of more than 1/2 of a cent on the tax rate which assists in paying for user-based seasonal activities such as: seasonal lifeguard program; beach and beach access maintenance and janitorial services; free weekly Seaside Cinema movies; Memorial Day fireworks and July 4th fireworks.

All the funds raised from visitors allows locals to park at no charge with passes or stickers and relieves the burden of these programs costs from local taxpayers.

## Greetings from the New Chief of Police

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met. My name is Jeff Harvey and for the past month I have had the distinct pleasure of serving as your new Police Chief. I am humbled that Atlantic Beach was the first Police Department to hire me as a patrol officer back in 1999 and that it is this same department through which I have progressed to Lead Investigator, Deputy Chief, and now, Chief.

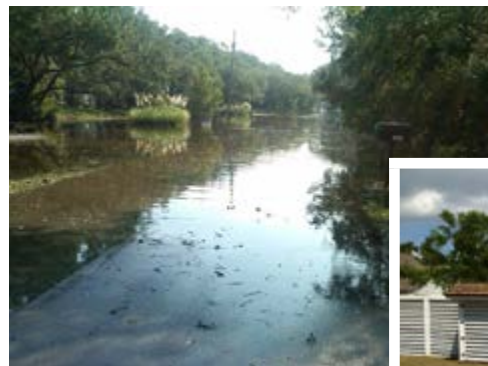


To the property owners, residents, business owners/workers, and visitors of this town I have not yet had the pleasure to meet, I look forward to making your acquaintance and working with you. I have an open door policy and if I, on behalf of the Police Department, can help or assist you in any way, please feel free to stop in or give me a call. The Police Department is located right next to the Town Hall at 125 West Fort Macon Road and the phone number here is (252) 726-2523.

## Hoop Pole Creek and Mobile Drive Drainage Projects Completed

The Atlantic Beach Town Council approved two storm drainage projects for the Hoop Pole Creek drainage area and the Mobile Drive drainage basin. Both projects have been completed and will bring some long-sought relief to the flooding problems.

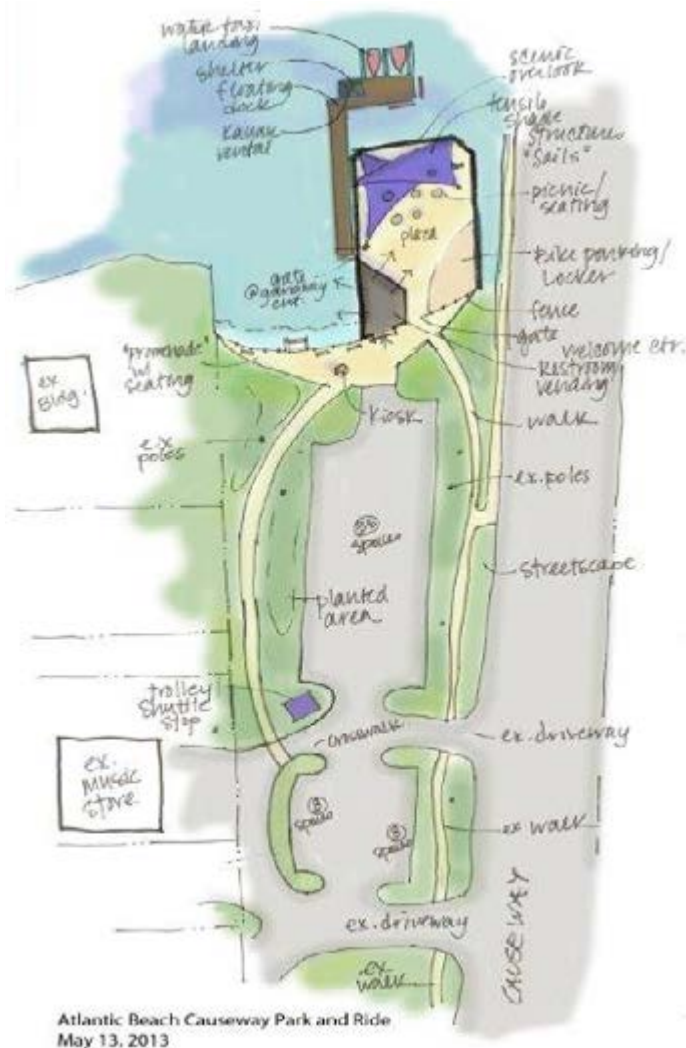
These drainage basins rate as some of the worst flooding areas in Atlantic Beach and the Town has searched for a solution over the past twenty years. Unfortunately, coastal environmental rules prohibit numerous options that are available to inland towns. We have recently completed several engineering projects to bring flood relief to other areas of Town. These projects are very expensive, but it is our goal to fund and accomplish many of them over the next few years.





## Bridge Abutment Improvements

The Town is currently pursuing a grant from the Division of Coastal Management to start the first of a three-phase project to improve the appearance and function of the former NCDOT bridge abutment to the southwest of the bridge. A lease agreement was obtained from the Department of Transportation last year that allows the Town to make these improvements. The first phase of the project would install 32 parking spaces and nine boat trailer parking spaces on-site to be used in association with the Moonlight Drive Boat Ramp (and as a parking area for those wishing to fish or cycle.) The second phase includes an improved fishing area, shade structures, public art, bicycle racks, landscaping and a “Welcome to Atlantic Beach” sign feature. We are optimistic that this project will fulfill several of the Council’s 2014 goals, including improving the appearance of the business district, adding recreational features and providing more parking for boat trailers. The projects received only positive comments from the public when presented at the September Council meeting.



## Atlantic Beach Skate Park



The skate park facility is in the final stages of being designed. When completed, we will launch a sponsorship campaign for private and corporate donations. The Carteret County Commissioners have approved \$200,000 per year commitment for three years towards the implementation of features in the AB Town Park Master Plan.

## Beach Access Improvements

The Town is pleased to announce the completion of our newest beach access to the west of Money Island Drive on Glenn Street. The access opened in time for use by residents and visitors this summer. Funding for this beach access was provided by a 2013 grant from the Division of Coastal Managements CAMA Public Access Program. We are also fortunate to have received funding from the same program in 2014 to complete a total renovation of the existing beach access at the end of Charlotte Avenue. This access was in disrepair and will be completely replaced by the end of the year. We hope to obtain funding to replace the beach access to the west of the Double Tree Hotel in the next round of funding.





**Town of Atlantic Beach**

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[www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SECOND ANNUAL ATLANTIC BEACH**

# **BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**SAT., MAY 16, 2015** ATLANTIC BEACH, NC  
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

**AT THE CIRCLE ALONG THE BOARDWALK**

★ ★ FEATURING ★ ★

**THE LEGENDARY**

## **BAND OF OZ**

**THE HOLIDAY BAND + THE FANTASTIC SHAKERS**  
**THE MIGHTY SAINTS OF SOUL**

• MASTER OF CEREMONIES • **JOHN MOORE**

**For Sponsorship info contact: [events@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:events@atlanticbeach-nc.com) or (252) 725-2808**