

The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Mayor's Minute

When you live at the beach, all winters feel like long winters. This year was no exception. So, I am excited for the arrival of our summer season -- not just because I love being on the beach and on the water, but also because some of things we have been working on at Town Hall will be rolling out in the next few months. We are continuing some of the newer events we have created and adding some amenities that should make time spent in Atlantic Beach more enjoyable for residents and visitors alike.

Our second annual AB Beach Music Festival will take place on May 16, the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend and we are geared up for another spectacular event. Last year's festival went so well that the sponsors from our community have stepped up this year to fund the entire cost of the festival. Your Town Council and staff are committed to making the festival a long-running annual event, and this goal is a lot easier to achieve with the generous support of the individuals and businesses that buy sponsorships. Another new tradition in Atlantic Beach will also continue this summer as we enter the sixth year of our Summer Cinema Series of free family movie nights along the Boardwalk at the Circle.

We have programmed events like those listed above at the Circle in hopes of keeping our main beach and Boardwalk in people's minds as the neighborhood works its way through a period of redevelopment. This winter has seen a surge in activity in the neighborhood and you'll find lots of new construction in the area including two new restaurants and several vacation rental cottages. In addition, we'll be launching a program that will bring food trucks and food carts to the Boardwalk for the summer to make sure there is plenty to do for residents and visitors alike.

We will soon be unveiling a new Town web site that will be a great resource for visitors and residents. For visitors, it will have comprehensive listings of places to eat, stay and shop. For residents, it will have all the Town info you need plus a calendar of events that will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in Town. The newly designed site is the next step in our Town branding initiative that will help communicate the classic, small beach town character of Atlantic Beach.

In addition to a new face on the internet in the digital world, we are launching a new initiative this summer to improve the looks of our Town in the real world. We are forming a committee to meet throughout the summer to develop a plan to beautify Atlantic Beach and improve our streetscapes. If you are interested in participating in this process, please contact me via e-mail at tcooper@atlanticbeach-nc.com.

We are also forming a committee to help bring more arts-oriented events to Atlantic Beach. Whether its local artists displaying their works along the Boardwalk or a Shakespeare by the Sea Festival, we have the opportunity to do some pretty cool things at the beach. Again, e-mail me if you are interested in participating.

I never like to see a summer end in Atlantic Beach, but this year may be different. We have a huge expansion planned for our Town Park that will include our amazing

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Spring 2015

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

Find us on Facebook



Mayor
A. B. “Trace” Cooper, III
(252) 222-0033
tcooper@atlanticbeach-nc.com



Manager's Message

The warm weather always brings a welcome rush of activity as we gear up for another summer season. During the past winter months all our departments have been very busy getting numerous projects completed and ready for the return of all our local, seasonal residents and tourists that fill up the 5,000 households in our beach town. We are proud to have completed two new beach access structures at Money Island Drive and Charlotte Avenue using state grants; and we are in the planning stage to obtain grants for our access on the west side of the Double Tree Hilton and Dunes Avenue locations. Our Fire Department has been upgraded to a Class 3 fire rating by the state (the best of any department in Carteret County) which should help on homeowners insurance rates.

The Town staff continues to reel in grants for major projects. We have received a \$73,000 grant for Phase I of the enhancements to improve the looks and use of the Bridge Abutment entrance to the Town. We received a \$50,000 grant to match our own funds to continue maintenance dredging of the main boating channels outward to the ICW. We vastly improved the main outlet that drains stormwater in the west end of Town to Hoop Pole Creek and brought relief to many residents from flooding issues during heavy rains. We will soon install drainage improvements on Moonlight Drive, and hope to begin a major project on Old Causeway this fall.

Coming off the recent County property tax re-valuations that saw our values drop (as did all local island Towns' values), staff presented a budget to Council that passes through a five percent tax decrease by maintaining the current tax rate, instead of raising it to generate last year's levy.

We have followed through on citizen's requests for family events with a full slate of activities. Our popular Wednesday night seaside movies will return, with a doubleheader during July 4th week. To welcome you back for the summer we have Memorial Day weekend fireworks. The July 4th fireworks will include a special outdoor performance by the forty-member 572nd Air Force band. We will celebrate the one year anniversary and re-opening of our Splashpad with another Saturday in the Park family fun day.

We were totally delighted with the positive response to last year's Beach Music Festival. Thanks to the overwhelming response of many civic-minded businesses who want to show support for our Town, this year's event returns and is totally paid for by their sponsorships.

All these projects and activities are combined efforts of the leadership and support of the Mayor and Council to all departments and staff, and most of all, to the support of our fine citizens. Here's wishing you the best for a great Summer of 2015. Spend your days making some memories that you can recall years from now with the phrase, "Do you remember that time at Atlantic Beach when.....?"

David Walker
Town Manager



Mayor's Message con't.

Skateboard Park and 18 holes of miniature golf. The addition of the Splashpad at the park last year was so well received that your Town Council has decided to accelerate the development of the park to combine two-year's worth of projects into one this fall. So, this time next year, we'll be able to announce that we've successfully turned around a decade long decline in family-oriented entertainment in Atlantic Beach.

A.B. "Trace" Cooper, III
Mayor

Councilmembers

Danny Navey Mayor Pro Tem
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Harry Archer Councilmember
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Ann Batt Councilmember
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Eddie Briley Councilmember
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Board Members

Planning Board

Ray Langley Chairperson
Neil Chamblee
Richard Johnson
Steve Joyner
Norman Livengood
Llewellyn Ramsey
Curt Winbourne

Board of Adjustment

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



ABFD Receives First ISO Class 3 Fire Rating; Best Rating Within Carteret County

The Fire Department has been assigned a new ISO rating -- Class 3. Atlantic Beach becomes the first and only municipal department in Carteret County to gain this distinction. This puts Atlantic Beach in the same fire rating category as the much larger North Carolina cities of Raleigh and Asheville. Our homeowners may receive a savings in their fire insurance premiums based upon this improved grade. The ratings are used to determine the Department's ability to provide adequate fire suppression to the community, based on personnel staffing, training, equipment, preparedness and response against National Standards. The scale ranges from Class I (the highest level) to a Class 10 (non-protected). Atlantic Beach was previously a Class 4. The department provides year-round Fire/EMS to over 5,000 households in the Town where population swells to 50,000 during peak summer periods.



2015 Excellent Audit Award

The Town of Atlantic Beach received a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the fifteenth consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report ending June 30, 2014. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Our Auditor also reported a "Clean Audit Report" on the Town's financial management for FY14-15 budget of \$6,855,250. Less than one-third of the governmental units in North Carolina receive this designation.



Street Lighting System Goes All LED

Working with Duke Energy Progress, we have completed changing all of the Town's streetlights to LEDs. Not only will this improve visibility and save energy with a brighter LED fixture but it will result in reducing our annual streetlight costs by approximately six thousand dollars (\$6,000) per year, a 10% savings! With this changeover, Atlantic Beach becomes the first Town in the county to go all LED with its streetlight system.





\$90,000 Beach Access Grants

The Town continues to be successful in obtaining Water Access Grants from the Division of Coastal Management. Last year we finished the construction of the beach accesses on Glenn Street (known as the West Money Island Access) with \$22,972 of state funding and Charlotte Avenue with \$66,532 of funds from this program. In future rounds of funding we anticipate construction of new beach accesses on Dunes Avenue and to the west of the DoubleTree Hotel.



Atlantic Beach Bridge Enhancement Grant: \$73,000

Earlier this year we received funds to construct the first of three phases of improvements at the former bridge abutment in which the state contributed \$72,699. Late this summer you will see this phase initiated with the installation of pervious parking and some landscaping. The new parking will accommodate parking for 10 vehicles with boat trailers as well as 17 regular traditional spaces. In the future rounds of funding we anticipate proceeding with a wrap-around wharf.





Summer Traffic Safety

The much anticipated summer season is finally here! The Police Department wants to ensure that all of our guests have a safe and happy summer. As with every summer season, our roadways will soon be bustling with vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Please keep in mind these traffic safety tips as you move from one fun activity to the next:



1. Drive defensively: Be aware of your surroundings and look at the roadway ahead of you.
2. Avoid distracted driving: NO texting while driving. Keep your eyes on the road.
3. Go the speed limit: The speed limit is designed to keep traffic moving while maintaining a safe speed so that drivers may have more time to react to situations that occur.
4. Watch for pedestrians: We have numerous crosswalks located throughout Town; some are operated by traffic signals and others just posted signs. It is a state law that pedestrians crossing in a crosswalk be given the right of way (N.C.G.S. § 20-173.)
5. Speed Limit: Effective March 15th the seasonal speed limit on the east and west ends of Highway 58 (Fort Macon Road) in Atlantic Beach was lowered from 45 MPH to 35 MPH.

National Night Out: Tuesday, August 4th

The Police Department would once again like to extend an invitation to all residents and visitors to join them, the Mayor, Town Council, and Town Manager for Atlantic Beach's annual National Night Out celebration. This year's event will be held at the Town Park, located at 915 W. Ft. Macon Rd., from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on August 4th and will feature bouncy-houses, music, free food, and prize giveaways.





Town of Atlantic Beach 2015 Parking Program Outline

Atlantic Beach will implement a paid public parking program with pay stations at several locations of beachfront parking spaces for the 2015 summer season. Last year, this program derived over \$100,000 from over 13,000 cars. This saves almost one cent on the tax rate.

Purpose:

To generate funds for beach services which include: a 7-day-a-week, paid summer lifeguard program which was affected by the withdrawal of annual lifeguard-funding contributions by the county, the operation and maintenance of three public beach access bathhouses, daily garbage/refuse pickup and disposal along a five-mile beachfront and various free summer recreation programs activities like the Atlantic Beach Music Festival, the Memorial Day and July Fourth Fireworks; the family outdoor movie nights and the traffic safety enforcement for a summer population that approaches 50,000. These funds ensure that such tourist-related beach services are not fully subsidized by the local property taxpayers.

Schedule and Rates:

- Paid parking program runs from May 16, 2015 through Labor Day
- Daily from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Pay Stations: \$1/hour paid parking using parking stations, accepting credit cards/debit cards only
- Gravel lot across from Pavilion lot: Paid parking on holidays and weekends; \$10/day or \$5 after 2:00 pm
- Any cars in paid lots or parking spaces at beginning of parking day hours will be ticketed if not paid
- No refunds for rain-outs
- Free parking with valid Handicap or Disabled Veteran tag/plates

Paid Parking Areas:

New Bern Avenue Beach Access, West Boardwalk CAMA Lot, Boardwalk Pavilion Lot, Inner Circle Gravel Lot, marked spaces along West Drive, Atlantic Blvd., and East Drive.

Atlantic Beach Property Owners: *Free Parking* with display of a Town Hurricane Re-Entry Pass *on dashboard*.

Atlantic Beach Renters: *1 free season pass* with proof of Atlantic Beach residence (utility/CATV bill, or NCDL) may be obtained from Town Hall during normal business hours. Sticker must be adhered to windshield.

Non-Resident Season Pass: \$50 each; pass may be purchased at Town Hall during normal business hours and must be adhered to windshield.

The program is under the guidance and enforcement by the Atlantic Beach Police Department (ABPD.)





Do You Have Your Hurricane Re-Entry Pass?

As June draws near, we enter another Hurricane Season. The following reminders will ensure that if there is a severe weather event, you and your property stay as safe as possible.

Atlantic Beach Re-Entry Permits: Passes may also be used as parking permits when displayed on a vehicle's dashboard within Town paid parking areas.

1. Please make sure you know where your re-entry passes and any other important documents are on your first visit of the summer. Do not wait until a storm approaches to try and find these items. Should you be asked to evacuate you will need these passes to regain entry to your property in Atlantic Beach after the storm passes and officials declare it safe for property and business owners to return. If you have misplaced or lost your passes you may purchase another one by following the procedures listed below.

2. Permits will only be issued Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm at Town Hall. No permits will be issued or mailed 24 hours before projected landfall.

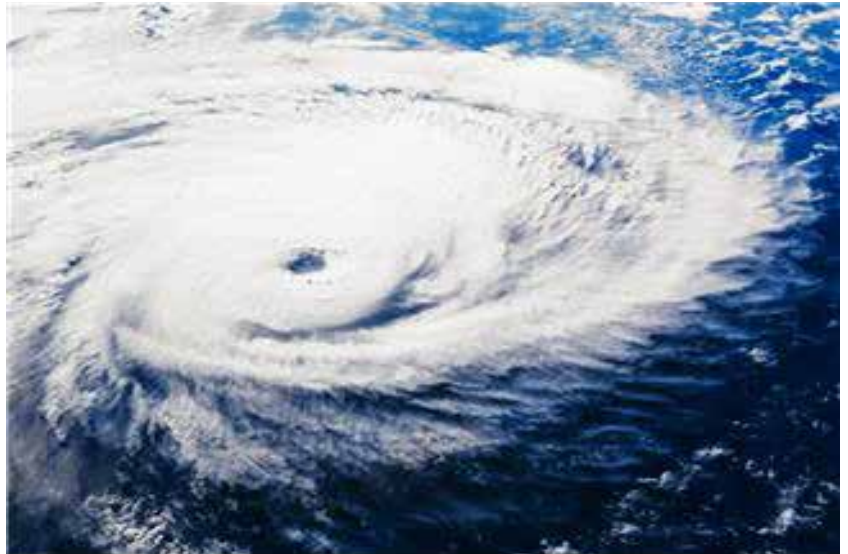
3. Re-entry permit applications must be completed in their entirety for each parcel number, whether for real or personal property, and for each business in Atlantic Beach. Applications will be kept on file at Town Hall and cross referenced with each assigned permit issued.

4. Re-entry permits are permanent permits and will not be re-issued each year.

5. Additional permits can be purchased for \$25 per additional permit. Torn or worn permits that need to be replaced can be brought to Town Hall for replacement without charge.

6. Once property or business owners receive their two permits, they may give those permits to any individual(s) of their choosing (who may be in a better geographic position to check on property after a storm) or an additional permit can be purchased for that specific purpose.

7. Permits are assigned to specific parcel numbers and all permits will be transferred at closing or at the transferring of the title. This is as important as receiving the keys, parking passes, or gate control cards at closing. If two permits have previously been assigned to the parcel number, the new owner will be charged the \$25 fee for each replacement permit requested. Remember, the permits are assigned numerically and cross referenced to the specific parcel number matching the applications on file.





\$50,000 Water Resources Development Grant for Dredging

The Town received a Water Resources Development Grant from the State for \$50,000 to assist with the dredging costs of our annual channel maintenance program. The submission was endorsed by the Town's Dredging Committee, which recommends areas to be dredged to the Town Council. Funds will assist in paying for dredging the Causeway, New Causeway, Anchorage, Royal and Triple Ess Channels. This is nearly 4,000 cubic yards of dredging materials through October 2015.



Drainage Projects

We are pleased to inform you that the Atlantic Beach Town Council has recently approved two storm drainage projects, which will bring some long-sought relief to the flooding problems in the Moonlight Drive area and the Old Causeway/Pond Drive drainage basin. The Moonlight Drive project is in the final phase of permitting, a contract has been awarded and we expect the project to be completed prior to Memorial Day. The Old Causeway/Pond Drive project is in the final design phase. The contract will be awarded this summer and construction will start after Labor Day.

Our staff and engineers were able to design a system that uses gravity and pumps to move the stormwater from the flooding areas to the discharge areas. Both of these drainage projects will utilize vegetated swales that act as filters prior to the stormwater being discharged into the canals. We feel that these projects will offer significant relief immediately upon completion.

These drainage areas rate as some of the worst flooding areas in Atlantic Beach and the Town has searched for a solution for a long time. Unfortunately, coastal environmental rules prohibit most options available to inland towns. It is the Town's goal to fund and accomplish many of these projects over the next several years.





How Safe is Your Porch or Deck?

Spring into action this year by making an inspection on your existing deck and let's make sure it is safe for your family this season. Unfortunately decks have been a source of accidents due to overloading.

Decks are great. You barbecue, invite people over, let the kids play, and we never think twice about it; we assume it's safe. But people get hurt, even killed, because many decks aren't built right or rotting wood, rusted fasteners are falling apart right under your feet. It happens in a split second. You step onto your backyard deck and it comes crashing down; no time to escape, no warning at all. You just never think the floor is going to come out from underneath you.

So could your deck be in danger too? Here are the red flags you can spot right now.

The very first thing you want to look at is where your deck attaches to the house. If all you see is nails, then you have a problem because your deck is not up to building codes. Using nails is a leading cause of deck collapses. "A nail is smooth and pulls out very easy." Through bolts are required.

Now is the time to hire a licensed contractor to build your deck or make repairs.

Death from deck accidents are rare, but injuries are common and can be very serious. By the way, deck railings can be just as dangerous if they're wobbly. Every summer people end up in the hospital, from railing breaking loose from the deck.

Check your deck once a year; that's all it takes. Get under there and make sure you see bolts and joist hangers that are not rusted. It only takes a few minutes.

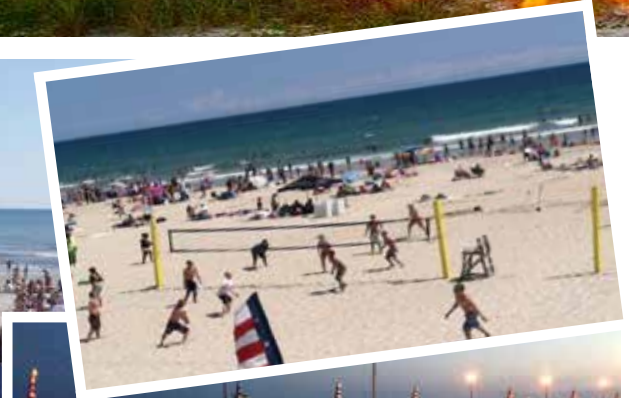


Building Boom Returns to Atlantic Beach

During the current fiscal year we exceeded our forecasted permits within the first 60 days! Currently our fees are setting a record, a sure sign that the building boom from the seven year recession has rebounded.

Fiscal Year	# of Permits	Permit Fees	Valuation
2009/10	1310	\$135,331	\$6,194,818
2010/11	1119	\$149,611	\$9,432,621
2011/12	1178	\$128,309	\$13,140,575
2012/13	1433	\$169,258	\$13,656,722
2013/14	1409	\$181,435	\$16,117,839
*2014/15	1696	\$335,084	\$16,720,140
*FY ends 6/30/15			





SECOND ANNUAL ATLANTIC BEACH BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL

SAT., MAY 16, 2015
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

AT THE CIRCLE ALONG THE BOARDWALK
ATLANTIC BEACH, NC



Thanks to these Sponsors who Love Beach Music...

PLATINUM

Kurtis Chevrolet

GOLD

Atlantic Beach Realty
Atlantic Beach Surf Shop
Atlantic Beach Taxi
Bojangles
Channel Marker Restaurant

Chalk & Gibbs
Coldwell Banker Spectrum Properties
Covington Vodka
Craft Law Offices

The Grove
Festiva
Idle Hour Biergarten
Island Inn of AB

Memories Beach Club
Southern Corrosion
Thomas Simpson Const.
Phyllis Smith

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Duke Energy
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Pam Bird, REALTOR
SCA Collections, Inc.
Sandi's Beachwear

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Tackle Box Tavern

BRONZE

70 West Veterinary Hospital
Alan Shelor Real Estate
Amos Mosquito's Restaurant
Atlantic Holst & Crane
Cannon & Gruber, REALTORS
Carteret Cab
Clamdigger Inn & Restaurant

Cold Stone Creamery
Dank Burrito
Davis Beachwear
Dallas Goodwin, REALTOR
Craig and Terry Griffin
Pamela Hanson
The Insurance Center
KHP Music/Bill Mason

Kona Ice
Little Caesars Pizza
Cheryl Mitchell
OBX Garage Doors
OuterBanks Express
Vada Palma
Pepsi/Minges Bottling Group
Resort Grill

Sea of Greed Book—L. McCullough
SeaHawk Inn & Villas
Barbara A. Smith—Farm Bureau
Tricia Smith/Catherine Reid, REALTORS
Sound Bank
Stevie Levy Shuffle
www.timnewtonautosales.com



SUMMER 2015

Saturday in the Park, May 9th 11 am - 3 pm
Beach Music Festival, May 16th 11 am - 6 pm

 **Sunday, May 24 Memorial Day Fireworks 9:00 pm** 

June 10 Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory

June 17 Hook

June 24 Jurassic Park

July 1 Into the Woods

July 2 Jaws

July 8 Annie (2014)

July 15 Paddington

July 22 Big Hero 6

July 29 Frozen

August 5 Dolphin Tale 2

August 12 The Wizard of Oz



Wednesday Movie Nights at the Circle 8:30 pm

Bring a chair or blanket

Rain Date: Thursday Nights

July 4th
Fireworks at 9:00 pm
with 572nd Air Force Band
"Band of the South"
7:00 - 9:00 pm at the Circle





Town of Atlantic Beach

PO Box 10

Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

2nd Annual
Beach Music Festival

Saturday May 16th 2015

**The Band of Oz
The Holiday Band
The Fantastic Shakers
The Mighty Saints of Soul**



At the Circle, along the Boardwalk

FREE ADMISSION • 11:00 am - 6:00 pm
NO GLASS • NO PETS

Atlantic BEACH