

The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Mayor's Minute

Operating a beach town is a little different than doing so inland. Some of the differences are evident in the projects that we will be working on this winter.

While every town must address the needs of its residents and homeowners, Atlantic Beach is a vacation destination which means we also have to be conscience of the need to attract new visitors to our area each year. Many of our current full-time residents discovered Atlantic Beach when they were vacationing here. We need to continue to attract visitors who are interested in what we offer in Atlantic Beach—a classic, small town beach. We will soon be launching an important tool to help with that endeavor - a new town website.

We have been working on the new site for several months and when it launches you will see that it is more than just a place to go to pay your water bill or get a copy of a building permit application. Much of the site will be dedicated to information that will be useful for visitors and residents alike. These sections will feature event calendars and listings of places where you can stay, eat, shop, and play. Few cities use their municipal websites as a tool to help promote themselves as a vacation destination. But, since any Google search for “Atlantic Beach, NC” will list our town site first, we need to use our site to help show off what our town has to offer. You’ll still be able to find all relevant municipal information on the site, but in a much more user friendly format.

Another area in which beach towns differ from mainland towns is Parks & Recreation. While many inland towns support Parks & Recreation through the construction of soccer fields and baseball diamonds, a beach town has to take a different approach. We have been working for a few years on improving the first Town Park in Atlantic Beach and the coming year will be a time of big steps forward that will illustrate the difference in our approach. The next major improvement at the park will be the construction of a skateboard park, which was one of the amenities that was most requested in citizen and visitor surveys and seems right at home in a town with a long history of surfing and skateboarding. Following the skateboard park, we plan to build an 18-hole miniature golf course at the park. Again, this is a feature that may seem out of place at a town park on the mainland. But, in a beach town, Putt Putt Golf is a time honored tradition for families and it is something we need to bring back to Atlantic Beach.

For those of you who don't spend as much time at the beach during the winter, we look forward to seeing you again in the spring and hope that all of the improvements we'll be making this winter are ready and waiting for you when you return. For those of you who are here year-long, I look forward to seeing you out on the beach on one of these magical autumn evenings where you can see the moon high in the sky at the same time as the sun sets brilliantly into the ocean. It is good to be at the beach.

A.B. “Trace” Cooper, III
Mayor



Join Our Email List
by sending request to:
townclerk@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Fall 2015

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

Find us on Facebook





2015 Atlantic Beach Goals Status Report

• **Enhance Town Services & Operations**

- ✓ FY15-16 budget adopted with 5% tax cut
- ✓ New online customer friendly planning and inspections software upgrades
- ✓ New water billing software
- ✓ New digital council meeting/minutes software installed
- ✓ Town Audit/Financial Report receives 15th consecutive annual award
- ✓ Police Department receives bulletproof vests grant
- ✓ ABPD Marine Patrol acquires new boat
- ✓ 2015 Jr. Lifeguard Program a success
- ✓ New updated website design completed
- ✓ 2015 Paid Parking program initiates digital payments kiosks: \$120,000 on 30,000 vehicles, highest in five years

• **Infrastructure**

Water Utility Upgrades

- ✓ New 1 mgd water supply well designed/installation soon to begin
- ✓ Online SCADA pumping/monitoring system designed/installation pending
- ✓ ARM automated meter reading: 2200 of 2800 thirty year old meters change-out complete; resulting in significant water loss decrease and revenue increase
- ✓ West end Public Works building relocation: Preliminary design/permitting underway

• **Storm Water Projects**

- ✓ Fifth year of townwide storm drainage program
- ✓ Old Causeway/Pond Drive and Cedar/Durham storm water projects surveyed
- ✓ West end ditch drainage improvement complete
- ✓ Coastal Mobile Home Estates/Lee Street drainage improvements complete
- ✓ Moonlight Bay Drive storm drainage improvement complete

• **Dredging Program**

- ✓ AB receives \$50,000 state dredging grant
- ✓ Local channels to the ICW receive spring and fall dredging projects

• **Town Staff Professional Development**

- ✓ Over 50% of police personnel receive state Advanced certification
- ✓ Over 50% of fire personnel certified as EMS Paramedics
- ✓ Professional training and increased State Certifications achieved in all departments

• **Entertainment**

- ✓ AB Beach Music Festival: great success, 2nd year event, 100% paid by sponsors
- ✓ Town Park master plan/skate park: receives 2nd year of three-year County allocation, design complete, corporate sponsorships and bids pending
- ✓ Food truck vendors: 2015 season completed on Boardwalk
- ✓ Saturday in the Park: 2nd annual event a success
- ✓ Memorial Day Summer Kickoff & July 4th fireworks enjoyed by thousands
- ✓ Fifth summer family boardwalk movie nights a success
- ✓ Regional and statewide events return to the Circle
- ✓ 2015 National Night Out a success
- ✓ 2015 Christmas Parade plans underway
- ✓ 2015 New Year's Crystal Coast Countdown Boardwalk Bonfire plans underway

• **Water Access**

Beach Access Improvements

- ✓ Dunes Avenue and east Double Tree designs completed/pending state grants
- ✓ Money Island/Charlotte Avenue beach accesses completed; funded by \$100,000 NC state grants

Bridge Abutment Enhancement

- ✓ Project awarded \$88,000 NC state grant
- ✓ Phase 1 parking/landscape enhancements underway

• **Branding Initiative**

New town logo/Wayfaring signage

- ✓ Town welcome signs installed
- ✓ Street banners installed
- ✓ New water tower logos installed
- ✓ Digital signboard installation pending

• **Park Improvements**

- ✓ Installation of town park entrance fountain
- ✓ Demolition of Food Lion complex underway
- ✓ Putt-putt facility RFQ initiated

• **Town's Appearance**

- ✓ AB first town in County to install LED street lights, results in 10% annual savings
- ✓ Town submits FEMA grant project application - voluntary elevation of flood prone houses

Respectfully submitted: David R. Walker, Town Manager

Mayor

A. B. "Trace" Cooper, III

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Councilmembers

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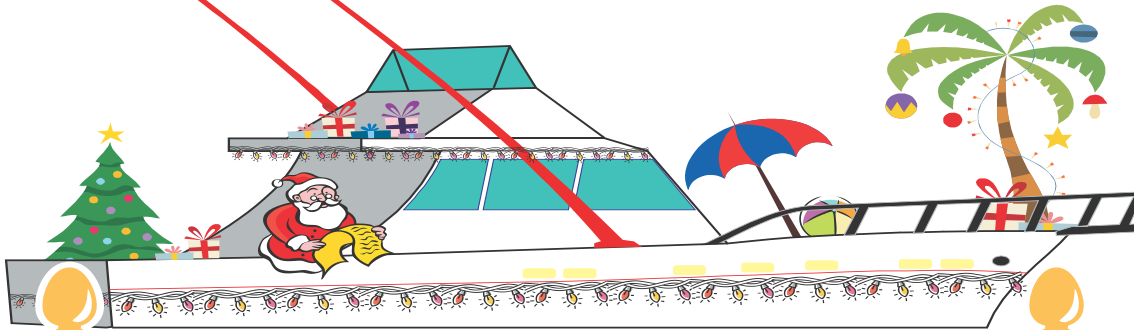
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NINTH ANNUAL

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 5th

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 BONFIRE
with LIVE MUSIC
WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 30
6-8PM at the CIRCLE



ANNUAL
PENGUIN PLUNGE
FRIDAY
JANUARY 1
1PM at the CIRCLE

FOR PARADE ENTRY INFORMATION: townclerk@atlanticbeach-nc.com





Town of Atlantic Beach

PO Box 10

Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

SAVE THE DATE!

3rd Annual

AB Beach Music Festival

Saturday, May 21, 2016

Atlantic Beach Boardwalk 11 am - 6 pm



Holiday Band

Band of Oz

Fantastic Shakers

Mighty Saints of Soul



For Sponsorship info contact: events@atlanticbeach-nc.com

