

The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

Mayor's Minute

Being Mayor of a Town like Atlantic Beach is a pretty good gig. As a resort destination, we're fortunate to have a strong tax base and a low crime rate that comes with living in a beach community like ours. But, despite living on an island, we do not operate in a vacuum.

The issues facing police departments nationwide affect all communities and all police departments. This summer, shortly after the killings of police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge, I asked one of our Atlantic Beach police officers how he was holding up. This officer, who has worked in a department in a large city, shook his head in near disbelief and said something along the lines of, "I haven't been able to pay for my own lunch all week."

He relayed how citizens had been expressing their support for him and his fellow officers and often insisting on buying them lunch when they were in local restaurants. Later, as I was driving down Highway 58, I noticed a sign at the Island Inn near Town Hall which contained a message of support for the Atlantic Beach Police Department.

You don't need to be a firefighter or a police officer to understand the risks these first responders take on every time they go to work. But, when a first responder falls in the line of duty, the impact on fellow police officers or firefighters—no matter how far away they are from the tragedy—is much more profound than on those of us who don't take on that risk every day. That is why I believe efforts by our citizens to show their appreciation for our first responders is so important.

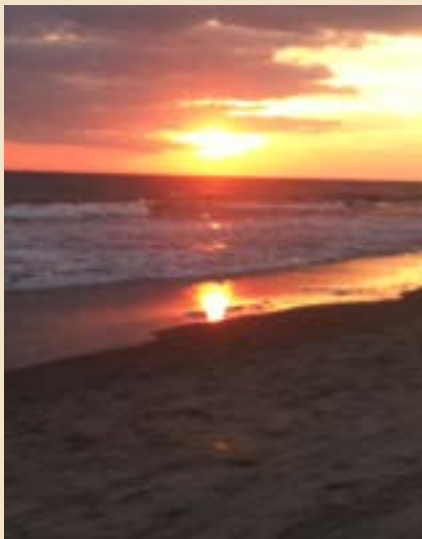
I knew something good was in the works when I copied an e-mail from Pace Winstead, an Atlantic Beach homeowner from Rocky Mount, asking for the names of all of our police officers. Knowing Pace, I had a feeling that a gesture of heartfelt appreciation was forthcoming and she delivered in a very cool way.

Each of our police officers received a customized Yeti brand mug along with a letter that read: "Cups for Cops: No words will ever be able to express our gratitude and the respect we hold for you and your service to our community. You put your life on the line daily for our community and for that ultimate bravery, you are our hero. We wish you the warmth of coffee when you're out in the cold of winter protecting us and a cool, refreshing drink when the summer is baking everyone." The letter was signed by Pace and her husband Ben along with Jim & Katherine Bailey, Worth & Angela Baker, Mike & Sallie Burton, Neil & Cynthia Chamblee, Phillip & Judy French, Rich & Cheryl Johnson, Marvin & Pat Rouse, and Paul & Tiffany Woodard.

This gesture was then repeated by gifts of Yeti cups to all of our firefighters along with a note thanking them for their heroism.

As I wrote at the beginning of this post, being Mayor of Atlantic Beach is a pretty good gig. I get to work *with* amazing teams in all of our departments. And, I get to work *for* citizens who value the contributions our first responders and other Town employees make to our community. It doesn't get much better than that.

A.B. "Trace" Cooper, III
Mayor



Join Our Email List
by sending request to:
townclerk@atlanticbeach-nc.com
For immediate information and
updates follow us on Facebook.

Fall 2016

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

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Neil Chamblee
Richard Johnson
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Norman Livengood
Llewellyn Ramsey
Curt Winbourne

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Vada Palma
Gary Plough
Cynthia Chamblee Alternate
Judy French Alternate



Manager's Message

As we enter the holiday season, we can now look back and review the accomplishments of a very active and successful year for the Town. Even though the pace slows down in the fall, we are using this time to ramp up several major capital projects that have been in the pipeline for some time.

Following up on the results of our citizen survey for the locations of Town facilities we have begun the construction of a new Public Works facility at our West End water tank location. All operations and departments currently operating out of the building behind Town Hall will be moved to the new site after project completion, which is scheduled for early next summer.

We have also begun another major stormwater project; this one to bring long-sought relief to areas along Old Causeway Road. We will also address several other minor flooding areas around the Town. We have more on the drawing board to bring relief to other pockets of street flooding throughout the Town.

We were successful in continuing to acquire state grants for the renovation of beach access locations. We received a state CAMA grant to install a pedestrian boardwalk at the Raleigh Avenue beach access and we should have this one completed in time for use next summer.

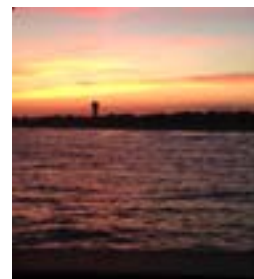
Our new park project has created regional-wide excitement as the skatepark and mini-golf course are a HIT! We were successful in obtaining a three-year Carteret County funding commitment matched by our funds, a donation from the Big Rock Tournament, and a long-term naming rights agreement with Pepsi, combined with sponsorships from residents/businesses to make this \$1.3 million project possible. Phase II construction of the concession/restroom facilities and parking lot/sidewalks awaits to be awarded. A grand opening celebration will take place upon completion next spring. In addition, after a long dormant period we are finally seeing a new construction boom take place at the Circle, as well as a mini-building boom throughout the Town.

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

Here’s hoping your year has gone as well as the Town’s. Your Town Council and staff will spend the winter months of the “off season” lining up these and many more projects needed to make next year even better.

See you at the beach!

David Walker
Town Manager



Excellent Audit Award

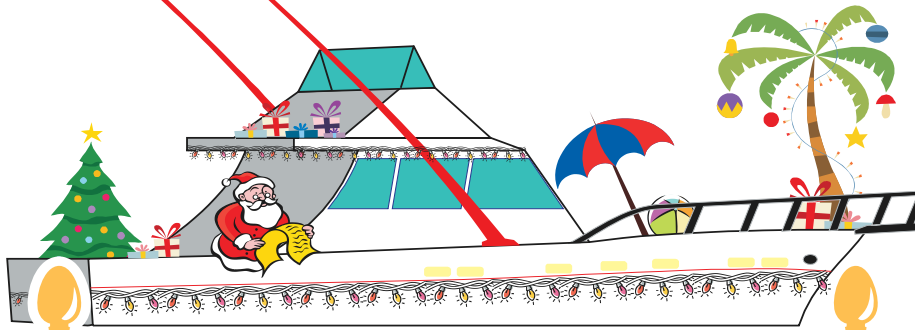
The Town of Atlantic Beach received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the sixteenth consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report ending June 30, 2015. The Certificate 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.





TENTH 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.

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 2nd

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

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 30

6-8PM at the CIRCLE



ANNUAL
PENGUIN PLUNGE

SUNDAY

JANUARY 1

1PM at the CIRCLE

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





2016 Paid Parking Program a Success!

The 2016 paid parking summer season was a success. The Town served 33,893 vehicles with paid parking and brought in over \$147,000.

- \$140,428 paid parking
- \$7,450 seasonal parking sticker sales

Gross Revenue: \$147,878

These funds equate to a savings of approximately one 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 and July 4th fireworks.

All funds raised from the vehicles allow locals to park at no charge with passes or stickers and relieve the burden of these program costs from local taxpayers.

9/11 Remembered

The Fire Department conducted a moment of silence on the 15th anniversary of 9/11 at the Town's 9/11 memorial located in front of the fire station. Lt. Scott Bell and Firefighter Tom Smith traveled to New York and attended the 9/11 memorial and visited the 9/11 museum. Smith's father was killed on 9/11 in the World Trade Center while working for FDNY HAZMAT 1.



Atlantic Beach 2016 Beach Driving Permits Now Available

Seasonal beach driving passes are available for purchase by the public at the Atlantic Beach Town Hall. Beach driving is allowed from October 1st through March 15, from dawn to dusk (no night beach driving permitted). Annual beach permits are available for purchase for \$50 (AB residents) and \$75 (non-residents) at the Town Hall during regular business hours and at the Fire Department on the weekends (only checks can be accepted at the Fire Department). The \$50 AB resident fee is waived for AB residents age 65+.

A valid drivers license and registration card for a four-wheel drive vehicle must be presented at time of purchase. Each sticker must be displayed on windshield. ATV's are not allowed to drive on the beach at any time.



National Night Out

A successful, but abbreviated, version of National Night Out was held in August at the Town Park. Despite the heavy rain that cut short the event a good-sized crowd enjoyed the free food, bouncy houses, Splashpad and dunk tank. We thank our local businesses for once again donating so generously to the event.





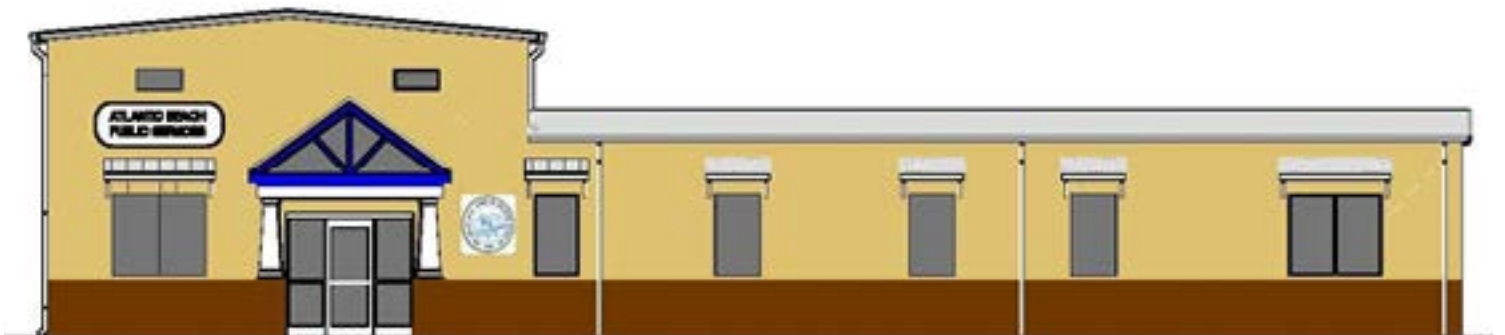
Park Construction Update

After a successful summer at the Town Park with the completion of the skate park and miniature golf course, the Town is proceeding with Phase II of the park construction plan. This phase includes the construction and installation of a concession/restroom building, septic facilities field, parking lot grading/paving/stripping, sidewalks, and sodding. The new additions of the skate park and miniature golf were very well received over the summer. The skate park opened in late summer and miniature golf course was open for preview weekends throughout the summer. We can't wait for next spring for the Grand Opening of the Atlantic Beach Town Park!



New Public Works Facility

The new Public Services building located at 1400 West Fort Macon Rd. will soon be under construction. This building will house the operations of the Town's Public Services and Water Departments. Bids were received from ten different vendors on October 5th which were reviewed at the Council's October work session. This project has been in the works for several years and with the rapid deterioration of the existing facility we are looking forward to this project coming to fruition.





Old Causeway Stormwater Project Update

The Town Council has approved a storm drainage project for Old Causeway which will bring some long-sought relief from the flooding problems that occur in the Old Causeway Drainage Basin. The water will be piped by gravity flow to a new pump station to be located on Old Causeway right of way and then flow over a grass surface swell into the canal. Construction on this project will last around three months.



Raleigh Avenue CAMA Access Grant Awarded

The Town of Atlantic Beach has been awarded a grant through CAMA to construct a pedestrian walkway at the Raleigh Avenue Public Beach Access. The ADA-compliant ramp designed by Lee Dixon is proposed to be located along the western side of the vehicle access. The improvements will increase safety for both pedestrians and vehicles utilizing this access. Construction will begin after March 15th to reduce the impact on the beach driving season.



Flood Map Changes

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is managed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administers floodplain management regulations. The Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) shows the Special Flood Hazard Areas (SFHA) of a community, which outline where certain floodplain development regulations apply. The flood maps for Atlantic Beach have been effective since 2003, but are getting an update very soon. Preliminary flood hazard maps are available via NC FRIS or through the link on the Town website. These maps will show different Special Flood Hazard Areas based on new modeling techniques and greater accuracy of information. Development will be held to the requirements of the current effective flood maps until the preliminary maps become effective in late 2017.

Many areas in Atlantic Beach will benefit from these map updates. Beach nourishment has helped build up the dunes, which has played a part in bringing many oceanfront homes out of the VE zone, which is characterized by higher wave energy. The soundfront properties are in the AE zone, which is characterized by higher wave energy. The soundfront properties are in the AE zone, which is characterized by lower wave energy. Most properties on the north side of town will continue to remain in the AE zone, and in many cases, the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) is going up one or two feet. Structures already insured in the AE zone will be grandfathered in under their current BFE. Structures newly mapped into a SFHA that are required to obtain flood insurance (homes with a federally-backed mortgage) will have transitional rate increases. Insurance agents are primed to discuss this information and should be the first contact for questions about this process.





It Was a Great Fun-filled Summer in Atlantic Beach!

United Way Volleyball Tournament



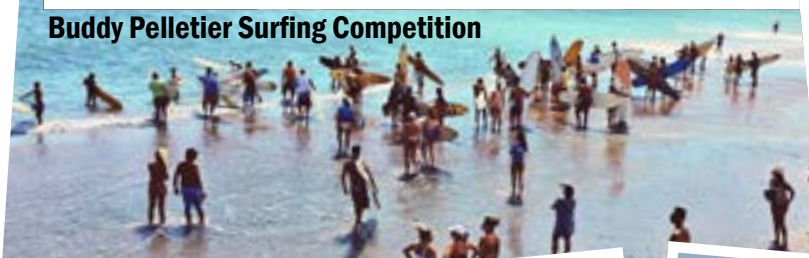
Movie Nights at the Circle



AB Beach Music Festival



Buddy Pelletier Surfing Competition



Freeman's Bait & Tackle Surf Fishing Challenge



Beach Yoga



Carteret County Beach Run Series



2nd Annual Chum Run



Crystal Coast Music Festival



Town of Atlantic Beach

PO Box 10

Atlantic Beach, NC 28512

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com



SAVE THE DATES:

**4th Annual
AB Beach Music Festival
Saturday, May 20**

**2nd Annual
Crystal Coast Music Festival
Saturday, June 3**



**FOR SPONSORSHIP INFO CONTACT:
events@atlanticbeach-nc.com**

