

# The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

## 2017 Year in Review



Town Park Opens



New Public Services Building Completed







# Mayor's Minute

“It’s the little things.” That is how outgoing Town Council member Eddie Briley described what makes the employees of the Town of Atlantic Beach so good. Eddie made this statement in his farewell remarks to the town staff at our recent Employee Christmas Breakfast. Eddie’s remarks were echoed by Ann Batt and John Rivers, two other council members who retired from the Council in December. And, similar things have been said by anyone who has spent any significant time with the staff of our town.

Eddie’s point was that the team of people working for you in our various departments all go above and beyond their job descriptions to provide great service to our citizens and visitors. Our fire department doesn’t just put out fires, they help our senior citizens change out batteries in their smoke detectors. Our police department doesn’t just write traffic tickets, they’ll get out of their cars and stop traffic to help a family cross a busy street in order to get to the beach. The staff in town hall doesn’t just handle water bills and tax collections, they pitch in to coordinate our beach music festival and King Mackerel Tournament.

2017 was a great year for Atlantic Beach. As you can see in these pages, we delivered a lot of big projects that will serve our citizens and visitors well. And, we’ve got other big things planned for the coming years. But, the things that will continue to set us apart from many other towns are these little things. The extra steps taken by our town staff and town council to provide exceptional customer service. We are a government, but we try not to act like one. For example, when you call Town Hall, your call is typically answered by a real person with a friendly voice and a helpful attitude as opposed to a voicemail greeting.

Your beach is entering a new year on a roll. We have welcomed three new members on the Town Council who will be great additions to our leadership. The Town Council will use feedback from the citizen survey we are currently conducting to set our priorities for the coming term and will quickly move from planning to action. This will lead to more large projects. But, as we move forward we will continue to focus on the little things. As Eddie Briley noted, “it’s the little things” that make the difference.

Happy New Year.

A.B. “Trace” Cooper, III  
Mayor



Town Council 2015-2017  
Left to right: John Rivers, Ann Batt, Harry Archer, Trace Cooper, Danny Navey, and Eddie Briley



Incoming/Outgoing Town Council at 2017 Christmas Parade.  
Left to Right: Austin Waters, Ann Batt, Trace Cooper, Harry Archer, Rich Porter, Danny Navey, Rich Johnson, and Eddie Briley



Many of our accomplishments over the past 6 years were the direct results of input received from citizen surveys.

Please give us your input by taking a short 5-minute survey posted on our town website:  
[www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)

Please complete this survey by January 5th.





## Old Causeway Drainage Project Completed

Major flooding problems on Old Causeway are now history. The \$300,000 stormwater drainage project has been completed utilizing funds derived from stormwater fees and charges. Since 2010, the Town has completed over \$1.2 million in stormwater projects.

## Dredging Project Grant

The Town was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Department of Water Resources for maintenance dredging along several of the Town's access channels. The Town contributes \$50,000 annually to this project with property tax funds collected on boats. Over 7,000 cubic yards of sand will be removed from six channels this season as approved by the Town's Dredging Committee.



## Atlantic Beach Skate Park

Members of the late Atlantic Beach Councilman Rick Poillon's family were present from out of state to join in the unveiling of a plaque placed at the Town's new skate park to commemorate Rick's efforts to make the park a reality. Through Rick's work, the Town received a ten-year branding rights sponsorship from Minges Bottling Group to feature its Mountain Dew and Rockstar products. The world-class skateboard park, one of the largest in the state, currently boasts the deepest bowl on the east coast.



## Beach Swimming Safety Advisories

During the 2017 summer season, the AB Fire Department installed a Beach Flag Warning System at all 20 public beach accesses. Yellow or red flags were posted at these locations based on the conditions for that day; if no flags are flying it signifies that we have good swimming for that day. This flag system was in operation through Labor Day Weekend 2017 and will be used again next summer.







## Tom Doe Beach Access and CAMA Grant Opportunities

The Town was awarded a \$56,600 CAMA grant for the Tom Doe Beach Access on Henderson Blvd. Once grant documents are processed and our contractors install pilings, Public Works will begin constructing the 154-foot walkway, which will tie into the existing gazebo and a seated viewing platform at the southern end overlooking the beach. This project should be completed by Memorial Day. The Town is also planning to apply for another CAMA grant to fix up the West DoubleTree Access. This would allow for the access to become ADA-compliant.



## Raleigh Avenue Beach Access Completed

The Town was awarded a \$40,700 grant from CAMA to construct a structural pedestrian walkway at the Raleigh Avenue Public Beach Access. The ADA-compliant ramp was constructed by Bogue Banks Marine along the western side of the vehicle access and is now complete.



## New Town Signage

As part of the new branding program, you may have noticed a few changes to the signs throughout Atlantic Beach this past summer. New beach access signs have been installed at each of our 20 beach accesses and blue street signs have replaced the green ones throughout the town. The “retired” green street signs are on sale at Town Hall for \$20 each or 2 for \$30 while supplies last!



## Completion of New Public Services Facility

The new Public Services building is finished and has been occupied by staff since the middle of summer! The \$800,000, 7500-square-foot building, located at 1400 West Fort Macon Road, houses eight offices, a conference room, a training room, and four vehicle service bays. The project opened debt-free as financing was from Town reserves. It serves as headquarters for the public works personnel and the water utility operations. A grand opening ceremony was held on Friday, July 14.







## Town Park Grand Opening

The Atlantic Beach Town Park held its Grand Opening on Saturday, June 17th. The \$1.5 million dollar seven acre park was funded by a \$600,000 grant from Carteret County; a \$65,000 donation from the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament; a ten-year \$125,000 branding rights agreement with Minges Bottling Group/Pepsi; and a combination of Town funds supplemented by citizen's donations and dedications throughout the park. The Park includes an 18-hole mini-golf course, a unique kid's splash pad facility, a new concession stand with restroom facilities, youth playground areas, picnic facilities, basketball courts, a skate park, and a 120-car parking lot.



## New Sidewalks on East Fort Macon

The Public Works staff will be installing new sidewalks on the north side of East Fort Macon Road from the main intersection down to Brooks Street this fall.



## Citizen "Capt. Jim" Awarded the Long Leaf Pine

At their July 24 meeting, Mayor Cooper and Council presented James "Capt. Jim" N. Willis, III with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine award. The Long Leaf Pine is bestowed by the Governor's Office for exemplary service to the State of North Carolina and an individual's community that goes above and beyond the call of duty and has made a significant impact on and strengthened our state. Mayor Cooper stated, "Captain Jim Willis has been part of Atlantic Beach, literally, since the town was founded. I can think of no one more deserving of the honor of being inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine."



## Water System Improvements

The Water Department recently switched over to a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system for gathering and analyzing real-time data in the water system. This system is used to monitor all wells, pumps, and controls at the water plant. We have now completed a five-year radio-read AMR water meter replacement program and the conversion of 2,500 meters in the system. The project substantially decreased our water billing loss from faulty meters and saves customers money by notifying the Town staff of unusual patterns that may need to be addressed. We also brought online our new 1-mgd water supply well located at the Town Park. This new well now adequately meets our peak water demand of over 2 million gallons a day during the summer season.







# Partnership with the State

Mayor A.B. “Trace” Cooper, III welcomed and introduced NC Governor Roy Cooper at a press conference at the Fort Macon State Park on July 20, 2017 as the governor announced his opposition to Offshore Oil Drilling with the “Protect Our Coast” initiative. Atlantic Beach has also adopted a resolution supporting this initiative in conjunction with numerous other towns along the NC coast.



# ‘Friend of the Park’ Opportunities

There are still opportunities to be a ‘Friend of the Park’ by sponsoring a hole on the 18-hole miniature golf course, an engraved brick paver, or a picnic table. For more information on these donation opportunities contact: [planner@atlantic-beach-nc.com](mailto:planner@atlantic-beach-nc.com).



# Unified Development Ordinance Updated

After a year-and-a-half, Council adopted the UDO update at the October meeting. The new version of the document is available on the Town’s website. This enormous undertaking was made possible due to the patience and diligence of the Planning Board, Town Council, and staff.



# Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament Returns

The 2017 Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Saltwater Slam was a huge success! The local fishing team of *Carolina Girl* (Captain Gary Slaughter) was the winner of the first place \$10,000 grand prize with their 52.9 lb. King Mackerel. An awards banquet was held at the AB Town Park on October 21st. The Atlantic Beach Volunteer Fire Department was gifted with a Kawasaki MULE from the proceeds of this tournament to help with future beach rescues. It has been outfitted with emergency equipment and is already in service.







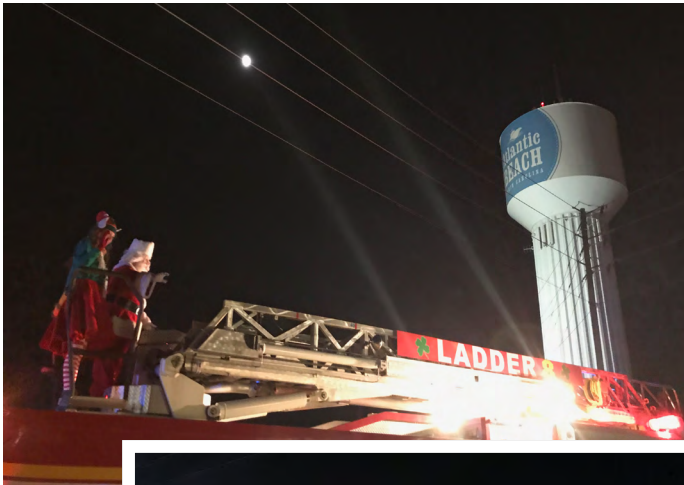
## Smoke on the Water Bonfire

The Town held its annual Smoke on the Water Bonfire December 30th, with live music provided by Robert McDuffy. Go ahead and mark your calendar for next year's event!



## Christmas Parade

Atlantic Beach lit up the night with the annual Christmas Parade that was held on Friday, December 1st. After the parade families met with Santa and his elves at the Fire Department for pictures and refreshments! Go ahead and mark your calendar for next year's parade on December 7th at 6:00 pm.



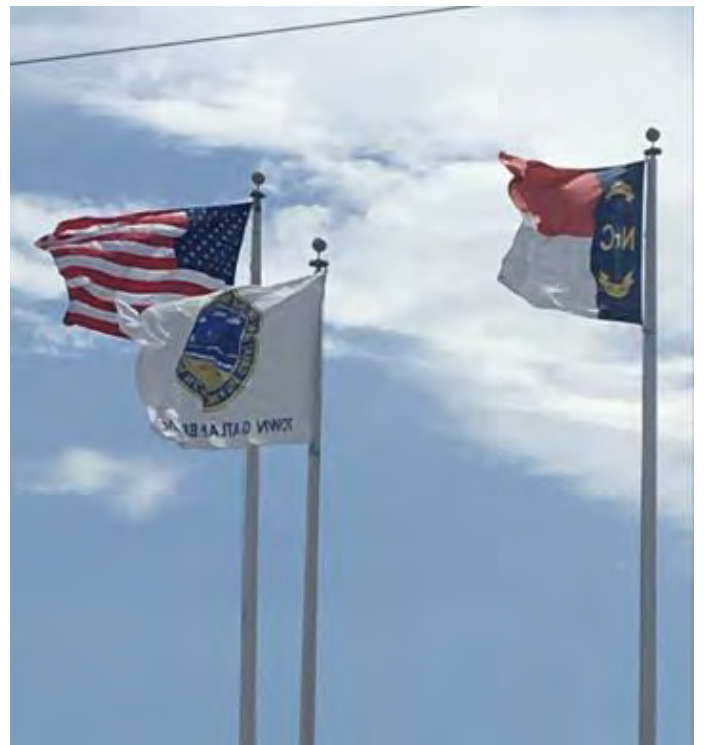
## Excellent Audit Award

The Town of Atlantic Beach received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the seventeenth consecutive year by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report ending June 30, 2016. 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.



## Town Receives Patriotic Gift

The Town gratefully acknowledges an \$18,000 grant from Brent Milgrom Family Foundation in Charlotte, NC. The grant will cover the entire cost for relocating the three existing 40-foot flagpoles to make way for the installation of the new 80-foot flagpole memorial at the entrance to the Circle. The taller structure with a nautical cross-arm will allow for the flying of much larger American, State, and Town flags which will make for a very impressive and patriotic sight as one crosses the high-rise bridge into our town. In fact, this impression was one of the Milgrom family's stated desires for their gift to the citizens and visitors of Atlantic Beach.





Town of Atlantic Beach  
PO Box 10  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512  
[www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)



# SAVE THE DATES!



**5th Annual AB  
Beach Music Festival  
Saturday, May 19**

**Business After Hours  
at the DoubleTree  
featuring The Embers  
Wednesday, May 16**



**Band of Oz ★ Fantastic Shakers ★ Jim Quick & Coastline ★ Mighty Saints of Soul**