

The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

2018

YEAR IN REVIEW



www.atlanticbeach-nc.com





“It is 2019 and it’s time to put Hurricane Florence behind us.”

Mayor’s Minute

The storm that caused more damage than any other in the history of Atlantic Beach has, rightfully so, been the center of most things in Atlantic Beach for the past few months. It has even come to dominate small talk here on the coast. Conversations that would normally start with, “What are you up to?” or, “How is your family?” now start with, “How did you fare during the storm?” This is understandable and there are still many people dealing with the effects of the storm. Like a lot of people, I am still wrestling with insurance companies and trying to find contractors to repair storm damage to my home and businesses. Storm repair and recovery will continue for months in Atlantic Beach, but it will get done. In 2018, the only thing that had a bigger impact than the winds and rains of Hurricane Florence was the resilience and compassion of our citizens. The people of Atlantic Beach offered help before they asked for it. You showed more concern for others than you did for yourselves. You ensured that this storm will soon be a bad memory instead of a lingering legacy. Because of the strength of our citizens, because of the strength of our Town, I am

comfortable suggesting that it is time to move forward even though our recovery is still in the works. We will look to the future as we always have—with an eye on our past. We have learned from this storm and are already taking steps to make Atlantic Beach even better prepared for the next one. For example, we have added new stormwater infrastructure projects to our ongoing work in this area. Similarly, updates to the State building code will make our homes stronger in the future. And, we are working to nourish the beaches that were damaged by Florence. But we are also moving forward on other fronts. Our recently hired Director of Recreation and Events is developing a calendar of fun for the coming summer. We will have more events, more music, and more for families to do than we ever have. We are taking significant steps to improve the appearance of our community so that our built environment moves closer to the beauty of the natural environment that surrounds us. We are designing a new public safety and administrative building which will allow our police and fire departments as well as our administrative staff to provide even better service to our citizens. It is 2019 and it’s time to put Hurricane

Florence behind us. I know there is still work to do, but it is time to shift our focus. Instead of starting conversations with questions like, “How did you fare during storm?”, let’s start asking, “What are your plans for the summer?” 2018 was, unfortunately, a year dominated by Hurricane Florence. **2019 will not be.**



Picture above: The Atlantic Beach Town Council.

Mayor

A.B. “Trace” Cooper, III

(252) 222-0033

tcooper@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Councilmembers

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Rich Johnson- Councilmember
rjohnson@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Danny Navey- Councilmember
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Austin Waters- Councilmember
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David Walker- Town Manager
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Sabrina Simpson- Administrative Svs.
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Morgan Kerns- Rec., Comm. & Special Events Director
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Arrington Moore- Mgmt. Asst.
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Jeff Harvey- Chief of Police
policechief@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Adam Snyder- Chief of Fire
firechief@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Marc Schulze- Public Services Dir.
publicworksdirector@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Planning Board

Neil Chamblee, Chair
Llewellyn Ramsey, V. Chair
Ann Batt
Lynne Brown
Fred “Joey” Dean
Doug McCullough
Curt Winbourne

Board Members

Board of Adjustment

John Kurek, Chair
Eddie Briley
Norman Livengood
Vada Palma
Michael Bosse, Alternate
David Cox, Alternate
Curt Winbourne, Alternate
Neil Chamblee, Alternate
Fred “Joey” Dean, Alternate



Golf carts that are properly registered with the Town and that meet specific safety requirements are now allowed on public streets in AB with a posted speed limit of 35 mph or less; except for NC 58 (Ft. Macon Road) and the Atlantic Beach Causeway.

Golf Cart Registration in Atlantic Beach

Registration and payment of fees can be done online or in person at the Atlantic Beach Police Department during regular business hours (M-F, 8am-5pm). Safety Inspections will be conducted by appointment only and will be scheduled after the registration form has been completed. NOTE: Ordinance 10-189 requires that your golf cart be covered under an auto liability policy with the same minimum coverage as is required for an automobile in North Carolina. Please have a copy of this policy available during the registration process. You can find further information on the registration process and the safety equipment requirements on the Town website (www.atlanticbeach-nc.com) or call the ABPD at 252-726-2523 during regular business hours.



Tom Doe Public Beach Access Completed

The Town was awarded a **\$56,500 grant** from the NC Division of Coastal Management for the Tom Doe Memorial Public Beach Access in 2017. The ADA-compliant ramp with viewing deck was constructed almost exclusively by the Public Works Department after Bogue Banks Marine Construction drove the pilings. This saved the taxpayers thousands of dollars in labor costs and ensured that the project was finished in time for summer!



Grant Received: DoubleTree West Public Beach Access



The Town was awarded a **\$95,705 grant from the NC Division of Coastal Management** for the

DoubleTree West Public Beach Access. The new 6 foot wide, 311 foot walkway structure with switch-back ramps will replace deteriorating stairs. This will be one of several new ADA-compliant accesses that the Town has installed over the past few years. This project should be completed by Memorial Day 2019.



>> VIEW A MAP OF OUR PUBLIC BEACH ACCESSSES ON OUR WEBSITE//

WWW.ATLANTICBEACH-NC.COM/PLAY/BEACHES

Manager's Message

**>> David Walker
Town Manager**

Though we may remember 2018 as the year of a major storm, still much was accomplished as highlighted in this annual review and we enter 2019 with renewed optimism! We are proud of the significant improvements that have been made and even more are underway for the coming year. It is my honor to serve the town and lead a dynamic team of dedicated and talented employees to implement the policy directives of the Mayor and Council. We will strive to build upon our heritage and, with the involvement of an informed and engaged community, rest assured AB will continue to prosper as one of the most unique family beach towns on the NC coast.



ABFD Jr. Lifeguard Camp. Recap 2018 & Register for 2019!

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department's annual Jr. Lifeguard Camp was a continued success in 2018 with 160 participants ranging from ages 9 to 17. Campers learned lifeguarding basics, competed in team relays, paddled through the waves on longboards, and tested their limits on the ABFD jet skis. **Registration for all 2019 camp sessions begins on March 1, 2019 at Town Hall at 8:00 a.m.** Registration forms for all 2019 sessions will be available at Town Hall, starting March 1 at 8:00 a.m. Each registration form should have its own \$50 payment (cash or check only). If paying for multiple children, each child will need to be registered and paid separately. The maximum number of applications a parent may submit is four (4). Spaces per session are first come, first serve – no reservations. Sessions tend to fill up quickly.

>> FOR MORE INFO CONTACT FIRE CHIEF ADAM SNYDER
FIRECHIEF@ATLANTICBEACH-NC.COM



Spooky Seas Trunk or Treat

>> **SAVE THE DATE**
SPOOKY SEAS
TRUNK OR TREAT
October 30, 2019

In October 2018, the Atlantic Beach Police Department teamed up with the AB Parks and Recreation Department to host the Town's first annual Spooky Seas Trunk or Treat at the Atlantic Beach Town Park. The Halloween event was a **success with 3,000+ children and families in attendance!** Over 90 people played mini-golf during the event and 10 local businesses participated by providing a trunk.

New Sidewalk Completed

AB Public Works crews installed over a half mile of new sidewalk on East Fort Macon road. Their work saved the Town over \$45,000 in labor costs!





Town Council appointed a Recreational Water Quality (RWQ) committee to evaluate the quality of recreational water in and around Atlantic Beach. With the leadership of Committee Chair Councilman Rich Johnson, the RWQ Committee met eight times to hear presentations from subject matter experts, receive results of studies and reports, and discuss options of what actions to take. Recommendations from the committee include additional testing of sound-side recreational waters, initiation of an outreach/education program, and partnership with the North Carolina Coastal Federation for a Watershed Management Plan.

Recreational Water Quality Committee

Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament Donates CPR AutoPulse to ABFD

Despite Hurricane Florence, the **2018 Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Saltwater Slam Tournament** was successful in raising over \$15,000 for the ABFD. Tournament revenue was used to purchase an AutoPulse Resuscitation System which provides high-quality automated CPR to victims of sudden cardiac arrest. Easy to use and battery operated, the \$15,000 AutoPulse squeezes the patient's entire chest to improve blood flow to the heart and brain. The Autopulse will perform automated CPR and allow our paramedics to focus on other lifesaving measures for the patient.

ABKMSS Tournament: Big Fish, Bigger Donation!

A special thank you to the Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Saltwater Slam Tournament Board for their 2018 contributions to the ABFD pictured below!



>> OVER 60 BOATS REGISTERED IN THE 2018 TOURNAMENT

New Recreation, Communication & Special Events Director for AB



In response to the Atlantic Beach Town Council's 2018 goals and objectives, the Town hired a full-time Director of Recreation, Communication and Special Events. Morgan Kerns joined the Town in September 2018 after previously working for both Danville Parks and Recreation as well as Carteret County Parks and Recreation. She will be planning family activities, special events, and park improvements for both the summer and shoulder seasons.

Morgan is a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP) through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) with 6 years of professional planning experience.

We look forward to new family programming in AB!



Successful Summer at the Town Park

Between May and August 2018, the Atlantic Beach Town Park had 6 concerts in the Sounds Like Summer Music Series, over 15,700 mini-golfers, National Night Out, and countless visitors to our skate park and splash pad! With consistent revenue from our concession stand and mini-golf course, the town park is paying for itself!



Stay Connected

SOCIAL MEDIA

@townofatlanticbeach



facebook.com/atlanticbeachnc/



ONLINE

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

EMAIL

tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com



The Town began promoting local events, businesses and promotions through the “Happenings” in May of 2018. Each page features restaurant specials, both recurring and one-time events as well as business spotlights for the upcoming week. The “Happenings” is posted on the Town Facebook page every Thursday and will continue weekly for 2019.

The Town email campaign called the “Ocean Breeze” also offers a wealth of AB knowledge and is sent every Friday afternoon. To be included in our “Ocean Breeze” emails please send your request to events@atlanticbeach-nc.com.



18th Consecutive Year Receiving The Excellent Audit Award

The Town of Atlantic Beach received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada! 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.





Atlantic Beach Loops

The Town is pleased to announce the installation of new Atlantic Beach Loops signage. The AB Loops are well-marked routes around Atlantic Beach that encourage people to get out and walk or bike. Whether it is for exercise or just to get from one place to another, walking and biking are great ways to live a healthy lifestyle and a fun way to get around our small beach town.

The program is made up of four different loops each covering a different area of the Town. The Red Loop (1 mile) explores AB's west end and passes by the sound side Pelican Street Pier, the Blue Loop (3 miles) starts along the boardwalk and takes you by ocean views, the Green Loop (2 miles) takes you through the heart of town, and lastly the Yellow Loop (3 miles) leads you to explore the east end of town through the Cottage District. There are five large maps which show all of the loops as



well as give descriptions and lengths of each. These signs are located across from the DoubleTree Hotel, the Town Park, the Circle, the Bridge Side-Park, and the intersection of Dunes Ave/E. Fort Macon Rd. In addition to these large maps, each loop has small mile marker signs throughout to guide the walkers/biker along its length.

We hope that citizens and visitors will enjoy using these new easy-to-walk loops and exploring our town while doing so.



>> WWW.ATLANTICBEACH-NC.COM/WALK-ATLANTIC-BEACH-MAPS/

New for 2019: Dates to Remember

- >> **Easter Event- Town Park**
Saturday, April 20, 2019
- >> **Beach Music Festival**
Saturday, May 18, 2019
- >> **Summer Movies- Town Park**
June-August 2019
- >> **Summer Music Series**
June-August 2019
- >> **Spooky Seas Trunk or Treat**
October 30, 2019

Put Your Name on the Town Park

Since beginning our "Friends of the Park" program, the Town has collected \$21,850 in donations!

There are still opportunities to **make your mark by sponsoring** a paver or plaque today!

4x8 Pavers= \$200 each
8x8 Pavers= \$350 each
6x9 Mini-Golf Hole= \$2,000
8x12 Mini-Golf Hole= \$3,000

Email events@atlanticbeach-nc.com for more information!

ABPD Radio Grant Received



The Atlantic Beach Police Department received a \$143,000 Port Security Grant to replace outdated and failing in-car and handheld radios with new VHF/800 MHz combination radios this year.

>> FOR MORE INFO ON THE ABPD VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ATLANTICBEACH-NC.COM/POLICE-DEPARTMENT/



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Morgan Kerns, Director of Recreation, Communication & Special Events
Katrina Tyer, Town Clerk
David Walker, Town Manager

Beach Music Festival: SAVE THE DATE

May 18, 2019



You don't want to miss
the 6th Annual AB Beach
Music Festival along the
Boardwalk at the Circle,
Atlantic Beach, NC

Featuring:

The Embers
Jim Quick and Coastline
Mighty Saints of Soul
Blackwater Rhythm & Blues
Steve Owens & Summertime Band



Business After Hours at the
DoubleTree featuring the
Band of Oz
Tuesday, May 14