

Summer's End

As summer's end approaches, we begin to gear up for what we hope will be a non-eventful storm season! As many of you are aware Council approved a new "All Hazards Plan" last spring which we have been working towards implementing for the past few months. The new plan dovetails with the county, state and federal plans and aligns us with our sister towns on Bogue Banks. Little will change in our storm preparation and planning. We feel the new plan better protects you, our citizens and business owners in the unfortunate event we suffer from the effects of a storm event. We have been busy over the past few months dealing with our usual influx of seasonal calls for service. We hosted our annual National Night Out and for those of you that were not able to join us, we had a great turnout. I would like to thank all those who donated time, money and merchandise for whom without we would not have been able to have hosted such a successful event. We continue to work with our citizens and business owners and are very pleased with the progress made with our community policing program. We continue to need your help to ensure we provide the best service available. Our webpage continues to grow and has been updated to include programs you may use such as e-watch and Nixel. I invite you to visit our webpage and welcome any recommendations anyone might have for us to improve the site or services we currently provide. Our site address is www.atlanticbeachpd.com.

We continue to be interested in your thoughts and ideas. Many of you have contacted us and we welcome your feedback and want to know what we are doing well and where we need to improve.

Reminders

October 1st, as you know, the beach strand is open to vehicular traffic, passes can be purchased at Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Currently, we do not plan to allow beach strand traffic after dark due to the increase of breaking and enters we have experienced in past years. Stopping beach driving at night had a direct effect on the reduction of breaking and entering. On the 15th of October, we will be raising the speed limit on NC58 from the summer speed of 35 mph to 45 mph for the off-season.

As summer closes, we at the police department depend on your assistance more now than during summer months. Our Community Watch groups need to be more alert than ever once our summer guests leave. Please take time to ensure and follow a few simple tips to protect your property. If you are a full time resident, we would ask that you remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately.

- Arrange to have a trusted neighbor keep a close watch on your dwelling while you are away.
- Discontinue all delivery services coming to your dwelling such as newspapers, mail, if any.
- Make sure your lawn is cut and cared for.
- Use an automatic timer to operate a light in an area commonly used while you are here.
- Before you leave, make sure that all doors, windows, and other means of entry are locked and secured.

If there is anything your police department can do please do not hesitate to contact us.

Chief Allen Smith

Hurricane Season

We are in the most active period of hurricane season. Carteret County Emergency Services recently tested the county's "CODE RED." This tool is a reverse 911 calling system and will be used to deliver pre-recorded phone messages concerning evacuation or preparedness information messages for an emergency event. Citizens can go to the Carteret County website (www.carteretcountygov.org) and register additional numbers such as cellular phones if you wish to be notified on devices other than home phones. Also available through the county Emergency Services website is a list of pet friendly motels inland and contact information for evacuees. Carteret County Emergency Services is responsible for coordinating transportation needs for those who require assistance in relocating. All Special Needs citizens should contact Carteret County Emergency Services to register for assistance with evacuation. Pre-storm or early registration is critical in planning to ensure resources needed and plans are in place to assist citizens should evacuation become necessary. You may contact Carteret County Emergency Services at (252) 728-8470 or the Police Department at (252) 726-2523 and we will assist by taking your information and passing the information onto Emergency Services.



The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

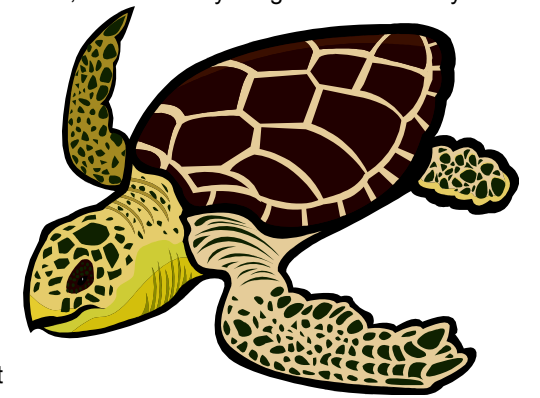
www.atlanticbeach-nc.com



Sea Turtles in Atlantic Beach

This summer there have been three loggerhead nests in Atlantic Beach. Volunteers are still actively patrolling the beaches looking for new nests since females can lay eggs as late as October. Two of the three nests have hatched so far. Many volunteers have had late nights anxiously awaiting the arrival of any hatchlings.

When the sand in the center of the nest depresses or sinks, this is usually a sign there is activity in the nest and the hatchlings may soon emerge. The first nest hatched all at once with 103 hatchlings. The second nest was a little smaller, hatching with 86 turtles. The interesting thing about the second nest is all the turtles did not hatch at the same time. The nest depressed on a Monday and most of the hatchlings came out three days later on a Thursday during the full moon. However, there were a few stragglers that continued to crawl out of the nest over the next few days. This just shows how unpredictable the hatching can be.



This summer there has been an increase in tents left on the beach overnight and large holes. These things can be a hindrance and a danger to nesting females. There were two false crawls early in the summer where a nesting female ran into a tent pole. This likely startled her and caused her not to lay eggs. Everyone on the beaches can help do their part for sea turtles by filling in the holes they dig during the day and removing any tents and chairs from the beach at night.

Marc Schulze, Public Services Director

Town Ordinance Reminder

The Town of Atlantic Beach Inspections Department asks that any owner, lessee or occupant having control of any lot or land or any part thereof in the town, not to permit or maintain on any such lot or land any growth of weeds, grass or other similar vegetation to a height greater than ten inches. Allowing such growth constitutes a nuisance as defined by Chapter 11 in the Town of Atlantic Beach Code of Ordinances. Citizens who fail to comply with Chapter 11 may receive a written notice from the Town of Atlantic Beach Inspections Department to cut and clear their lot(s). In the event that such lots(s) are not cut and cleared within ten days of receiving a written notice, the Town of Atlantic Beach Public Works Department shall take any necessary action to abate such nuisances. The cost the town endures to abate weeds, grass or other similar vegetation constituting a nuisance shall be recovered from the owner(s) by the town with the addition of a two hundred dollar administrative fee.

Anyone having questions pertaining to Chapter 11 of the Town of Atlantic Beach Code of Ordinances should contact the Inspections Department at (252) 726-4456.

FYI

- The Town's e-mail address is tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com. Town Hall hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M-F.
- You can access the Town's Code of Ordinances along with the monthly minutes, monthly agendas, "The Ocean Breeze" and other information about the Town. The address is www.atlanticbeach-nc.com.
- Represent your Town by purchasing a vehicle tag, which are available at Town Hall for only \$5.00 each.

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Fall 2009

Numbers to Know

Mayor and Town Council

A.B. Cooper, III, Mayor (252) 222-0033
 Harry Archer, Mayor Pro Tem (252) 726-6655
 Ann Batt, Councilmember (252) 241-1340
 Eddie Briley, Councilmember (252) 342-2444
 Vada Palma, Councilmember (252) 247-0175
 Trish Ide, Councilmember (252) 222-3086

Town Manager - Department Heads

Pete Allen, Town Manager 726-2121, ext. 237
 Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk 726-2121, ext. 238
 Sabrina Simpson, Admin. Services 726-2121, ext. 240
 Jessica Fiester, Planning Director 726-4456
 Donna Turner, Inspections Director 726-4456
 Allen Smith, Chief of Police 726-2523
 Adam Snyder, Chief of Fire 726-7361
 Marc Schulze, Public Services Dir. 726-1366, ext. 255

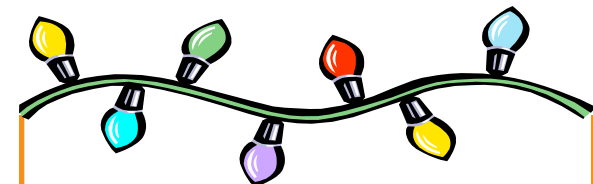
Planning Board

Ray Langley, Chairperson
 Larry Burke
 John Hopkins
 Steve Joyner
 Norman Livengood
 Scott Rice
 John Rivers



Board of Adjustment

John Kurek, Chairperson
 George Bailey
 Markey Burroughs
 Darrel Lawrence
 Gary Plough
 David Cox, Alternate
 C.V. May, Alternate
 Sam Rich, Alternate
 Gene Walz, Alternate



Holiday Closings

Veteran's Day - Wed., Nov 11

Thanksgiving - Thur., Nov. 26; Fri., Nov. 27

Christmas - Thur., Dec. 24; Fri., Dec. 25

New Years Day - Fri., Jan. 1, 2010

Planning Department News

Dear Citizens,
 I am excited to report that after nearly two years of work, we have now adopted our Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). Over 35 public meetings were held as part of the input and development process for this document, which replaces outdated development standards formerly in the Town Code. While most of the changes deal directly with development standards, there are portions of the regulations that may apply to you even if you are not building or renovating your property. You will now need a permit to have a portable storage unit on your property. This permit can be obtained in the office of Planning and Inspections. Property owners with structures located on the water will have one year to post their address on the waterside of the property. This requirement is to aid in public safety. We have developed a Causeway Overlay District, intended to encourage a more pedestrian-friendly town center. Additionally, there are regulations in the UDO that allow for an individual to reconstruct their property if it is destroyed or damaged by a fire or a natural disaster. If you have any questions about these changes, please give me a call at (252) 726-4456.

Best regards,
 Jessica Fiester

Clerk's Corner

Happy Fall Ya'!!! Yes, it's that time of the year again where school's back in, nature shows us it's true beauty and we anxiously await the arrival of The Great Pumpkin, Santa Claus and do some good eat'n in between!

3RD ANNUAL ATLANTIC BEACH TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Saturday, December 12, 2009 - 6:30 pm
 At the flagpoles (circle area) with Christmas festivities immediately following
AT A NEW LOCATION!
 Atlantic Beach Shopping Center
 (old Boater's World)

For more information, please contact Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk, (252) 726-2121, ext. 238.

Fire Season

Before long the cold will be setting in. The summer weather will be gone and we will all be turning on our heaters. When the weather turns cold, we refer to this as our fire season. We are asking everyone to make sure that you have your heaters serviced by a qualified technician and in proper working order. Make sure all of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are working properly and the batteries are replaced. We would like this to be a fire free winter. Thank you for your cooperation and if you need any assistance please don't hesitate to call the fire department directly.

4th of July Boot Drive

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department held its 3rd annual 4th of July "Fill the Boot" Drive. All the proceeds for the boot drive are given to the Muscular Dystrophy Association. The department raised a total of \$13,000 for this needy cause. I would like to say thank you to all the citizens and visitors that contributed money during our annual event.

Manager's Message

Another season has come and gone for us here at the beach and it's been a rather uneventful year for us here on the Crystal Coast and Southern Outer Banks.

While our merchants tell us that it hasn't been the BEST season, with the current national, state and local economic situation, it seems to have been better than most expected and far better than many of our neighbors up and down the coast and inland. There were lots of people here, lots of traffic, the usual parking problems but our visitors seemed a little frugal with their money and understandably so in these difficult economic times.

The Town fared well. We were able to keep the community clean and well maintained, keep the traffic moving, found enough money in a very tight budget to do some dredging to keep our waterways open, funded the lifeguard program for another season and had few problems on the beach. As this copy is being written, we haven't had any hurricanes, storms or NorEasters. The beach is in good shape and we are expecting about 1.3 million cubic yards of new sand this Fall on our shores when the Army Corps of Engineers dredges the Beaufort Bar leading to the Morehead City Port and places or re-nourishes our beaches with that good quality sand.

We've done some work to our aging water system, increased the flow by renovating some well sites and are constantly searching for additional well sites to insure the Town's water supply and water quality.

We are starting to work from the Town's extremely tight budget for fiscal year 2009-2010, a budget which maintains the ad valorem property tax rate at .125/\$100, no increase in the past two fiscal years, a budget that's been reduced by over \$1 million yet maintains a general fund balance of some 65%, well above the State requirement of 8.0%. Because of the current financial and economic crisis, the 09-10 budget does not support salary or benefit increases for our employees, limits capital expenditures and is a bare-bone, extremely conservative budget, knowing and having to deal with and compensate for current State and National budgets now known to be in a state of uncertainty and distress. The Town is in good financial shape and will remain that way with the current fiscal policy and philosophy of its staff and leadership. It should also be noted that Carteret County was able to cut its previous year's \$100 million budget by some \$5 million and maintain a tax rate of .23/\$100 valuation, the lowest ad-valorem property tax rate of all the 100 counties in the State of North Carolina.

As we get into the Fall and things slow down a bit, come on down and spend some time with us. The weather's great, fish are biting, there's no long lines in the stores or at the restaurants and the seafood's the freshest and best that it ever was and you can shag to some good beach music. It's Fall in Atlantic Beach and on the Crystal Coast and it's the BEST TIME THAT EVER WAS!

Pete Allen
 Town Manager

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Captain Casey Arthur** and **Lieutenant Scott Bell** on their promotions. Also, congratulations to **Captain Andy Reed** and **Lieutenant Scott Bell** for their five-year anniversary with the Town. We look forward to your continued service.

I would like to give a welcome to **Andrew Akines**. Andrew is the newest member of the career staff for the fire department. Again, welcome.

