

## Planning & Zoning Department

### Special Thanks to All!

I would like to personally thank Planning Board Chairman, Ray Langley and the rest of the Planning Board and UDO Committee members for all of their time and dedication spent working on the UDO. Thank you!

Jessica A. Fiester, MPA, CZO  
Director of Planning and Zoning

### Bo'Jangles is Coming to Atlantic Beach!

In the coming months, Atlantic Beach will welcome the addition of a Bo'Jangles Restaurant on West Fort Macon Road.

### Stormwater and Beach Access Improvements

In the coming months, stormwater improvements on Old Causeway Road will be made. Staff has also initiated the process of seeking funding for improvements to several existing beach accesses.

### Tom Doe Memorial Public Beach Access

We are excited to announce the completion of the Tom Doe Memorial Public Beach Access. The bathhouse facility was installed on February 9 and the project will be finalized before beach season! This facility is located on Ocean Boulevard and features outdoor showers, restrooms, a foot-washing station, handicap ramps, handicap parking and a beach playground. Additional parking for beachgoers is available along Henderson Boulevard. The majority of the \$1.2 million project was funded through donations and Coastal Area Management Act grant funding. A dedication ceremony is being planned to celebrate the opening in early April.

### UDO Becoming a Reality

Greeting Citizens!

It has been a busy and productive winter season for the Planning Department and Planning Board. For the last fourteen months the Planning Board and UDO Committee have been dedicated to creating a Unified Development Ordinance for the Town of Atlantic Beach. The draft of this document combines various piecemeal development standards into a user-friendly document. The Planning Board spent the winter putting the "finishing touches" on the draft, which was unanimously recommended to the Town Council for adoption on February 9. In the coming months the Council will be having several public work sessions to further craft the document, and ultimately have a public hearing prior to the anticipated adoption in the spring. After 22 meetings and countless hours of citizen review, staff feels the document reflects the development direction the public desires. If you have concerns about a specific piece of property, I invite you to e-mail me directly for clarification or additional information at [planner@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:planner@atlanticbeach-nc.com)



# The Ocean Breeze

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[www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)



## Mayor's Minute

### Standing on Solid Ground

Despite a difficult economic environment, Atlantic Beach remains on solid financial ground. Thanks to a conservative financial approach by our current and former Town Councils and an incredible job of cost cutting by the Town Manager and town staff, we are weathering this storm better than most.

As we enter the budgeting season for the town, I believe we will be able to maintain our current level of staffing and citizen services without an increase in our tax rates. This time last year, we recognized a weakening economy and were conservative in our budgeting. As a result, our revenues remain in line with what we expected. Similarly, a diligent approach to spending by our manager and department heads has kept expenses down as well.

Nonetheless, to maintain our low tax rate and high level of services, we will likely be forced to defer certain large capital expenditures until the economy rebounds. We are, however, fortunate to have a comfortable reserve fund balance. A reserve fund serves as a town's financial safety net. Our current fund balance is equal to 64.56% of our annual expenditures which is 8 times the State requirement. We have our current and former Town Councils to thank for building and maintaining this reserve fund. While I do not foresee us tapping into these reserves for typical town operations, we may be able to leverage this financial strength to take advantages of opportunities that arise out of this troubled economy. For example, if we are able to get a great deal on police cars from a dealership that needs to move some inventory, we may tap into our reserve because it will deliver more value for our taxpayers' dollars.

It has been a long winter for many of us. But, as we approach another spring and summer on the coast, rest assured that things here at the beach will be better than ever.

Sincerely,  
A.B. "Trace" Cooper, III  
Mayor

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Spring 2009

## Let's Do Some Dredging!

Thank you to the over 700 citizens who responded to the dredging survey sent out in water bills last fall. Your comments and input were carefully reviewed and noted by the Atlantic Beach Citizens for Dredging committee's five members. It was determined that the area of most immediate and critical concern was the entrance to Queen's Channel, or the eastern causeway waterway. Bids were advertised, received and in late January '09, Eric Pake Dredging qualified as the lowest bidder and was awarded the job.

Based on Corps of Engineers data and information, it was suggested that removal of some 1,800 cubic yards of material would be required to complete this project. Maximum estimated costs of this project will be 1800 cubic yards x \$12.25/square yard. Costs will be shared by the State and Town on a 80% State, 20% Town formula.

Spoils removed will be taken by the contractor to his personal certified spoils site location and sold and/or disposed of as required. The disposal costs were calculated into the bid and were part of the per cubic yard bid price.

Dredging is to begin in March '09 with a deadline for completion set for April 1, 2009. Future plans to budget for and continue to address, in priority order, other areas of need have been made. Shoaling in our waterways is a constant and we are committed to continual maintenance through proper planning.

Vada Palma, Councilmember  
Marc Schulze, Public Services Director

## Numbers to Know

### Mayor and Town Council

A.B. Cooper, III, Mayor ..... (252) 222-0030  
 Harry Archer, Mayor Pro Tem ..... (252) 726-6655  
 Ann Batt, Councilmember..... (252) 241-1340  
 Eddie Briley, Councilmember ..... (252) 342-2444  
 Vada Palma, Councilmember ..... (252) 247-1075  
 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

## Fire Department News

### Fire Station Renovation

The Town's Fire Station renovation has been completed. The office and living quarters have been completely renovated and we have moved "back home." We are planning to have our annual Open House this year sometime during the summer season so all of our citizens can come enjoy their newly renovated Atlantic Beach Fire Station!

### Fire Home Inspections

The Fire Department is still offering home fire inspections at your convenience. If you would like for your fire inspector to come to your home and conduct a free fire inspection, please call (252) 726-7361.

## Congratulations!

**Kevin White**, former Captain with Atlantic Beach Fire Department, has accepted the position as the new Fire Chief of Indian Beach. We wish him all the best!

**Lt. Andy Reed** has been promoted to Captain and **Firefighter Scott Bell** has been promoted to Lieutenant.

We would like to welcome aboard **Firefighter Eric Stephenson**. Eric is our newest fire department employee. Eric was once a Lieutenant in our department and went to work for another agency. We are glad to have him back with us and are looking forward to great things from him.

Congratulations to all of you!



## Inspections Department News

### Growth in Construction

The Town of Atlantic Beach Inspections Department is experiencing an unusual increase in the amount of winter construction. The Inspections Department accredits three major elements in stimulating this early development.

The first of three is the results of the building materials being much cheaper than they have for many years. The Town's citizens are capitalizing with the improvement of their property with affordable goods.

The second fundamental arises from the decline in development for our neighboring jurisdictions on the mainland. This results in rate of labor to recede; thus allowing construction contracting to become more competitive. With respect to the competition, our residents are receiving a great value in contracting services.

The last and most obvious cause of this phenomenal season is due to the sharp drop of fuel expenses. According to the Department of Energy Information and Administration, a gallon of gasoline alone is more than a dollar less now than it was this time last year.

The Inspections Department would like to remind its citizens to ensure that they and their contractors are obtaining permits for all work being performed. Anyone who wishes to inquire about the conditions for obtaining a permit is encouraged to contact the Inspections Department at (252) 726-4456.

## Come Join ABPD's "Academy"

Well, Spring is fast approaching and we here at the police department have been working to improve processes aimed at protecting our residents, both full-time and part-time, as well as our businesses. The police department will hold a "Citizens Academy" beginning on February 26, 2009 and Lieutenant Jeff Harvey has put together a curriculum that will be very informative for all who attend.

## Reminders

As summer approaches many of our vacation home owners will return along with seasonal visitors. Traffic on our streets and roadways will once again fill to capacity. Please drive carefully and watch out for our visitors and their children. I would like to remind those of you who have not already done so, to visit the police department's website at [www.atlanticbeachpd.com](http://www.atlanticbeachpd.com). You may use this site for a number of functions from requesting home security checks to keeping up with goings on in your police department.

If you have something of interest to report, report it as soon as possible because there are times when waiting hours or days can and will jeopardize successful investigations.

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

## In Times of Trouble

If and when any type of disaster strikes Atlantic Beach...we have a plan! It is the Emergency Operations Plan for Multi-Hazards for the Town of Atlantic Beach. This plan is designed to protect life and property within the town limits of Atlantic Beach.

We have been working to revise the town's current "Emergency Operations Plan" (EOP). The plan's updates align with the Carteret County, State of North Carolina and federal EOPs. The way in which emergency business will be conducted did not change drastically, the plan simply codifies, guides, and assigns responsibility for town employees where, in the past, it was implied. In addition, a complete revision of the Town's Re-Entry plan has taken place. Our current system had no way of ensuring passes are issued to only those who have a vested interest in Atlantic Beach during this time (i.e. property/business owners, full time residents.) I would like to take a moment to summarize our newly revised re-entry process which takes place *after* an event such as a hurricane evacuation.

First, public safety officials survey the town to ensure re-entry for our property owners is safe. Second, once safety concerns are addressed we would then ask to allow those who have a legitimate and vested interest be allowed to return to secure their property before allowing the general public access to Atlantic Beach. Third, when property owners have secured their property, this will assist the decision makers in allowing for the town to be re-opened. The proposed plan is in place for two reasons: 1) Safety; 2) to ensure only those who have a legitimate reason are allowed back on the island. This revised process will require the completion of a simple, one time only application to ensure passes are tied to properties for accountability. This will eliminate the need to repeat this process year after year, which will in turn, save money. We realize there may be some minor inconveniences at the onset, but remember this is to protect *your* interests and property.

The police department continues to be interested in your thoughts and ideas and we welcome the input on needed improvements, suggestions, any concerns or comments or if you would just like to say "thanks," please feel free to contact me at (252) 726-2523.

## Speed Limit Change

**Effective March 15th, 2009** the seasonal speed limit on the East and Westbound ends of Highway 58 (Fort Macon Road) in Atlantic Beach will be **lowered** from 45 mph to 35 mph. Please drive carefully.



Sincerely,  
 Allen Smith

Chief of Police, Atlantic Beach, NC

