

The Ocean Breeze

A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com



Mayor's Message

I hope all of you are having a wonderful summer. Things have been very busy around Town Hall. We now have our new Manager, David M. Harvell, and he has been very busy getting accustomed to the town. He has hired a new Police Chief – Mr. Allen Smith. He will come aboard on September 4th.

Guess who is “Nifty Fifty” – our very own Atlantic Beach Fire Department!!!! Happy Birthday ABFD! The fire department is celebrating 50 years of service to the Town of Atlantic Beach. If you get a chance, stop by and congratulate them. We also just wrapped up National Night Out. It was a great time had by all. This year Atlantic Beach Police Department joined forces with Pine Knoll Shores PD, Indian Beach PD and Atlantic Beach FD to celebrate this national event. The police department did a really great job this year coordinating the event. We had a wonderful fireworks display. It was great to see everyone come out and have a good time.

We have some good changes that are happening at Town Hall and one of those changes is a new format for your water bill. I hope you will like the new format. It not only provides privacy but it is a cost savings change and it will allow for additional information to be sent to you on a monthly basis. The Ocean Breeze will continue as a quarterly publication but as an additional cost savings, it will be inserted with your water bill.

There's lots of beach season left so come on down. It's a wonderful place to be!

Sincerely,
Joyce “Tootsie” Vinson, Mayor

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Look What's New in Utility Billing

Beginning with the August 2007 Utility Billing Period, you will see a new, improved billing statement format. You will receive an 8 1/2" x 11" paper billing statement, mailed in envelopes for customer privacy with a return envelope enclosed for mailing your payment, providing greater customer service. The Town of Atlantic Beach will be able to keep our citizens more informed through a monthly newsletter on the reverse side of the billing statement, while protecting their privacy by way of the statement in an envelope instead of the current postcard format. Customers will have an opportunity to sign up for the convenience of draft payment authorization by completing the authorization form on the reverse side of the billing statement.

The Town of Atlantic Beach will have the ability to enclose additional town related information, including the *Ocean Breeze*, surveys, reports, etc. with the utility billing statement, resulting in a cost savings on postage.



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.

Summer 2007

Numbers to Know

Town Manager & Department Phone Numbers

David M. Harvell, Town Manager.....726-2121
 Kelly L. Nash, Town Clerk.....726-2121
 Sabrina M. Simpson, Business Officer.....726-2121
 Laura Buda, Tax Collector.....726-2121
 Donna Turner, Director of Inspections.....726-4456
 Jessica Fiester, Planning.....726-4456
 Marc Schulze, Director of Public Services.....726-1366
 Allen Smith, Chief of Police.....726-2523
 Adam Snyder, Chief of Fire.....726-7361

Planning Board Members

Ray Langley, Chairperson
 Karen Koenig, Vice-Chairperson
 Larry Burke
 Pierce Latimer
 Norman Livengood
 Rebecca Marks
 Vada Palma

Board of Adjustment Members

John Kurek, Chairperson
 Gary Plough, Vice Chairperson
 George Bailey
 Markey Burroughs
 Darrel Lawrence
 Scott Rice, Alternate
 Gene Waltz, Alternate

2007 Town Holiday Schedule

The Town Hall offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Labor Day	Monday, Sept. 3, 2007
Veteran's Day	Monday, Nov. 12, 2007
Thanksgiving	Thursday, Nov. 22, 2007
	Friday, Nov. 23, 2007
Christmas	Monday, Dec. 24, 2007
	Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2007
	Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2007

Mayor and Town Council

Mayor Joyce "Tootsie" Vinson.....726-6558
Mayor Pro-Tem Eddie Dawkins726-1544
Jim Bailey, Councilmember.....241-1200
Ruth Barnes, Councilmember241-1683
Joseph R. Tarascio, Councilmember..241-9158
Michael Warren, Councilmember.....725-3708

Atlantic Beach Gets New Police Chief

Mr. Allen Smith has been selected to be your new Chief of Police. He will be sworn in on Friday, August 31, 2007, and will be taking office on September 4, 2007.

Basic Burglary Prevention Strategies

The best way to prevent burglary is to make your home an unattractive target to a potential burglar. You can make it more difficult by "hardening" such areas of entry as the doors, windows, vents, skylights, etc. The harder a potential burglar has to work to gain entry, the less likely they will be to burglarize the home.

Invest in alarms from a reputable company and post warnings on your residence that the home has a Burglar Alarm System. The extra time a homeowner takes to follow these few simple tips can make all the difference in the world.

News from the Planning Department

Education / Training

Zoning Enforcement Officer **Jessica Fiester** completed the class Introduction to Zoning at the UNC Institute of Government in May.

Unified Development Ordinance (UDO)

The Town of Atlantic Beach will soon begin work on a Unified Development Ordinance. Over the course of the next 12-18 months the Town will reorganize all land-use regulations into a coordinated and user-friendly document. This process will include ordinance revisions, clarifications and citizen participation meetings. Meeting dates will be advertised on the Town of Atlantic Beach website and in the *Carteret News Times*.

Manager's Message

Well it has been a busy three months...my first day as your Town Manager was May 7, 2007. During this brief time we have:

- Police Chief Kilpatrick Retired
- Hired Allen Smith as the new Police Chief
- Hired Ms. Kelly Nash as the new Town Clerk
- Adopted the 2007-08 Fiscal Budget
- Fire Department's 50th Anniversary
- Police Department's National Night Out
- July 4th Celebration
- Storm water and Wastewater ABACOWS Committee Recommendations
- The Grove Project and The Circle Development District moving forward
- Dredging Project and grant reimbursement completed
- Started the GIS – Geographical Information System process
- Started the UDO – Unified Development Ordinance process
- Upgraded the Utility Billing format
- Zoning Map update
- Replacement of Computer Exchange Server

These are just a few highlights of the exciting things happening in **your** town government, but we can't do it alone. We really need **your** participation in order to make **your** town government one that is "of the people, by the people and for the people". It is very important that you let us know what is on **your** mind. I do promise the staff and I will listen and react to **your** needs. We may not be able to fix everything and solve all the problems / challenges but we will have an open door to **your** Town Hall. I encourage you to visit the Town of Atlantic Beach web site at: www.AtlanticBeach-NC.com

Your Town government is affecting change internally to better serve **you**, the citizens...our "Customers". The staff and I are re-thinking our approach to how we manage **your** assets. Good stewardship and a business model to services rendered is going to bring us into the 21st century. The Management Team has developed an Organizational Vision and Values Statement:

"Organizational Vision & Values"

- Core Services or Business to be accomplished Efficiently and Effectively
- Integrity is Paramount
- Open and Honest Communications
- We are "Public Servants" Stewards of the Town of Atlantic Beach financials and services
- The "Tax Payers or Citizens" are our "Customers"...we exist to serve them

The organizational vision and values statement is a work in progress. We will always attempt to improve the services that you, the Citizen – Customer desire in your local government. We are here to serve you the citizens – customers and treat the assets that you have afforded us as our own...we will always strive to be good stewards of your government.

Keeping it Good in the Neighborhood

From time to time the town is tasked with difficult decisions pertaining to dwellings and buildings which are unfit for human habitation due to dilapidation, defects increasing the hazards of fire, accidents and other calamities. Lack of ventilation, light and sanitary facilities rendering such buildings unsafe or unsanitary. Structures that are detrimental to **health, safety, and morals** and otherwise inimical to the welfare of the residents of the Town of Atlantic Beach.

In order to protect the health safety and welfare of the residents of the town, as authorized by the General Statutes, it is necessary for the Town Council to order such building to be demolished when owners refuse to repair or maintain their property. This is to protect the town residents and their investments from the dilapidation that occurs when property owners neglect the upkeep of their property.

Over 40 structures have been ordered demolished in the last seven years by the Inspections office.



Debris Clearance After A Natural Disaster

Major natural disasters can generate enormous amounts of debris in short periods of time. Debris clearance, removal and disposal operations must be implemented quickly to expedite recovery operations and protect the public health and safety of the community.

The speed of initial debris clearance, removal and disposal operations depends on several factors. As soon as possible after a natural disaster, Phase I of the emergency debris clearance will commence. This phase consists of utilization of all available force and labor to establish a single lane on roadways to allow for movement of emergency vehicles, law enforcement, and resumption of critical public facilities and utilities.

Upon completion of Phase I, the public's involvement and participation becomes extremely important. Curbside separation of debris is critical during the early stages of clean-up. Homeowners need to separate debris into several different types to help speed up collection and hold down cost.

Divide debris into three separate piles: vegetative material, construction debris, and non-burnable hazardous materials (chemicals, petroleum products, paint products, asbestos, and any other hazardous materials). It is essential that the non-burnable hazardous materials be in a separate pile from all other debris.

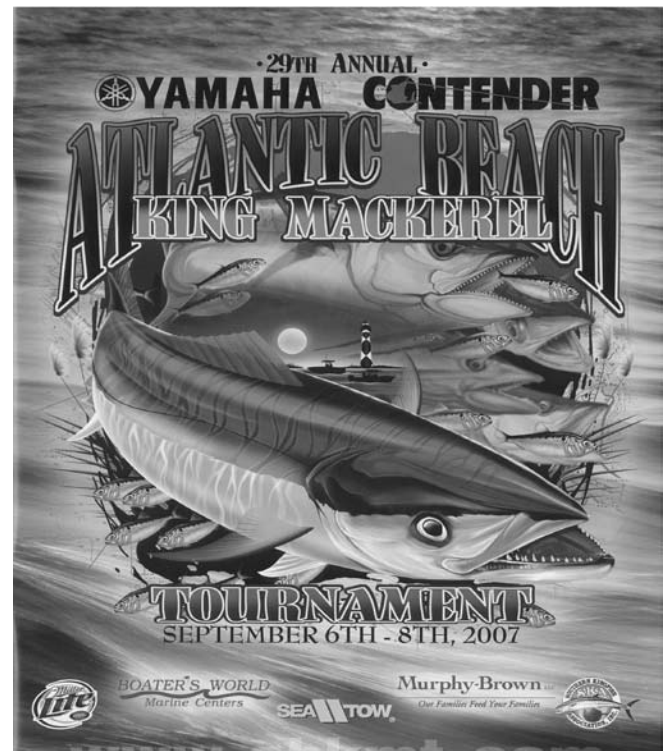
In addition to dividing the debris, please remember not to block access to fire hydrants and utility services.

29th Annual Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament

We welcome you to the 29th Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament. We hope you will enjoy our hospitality. We encourage you to support our major sponsors and our local businesses who each year help make this event fun for our fishermen, and beneficial for our charity donations. Best of luck to everyone for a safe and enjoyable 29th Annual Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament.

The Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament will celebrate its 29th year on September 6th – 8th, 2007. This event was started 29 years ago by four volunteer firemen who were on a mission. They wanted to organize a fishing tournament for small boats, give away only cash prizes, and most importantly for them, raise much needed money for the fire department. After a lot of hard work, their dream became a reality. They laid the groundwork for what is now looked upon as one of the most organized and well-run tournaments of yesterday and today. The success and longevity of this event could not be possible without the support of our sponsors, our participants and our spectators.

The Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament is a non-profit organization that is still one of the largest all-cash tournaments on the east coast. Every year, the proceeds from this event are donated to the two charities that we support. In the last 28 years, this tournament has funded many needed projects for the Atlantic Beach Volunteer Fire Department and the Carteret County Sportfishing Association. The fire department has purchased state-of-the-art fire and EMS equipment and maintains an intense ongoing training program to increase the service it provides to the citizens and visitors of Atlantic Beach. The CCSA uses the proceeds to purchase reef materials to place on the acres of permitted bottom sites offshore of Carteret County, thus protecting and ensuring the enjoyment of sportfishing for years to come. We are proud of our charities and the service they provide!



National Night Out

Atlantic Beach held its annual National Night Out activities on August 7, 2007. The police department was joined this year by the Pine Knoll Shores and Indian Beach police departments along with the Atlantic Beach Fire Department. There were a lot of activities for the children and adults.

There was BO-BO the Clown, who made balloon animals for the kids. We cooked over 500 hot dogs, had over 40 pounds of BBQ sandwiches, and over 500 sodas and water were handed out. Musical entertainment was provided by the band "Not Quite Normal".

There were various types of educational awareness items handed out to the public throughout the night. There was a raffle in which bikes, gift certificates and various other items were given away. The night was capped off with a fireworks display.

Reminders...

Age Requirement for Fishing License

Individuals age 16 and over that want to fish in the surf or in a vessel are required to have a saltwater fishing license.

No Wake Zone

There are No Wake Zones located in and around the Atlantic Beach waterways, with special emphasis on the Royal Channel area.

Special Vacation Burglary Precaution Tips

If you are going to be on vacation or away from your dwelling for any extended length of time, follow these steps:

- Designate a trusted neighbor/family member to be contacted in case of any emergencies and to keep a close watch on your dwelling while you are away.
- Discontinue all delivery services (newspapers, mail, etc.)
- Arrange for lawn care and trash cans to be taken out on trash day to give the appearance that you are home.
- Have your lights on automatic timer while you are gone.
- If you have a telephone answering machine, do not change the message to state you are away. Have message indicate you are home but unable to answer the call.
- Before you leave, make sure that all doors, windows, and other means of entry are locked and secured.
- Contact your local law enforcement agency and advise them that you will be going on vacation. Give all pertinent information, as listed above along with departure/return dates with approximate times and that you would like to request a Vacant House Check while you are away.

Happy Birthday!

On August 4, 2007, the ABFD celebrated its 50-year anniversary. This milestone was well received by those in attendance as all of the past ABFD Fire Chiefs banded together for a night of awards and sharing of memories. The Atlantic Beach Volunteer Fire Department is currently selling Atlantic Beach Fire Department 50th Anniversary T-shirts as a fund-raising effort. All proceeds from the sale of the shirts will be used to purchase rescue equipment for the fire department. The T-shirts can be purchased at the fire department for \$20.00. Please help support your Volunteer Fire Department by purchasing one of these fine shirts.



Pipe & Drum Band

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department has formed an Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band. The band held their first performance during the 50th Anniversary Celebration/Open House on August 4, 2007. The band will mainly be utilized to perform during Fire department events in the county and funeral services, in conjunction with the Fire Department Honor Guard. You may purchase a Emerald Society Pipe & Drum Band t-shirt for \$20 at the Atlantic Beach Fire Department. The monies earned through the t-shirt sales and donations will be used to assist in the purchase of instruments and uniforms. Though the band is a self-funded organization, the Town of Atlantic Beach fully supports their mission.



Hurricane Preparedness

Do you and your family have a family disaster plan in place so that you will know what to do when a hurricane is threatening the area? Here are some planning tips and supplies.

- Stock non-perishable emergency food supplies.
- Make plans now for what to do with your pets if you need to evacuate.
- If you live in a trailer or in a low-lying area where flooding is probable, have arrangements in place to go to a shelter or the residence of another family member.
- If ordered to evacuate, **DO NOT WAIT OR DELAY YOUR DEPARTURE.**
- If a hotel or motel is your final destination during an evacuation, make reservations **BEFORE** you leave.
- If you have a pet, call ahead to the shelter or hotel to see if they allow pets.
- If you decide to evacuate to another county or region, be prepared for long traffic delays.
- Create a disaster supply kit:
 1. Water – at least one (1) gallon a day per person, for 3-7 days.
 2. Food – non-perishable items.
 3. Blankets and pillows.
 4. Extra clothing.
 5. First aid kit, medicines and prescription drugs.
 6. Special items for babies and the elderly.
 7. Personal hygiene items.
 8. Flashlight with plenty of spare batteries.
 9. Radio (battery-operated).
 10. Cash.
 11. Important documents sealed in Ziploc plastic bags – insurance records and forms, medical records, bank account numbers.
 12. Pet care items.
 13. Make sure your vehicle fuel tanks are full.

Important Notice to Citizens, Business Owners, and Contractors

Changes in Fire Inspection Fees

Effective July 1, 2007, the Atlantic Beach Fire Department was approved by the Town Council to increase service fees and fines for Fire and Life Safety Code violations. Incidents like the tragic night club fire in Rhode Island and the recent Shutters Condominium fire in Pine Knoll Shores demonstrated the importance of Fire and Life Safety. These fees will give businesses an incentive to make sure they comply with the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code and local ordinances and decrease the amount of time violations will continue in order to provide safety for their patrons. Under the new regulations, businesses that violate basic Fire and Life Safety may be fined up to \$500.00 per violation, per day. Basic Fire and Life Safety Code violations include overcrowding, unauthorized burning, blocked, locked, or impeded exits, non-compliant spraying operations, failure to test and maintain fire alarm and suppression systems and unauthorized storage. Attached with the new fee schedule are some definitions that may help to clarify the types of Fire and Life Safety Code violations.

The new fee schedule establishes fees for re-inspections of businesses for non-compliance, establishes fees for permits required for hazardous events and operations, establishes fees for performance testing of fire alarm and suppression systems and raises fines for nuisance fire alarms that continue due to neglect of maintenance and testing. These fees more accurately reflect the cost of the services we provide, but are still less than or in line with what many other cities charge.

Questions pertaining to these fees or fire inspections may be directed to the Town of Atlantic Beach Fire Marshal's Office at 252-726-7361.

