

Prevention is the Key!

Summer begins to wind down! We at the police department have been busy over the past few months dealing with our usual influx of seasonal calls for service. We are continually working 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 Community Watch Program continues to strengthen. I would like to thank Lt. Jeff Harvey and our patrol officers for their continuous work with our homeowners, homeowner associations and businesses to ensure that citizens and business owners are better informed regarding crime prevention. Our staff is educating the public on what to be on the lookout for so that we can work on prevention before acts are committed in addition to knowing HOW to report incidents. Want to stay better informed? Sign up for E-Watch!! We have updated our web page and added a new program called E-Watch. You can contact Lt. Harvey at (252) 726-2523 or by e-mail through a link on the web page (www.atlanticbeachpd.com) and be included in an update of things going on for your area of town.

Help Us Do Our Jobs

The police department has been receiving complaints about citizens who walk pets and fail to clean up after them. Also those who refuse to put their dogs on a leash. In Atlantic Beach, it's the law - there are ordinances in place that require you to "poop scoop" after your pet and have them on a leash. Officers have been instructed to enforce all town ordinances, so please be mindful of your neighbors and the law.

Atlantic Beach Town Council is continuously getting complaints after the fact about law violations in varying degrees. Many times the first that I, or any of my staff, hear of these complaints are at the monthly Town Council meetings. I am respectfully asking that, if you have problems or complaints, please come to me and allow me to address your concerns before you report in a public meeting on problems or issues that, I, as your Police Chief have no knowledge of. I am requesting that you allow me the opportunity to do my job before you go over my head. I welcome anyone who wishes to meet with me or simply talk to me. You may do so either by phone or e-mail at policechief@atlanticbeach-nc.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. We are still seeking volunteers who are interested in serving as members of a new program we hope to implement, "Volunteers in Policing" (VIPs.) This program is administered through Citizens Corps and state and federal funds are available if we meet all requirements. If this is something that you are interested in please contact Lt. Jeff Harvey at (252) 726-2523.

Animal Control

As noted in the last publication of the Ocean Breeze, Carteret County Animal Control is working with the town and together we have established a new process for citizens to follow for deploying animal traps. Citizens who have problems with feral cats and other wild animals need to contact the Police Department and sign out a trap. The town will provide traps for citizens to pick up and set. Once the traps have been loaned to citizens the police department will notify Carteret County Animal Control of the citizens' name, address and telephone number. The following day, county animal control will check the issued traps and if there are animals in the traps, animal control will take the trap and deal with the animals appropriately.

Carteret County Animal Control checks traps Monday through Friday. If there are no animals in traps, the traps will be deactivated on Friday and re-set on Monday morning. County Animal Control does not have personnel to check traps on weekends, therefore, traps must remain deactivated Saturday and Sunday to avoid trapped animals from going without food and water over the weekends. This continues to be an issue! We have many who are feeding these feral cats and the animals will not go into traps if they have food available. In addition, the town has ordered seven (7) additional animal traps which increases the total number of traps from 13 to 20 in order to help alleviate the animal situation.

Hurricane Season

We are in the middle of hurricane season. As reported in our last publication, the Carteret County Emergency Services has a new tool which will assist in all future necessary evacuations and other emergency notification needs deemed "CODE RED." This new tool is a Reverse 911 calling system. Here's how it works. Pre-recorded phone messages are delivered to residential telephones concerning either evacuation or preparedness information for an emergency event. If citizens wish to be notified on devices other than land lines, such as cellular phones, anyone may go to the Carteret County website (www.carteretcountygov.org) and register additional numbers. Also available through the Carteret 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 Atlantic Beach 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

Mayor's Minute

During the housing boom of a few years ago, we saw a glimpse of things to come. The consensus in Atlantic Beach was that our current development ordinances were not well equipped to handle this growth in a smart and responsible way. Last summer, the Town Council responded by retaining a top-notch consulting firm to help us draft a Unified Development Ordinance, or "UDO." The UDO will replace all of our current development ordinances with one, well-organized and approachable document. The UDO will include the codes for zoning, subdivision, signs, parking and other development related topics.

One of the first actions of our current Town Council was to form a UDO committee consisting of members of the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Town Council as well as some at-large citizens from each area of town. Over the past few months this committee, our consultant and our Town Planner have been working hard to review the first draft of this large, but important document. We are making great progress and hope to have the UDO finished this fall.

An important part of the drafting process will be getting input from as many citizens as we can. To achieve this goal, we plan to hold a series of neighborhood meetings all over town to present a draft of the UDO and listen to the residents of each neighborhood. This will ensure that their concerns are addressed in the ordinance. It is my opinion that decisions about how a specific neighborhood can evolve should be made by the people who live in that very neighborhood. Thus, it is imperative that we get good input from our residents. We hope to begin these neighborhood meetings in the coming weeks, please keep an eye out for notices of a meeting in your area.

Respectfully,
A.B. "Trace" Cooper, III
Mayor, Town of Atlantic Beach

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Reminders

- **October 1st - the beach strand is open to vehicular traffic. Beach passes can be purchased at Town Hall, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**
- **October 15th - SPEED LIMIT CHANGE - we will be raising the speed limit on NC 58 from the summer speed of 35 mph to 45 mph for the off season**

As summer closes, our vacation homeowners will return home. 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 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.

Allen Smith
Chief, Atlantic Beach Police Department

Fall 2008

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

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

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



Manager's Message

It's been a good summer season despite high fuel costs and a lackluster economy. Things are kinda back to normal - schools are now in session, the tourists have gone home, traffic is better here than it is on the Raleigh beltline, some great holidays are coming our way and you don't have to stand in line with one of those beeper things to wait for a table at our fine restaurants. Your Council and staff have been busy. Let me bring you up-to-date on some things we have been working on.

Because of the economic conditions, the Town Council adopted an extremely conservative budget for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009. The budget, including all funds, totaled \$7,222,376.00 with a tax rate of 12.5 cents per \$100 valuation. This is a 2.5 cent reduction from the previous fiscal year. The budget was balanced without using General Fund Balance monies (reserves.) The General Fund Balance is projected to be 46.8% at year end, June 30, 2009. The State requires municipalities to maintain a minimum of 8.0% in General Fund Balance reserves.

The Carteret County tax rate is also extremely low at .23/\$100. The lowest county rate of all 100 counties in the State of North Carolina.

The Council and staff have been busy for the past few months. Two new committees have been formed. First, the Atlantic Beach Citizen's Committee on Dredging. The purpose of this committee is to help plan, maintain and fund dredging projects for the Town's canals, channels and waterways. Second, the Atlantic Beach Parks and Recreation Committee, whose task will be to initiate parks and recreation activities and events which is felt to be much needed by all segments, elements and ages of the population here in Atlantic Beach.

In regards to the Tom Doe Memorial Beach Access, the town has obtained all the necessary permits for and has begun construction on a new public access bathhouse facility located at the end of Henderson Drive.

The town applied for and received a \$50,000.00 Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant to address the town's storm water problems. We have also applied for a Division of Water Quality Grant to construct rain gardens in localized flood prone areas of town to help relieve and ease flood conditions in those specific locations.

The Coastal Resources Commission (CRC) recently approved the town's Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan without objection. We are also in the final stages of completion on our proposed Unified Development Ordinance (UDO.)

Things are running smoothly here at the beach. Stop and visit with us here at Town Hall if you get a minute and let us know if we can do anything for you.

Fish are biting....come on down!

IT'S THE BEST TIME THAT EVER WAS!

Pete Allen
 Town Manager

KNOX Box Program Receives Positive Acceptance

The KNOX Box Rapid Entry Key Box system adopted by the Town in March, 2008 has received great acceptance from the Atlantic Beach business community as well as from our citizens. The KNOX system incorporates a universal key box system that utilizes a single key that is secured by the Fire Department for the purpose of rapid entry into structures in the event of an emergency. The KNOX Box program mandates the use of a KNOX Box for certain businesses and structures that have fire alarm systems, sprinkler systems, hazardous materials, elevators, high rise buildings, and multi-family residential complexes that share a common egress corridor through locked doors. These occupancies will be required to have a KNOX Box installed by July 1, 2009. The program does not mandate the use of the KNOX Box for commercial structures that do not fall within these criteria or for private residential structures. However, the KNOX Box program is offered and available to all property owners and managers, both commercial and residential. Several residents and property owners have expressed interest in and purchased a KNOX Box. This provides a great alternative to hiding keys outside your home or making long unnecessary trips in the middle of the night. Security and peace of mind come with knowing that your property is in the caring hands of the Atlantic Beach Fire Department. For more information on the KNOX Box program, please visit our Town website at www.atlanticbeach-nc.com/fire_dept/firemarshaloffice.asp, or contact the Fire Marshal at (252) 726-7361.



Thanksgiving Safety



With fire-wise common sense, you can make sure tragedy does not come between you and the festive holiday you have planned. Follow these fire prevention tips to help you and your family have a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

- Keep your family and overnight guests safe with a working smoke detector on every level of the house, in every bedroom, and in the halls adjacent to the bedrooms. Test smoke detectors monthly and replace batteries at least twice a year.
- Overnight guests should be instructed on the fire escape plan and designated meeting place for your home.
- Have a fire extinguisher available not more than 10 feet from the stove, on the exit side of the room.
- A 2-1/2 lb. class ABC multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher is recommended. Know how to use your fire extinguisher.
- Start holiday cooking with a clean stove and oven.
- Keep the kitchen off-limits to young children and adults that are not helping with food preparations to lessen the possibility of kitchen mishaps.
- When cooking, do not wear clothing with loose sleeves or dangling jewelry. The clothing can catch on fire and the jewelry can catch on pot handles, causing spills and burns.
- Cook on the back burners when possible and turn pot handles in so they don't extend over the edge of the stove.
- Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the stove or have someone else watch what is being cooked.
- Keep Thanksgiving decorations and kitchen clutter away from sources of direct heat.
- Candles are often part of holiday decorations. Candles should never be left burning when you are away from home, or after going to bed. Candles should be located where children will not be tempted to play with them, and where guests will not accidentally brush against them. The candle holder should be completely noncombustible and difficult to knock over. The candle should not have combustible decorations around it.
- If smoking is allowed inside, provide guests with large, deep ashtrays and check them frequently. After guests leave, check inside and under upholstery and in trash cans for cigarette butts that may be smoldering.

Boat Ramp Etiquette

The Town of Atlantic Beach has a limited number of public boat ramps that are located within various residential neighborhoods of the town. The keyword in the above statement is PUBLIC. In order for everyone to have a pleasant and smooth experience utilizing these ramps, the town is offering a few suggestions on Boat Ramp Etiquette.

1. Practice Makes Perfect!

Practice backing your trailer before heading to a ramp.

2. Be Ready to Go!

Be prepared to launch upon arrival at ramp so as not to block other's use.

3. Space Savers!

If you have an alternate means of parking, please use it so that those who do not can utilize the limited parking space available.

4. No Block Parties!

Do not block someone in with your vehicle and/or trailer without knowing whether you will be returning prior to or at the same time the other person will.

5. Quiet Please!

Be considerate during evening hours - since all of our ramps are located within close proximity to homes, please be considerate of your noise level during this time of day.



Water Usage and Mother Nature

Once again, the hurricane season is upon us and we, at the Water Department would like to take this time to remind all property owners, residents and guests on the usage of water during trying times.

In order to maintain the integrity of the town's water system and to make sure that adequate fire protection will be maintained at all times DURING and IMMEDIATELY AFTER a storm and/or power outage, the Town of Atlantic Beach Water Department requests that everyone practice the following:

- ALWAYS assume that we are under a SEVERE WATER RESTRICTION situation.
- Use only the minimum amount of water needed for cooking and sanitary needs.
- Refrain from "washing down" vehicles, windows, ornamental shrubs, etc. until everything has returned to normal. (Contact the Water Department if there is any doubt about water usage for "wash down" purposes.)
- Check all household fixtures and outside faucets to make sure none are dripping, left running, or are broken by debris created during the storm.
- Turn **OFF** all lawn sprinkler systems.
- Report any location of free-flowing water to the Water or Police Departments.

We, at the water department, realize that these requests cause almost as much inconvenience as a hurricane or power outage but feel they are necessary in order to help relieve any stress that may be or have been placed on the water system by either storm damage or prolonged power outage.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance in helping to maintain the integrity of your town's water system during and after these events.

Thank You!

On August 3, 2008 the Atlantic Beach Fire Department responded to a possible drowning at the main "Circle" area. Unfortunately, a life was lost. I would like to take this time to give my personal thanks to all the citizens and visitors that spent countless hours of their own time assisting the Fire Department by walking up and down the beach strand trying to locate the victim in the water. This is just another testament to the caliber of residents and citizens that we have here in Atlantic Beach. Again, I thank you and please stay safe.

Adam Snyder
Chief, Atlantic Beach Fire Department

Clerk's Corner

Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk

I hope everyone is doing well during the heat, gas hikes and slow economy. What a combo! Well, school is in. Some are rejoicing, some are moaning, but everyone please drive careful and be mindful of school buses and students at all times. Remember, they are our future!

I would like to take this time to wish everyone a Happy Labor Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving. I hope you all are rested, stocked with enough candy to last forever and stuffed to the bone from eating a great Thanksgiving dinner with your family and friends.

Ok, I know it's early still, but it's never too late to start thinking about Christmas! So that everyone can attend and enjoy the festivities, we are letting you know ahead of time the dates of our annual holiday events.

- **2nd Annual Atlantic Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony**
Thursday, December 4th, 2008 at 7:00 pm in front of the flagpoles

- **2008 Atlantic Beach "Light Up the Night" Christmas Parade**
Saturday, December 6th, 2008 - 7:00 pm

Details of these holiday events will be forthcoming.

The Atlantic Beach Town Council has formed two (2) new committees. They are the Atlantic Beach Citizen's Committee on Dredging and the Atlantic Beach Parks and Recreation Committee**.

Atlantic Beach Citizen's Committee on Dredging (ABCCOD)

Vada Palma, Councilmember	Facilitator
Everette Cameron	Chairperson
Rusty Cutshaw	
Sonny Davis	
Rod Sawyer	
Jay Smith	Atlantic Beach Police Dept.

The ABCCOD meets the **First (1st) Wednesday of each month. Please be advised that the September 3rd meeting has been canceled.**

**At the time of publication, the Atlantic Beach Parks and Recreation Committee members had not been appointed.

The quality of responses from the dredging surveys was great. The committee received over 300 responses! Our thanks for all the feedback.

And lastly, as always, the Mayor and Town Council along with the staff encourage anyone that wants to become more informed on town issues to please come join us at a Town Council meeting. And that invitation extends to any of the committee meetings that take place, be it Planning Board, Board of Adjustment or our two (2) newly formed committees on dredging and Parks and Recreation. You are also more than welcome to come see us at town hall or send us an e-mail at tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com. Our doors are always open (til 4:30 pm.) Join Us! Get Facts! Be Informed!

Food for Thought: "Don't take away someone's Hope, it may be all they have left."

Happy Fall! Stay Safe!
Kelly
townclerk@atlanticbeach-nc.com