

A Big "Thank You" To All

We would like to take this time to recognize and thank all of those individuals who volunteer their time to sit on the various boards and committees for the betterment of Atlantic Beach.

Planning Board

Ray Langley, Chairman
John Hopkins
Scott Rice
Llewellyn Ramsey
Steve Joyner
Norman Livengood
Larry Burke

Dredging Committee

Vada Palma, Facilitator/Council
Everette Cameron, Chairman
Rusty Cutshaw
Rod Sawyer
Jay Smith
Sonny Davis

Parks and Recreation Committee

Harry Archer, Chairman, Mayor Pro Tem
Judy Beamon
Hallock Howard
Llewellyn Ramsey
Joe Goodson
Gene Gray
Jeff Burton
Susan Griffin
Mary Kurek
Sandy Kinney
Alesia Sanderson
Betty Fentress
Judson Watson

Board of Adjustment

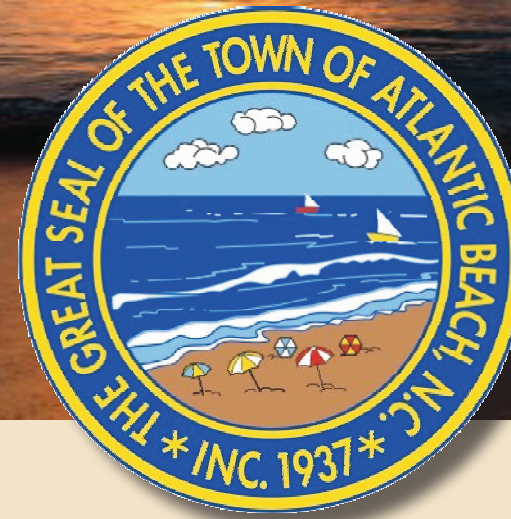
John Kurek, Chairman
Markey Burroughs
Sam Rich
Gene Walz
Gary Plough
David Cox, Alternate
John Lotspih, Alternate

Bicycle Path Planning Committee

John Lotspih
David Cox
Rick Poillon
Harry Archer, Council
Ed Myers
Hilbert Selby
Trish Ide
Rob Will
Alicia Ragsdale
Julie Glanzer
Christy Harrell

Volunteers in Policing Services (VIPS)

Zulene Wooten
Cindy Wooten
Stuart Savage
Claude Andrews
Katie Riggs
Travis Riggs
Virgil Mewborn
Elayne Foisy
Doe Martynowski
Reid Strader
Debbie Crowl
Kay Lannoye
Ike Pipkin



the Ocean Breeze

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SPECIAL EDITION: ATLANTIC BEACH 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW



Mayor's Minute

It is the start of a new year in Atlantic Beach and I am honored to be writing to you after having been elected to my third term as your Mayor. Your returning Town Council members, our new member, John Rivers, and I are excited about representing you for the next two years.

I have always believed that small towns provide a more pure form of democracy. There is not a lot of bureaucracy between our citizens and those elected to serve them. In Atlantic Beach, your elected officials do not need to guess what you want us to do; all we have to do is ask you. It is, after all, your tax dollars that make the Town run.

So, the goals of myself and Council for the coming year are really your goals. We will shape our policy and set a budget to accomplish the things that you have asked us to do. As we move forward with our annual planning, we will often refer back to our citizen's surveys. Last year, we received several hundred responses to a survey from all segments of our population. This large number of responses provided us with reliable guidance with regards to the wishes of our residents.

The survey showed a strong consensus that there are three things that we need to prioritize to make Atlantic Beach better. The first is providing more family entertainment in town. The second is improving the appearance of our streetscapes, particularly on the Causeway and in the commercial parts of town. The third is jump-starting the redevelopment of the Circle. We obviously have other issues to deal with in Town and several others were mentioned in the survey. But, these three issues were cited far more than any others.

There are no surprises on that list. We have been working on all of these things for the past few years and have made some progress. We have done a lot of planning and legwork that I will push to convert into action in the coming year. Proper planning is critical, but kids cannot play on a pretty rendering of proposed town park. We need to build the park. Similarly, we can study how to improve the appearance on the Causeway, our gateway into town; but studies and design roundtables do not make better first impressions for visitors coming to Atlantic Beach. We need to do the work.

With regards to the Circle, most of the area is privately owned and we cannot force developers to build at a time when there is little demand for new development. But, we can take steps to incentivize the right kind of development. We can also continue to make our boardwalk and main beach the center of many of our Town events and continue to improve the facilities that the Town does own at the Circle.

Good planning and preparation is important, but action is the goal. I recently heard one resident state that everything was "fine" in Atlantic Beach and that the Council should not be doing anything. It was suggested that with a weak national economy, it is the wrong time to do anything in Atlantic Beach. Well, if you want a town government that is not going to do anything, then I'm afraid you have elected the wrong Mayor.

Your Town Council, staff, Manager and Mayor are not satisfied with things being "fine." Our goal is to make things great. As we've learned from our last survey, and as I hear every day, people love Atlantic Beach, but we still have work to do for our town to recognize its full potential. We have heard from our citizens. We have done the planning. We have the resources. It is time to make things happen.

I wish you all the best in 2012. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas on how we can do a better job as a Town. Although, it's a little chilly on the beach as I write this, there are only 17 more weekends until Memorial Day. Summer is just around the corner and we look forward to seeing you on the beach soon.

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



As Atlantic Beach enters into its 75th anniversary year, the Mayor, Council and staff have hit the ground running with numerous projects underway. Many of these projects involved the commitment of time and energy from interested citizens who serve on several of the advisory committees that we utilize to broaden our base of involvement and use as a sounding board to assure that these projects are meeting their needs.

We continue to utilize the results of the town-wide survey form last year that indicated strong support and guidance. The Council used this as a tool to identify their top priorities. We continue to look at the options available to improve and/or expand our police/fire/public works and administrative facilities. Our Parks and Recreation Committee has revised and renewed a new grant submittal to the state for major funding to expand the park. The Dredging Committee has approved the scope of a spring project for dredging of the Royal Channel and several other water crossings which will be paid for by a federal grant. The newly formed Bicycle Pathway Committee is utilizing a state grant to review the options for improvements that can be made to provide town-wide connectivity and emphasize the easy access of our neighborhoods, businesses and tourist amenities as a "bike-friendly" town.

Many civic-minded merchants have helped our town on its branding and marketing efforts.

Their contributions were key to another successful National Night Out celebration in the park and another well received Christmas by the Sea Holiday Festival in December. This event was attended by the largest crowd to date. We are grateful for the benefit and support received from our volunteers in our Police and Fire Departments. The VIPs program was a key to our success last year with regards to our paid parking programs, movie nights, fireworks and activities on the Boardwalk.

We are very excited about our 75th anniversary. Planning is underway to stage a series of events later this year to celebrate our beach heritage and bring back the excitement of the Boardwalk days of old with music, amusements, and special functions built around the time period of Memorial Day and July 4th week to Labor Day weekend. We are currently gathering names of those of you who would like to be part of these great events.

The challenge of our town is to balance the needs of the 1800 people that live here year round with those of the 35-45,000 who return to us from Easter through Labor Day as their second home and main weekend destination of choice. This report will highlight many of the key achievements of the past year and serve as a thank you to all the citizens who offer support either through their active participation on numerous town committees or just being a vital part of this beach community. The wealth of time, talent and energy of our citizens is most valued and appreciated and it helps to make Atlantic Beach one of the most unique beach towns on the coast.

We all here at Town Hall will stay very busy the next several months getting prepared for the town's 75 anniversary and extend a welcome to everyone for what we hope is your best year yet "at the Beach!"

David Walker
Town Manager

Dredging

The Atlantic Beach Citizens Committee on Dredging has approved acquiring a major permit in order to dredge the Royal Channel and several other water crossings to a depth of six feet (6') this spring. This project will be paid for by a \$30,000 federal grant acquired through our Police Department Marine Patrol unit. The committee approved the sonar sounding studies of several of our local channels by GeoDynamics out of Morehead City. The study produced computer renderings of sonar graphics of some of our local channels to verify shallow depths in need of spot dredging.

The committee also suggested not to proceed with any dredging of the Hoop Pole Creek Channel at this time, but did approve the Marine Patrol unit to layout new buoy markers off the channel that leads westward to the Sound.

Each year Town Council appropriates an amount to dredging projects equal to the amount received from the local property tax levies on boats registered in Atlantic Beach. With the new tax valuations in place, this amount has increased by 20% to now be \$48,000 per year based upon the amount of \$28,602,120 valuation of boats in Atlantic Beach.

Councilmembers

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Ann Batt Councilmember
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Eddie Briley Councilmember
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Vada Palma Councilmember
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John Rivers Councilmember
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Department Heads

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Board Members

Planning Board

Ray Langley Chairperson

Larry Burke

John Hopkins

Steve Joyner

Norman Livengood

Scott Rice

Llewellyn Ramsey

Board of Adjustment

John Kurek Chairperson

Markey Burroughs

Gary Plough

Sam Rich

Gene Walz

David Cox Alternate

John Lotspih Alternate

✓ Excellent FY2010-2011 Town Audit Report

✓ Best tax collection rate in Carteret County (99.6%)

✓ Police/Fire/Admin Facilities Study

✓ Dredging Grant (\$30,000.00)

✓ Town Park Planning

✓ Bicycle Path Program

✓ Beach Access Structural Enhancement

✓ Annual Budget Adopted with Tax Levy Cut

✓ Master Park Plan for Town Park

✓ Water Meter Replacement Program

✓ Street Paving Projects

✓ Water Access Planning/Street Ends

✓ Walkways/Alley Clearance Program

✓ 1,133 Permits Issued

128 Grass Violations

158 Minimum Code Violations Cited

✓ Comprehensive Water System Assessment

✓ Hydrographic Survey of Channels

✓ New Water Supply Well Project

✓ Summer Movie Nights

✓ Paid Parking Program

✓ Causeway Enhancement Planning

✓ Rain Garden Program

✓ Council/Businesses/Merchants Forums

✓ Town Branding/Tourism/Vision Package

✓ Festivals/ABPARC/Summer Planning

✓ Enhanced Public Communications - Facebook

✓ "Circle" Cleanup

✓ Completed West-end Elevated Walkway

✓ Consolidation of County 9-1-1 Services

✓ Storm Drainage Projects

✓ Hurricane Irene Recovery and Cleanup

✓ Beach Signs/Benches at all Beach Accesses

✓ Acquired \$35,000 Bike-way Planning Grant

✓ Summer Jr. Lifeguard Programs: 100+ Youths

✓ Town Park Planter and Sign

✓ Pelican Dr. Boat Ramp Repair

✓ National Night Out at Town Park

✓ Christmas By The Sea Holiday Festival

✓ First Night Out Celebration/Bonfire

✓ Atlantic Beach 75th Anniversary Planning

BIKE ATLANTIC BEACH

In 2011, the Town received \$35,000 funding from an NC Department of Transportation Bike and Pedestrian grant to create a plan that will outline bicycle routes for our visitors and residents. This funding requires the Town to have a committee to oversee the process and participate in the plan formulation.

This committee met for the first time on January 17th, 2012 to kick off the process. The group is charged with working with our consultants, Rivers and Associates, to create a plan that will create a network of wide trails, bicycle lanes, signage, and other improvements to make Atlantic Beach a friendlier environment for all levels of cyclists. We are concurrently working on plans to have more bicycle racks placed throughout the town, hopefully encouraging people to cycle rather than drive vehicles.

The plan, hopefully, will address new bikeway/pedestrian paths on the north side of Hwy 58 connecting the east and west ends of town limits; enhance the "bike-a-bility" along the Causeway, address the sidewalk bottlenecks in our central town limits; encourage connectivity from residential neighborhoods to our businesses, shops, restaurants, tourist amenities, governmental facilities, parks and recreation area; and especially ease of bike access to the "Circle" beachfront. Once the plan is completed and approved, the Town will be eligible to seek grant funding from the NC Dept.

of Transportation for phased town construction. It is our hope that the town will become known and promoted as a "bicycle-friendly community" that is networked by a combination of trails and paths.

There is currently an online survey regarding cycling on the town's website and Facebook page to collect data that will be used in the plan. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to complete the survey...it only takes a few minutes.

For more information on this project, you can contact Jessica Fiester, planner@atlanticbeach-nc.com or call (252) 726-4456.



Atlantic Beach Celebrates Its 75th Anniversary!

This year the Town of Atlantic Beach will be celebrating its 75th anniversary since its incorporation in 1937. To mark the occasion, we are planning a series of events to celebrate our beach heritage.

The Town plans to hold a ceremonial Town Council meeting on May 1st at the location and hour of the first Town Council meeting held on May 1st, 1937 in the lobby of the Atlantic Beach hotel, now the location of a beach access lot along the Boardwalk.

A special emphasis on activities including music, amusements and fireworks are being planned not only for Memorial Day weekend and July 4th week, but other weeks as well throughout the summer of 2012.

Come join the celebration this year in Atlantic Beach!

If you are interested in helping plan and coordinate celebration events for the Town's 75th Anniversary, please contact Councilmember Vada Palma at vpalma@ec.rr.com or Mayor Trace Cooper at tcooper@coopdev.com for further details.