

# The Ocean Breeze



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## Summer 2005

## Making Atlantic Beach More Beautiful

Flowers and trees have been the preferred selective and universal gifts of expression since the beginning of time. Whether to celebrate joyous occasions, declare love, adorn homes and gardens, or reflect sympathy, the beauty of florae are always fitting symbols of sentiment.

The Atlantic Beach Beautification Committee has the responsibility and pleasure of making public areas of our beloved beach more visually attractive in this time honored tradition. We all want to see our sentiments regarding our island community reflected in a more tangible way, which plantings and other landscaping features help to achieve. This is best done by enlisting the help and input of those citizens, (both summer and year 'round) who feel they can contribute to an overall plan for Atlantic Beach.

To this end, we encourage anyone with an interest and desire to participate in such efforts as the palm tree drive, bench dedication, enhancement of the beach boardwalk or other public area improvements to contact June Harris through the Town Offices at 726-2121 or by e-mail at [financeadmin@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:financeadmin@atlanticbeach-nc.com). Donations are encouraged and much appreciated!

Your ideas for personalization will continue to express, in a language universally understood, how much we value and celebrate Atlantic Beach. For now and for years to come, we hope to recharge the spirit of the spectacular natural setting in which we live.

Thanks from your Beautification Committee.



## FYI

- The Town's e-mail address is [tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto: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 online along with the monthly minutes, monthly agendas, "The Ocean Breeze" and other information about the Town. The address is [www.atlanticbeach-nc.com](http://www.atlanticbeach-nc.com)
- Represent your Town by purchasing a vehicle tag, which are available at Town Hall for only \$5.00 each.



# Numbers to Know

## Department Phone Numbers

Administration.....	726-2121
Fire Department.....	726-7361
Inspections Department.....	726-4456
Planning Department.....	726-4456
Police Department.....	726-2523
Public Works.....	726-1366

## Town Manager and Department Heads

Chuck Cooper, Town Manager.....	726-2121
Sabrina M. Simpson, Deputy Town Clerk.....	726-2121
Laura H. Buda, Tax Collector.....	726-2121
Donna Turner, Director of Inspections.....	726-4456
Adam Snyder, Fire Chief.....	726-7361
Scott Kilpatrick, Police Chief.....	726-2523
Marc Schulze, Public Works Director.....	726-1366
Lee Smith, Planning Director.....	726-4456

## Planning Board Members

Joe Tarascio, Chairman  
 Larry Burke  
 Trace Cooper  
 Karen Koenig  
 Norman Livengood  
 Tom Outlaw  
 Vada Palma

## Board of Adjustment Members

Everett Cameron, Chairman  
 Ray Barts  
 Ann Batt  
 John Kurek  
 Joyce Vinson

## Alternate Members

Markey Burroughs  
 Kim Garner  
 Tom Garvey  
 Joe Loughry



# Scheduled Board Meetings

- The Town Council meetings are always the third Monday of each month at 6:00 pm. If you wish to be on the agenda, please notify the Town Clerk in writing by noon on the first Monday of each month.
- The Planning Board meetings are the first Tuesday of each month.
- The Board of Adjustment meetings are the fourth Monday of each month.

# Mayor's Letter

I am very excited about the future of Atlantic Beach. As a community we should be very proud of all of our citizens and homeowners, what we have accomplished together as a community, and where we are headed with redevelopment, building and environmental conservation efforts underway. While we, like all coastal communities, have challenges that we must meet - we are confident that they will be met.

The Town Council (with a membership of Harry Archer, Jim Bailey, Doug Creech, Tom Doe and Christie Roberson) and I recently helped to celebrate the beginning of the redevelopment work at the Circle (a.k.a. the Grove). With a large number of the Town's citizens in attendance, a ceremony was held on June 2nd by Fred Bunn and his team to officially begin the long and arduous process of redeveloping our beloved "downtown" area. When you are visiting and enjoying many of our current attributes - beaches, local retailers and restaurants - please be sure and look for the signs of progress at the Grove (a.k.a. Circle).

In upcoming issues I will continue to keep you up to date on key events occurring in our town and the activities of the Town Council and me. Please plan to come to Atlantic Beach early and often this year. We and all the full time residents will welcome you with open arms.

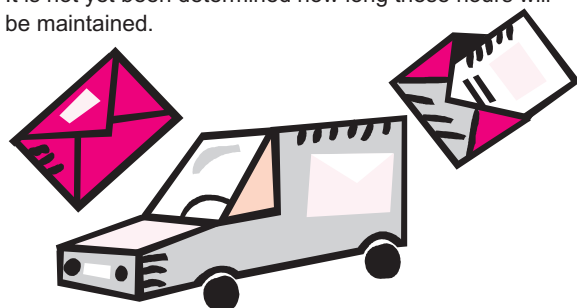
Sincerely,  
 Mayor Eddie Dawkins

# Mayor and Town Council

Mayor Eddie Dawkins.....	726-1544
Mayor Pro Tem Doug Creech.....	247-3831
Harry Archer.....	726-6655
Jim Bailey.....	241-1200
Tom Doe.....	726-8952
Christie Roberson.....	222-0699

# Post Office

The Atlantic Beach Post Office has established Saturday hours and will be open from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm. They will offer full customer services at the retail counter. It is not yet been determined how long these hours will be maintained.



# Manager's Message

Summer is underway and the Town has come alive with locals and visitors enjoying the beach. Atlantic Beach even manages to have its own version of traffic jams this time of year – but, of course, a quick trip to Raleigh and its traffic reminds you why you live at the beach. The first few months as Town Manager have given me an even greater appreciation for remarkable qualities of the Town staff, the Mayor and Council, all the citizens, our friends who visit us annually, et al of Atlantic Beach. Living at the beach is a privilege and pleasure. Here are some of the current goings on that may be of interest to the citizens and visitors alike:

## Town FY 2005-06 Budget

The Town Council passed at its June 20 regular meeting the Fiscal Year 2005-06 budget that retains the existing property tax rate of \$.23/\$100 of valuation. The Town's General Fund is established to account for the majority of all the Town's activities, services and expenses (Police, Fire, Public Services except water services, Building Inspections, Planning, and Administrative Services). Ad valorem property taxes represent the largest revenue source in the General Fund and are based on a tax base of \$863M of property in Atlantic Beach, which is an increase of \$15M over last year's valuation.

Key highlights of the General Fund budget for FY 2005-06 include:

- The Fund Balance for this fund is estimated to be in excess of \$2,205,500 at June 30, 2005.
- Revenues are estimated to be \$4,446,417, and increase of approximately \$115,000 primarily based on increases in the Property Tax valuation, increased Franchise and Sales Tax collections, and improvements in the return on the Town's investments.
- Overall expenses related to departmental operations are estimated at \$4,922,377, an increase over last year primarily due to accounting re-classifications and the funding of new capital spending – Personal Services (people) equal 64% of budget while Other Expenses (materials and purchased services) equal 34%.
- Funding of critical capital expenditures include:
  - Necessary repairs to Town Hall and the Public Services maintenance building to prevent major interruptions in services to the Town.
  - Addition of a vehicle wash down station to improve life expectancy of Town equipment.
  - New mower to replace current unreliable equipment.
  - Irrigation system for Atlantic Beach causeway to improve survivability of trees and plants.
  - Replacement of aging and worn-out fire hoses and nozzles.
  - Additional computers for police cars to improve access to critical data and improve officer/citizen safety.
  - Permitting software and plotter for Inspections and Planning to improve service levels to customers.
- The budget reflects a 2.5% COLA for staff in addition to funding an additional 2% 401(k) contribution, making the overall 401(k) contribution 5% for all staff.
- All service levels are maintained at levels consistent with last year's budget and operational plans.

The Town additionally maintains four other funds relating to Beach Nourishment, Powell Bill Funds, Circle Infrastructure and Water Utilities. With the exception of the Water Fund which accounts for the activities of the Town's water utility, the other funds primarily segregate and maintain funds for special use expenditures that are budgeted in the General Fund.

While the FY 2005-06 Budget reflects no increase in the ad valorem property tax rate of \$.23/\$100 valuation, the proposed General Fund budget does reflect an appropriation of Fund Balance estimated at \$475,961. This is estimated to bring the General Fund Balance to 35.0% of General Fund expenditures at June 30, 2006. Fund balances available for use by the Town and General Fund at June 30, 2006 will be increased due to the Circle Infrastructure revenue which is accounted for in a reverse fund. While this revenue is not typical operating revenue of the Town, it will increase the available governmental fund balances to an estimated 71.7% at June 30, 2006. The purpose of maintaining these reserves is to have the ability to withstand periods of revenue and expense inequity and still provide the services demanded by the Town's citizens. The Town staff is committed to delivering these services in the most cost effective manner possible and reserving funds wherever practical.

## The Grove (a.k.a. The Circle) Celebration

Fred Bunn and his team held a special celebration to kick-off the initial stages of demolition of the remaining structures at The Grove (a.k.a. The Circle). With the entire Town invited and many in attendance, the Mayor, Council, citizens and friends of Atlantic Beach were all able to celebrate the bright future for our downtown area. Major construction can commence in the fall. Over the next few years look for the amazing redevelopment and reclamation effort that is being undertaken by the Town and Fred Bunn.

## Parking

After much discussion and thoughtful deliberation, the Town Council removed all parking meters from the Town with the exception of the CAMA funded beach access lots on the west end of the Circle and New Bern Avenue. These very limited number of meters were retained to assure the open access to key beach facilities that are mandated by the CAMA grants that funded their construction. The next time you are in the Circle area you will notice that fact that almost all parking is now FREE.

## Town's Website

The Town administrative staff is working diligently to upgrade the technology used by the staff to support the Town's citizens. This will include in the very near future a new face and other improvements in the Town's website. We plan to include in the new website easy access to the Town's departments and services, full access to the budget document, Council meeting minutes, forms and other documents used by citizens to request services, and other useful tools. This will not happen all at once but keep an eye out for the improvements as they evolve.

## Storm Water

For anyone who has been around the beach this spring and early summer, it is apparent that we have had some unusual weather and amounts of rain. The Town Council and staff are diligently monitoring and developing remedies for problem areas in Town. Be assured that the Town's current storm water pumps and drains are being maintained and activate automatically once the rains come. Also, remember that most if not all of our solutions have to be approved by a myriad of State and Federal regulators prior to implementation.

## Atlantic Beach Surf Fishing Tournament

Although plans for this year's tournament are not final, mark your calendars for the tournament dates of October 7-9, 2005. Keep watching for details on this year's event which will prove to be full of surprises! For more information in the meantime, contact Laura Wright at [Laura@nccoastchamber.com](mailto:Laura@nccoastchamber.com) and watch for more updates on the website <http://www.nccoastchamber.com>.

I look forward to continuing to report on the happenings in Atlantic Beach in future issues. When you are in town please enjoy the experience and call on us at the Town Hall if you need any assistance.

Chuck Cooper  
Town Manager



## 27th Annual Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament

The Atlantic Beach King Mackerel Tournament, one of the largest **all-cash** tournaments on the east coast, will celebrate its 27th year on September 8th-11th, 2005. The fee and deadline for entry is **\$300.00** per boat *before* midnight on 8/2/05 and **\$350.00** for any entry fee received *after* 8/2/05 until 10:00 pm on 9/8/05. Registration can be accomplished on-line or by downloading an entry form and using regular mail.

Prizes include a top prize for the largest King Mackerel of \$60,000. Many other prizes and categories can be viewed on the tournament website at <http://www.abkmt.com>.

Money raised from this tournament goes to two charities we support. In the last 26 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 services 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 services they provide!

For more information, please contact the Tournament Office at (252) 247-2334 or 800-545-3940, or visit the website at <http://www.abkmt.com>.

# Water Safety Tips

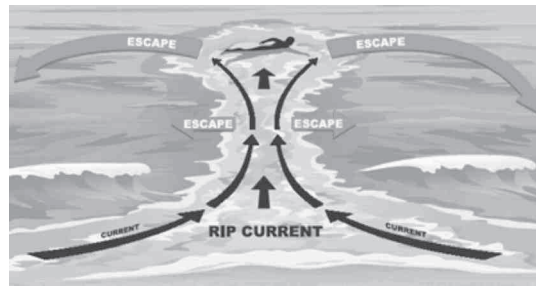
Summer time is here and the heat is on. Everyone is going to the beach and enjoying our beautiful Crystal Coast beaches. The Atlantic Beach Fire Department would like to help ensure that your time in and around the water is safe and enjoyable. Remember these key safety tips:

**Swim Near a Lifeguard:** Statistics over a ten year period show what the chance of drowning at a beach without lifeguard protection is almost five times as great as drowning at a beach with lifeguards.

**Learn to Swim:** Learning to swim is the best defense against drowning.

**Never Swim Alone:** Many drownings involve single swimmers. When you swim with a buddy, if one of you has a problem, the other may be able to help, including signaling for assistance from others. At least have someone onshore watching you.

**Don't Fight the Current:** USLA has found that some 80% of rescues by USLA affiliated lifeguards at ocean beaches are caused by rip currents. These currents are formed by surf and gravity, because once surf pushes water up the slope of the beach, gravity pulls it back. This can create concentrated rivers of water moving off shore. Some people mistakenly call this an undertow, but there is no undertow, just an offshore current. If you are caught in a rip current, don't fight it by trying to swim directly to shore. Instead, swim parallel to shore until you feel the current relax, then swim to shore. Most rip currents are narrow and a short swim parallel to shore will bring you to safety.



**Swim Sober:** Alcohol is a major factor in drowning. Alcohol can reduce body temperature and impair swimming ability. Perhaps more importantly, both alcohol and drugs impair good judgment, which may cause people to take risks they would not otherwise take.

**Don't Float Where You Can't Swim:** Non-swimmers often use flotation devices, like inflatable rafts, to go off shore. If they fall off, they can quickly drown. No one should use a flotation device unless they are able to swim. Use of a leash is not enough because a non-swimmer may panic and be unable to swim back to the flotation device, even with a leash. The only exception is a person wearing a Coast Guard approved life jacket.

**Don't Dive Headfirst, Protect Your Neck:** Serious, lifelong injuries, including paraplegia, occur every year due to diving headfirst into unknown water and striking the bottom. Bodysurfing can result in a serious neck injury when the swimmer's neck strikes the bottom. Check for depth and obstructions before diving, then go in feet first the first time; and use caution while bodysurfing, always extending a hand ahead of you.

Once again, the Town of Atlantic Beach will be providing a lifeguard service at the Circle beach area. The Lifeguard's use color coded flags to advise citizens about swimming conditions. The following is a chart explaining what the color coded flags mean.

**GREEN** - Good Swimming.

**YELLOW** - Use Caution, Possible Rip Currents.

**RED** - Danger, Rip Currents.

## Vial of Life Program

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department is participating in the Vial of Life program. The Vial of Life program is designed to speak for you when you are unable to speak for yourself during a medical emergency. This kit will enable emergency personnel to quickly locate helpful information regarding your medical history in a time of crisis. This kit is clearly marked with a decal and is placed in your refrigerator. Another decal is to be placed on your front door to notify emergency personnel that you are a Vial of Life member. Protect yourself and all of your family members...all it will cost is a little of your time.

## Home Fire Inspections

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department is offering free fire home inspections to any citizen to determine if their home is fire safe. This is a service we provide and we would love to come out to your home and give suggestions on how to make your home fire safe. We will also help plan a fire escape plan for you and your family in the case of an emergency. If interested, please contact Chief Adam Snyder at 726-7361.

# Police Services

The Atlantic Beach Police department is a full service law enforcement agency for the citizens and visitors in our community – twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and three hundred sixty-five days a year. Now that summer is in full swing, would like our residents and guests to remember that we are here to make Atlantic Beach a FUN and SAFE environment for all to enjoy.

Several services that we provide that you may not be aware of include:

- **Animal Control.** We provide humane traps at no cost to residents experiencing problems with domesticated animals. These traps are set, baited, and monitored by our Civil Enforcement Officer.
- **Channel Buoys Maintenance.** We are working on the cleaning, repairing, and replacing channel buoys and channel marker signs for the safety of our boaters. As part of the establishment of an annual maintenance program for all buoys and signs currently in place, we recently marked the channel that runs from Moonlight Drive to the Crow's Nest Marina.
- **"Are You OK"?** The police department provides this service for our senior citizens who live alone. Our communications center calls these residents at a time designated by them to check on their well being. In the event the communications center cannot get them to answer, an officer is dispatched to the home to check on them.
- **Acquisition of Grant Monies.** The Atlantic Beach Police Department continues to apply for grants that defray the cost of providing services to the Town. We currently have been awarded over \$8,000.00 in Federal funds to provide bullet proof vests for our officers an \$169,800 in Homeland Security funds to purchase a state-of-the-art Marine Patrol Boat.
- **"National Night Out".** Our second annual "National Night Out" was celebrated on August 2, 2005 from 5:00 pm till 9:00 pm at the Grove. The nationwide event fosters police-community partnerships to promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity to help prevent crime. It was an informative and fun evening with live music, free food, and prizes. "National Night Out" is a non-profit event and was funded by donations from the merchants and citizens of Atlantic Beach and the surrounding area. Although the sponsors are too numerous to mention individually, the Town and the Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their generosity in making this activity such a success. We truly appreciate their community spirit and their assistance in helping us keep Atlantic Beach the type of town we want it to be – a caring, sharing community.

As we enjoy another summer season we would like to thank all our residents and guests that have called us to report suspicious activities. We depend on our partnership with the community to provide you with the most professional and effective services possible. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call.



# Inspections Department Report

The Inspections Department welcomes the onset of summer and the increased activity that signals growth in Atlantic Beach. With the summer comes the flood of building projects, which ninety-nine percent of the time will require a building permit. A permit is required for any project over \$5,000 and any project involving the addition, repair or replacement of load bearing structures. A permit is also needed for additions or changes in the design of plumbing, additions, replacements or changes in the design of heating, air conditioning, or electrical wiring, devices, appliances, or equipment.

In visiting the Town of Atlantic Beach, you can't help but notice the building boom that is taking place. This is just the tip of the iceberg. The town has a new Food Lion under construction, along with a Dollar Tree, Michelangelo's Pizza and Playtime Sports Grill. Not to mention the number of condominiums and single family dwellings already under construction. Our department will ask you to please be patient with the construction that is going on. Yes, paper and sand will blow and there will be construction traffic congestion. Please remember that the same type of difficulties and inconveniences were involved when your home was under construction.

Please remember that it is grass mowing time again and we will check for lawns that are in violation. Town Ordinance requires that it shall be the duty of any owner, lessee or occupant of any lot to cut and remove, or cause to be cut and removed, all weeds, grass or poisonous or harmful vegetation or grass over a height of ten inches.

# Services Report

The Town of Atlantic Beach Public Services Department works every day to make Atlantic Beach a better place in which to work, play, and live. During the summer the fact that so many of our friends come to visit stretches our limited resources. However, our staff is committed to trying to meet everyone's needs as quickly as possible. We are involved in providing safe drinking water, road and right-of-way maintenance, managing trash pickup through the Waste Industries contract and our own bulk item pickups, and maintenance of the Town's buildings, grounds (including the beaches) and equipment. Have a great summer and look for our staff out working for you!

## Water Usage During and After a Prolonged Power Outage or Storm Event

To maintain the integrity of our water system and ensure that adequate fire protection will be maintained at all times during and immediately after a storm event or prolonged power outage, we ask that you please practice the following:

1. ALWAYS ASSUME that the Town is under a SEVER WATER RESTRICTIONS situation.
2. Use only the minimum amount of water necessary for cooking and sanitary needs.
3. Refrain from "washing down" vehicles, windows, ornamental shrubs, etc. until conditions have returned to normal (if in doubt, contact the Water Department at 726-1366).
4. Check all household fixtures and outside faucets to ensure that none are dripping, left running, or have been broken by debris created during the storm.
5. Turn off all lawn sprinkler systems.
6. Report to the Water Department or Police Department (726-2523) any free-flowing water or any signs of a possible water leak.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation in helping to relieve any stress or strain that may be placed on the Town's water system caused by a storm or prolonged power outage.

## 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.

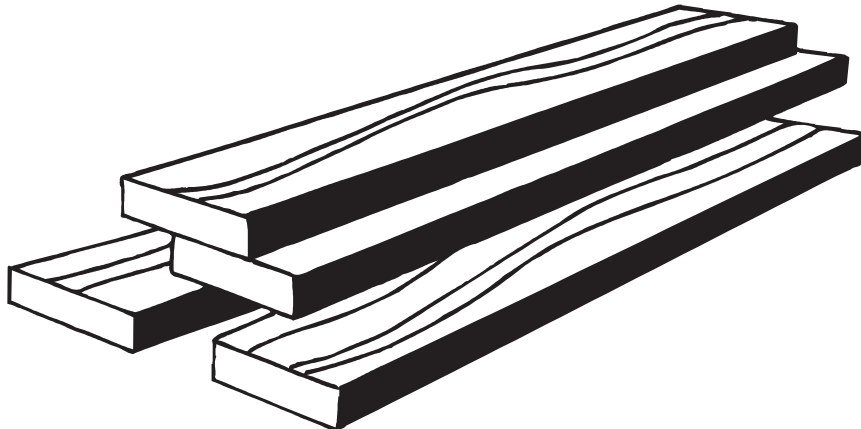
Upon completion of Phase I, the public's involvement and participation becomes extremely important. Curbside separation of debris is critical during the early stages of clean-up. Homeowners need to separate debris into several different types to help speed up the collection and hold down costs.

Divide burnable materials into two groups: **burnable debris** (mainly trees and vegetation) and **burnable construction debris** (non-creosote structural timber and wood products).

**Non-burnable debris** includes creosote timber, plastic, glass, rubber and metal products, sheet rock, roofing shingles and carpet.

**Ineligible debris** must be kept separate and includes chemicals, petroleum products, paint products, asbestos, and any other hazardous materials.

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



## Planning Notes

The Town of Atlantic Beach provides planning and zoning services to the residents and property owners interested in developing or improving their properties within the town limits. Even with the limited restrictions sometimes associated with these types of programs, studies have indicated that communities with active planning and zoning programs actually have higher overall property values and retain those values at higher rates than communities which do not provide such services.

As a quick drive through our community will reveal, it can be seen that Atlantic Beach is currently experiencing considerable redevelopment. This can certainly be associated to our climate, location, and community spirit, but also to the small amount of available vacant land for new development. While the development patterns and standards suited the town in the past, redevelopment issues will ultimately require a review and possible amendments to the Town's development standards and ordinances.

The Town Planning Board is currently working on updating the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA) Land Use Plan for the town. The Planning Board intends for this document to be a comprehensive assessment of the needs and recommended development patterns of the town for the coming 20 years. They have been working on this document for the past 12 months and will continue working on it for the entire upcoming year (July 2005 - June 2006). Multiple public input and work sessions are planned for this year in order to gain information and ideas from our citizens than can possibly be incorporated into this planning tool. The Planning Board will also conduct a considerable amount of work on this document during their regular work sessions scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. These meetings are always open to the public and your comments would certainly be welcomed. For exact times and dates of these work sessions and other possible opportunities to provide input into this plan please feel free to contact the Planning Department at 726-4456.

## Citizen Volunteers Needed

Interested in the growth and development of the Town of Atlantic Beach but unsure of how to become involved in the process? Consider being a volunteer member of either the Atlantic Beach Board of Adjustment or Town Planning Board. From time to time membership vacancies occur, and the Town Council is always seeking dedicated citizens interested in serving on these boards. To be considered for any vacancies an individual has to permanently reside within the Town and have a Volunteer Information Application on file in the Town Clerks Office. Volunteer forms may be picked up and returned to the Town Hall offices located at 125 West Fort Macon Road.

If you are interested in possibly serving on one of these boards please feel free to contact our Planning Director, Lee E. Smith, at (252) 726-4456 for more information.

*The Ocean Breeze*: Produced and edited by the Town of Atlantic Beach, NC.  
For more information, contact the Town at (252) 726-2121 or by e-mail at [tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com)

### Town of Atlantic Beach

Post Office Box 10  
Atlantic Beach, North Carolina 28512



*The Ocean Breeze*

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Presorted  
Standard  
Permit No. 14  
Atlantic Beach, NC  
28512

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