

Summer is Here!

Summer time is here and the heat is on. Soon everyone will be going to the beach and enjoying our beautiful coast line beaches. Before you go swimming, there are a few safety tips to incorporate to have a safe and enjoyable beach day.

Guide to Safety Tips

Swim Near a Lifeguard: Over a ten year period, statistics show that 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 offshore. Some people mistakenly call this an undertow, but there is no undercurrent, 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.


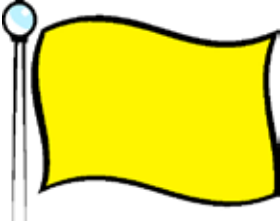

Swim Sober: Alcohol is a major factor in drowning. Alcohol can reduce body temperature and impair swimming ability. Perhaps more importantly, both alcohol and drugs impair good judgement, which may cause people to take risks they would not otherwise take.

Don't Float Where You Can't Swim: Non-swimmers often use flotation devices, like inflatable rafts, to go offshore. 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. Bodsurfing 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 in front of you.

Once again the Town of Atlantic Beach will be providing a lifeguard service at the circle beach area. The lifeguards use color coded flags to advise citizens and visitors 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

New Hires

The department would like to welcome **Robert Fitzpatrick**. Robert is a Firefighter/EMT-Paramedic with the Fire Department and we are looking forward to his services to the town. He is going to be a great addition to our department.

The Ocean Breeze

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www.atlanticbeach-nc.com



Manager's Message

BUDGET APPROVED!

The town's budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 was adopted at the Town Council meeting held on May 27, 2009. One resident came forward to speak at the budget public hearing on May 13, 2009.

The budget, as approved, totals \$7,010,160.00 and reflects a 6.9% decrease from the previous year's budget. The ad-valorem property tax remains at 12.5 cents/\$100 valuation, the same rate as the previous year. The budget will also have a General Fund balance (reserves) at the end of the year of 65.7%. Only 8.0% is required by law and the North Carolina Local Government Commission.

With current economic conditions, the budget does not include any increase in employee salaries or benefits. It maintains employment and town services at current levels, reduces capital expenditures and plans and provides for an extremely conservative approach to spending during the upcoming fiscal year.

The budget does include a \$2.00 increase in monthly water bills, which will still be considerably lower than surrounding municipalities. For years, the town's water system has operated in the black. However, system upgrades, costs of chemicals and general maintenance of our ageing system mandates that we increase rates to offset those increasing costs and maintain the Utility Fund in a good, strong financial condition. The General Fund and Utility Fund are two completely separate entities.

The Town continues its conservative approach to budgeting and particularly so in these difficult and trying economic times.

Carteret County, too, is attempting to hold its tax rate at .23/\$100 valuation, the same as the previous year. If it is able to do so, it will continue to maintain the lowest property tax rate for all 100 counties in the State of North Carolina.

Pete Allen
Town Manager

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Summer 2009

New Building Codes in Effect

On January 1, 2009, the new 2009 North Carolina State Building Codes took effect statewide, which includes Atlantic Beach. All of the 2006 state building codes will remain in effect until June 30, 2009 allowing, in some cases, builders to use provisions from either code until July 1, 2009. Beginning July 1, 2009, ONLY the provisions of the 2009 state building codes will be in effect.

The 2009 NC State Building Codes will include the following:

- Building codes
- Residential codes
- Fire codes
- Plumbing codes
- Energy codes
- Mechanical codes
- Fuel gas codes

The 2008 National Electrical Code has been in effect since January 1, 2008. The current Manufactured Home and Accessibility Codes will remain in effect.

North Carolina State Building Codes may be purchased at the Office of State Fire Marshal, 322 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh, NC.

Numbers to Know

Mayor and Town Council

A.B. Cooper, III, Mayor (252) 222-0033
 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

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.

'Tis the Season

Once again, the hurricane season has arrived and we would like to remind you of several areas of importance.

In order to maintain the integrity of our water system and that adequate fire protection will be maintained at all times during and immediately following a storm or power outage, the Atlantic Beach water department requests that you practice the following:

- Always assume that the town is under a SEVERE WATER RESTRICTION
- Use only the minimum amount of water needed for daily living activities
- Please refrain from "washing down" anything until everything has returned to normal
- Check all inside/outside faucets and spigots for any type of leakage
- Turn off all lawn sprinkling systems
- Report the location of free-flowing water to the water department or police department

We realize that these requests cause almost as much of an inconvenience as a hurricane or power outage. These procedures are necessary in order to help relieve any stress that may be placed on the town's water system created by either storm damage or prolonged power outage.

The Atlantic Beach Water Department would like to thank everyone for their cooperation and assistance in maintaining the integrity of the town's water system.



Well Done!

Once again summer is upon us. With the economic downturn we continue to meet new challenges day in and day out. Unfortunately, with the troubled economy comes an increase in calls for service. Now more than ever we need your help to ensure we provide the best service possible.

Neighbors looking after one another is also on the rise. We recently presented three (3) Letters of Recognition and departmental collector coins to citizens who provided us with information that led to arrests or allowed us to return lost property to the rightful owner. I would like to recognize and commend **Mr. Benjamin Zucker, Mr. William Crawley and Ms. Karen Whitby** for their efforts and being outstanding citizens as well as community minded and for doing the right thing. Their efforts benefited many and are appreciated.

Our Community Watch Program continues to strengthen, as well as our Community Policing Program. I would also like to recognize and thank our recent participants who completed our 4th Citizens Academy, **Mr. Claude (Tweety Bird) Andrews, Ms. Zulene Wooten, Mr. Wes Brown, Ms. Katrina Hiltz, Mr. Chris Moir and Ms. Katie Riggs**. This course was conducted over a eight week period one night each week and we appreciate their commitment to our town.



Hurricane Season

As everyone is aware, hurricane season begins June 1st. Council recently adopted a new "All Hazards" plan which includes the revised re-entry pass process. The Town Hall staff has worked very hard to try to get the new *permanent* passes sent to property owners before we begin a new hurricane season. Issuance of passes during an evacuation order *will not* occur, so please try to make sure you have your pass before the season begins. I would also like to remind everyone if there is no evacuation order then the town *will not* utilize re-entry passes to enter. Last year during Tropical Storm Hanna we were totally overwhelmed with folks trying to get re-entry passes and phone calls about bridge closings. Remember, passes will only be required following an evacuation. If you are a property owner, who for some reason did not receive an application for a pass, please contact town hall so that we can work with you to ensure we get you your new pass.

I would also like to remind everyone that if you require special accommodations and need assistance during an evacuation order, you should register with the Special Needs Registry with the County Emergency Office in Beaufort by calling (252) 728-8470 or online at the Carteret County website www.carteretcountygov.org. go under DEPARTMENTS and select Emergency Services, then click on Special Needs Registry and complete the form.

Dogs, Grilling and Ordinances

Citizen concerns are being received regarding dogs running at large on our beach strand. If you plan on taking your dog for a stroll on the beach, please take time to refresh yourself with the town ordinance that is related to this issue. Not only is it a town law, but our ordinance is also for the safety of others. Your dog is YOUR pet and depending on the time of the year, will come in contact with a lot of other citizens and small children on the beach strand. And with the increase in crowd and activity, this could affect your pet's behavior. If you witness a dog running at large, please notify the police department immediately as we are unable to address the issue, hours or days after the fact.

Also, any type of glass IS NOT allowed on the beach.

If you are wishing to grill on the beach strand, again refresh yourself with the town ordinance that relates to grilling on the beach. You are REQUIRED to remove all trash and charcoal. This includes HOT or smoldering embers. DO NOT dump hot or smoldering embers in the sand or a waste receptacle for the safety of yourself and others.

If you witness a violation of any of these ordinances, again, please contact the police department as soon as possible at (252) 726-2523.

Atlantic Beach Citizens Academy

The Atlantic Beach Citizens Academy held its fourth graduation dinner Thursday, May 7, 2009 at Milazzo's Italian Restaurant in the Sheraton Atlantic Beach. The participants completed eight weeks of instruction provided by the Atlantic Beach Police Department and are now eligible to volunteer for the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) program due to start during the summer. A great time was had by all participants, instructors and elected officials. We look forward to presenting the program again, hopefully in the fall.

If interested in attending the Citizens Academy or have questions concerning the Academy, contact Lt. Jeff Harvey at (252) 726-2523 or by e-mail at communitypolicing@atlanticbeach-nc.com.

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



Speed Limit Change

The speed limit changes on east and west ends of NC 58 are now in effect. Marine patrol officers also ask that I remind everyone of the No Wake Zones as well. If you have additional questions feel free to contact us.

Free New Service

The Police Department has launched a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents and business owners in our area using the latest technology.

This service, Nixle, delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and community event notifications to you by cell phone text message, e-mail, and/or web. There is NO spam or advertising. Examples of messages could include suspicious persons in your neighborhood, missing persons, crimes in your area, upcoming events within the town, etc.

Nixle is completely free (standard text message rates apply for cell phone subscribers who do not have text plans with their cell phone providers.) The service is simple to use, reliable and trusted. You do not have to provide cell phone numbers should you choose not to receive text messages.

Register now and learn more at www.nixle.com. Then share this information with friends and neighbors to spread the word.

Stay connected to your world, from the public safety alerts that are relevant to you, to the important neighborhood advisories you want to know about, and other valuable community information.

You decide what information you want and whether you want it sent to your cell phone, e-mail, or just simply over the web. We are very excited to have you experience it for yourself.

It's Turtle Time!

Each summer in North Carolina, May 1 begins the Sea Turtle nesting season and runs through October and the Summer Sea Turtle Conservation program kicks in. Volunteers with the Atlantic Beach Sea Turtle program walk the beaches in the mornings to look for sea turtle tracks in the sand that lead to a potential nest.

The volunteer program is part of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission NC Sea Turtle project and their goal is to monitor turtles nesting and hatching along the entire NC coast. There are five (5) different species of sea turtles that can be found in the NC waters. The most common species found nesting along NC beaches is the Loggerhead. All sea turtles are protected by the Endangered Species Act. However, they need our help and protection too.

Once a nest is located, to protect it, the nesting area is roped off to alert beachgoers of its location. After approximately 50 to 60 days, a nest will hatch an average of 100 hatchlings. Nests typically hatch after dusk. Volunteers work hard before the nest hatches to create a "runway" for the hatchlings to crawl safely to the water's edge. Naturally when hatched, turtles know to crawl toward the horizon illuminated by the moon, this is written in their internal footprint. At night, hatchlings face many challenges, including predators and beach lights that confuse the turtles. However, on cloudy nights, if there are too many lights on the beach, the turtles may crawl away from the water towards the dunes. This is one of the areas where volunteers come into play. One out of every 1,000 hatchlings lives to be an adult, so sea turtles need our help to increase their survivability.



You can help in many ways:

- Clean up trash on the beach
- Fill in deep holes left on the beach so a nesting female does not fall in
- Use red filters on your flashlight at night while on the beach so as not to disturb a nesting female
- Turn off lights on your house that face the ocean

Lastly, BECOME A VOLUNTEER! You too, can become an Atlantic Beach Sea Turtle Program volunteer to help with the conservation of our endangered sea turtles.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to find out more about the program, contacts are listed below: Heather Broadhurst, Coordinator, (252) 622-0158, Heatherlj21@hotmail.com or Michele Lamping, Coordinator, (910) 352-4285, Michele.lamping@nccdenr.gov or Matthew and Wendy at (252) 247-8117 (pager.)

Clerk's Corner

Kelly Cyrus, Town Clerk

Celebrate July 4th in Atlantic Beach

The annual Atlantic Beach Independence Day Celebration, complete with a live band and fireworks, returns in 2009! We hope to see more citizens and visitors come to enjoy a day full of sun, fun, fireworks, great music, and dancing on Saturday, July 4, 2009!

The featured band will be Sammy O'Banion and the Mardi Gras Band, playing from 7:00 until 11:00 pm, with a break at 9:00 pm for a beautiful fireworks display. Bring your beach chairs and blankets and enjoy the show!

Re-entry Permit Applications

Permit applications may be downloaded from the Town's website under Hurricane Information. Applications may only be completed by the owner of the property. It will be the responsibility of the owner to disperse passes to renters or others as they deem appropriate.

Permits will be mailed once applications have been received and verified. Each parcel/PIN number will be provided up to two free permanent permits. Additional permits may be purchased by the property owner for \$25 each.

We thank you for all your cooperation during this process. Please contact Town Hall at (252) 726-2121 with any questions regarding the permit application or Police Chief Allen Smith at (252) 726-2523 with questions regarding the purpose for having a permanent re-entry pass system.