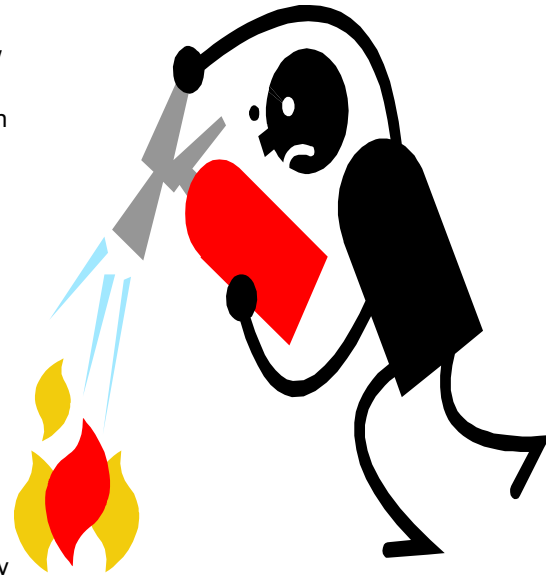


Fire Department

During the Holidays, Think Fire Safety!

Here are some tips to keep your family safe during the holiday season:

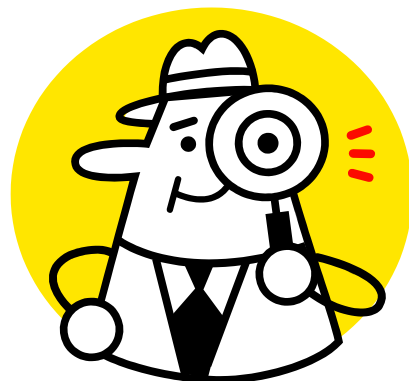
- When buying your Christmas tree, be sure to pick a fresh tree. You'll know it's fresh if the needles are firmly attached. When the tree is in your home, keep plenty of water around the base. A dry tree is the source of more than 1,000 home fires every year.
- Be bright about lights! Don't use lights with worn insulation, broken plugs and loose sockets. They can cause fires, shocks and even electrocution.
- Be careful when hanging several light strings together. You could have an overload situation. Remember, all lighting inside and out, should be turned off before going to bed.
- Space Heaters: Keep away from curtains, bedspreads, and furniture. Make sure children know they could get burned if they touch one.
- Are the stockings hung by the chimney with care? Be especially careful if there's a cozy fire going in the fireplace.
- When the holidays are over, take the tree down. Everyday it stands in the house, it gets a little drier.



Remember to follow the fire safety tips and everyone will have a safe and happy holiday.

Fire Department Provides Free Home Fire Inspections

The Atlantic Beach Fire Department is currently offering free home fire inspections to our community. Are you sure your home is fire safe? If not, schedule a free home inspection by contacting Fire Marshall Mike Simpson at 726-7361. The Fire Marshall will provide you with some valuable information on how to prevent fires in your home and how to make sure all your loved ones will be safe.



New Hires

Chris Buchanon accepted the full-time position of Fire-fighter. He is currently assigned to B-shift. Chris was an active volunteer with the department while he was serving in the Marine Corps as an Aircraft Firefighter stationed at Cherry Point Air Station. Chris filled the position that was vacated by Drummond Figg, who resigned from the department in September. Firefighter Figg is now the Training Captain with the Currituck Fire Department located in the Outer Banks. We welcome FF Buchanon to the Atlantic Beach Fire Department and congratulate and wish Drummond good luck on his new position.



The Ocean Breeze



A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

Mayor's Message

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday. I spent the holiday with family and it was wonderful. It's almost Winter and Christmas! I hope you've been good because Santa knows! As the Christmas holiday approaches please read and practice the safety tips that have been published in this newsletter by your very own police, fire and public works departments. The tips are very useful and could save a life and/or your property.

As you all know I will be stepping down from my position as Mayor of Atlantic Beach in December. I want to take this time to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to all the citizens, family and friends that have supported me in my position as Mayor for the past two years. It has been a great two years! I hope the issues that need to be addressed in our wonderful Town will be and progress will move forward with an efficient productivity that will only enhance the quality of life in Atlantic Beach. I wish everyone the best of luck in their endeavors and pray that the path taken is the path that was meant to be.

May everyone have a great Christmas and may the New Year bring joy and hope to each and everyone one of you.

Stay safe and Happy Holidays,
Mayor Joyce "Tootsie" Vinson

News from the Town Clerk

As many of you know, the Town of Atlantic Beach will be operating under a new Mayor and Town Council beginning December 17, 2007. I would like to take this time to announce the Mayor (Elect) and Council (Elect) for the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina.

Mayor (Elect): Trace Cooper

Council (Elect): Mr. Harry Archer
Mrs. Ann Batt
Mr. Ed Briley
Mr. Ken Ide
Ms. Vada Palma

May you help town staff in welcoming and making the transition to their respective positions as our new Mayor and Council as smooth as possible. Welcome to everyone!

The 2007 Atlantic Beach "Light Up the Night" Christmas Parade/Event was a great success! And did you see The TOWN TREE? It's beautiful! The 1st Annual Atlantic Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony has officially kicked off as an AB tradition! And if any of you have any ideas/suggestions for additional festive events or activities for next year or would like to volunteer your time or services, please let town staff know. It would be wonderful and would only add to the festiveness of the occasion.

I want to take this time to extend my deepest and sincerest appreciation and thanks to all the volunteers (citizens and staff) that contributed of their time and services to make our holiday event such a success and to all the participants that, without you, Atlantic Beach would not have had such a wonderful event.

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.

INSIDE:

2

Community Info

- Numbers to Know
- News from the Public Services Department

3

Community

- Manager's Message
- News from the Planning Department

4

Inspections Department

- News from the Inspections Department
- Promotions
- Thank You
- "Flip This Department"
- Seeking Volunteers

5

Police Department

- Message From the Chief
- Reminders...
- Speed Limit Changes
- Promotions

6

Fire Department

- Think Fire Safety
- Free Home Inspections
- New Hires

Winter 2007

Numbers to Know

Town Manager & Department Phone Numbers

Kelly L. Nash, Town Clerk.....726-2121
 Sabrina M. Simpson, Business Officer.....726-2121
 Laura Buda, Tax Collector.....726-2121
 Jessica Fiester, Director of 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



Mayor and Town Council

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

News from Public Services

Winterize Your Home

Cold weather is coming, and you will want to prepare for it. If you have outside water lines (docks, fish cleaning stations, irrigation lines), you should shut off the water supply and either drain the lines or insulate them properly. Those homeowners who will be gone for an extended period of time, perhaps even the entire winter, may wish to "winterize" their property by securing the water supply (shut it off at the water meter) and draining the lines. If you do so, also remember to (1) turn off the power to your hot water heater and drain the unit, and (2) add a little bit of antifreeze to the commode(s) and P-traps in the sinks so they will not freeze. If you plan to leave the water supply on, make sure that (1) all outside faucets are shut off tightly, (2) the faucets and all exposed piping are well-insulated, and (3) the heat is on in the house enough to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting.

Leaks, caused by what-ever reason are costly, not only to you as a property owner, but potentially dangerous to our water system. A few moments of your time will help us maintain the integrity of our water system so all may be insured of having a good, safe supply of water. If you have any questions, or need some assistance in securing your home, please contact the Water Department at (252) 726-1366 and we will attempt to assist you as best we can.

We at the Atlantic Beach Water Department wish you a safe winter season and look forward to serving you again next spring.

Christmas Tree Removal

The Town will pick up your Christmas tree after the holidays. Please remove all tinsel and decorations and leave the tree next to the curb. If you wish, you may take your tree to Fort Macon State Park instead. There will be signs at the bathhouse directing you where to place the tree.



A Message from the Chief

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you I have not yet met. My name is Allen Smith and three months ago, I was honored with the distinct pleasure to serve as your new Police Chief. I consider this an honor for a number of reasons.

My family has deep ties to Atlantic Beach. In fact, my grandfather served as the second Police Chief for the town in the 1940's and 1950's. I grew up at the end of Old Causeway Road and our family was one of only a handful who lived year round on Atlantic Beach. Having the opportunity to come back and serve my home town as the Police Chief and hopefully end my career in this capacity some years down the road will always mean a great deal to me and my family.

Myself and police department staff are interested in your thoughts and ideas. We plan to hold a community forum in the coming months which will create an opportunity to meet with the citizens of Atlantic Beach who are interested in the services your police department currently provides and any additional services that may be a benefit to you, the citizens and the community as a whole. Specific information regarding the forum will be announced at a later time once the department has had the opportunity to coordinate with the newly elected Mayor and Council.

I look forward to working with and serving the community I call home.

Sincerely,
 Allen P. Smith
 Chief of Police, Atlantic Beach, NC

Reminders

The Police Department would like to take a moment to ensure that you are armed with tips that may help us protect your property in the off season. As winter approaches many of our vacation home owners may not utilize their property as they do during the summer months. Please take time to follow a few simple tips to help ensure the protection of 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 coming 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.

Most importantly, contact the police department at (252) 726-2523 and advise us that you would like additional checks of your premises. Give us an idea on when you might return. If you make an unscheduled trip home, simply call and let us know you are at the residence. We would also request that if you have something of interest to report that you report it as soon as possible because three are times when waiting hours or days can and will jeopardize investigations.

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

Speed Limit Change

Effective October 15th, 2007 - The Off Season Speed Limit on the east and west bound ends of Highway 58 (Fort Macon Road) in Atlantic Beach has been raised from 35 MPH to 45 MPH. Please drive carefully.

Promotions

I would like to take this opportunity to announce and congratulate **Captain A. K. Miller** on his recent promotion. Captain Miller has been promoted to the rank of Major. Major Miller has been the Deputy Chief of Atlantic Beach Police Department for more than two years. He acted as Interim Police Chief with the early retirement of Chief Scott Kilpatrick in May. The changing of the rank designation for the Deputy Chief position will not only help to clearly identify the department's rank structure but it will also clarify who is in charge in my absence. Congratulations Major Miller on your well deserved promotion.



News from the Inspections Department

The Inspections and Planning Department has recently undergone substantial changes in its staffing and appearance.

Promotions

Jessica Feister has been promoted to the position of Planning Director. We congratulate her on her promotion. If you get a chance, stop by Town Hall and meet your new Planning Director.



“Flip This Department”

The Inspections and Planning Department has a new “look” about it. The department has been freshly painted with new vinyl flooring installed and files and documents completely reworked and organized. The glass door that once separated this department from the rest of Town Hall has been removed so that there is an “openness” for customers as well as staff. We feel this overhaul has been long overdue and hope the efficiency by which the department now operates will reflect that.



Thank You

Ms. Nina Erwin has been providing assistance to the Inspections and Planning Department on the issuing of permits, keeping our permit records up-to-date, along with other administrative duties since early September. Ms. Erwin retired from Carteret Community College in 2004.

Mr. John Yost, who is a Level 3 Inspector, has also been assisting the Inspections and Planning Department on a part-time basis with our inspections.

The Town would also like to take this time to extend our sincere thanks to both Ms. Erwin and Mr. Yost for their time, effort, and professionalism in assisting the Town of Atlantic Beach during our reorganization of the Inspections and Planning Department.

Seeking Volunteers

The Town of Atlantic Beach makes appointments of citizen volunteers to the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustment. Currently, the Town is seeking interested citizens of Atlantic Beach to volunteer for either of these boards by submitting an application to be kept on file for present and future vacancies. For more information please contact Jessica Feister in the Planning and Zoning Department. For an application please contact Kelly Nash, Town Clerk at 726-2121. Applicants who have submitted applications in the past 24 months are on file and do not need to resubmit applications.



Manager’s Message

Water Conservation - Drought

The Town of Atlantic Beach drinking water is treated and distributed by **your** professional town employees. The town employees that treat and distribute the water that **you** drink are well trained and state certified. The certification process is very difficult and requires constant and extensive training and testing. In addition, **your** water quality is tested on a daily basis and must meet stringent parameters.

With the current drought conditions - water shortages, **your** Town officials have been in regular contact with state officials and met recently to discuss the drought conditions and water shortages affecting many areas of North Carolina. The Town of Atlantic Beach is fortunate to have an ample supply of drinking water available to meet **our** community’s needs in both the short term and the long term and is thus not facing the same challenges that other areas of North Carolina are facing at this time. Unlike many inland communities that rely on surface water to supply drinking water, we rely on a series of deep wells that tap the plentiful Castle Hayne Aquifer up to 300 feet below the ground.

As a result, the Town **has not** issued any mandatory conservation measures at this time. The Town always **encourages water conservation** and there are numerous steps that can be taken to reduce water consumption. Some are simple and easy - like turning off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth, running washing machines with a full load, or minimizing the time that lawn sprinklers operate.

Although Atlantic Beach is not impacted now, there is always the potential for future shortages. It is likely that more inland communities will seek to tap the Castle Hayne for more reliable water supply in the future, which could eventually impact Atlantic Beach. Although Atlantic Beach is fortunate to avoid this crisis, it is always wise to conserve this **valuable resource**. For more information on water conservation and the challenges faced by other areas of North Carolina, please visit www.governor.state.nc.us.

Final Thought...

It has been a pleasure serving the citizens - customers of the Town of Atlantic Beach. In my first *Ocean Breeze* article I outlined **your** town government’s “Organizational Vision and Values” statement...as my last statement to the citizens - customers and town staff...The Town of Atlantic Beach “Organizational Vision and Values” needs to be constant!...no matter what direction the political winds take!

“Organizational Vision & Values”

- Core Services 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...and there will be many trials and tribulations on this journey or quest to achieve a **true** “Organizational Vision & Values” but in the end the Town of Atlantic Beach will be better served by searching for the **Truth**.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
God Bless,
David M. Harvell

News from the Planning Department

FMB of Atlantic Beach has begun work in the Circle area of Atlantic Beach to lay out infrastructure for the Grove Project. We anticipate this stage of the project will be complete between February and March of 2008. The project will prepare water and sewer lines to accommodate the project, and may also involve the initial stages of landscaping. Traffic may be disrupted while these improvements are being completed. Questions regarding this work may be directed to Jessica at 329-4456.