

## A Note from the Chief

I want to take a minute to review where we are since my taking command of your police department. This past September I completed one year as your police chief and since then we have worked diligently to revive our Community Policing Program. We have conducted community meetings in all areas throughout the town and have listened to what you think about the services we provide and ideas for services you would like to see us consider. We built a new department website and have included a number of interactive components which allow citizens and business owners to request some services on-line. If you have ideas please feel free to drop us an e-mail or give us a call.

Members of your police department worked with me in cost saving measures which netted over \$100,000.00 in savings for our 2007-2008 budget. While cutting costs we also increased beach and marine patrols as requested by Council and citizens. The 2008-2009 budget process saw additional cuts in areas of our budget and forced us to streamline operations. We will continue to examine ways to help Mr. Allen and Council operate our town more efficiently.

As you are all aware our economy continues to struggle and unfortunately the economy can drive our crime rates. As living costs increase traditionally so does our crime rates. Property theft is as always a concern and with the economy suffering we need your help now more than ever. Please remain vigilant and alert for things that might look "out of sorts." Please contact us if you witness anything unusual in your neighborhoods. Our Community Watch program needs your help; please contact Lt. Jeff Harvey (Community Policing Director) if you are interested.

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

## Speed Limit Change

Effective October 15, 2008 - 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.

## Reminders

Business owners please ensure that your emergency contact information is updated and remains current. We have experienced some cases when we needed to make contact with business contacts after hours and found the information we have is outdated or incorrect.

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, etc.
- Make sure your lawn is cut and cared for.
- Use an automatic timer to operate lights in areas 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 there are times when waiting hours or days can and will jeopardize investigations.

I was asked to share information about Carteret County Area Transportation Services (C-CATS). This service is available for all citizens within our county. To arrange for transportation Monday – Friday from 6:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. call dispatch at (252) 240-1043 to arrange for transportation.

We are also looking at our 911 addressing requirements for posting house numbers. It has been recommended that house numbers be posted and clearly visible from the street as well as waterside if applicable. If you have ideas or recommendations for posting of house numbers please get the information to members of the Council, Mr. Allen or myself.

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

# The Ocean Breeze



A Publication of the Town of Atlantic Beach, North Carolina

www.atlanticbeach-nc.com

## Mayor's Minute

As we approach the end of our first year in office together I'd like to thank and congratulate our Town Council for all of their hard work and achievements during the year. When we took office we had four primary objectives for our first year. These goals were passed on to the Council through several meetings with citizens during the campaign and shortly before taking office. I listed these goals in my first letter to the *Ocean Breeze* and, as you will see below, the Council has kept its focus on these primary goals and made great headway on all of them.

The first goal was to lower taxes for our citizens. In passing their first budget the Council reduced property taxes by over 15%. And, through conservative spending, the Council has the Town in a position to maintain a steady tax rate without cuts in services.

Second, we wanted to provide better planning for future growth and we are well on our way. Over the past several months, the Planning Board, UDO Committee, Council, staff and our consultants have been working diligently on a new Unified Development Ordinance. We've held over a dozen public meetings on the subject and hope to have the new ordinance in front of the Council early next year.

The third goal was to address stormwater issues. By installing low-cost French drains we have addressed some of the most troublesome areas of town. We continue to work on existing problems and are also in the process of drafting a new stormwater ordinance that will work to prevent further problems. We have already received some grant funding to help with stormwater and are looking for more funding for innovative and sustainable solutions to our stormwater issues.

Our final primary objective for the first year was to develop a plan for dredging needs in the town's waterways. Not only has the Council established a citizen's committee for dredging that is working on the plan, they have also committed funds to address one of the most pressing dredging needs in town—the Causeway Channel.

Your Town Council's actions haven't been limited to these four objectives; they have been very active on other fronts as well. Nonetheless, it is exciting to work with a team that sets ambitious goals and then works hard in achieving them.

We will soon be setting our priorities for the coming year and I encourage you to contact me or a member of the Council to let us know what you think is important for the future of our great town.

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

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Winter 2008

## Police Department Promotions, Awards and Commendations

I would like to recognize **Sergeant Erica Alvarado** who received the Departmental Purple Heart for injuries sustained while performing official duties of her office after being assaulted by an arrestee on September 17, 2008.

I would like to recognize **Lieutenant Sherrie Culpepper, Officer David Foster and Communications Officer Mitch Gardner** who received a Departmental Commendation for their outstanding performance during an armed gunman hostage call in November. Their quick assessment and actions contributed to a peaceful conclusion to what certainly might have been a deadly encounter.

## 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

## Citizens Academy

The Atlantic Beach Police Department will be hosting a Citizens Academy at the turn of the new year. In preparation for this educational event, we are soliciting interest of the citizens of Atlantic Beach and the surrounding communities. All those interested are requested to e-mail Lt. Jeff Harvey at [communitypolicing@atlanticbeach-nc.com](mailto:communitypolicing@atlanticbeach-nc.com), or call the Police Department at (252) 726-2523. Information requested to be submitted will be: name, date of birth, drivers license number, address, and phone. This course of training will be 9 weeks in length, one night per week lasting about 3 hours. At the completion of the 9 weeks, those interested will be eligible to apply for the new VIPs program and will be able to assist the police in various volunteer evolutions. We look forward to working with you.

## Citizens Dredging Committee Formed

The Atlantic Beach Citizens Committee on Dredging was formed in June with a threefold mission: To coordinate and study the Town of Atlantic Beach waterways, to develop a plan for continual maintenance of the Town's waterways and to identify funding sources for continual maintenance.

The committee meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Committee members include Dr. Everette Cameron who is Chairman, Captain Sonny Davis, Rusty Cutshaw, Rodney Sawyer and Jay Smith. Councilmember Vada Palma serves as Facilitator.

Over 700 citizens responded to a dredging survey included in their water bills last July. It was determined that the majority of citizens felt we should pay for the dredging needed in our Town by grants and property taxes.

The first and most critical area that is scheduled to be dredged in March or April of 2009 will be the Causeway Channel. The hope is that other shallow areas that require dredging can be addressed as money and equipment allow.

Thanks to all the concerned citizens who have helped with this ongoing initiative!

## Inspections Department News

Atlantic Beach's Inspection Department is charged with the responsibility of ensuring the highest standards in building construction and repair are practiced. Accountable development relies on the building inspectors to achieve the highest level of competency and knowledge that is available. The inspectors are constantly engaged in striving for perfection within their expertise, and this season the Inspections Department has not fell short of this task. In an attempt to finish his engineering degree, building inspector **Joseph D. Starling** has maintained a 4.0 grade average for the last two years and was currently awarded a spot on the President's List for 2007-2008. The chief inspector, **Donna Turner**, has also risen to the challenge to achieve excellence. This past summer Ms. Turner obtained her international certificates in all five building trades allowing her to perform her duties anywhere in the world that recognizes international building code. As always the Inspection Department will continue the tradition of striving for flawlessness.

### OTHER INITIATIVES:

- Re-initiation of the police department's Community Watch Program
- Holding a surplus auction of town property which generated approximately \$43,000 in monies that went back into the General Fund account
- Remodeled the town's water plant and treatment system
- Beginning stages of remodeling/rewiring the fire department building due to much needed improvements
- French drains installed in localized areas where proper soil and land conditions are suitable to help reduce flooding during heavy rainfall periods
- Parking meters removed and local developers have been gracious in providing available sites for public parking at no charge
- Efforts are being made and funding sought to improve the public accesses and walkways to make them more handicap accessible

The town's animal control ordinance is working well. The police department is working with the county to catch, remove and relocate feral cats and wild animals. With the new addition of a rescue vehicle, our fire department is now the only trained and certified fire department in the county to handle that level of rescue service. Also the Atlantic Beach Pipes and Drum are performing admirably for parades, functions, events and services to create an excellent public image for the town, county and entire area.

While economic conditions are causing town staff and officials to look closely at expenditures and capital purchases, the town's police department did purchase (2) 4x4 vehicles to place into service. The vehicles were demo models with good warranties, low mileage and at a much less expense than newer models. The town is also exploring centralized purchasing initiatives with the county and other county municipalities in an effort to cut the cost of goods and services during these tough economic times. A new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is now in its final stages of completion.

The Council has held many regular, workshop and special budget preparation meetings and has invited and encouraged public, property owners and taxpayers attendance and participation.

It's been a good year for the town. We think we've accomplished a lot but we feel some tough economic times and rough financial roads are ahead. We promise to remain vigilant, maintain an adequate and reasonable level of service to our constituency and watch the use, need for and expenditure of your tax dollar. We ask for and will need your help to accomplish these goals.

Thank you for a wonderful first year!



# 2008 A Year in Review State of the Town Annual Report

Presented To Our Citizens

2008 has been a good year for the Town of Atlantic Beach. An entirely new Council took their seats in the board room and **Mayor A.B. "Trace" Cooper, Mayor Pro-Tem Harry Archer** and Council members **Eddie Briley, Ann Batt, Vada Palma** and **Ken Ide** were overwhelmingly elected by a vote of the town citizens. Unfortunately, the Council lost Councilmember Ide to cancer early in the first term. A replacement for him will soon take place and the decision on that replacement was being made as this issue of *Ocean Breeze* was being prepared.

In reflecting on the year's actions and activities, ideas were put in place and objectives reached. We recall some of those things and bring them to the attention of our *Ocean Breeze* readers.

**PERSONNEL** - The Council recruited and hired long time town/county commissioner, **Pete Allen** to fill the manager's leadership position. Also hired was **Laurie Hasulak**, a former employee with years of accounting and administrative experience with the Town of Pine Knoll Shores, to fill the vacancy left by **Laura (Buda) Waters**, who retired after 29 years of dedicated service as the town's Tax Collector. As a side note, Laura's tax collection rate for her last year of service was 99.6%, par for the course for this long term professional who will be sorely missed but will work with us part-time during the period of transition.

In addition, the town re-recruited Chief Building Inspector, **Donna Turner** and inspector **Joey Starling** to the Inspections department to fill the contingent of good, long term dedicated and professional employees that compliment our existing staff to serve the general public with their municipal needs and services.

**TAX RATE** - The Town Council approved and adopted a budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 with an ad-valorem property tax rate of 12.5 cents per \$100 valuation, down 2.5 cents from the previous fiscal year...the only town in Carteret County to reduce their property tax rate, and supported the county's efforts to hold the line on their tax rate which remains at .23/\$100, the lowest county tax rate of all 100 counties in the State of North Carolina.

**GRANTS** - The Council directed staff to seek grant funding and additional sources of revenue and some success was noted in this area despite tough economic times. The town has been promised and expects to receive grant monies from the North Carolina Division of Water Resources to help dredge the Causeway Channel in the spring at the suggestion of the town's dredging committee which was formed under this new administration. The channel is shoaling badly and navigation is becoming difficult for our fishing fleet and vessels using that channel.

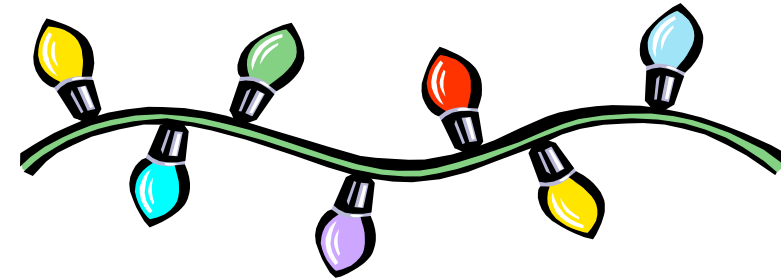
The town has also applied for and expects to receive grant funding from the Department of Transportation for a Closed Loop Signal System along with sidewalk and pedestrian improvements along Fort Macon Road totaling over \$200,000. We have also received a CAMA grant to construct a new bathhouse facility at the Tom Doe public beach access site. And we're working with the North Carolina Division of Water Quality for funding to construct rain gardens and cisterns in specific localized areas of town to assist with flood conditions in those areas. This is in addition to the \$50,000 grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to help ease and resolve some of the town's storm water issues that occur during heavy rainfall periods.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** - The recently completed financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008 showed great improvement over the previous fiscal year reflecting much higher general fund balance monies in reserve and only one internal control deficiency reported compared to ten in the previous year's report. The town has once again, received recognition and a Certificate of Achievement from the Government Finance Offices Association (GFOA) for excellence in financial reporting thanks to **Sabrina Simpson** and employees in the finance and accounting department. The town has earned this award each year since 2000.

**PARKS & RECREATION** - The Council budgeted for, created and chose members to serve on a Parks and Recreation committee. The goal of this committee is to seek funding for and provide much needed parks, recreation, entertainment and amusement activities for its citizens.



*Come Join Atlantic Beach for  
Christmas 2008!*



## Come One, Come All!

The Town of Atlantic Beach is requesting all Residents, Guests, Family, Friends, Neighbors and Visitors to join Mayor Cooper, Councilmembers and Town Staff for a mix, mingle, and joyful night of Christmas in Atlantic Beach!

## 2nd Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony

Saturday, December 6, 2008

7:00 pm

At the Flagpoles (Circle area)

Watch as Mayor Cooper lights up the Crystal Coast's tallest Christmas tree!



Then follow the crowd and music of the  
Atlantic Beach Pipes and Drum

to the Fire Station for

Caroling with the Bogue Banks Baptist Church Choir  
Food • Beverages • Community Gathering

And, that jolly 'ole man himself,  
SANTA CLAUS will make an appearance!  
FREE pictures with Santa (yes, even for the older "kids")  
Treats from Santa for the little ones

\* Please note that the Town of Atlantic Beach WILL NOT  
be holding a Christmas Parade this year.  
For inquiries, call 726-2121, ext. 238.

