

Planning Department

Greetings All,

Over the last two years the Town put a great deal of effort into updating and organizing land use codes through the development of the Unified Development Ordinance. This document deals with everything from setbacks on a single family home to portable storage regulations to commercial sign rules. I would like to take this opportunity to review what is currently on the books in regards to signage, as I have been receiving a high volume of inquiries on this issue.

We have taken advantage of the slower economy by utilizing the opportunity to examine the direction the Town would like to grow in. The UDO Committee and Planning Board spent a lot of time envisioning how redevelopment might reshape the look of Atlantic Beach. A Causeway Overlay District was created in order to facilitate mixed-use development that will encourage a walkable central district down the Causeway and east and west on Fort Macon Road. As a result, it was decided that new billboards and off-premise signage will no longer be permitted.

As in the old codes, the UDO addresses temporary signage. While the UDO was being developed, the sign ordinance was not being fully enforced. The biggest result of this was a high volume of portable signs along the right-of-ways on the Causeway and on Fort Macon Road. These signs are illegal, and are being removed by staff. This type of signage interferes with landscaping. Properties zoned Resort Services, Community Business, Circle Development District and General Business may however utilize a sandwich board sign if additional signage is desired. No signs are allowed on any utility poles.

Many people call and inquire about banners. The Town has a temporary signage permit available at no cost. A banner may be erected for up to two weeks with this permit, advertising a sale, a grand opening, or a public event. The UDO Administrator approved where these signs may be located. No banner is permitted in any area that disrupts visibility at any intersection, and obviously must be approved by the property owner where it is being located.

Permanent signs require a sign permit, and on occasion approval from DOT. Failure to obtain a permit for signage will result in a violation, double permit fees and a \$50 per day fine until the signage has been approved. All regulations on signage are available on the Town's website in the Unified Development Ordinance. Staff is always willing to answer questions you may have, as well, by calling (252) 726-4456.

I hope you all enjoy your holiday festivities.

Jessica Fiester
Planning Director

U.S. Census is Hiring

The U.S. Census Bureau is now hiring nationwide for the 2010 Census. These temporary, part-time jobs offer good pay, flexible evening and weekend hours up to 40 hours a week, and the chance to work near home. Workers are needed in Atlantic Beach and Bogue Banks. Call 1-866-861-2010 or visit www.2010censusjobs.gov to make appointments for applying and testing for Census jobs and to learn more on Census job opportunities.

Local Contact/Recruiter:
L.A. (Bud) Daniels
(252) 732-6345
bdaniels1@embarqmail.com.



Public Works

North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) has been upgrading the controls for the traffic lights within the Town. This should help move traffic along Fort Macon Road and the Causeway in a much more efficient manner for the summer season.

Larry Ward, long time Public Services employee, has retired! His expertise and can-do attitude will be missed. Good luck and thanks for your dedicated service.

Leghe Gerald has attained his NC State Wastewater license for subsurface disposal. Congratulations!

Travis Thompson has earned certification by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) in four of the seven areas required to be a Master Technician. Good job!

The Ocean Breeze

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Mayor's Minute

As a sports fan, I was intrigued this past summer while the Minnesota Vikings tried to convince Brett Favre to come out of retirement and join their team. It was a bold move for the Vikings, but it made a lot of sense. They were a good team, with a lot of talented players, but needed the right leader to move them up into the football's elite. With that in mind, they went after Favre — an MVP quarterback, future Hall of Famer, and true team player. Favre was retired at the time, but luckily for everyone in Minnesota, he decided to come back and lead their team to the next level.

At the press conference announcing that Favre would be joining their team, the Vikings coach was beaming with excitement. I know just how he felt.

When the current Town Council came into office a couple years ago, we found a staff of very talented and well-trained players. But, due to the recent departure of a former Town Manager, they were without a quarterback. We looked around and realized that we had our own retired Hall of Famer in the area and set out to recruit him. And, luckily for everyone in Atlantic Beach, Pete Allen decided to come back and lead our team to the next level.

Pete agreed to serve, first as an interim Town Manager, and finally as our full-time Town Manager about two years ago. His knowledge and leadership have helped the town maintain its high level of service to our citizens while maintaining our financial strength through difficult times. When he agreed to come out of retirement, he told us he'd give us another couple of years to help a new Mayor and Town Council get off on the right foot. We've come to the end of the two-year period and Pete let us know several weeks ago that his last day on the job would be December 31st. He has retired again. This time he says he plans to stay retired.

We will certainly miss his leadership at Town Hall. But, we won't be the only ones who miss Pete. Over the years he has served as Mayor, Administrator, Manager and Commissioner for the Town of Emerald Isle. He has served as County Manager and County Commissioner for Carteret County. And, this is his second shift as Manager of Atlantic Beach. In addition, he has served on numerous Boards and Commissions including the Hospital Board, Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Council, Tourism Development Authority, Beach Commission, Library Board, County Transportation Authority and the Crystal Coast Mayor's Association and the North Carolina Beach, Inlet and Waterway Association.

Over the last two decades in Carteret County, there are few, if any, people who have done as much for local government as Pete Allen has.

As I write this, the Minnesota Vikings have won ten of their eleven games, are in first place in their division and, are a favorite to make it to the Super Bowl. It's clear that bringing their Hall of Famer out of retirement was a big success. At a recent press conference, their coach beamed with pride over what his team had accomplished under the leadership of their new quarterback. Again, I know just how he felt.

Thank you, Pete. We wish you the best in your retirement.



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

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tcooper@coopdev.com

Councilmembers

Harry Archer Mayor Pro Tem
(252) 726-6655

Ann Batt Councilmember
(252) 241-1340

Eddie Briley Councilmember
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Vada Palma Councilmember
(252) 247-0175

Trish Ide Councilmember
(252) 222-3086

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(252) 726-2523

Adam Snyder Chief of Fire
(252) 726-7361

Marc Schulze Public Services Dir.
(252) 726-1366 Ext. 255

Board Members

Planning Board Members

Ray Langley Chairperson
Larry Burke
John Hopkins
Steve Joyner
Norman Livengood
Scott Rice
John Rivers

Board of Adjustment Members

John Kurek Chairperson
George Bailey
Markey Burroughs
Darrel Lawrence
Gary Plough
David Cox Alternate
C.V. May Alternate
Sam Rich Alternate
Gene Walz Alternate

News From the Police Department

Well, spring is fast approaching and we here at the police department continue to work to improve processes to provide better services for full-time and part-time residents, as well as our businesses. The police department will hold another "Citizens Academy" beginning in late January or early February aimed at soliciting volunteers for a new program we hope to begin soon. We have applied for a grant through Citizens Corps to build a Volunteers in Policing (VIP's) program. We will get the information concerning the citizen's academy and the VIP's program out as soon as we firm up our plans.

After 25 years of service to the Town of Atlantic Beach, **Deputy Chief Alan K. (aka "A.K.") Miller** is retiring. The selection process to fill this position was an exhaustive process for three (3) members of our department who applied. I am pleased to announce that **Investigator Jeff Harvey** has been selected as Atlantic Beach's new Deputy Chief beginning February 2010. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to A.K. for his dedicated service to our department and your town. He will be missed. I would also like to extend congratulations to Deputy Chief Select Jeff Harvey for his promotion and achievement.

I would also like to thank you, our citizens, for your continued support. We continue to be interested in your thoughts, ideas, and feedback on where there may be areas for improvement. Please feel free to contact me at (252) 726-2523 with ideas, recommendations, or for general information on how your police department operates.

Sincerely,
Allen Smith
Chief of Police

Speed Limit Change

Effective March 15th, 2010 the seasonal speed limit on the east and west bound ends of Highway 58 (Fort Macon Road) in Atlantic Beach will be lowered from 45 mph to 35 mph. Please drive carefully and watch out for our visitors and their children.

Join the Academy

It's that time of year again, and the Atlantic Beach Police Department is gearing up to host its 2nd annual "Citizens Academy." This year we will not only be hosting for the citizens of Atlantic Beach, but also for the citizens of Pine Knoll Shores. We are very excited to have this opportunity and are looking forward to a wonderful turnout. The Academy will be held from 6:00 to 9:00 pm every Thursday night beginning February 25th and ending April 6th. At the completion of the Academy, the graduates, age 55 and older, will be eligible to volunteer for our newly formed "VIPS" (Volunteers in Policing) program. If you are interested in this Academy please feel free to contact Jeff Harvey at the Atlantic Beach Police Department at (252) 726-2523 or e-mail him at communitypolicing@atlanticbeach-nc.com.



Reminders...

I would like to remind those of you who have not already done so to visit the police department's website at www.atlanticbeachpd.com. You may use this site for a number of functions from requesting home security checks to keeping up with goings on in your police department.

If you have something of interest to report, let us know as soon as possible because there are times when waiting hours or even days can and will jeopardize successful investigations.

Clerk's Corner

2010! HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Well, it's a brand new year. Atlantic Beach rang OUT 2009 with a wonderful Christmas event. Yes, it was cold, yes, it was windy, but the weather just added to the warm, joyous atmosphere of the 2009 Atlantic Beach Christmas Festival held on December 12, 2009.

The traditional lighting of the Crystal Coast's tallest Christmas tree held at "the circle" was beautiful and preceded the town's Christmas festival held at the old Outer Banks Outriggers store (Boater's World). Between the decorations and all the lights, one councilmember stated, "it was a winter wonderland". Not only did Santa make his annual visit to Atlantic Beach, but this year he brought the MRS! Yes, Mrs. Santa Claus was here in their "mobile home." A good time was had by all, especially the children. It can only get bigger and better.

I would like to thank everyone who was involved in the creation of Mrs. Santa's home. Without these companies and individuals, this vision would not have become a reality.

- **Norstate Contracting, Worth Baker - General Contractor.** Without Mr. Baker's support, and donation of time and labor, Mrs. Santa would not have been able to visit Atlantic Beach.
- **Guy C. Lee - Morehead City** for donation of ALL the supplies and materials to construct Mrs. Santa's house.
- **Sherwin-Williams Paint Store - Morehead City. Fletcher Poulon, Manager** who donated all the paint to make Mrs. Santa's house so beautiful!
- **ACE Hardware - Atlantic Beach. Philip Helms, Owner/Operator and John Fairchild, Manager** who donated OVER 400' of gorgeous garland and graciously loaned a crab pot Christmas tree as part of the decorations.
- **Atlantic Station Merchants - Dippin' Dolphins, Coastal Crafts' Plus, Island Traders, Kites Unlimited & Birdstuff, Etc.** for donating their merchandise for drawings/door prizes.
- **Country Aire Rentals** for the Dalmation Moon Walk - it was a hit!
- **Residents of the Craven County Correctional Center - Robert Butts, Michael Hare, Kevin Howell, Jose Pineda, and Tyrone Sanders** for all their hard work, skills and dedication to the project, nothing short of amazing!
- **Town of Atlantic Beach Employees**
 - **Public Works - Marc Schulze, Director and Ted Pace, Superintendent.** Talk about dedication. Famous last words, "yea, we'll get it all done" and "what do you need us to do?"
 - **Fire Department personnel, family and friends** of ABFD for the volunteering of their time for the evening.
 - **Police Department** for traffic control during the tree lighting ceremony; **Dep. Chief A.K. Miller** for making an edible ABPD gingerbread house to be "raffled" off; for the use of the P.A. system; **Lt. Harvey** for his excellent carpentry skills and **Claude Andrews** for his time and decorating skills.
- **Carteret Count Emergency Services - JoAnn Smith (Director)** for volunteering her husband, **Robert's** time and hotdog cooking skills.

I apologize if I have inadvertently overlooked someone, but let me say "Thank You" in a big way.

BUT MOST OF ALL, I thank my husband, **Wayne Cyrus**, for his support, dedication, being by my side every night for decoration duty, and love to help a vision become a reality.

It is a new year. Let's look back fondly, but move forward with a vision. Thank you all for making Christmas 2009 a great one in Atlantic Beach!

Kelly L. Cyrus
Town Clerk



Town's e-mail: tab@atlanticbeach-nc.com

Town Hall hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday thru Friday