

Dennis Barbour  
*Mayor*

Joel Macon  
*Councilman*

Jack L. Lynch  
*Councilman*



Pat Efird  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

Gary Doetsch  
*Councilman*

Calvin R. Peck, Jr.  
*Town Manager*

**TOWN OF CAROLINA BEACH**  
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### *News Release*

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## **CAROLINA BEACH GOES WIRELESS**

### High Speed Internet Access Available to Town through Charter Communications

CAROLINA BEACH, NC ---The Town of Carolina Beach, along with the Town of Manteo, will become the first two North Carolina towns with a wireless high speed internet connection. The same way some coffee shops offer wireless internet access, all of Carolina Beach will now have access. Wireless fidelity, or wi-fi, is a technology that allows internet access without cords, using radio signals instead of cables to plug into cyberspace.

“This is another example of ways the Town of Carolina Beach is providing the best service to all of our citizens. Since the internet is so important to daily life and essential for information, education and business, we are very excited about having wi-fi capability here. Our connectivity and communications capabilities are being greatly enhanced,” Mayor Dennis Barbour said.

Hooks Systems Technology, who provides all technology services for the Town of Carolina Beach, brokered the wi-fi arrangement with Charter Communications. Charter, working in conjunction with two high-tech companies, Vivato (who manufactures the equipment) and Anyware Network Solutions (a wireless network specialist), will provide the town-wide wireless network. Charter is offering this service to the town government of Carolina Beach free of charge. Carolina Beach homes and businesses will have access in the coming year for a user fee which is currently being developed by Charter. People interested in the wireless internet service should contact Bill McBride of Charter at (910) 329-0020.

For the Town of Carolina Beach, the wireless network means town employees like police, firefighters, public utilities and code enforcement will now have immediate access to vital information wherever they are without being tethered to cables and cords. For example, a firefighter can download the building plans while he is on the scene or a police officer can access town ordinances without carrying around an ordinance book. The town will also save on telephone bills since information that was previously disseminated over telephones will now be disseminated over the internet.

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Carolina Beach is going wireless at a time just before it becomes commonplace for cities and towns. Wi-fi seems to be the next trend for municipalities across America. Other cities currently with wi-fi include Philadelphia and Spokane, Washington. Many more municipalities are in the process of getting it. The launch of Spokane Washington's wireless network was recognized recently by President Bush.

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