



TOWN OF WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH

NEWS RELEASE

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Town of Wrightsville Beach Receives Prestigious National Award for Excellence in Budgeting

Wrightsville Beach, NC — The Town of Wrightsville Beach is proud to announce it has received the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the first time in its history, recognizing the Town’s Fiscal Year 2025–2026 budget. This award, the **highest honor in governmental budgeting**, is presented to communities that meet rigorous national standards for how well the budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide, and communications tool. Last year, only **68 governments out of more than 650 counties and municipalities in North Carolina** received this recognition. **Wrightsville Beach is now the smallest town in the state, in recent history, to receive the award**, which makes clear the dedication, resourcefulness, and collaboration of Town staff in producing a document of this caliber with a very limited team.

This award reflects a new approach to budgeting for Wrightsville Beach, led by **Finance Officer Brian Murray**, who spearheaded the effort to transform the budget into a document that meets GFOA’s national standards. “This year’s budget goes well beyond just numbers on a page, it adds content to make the document more accessible, discuss the Town’s values and priorities, and explore what makes budgeting in a special community like Wrightsville Beach unique.”

Murray also extends special thanks to **Kris Thompson and Katie Ryan** of the **Parks and Recreation Department** for their tremendous help with graphics and formatting, which made the document visually engaging and user-friendly. He also thanks all **department heads** for their efforts in aligning their budgets with the Town’s goals, the **Board of Aldermen** for providing a strong policy foundation, and **Town Manager Haynes Brigman** for his leadership and support throughout the process.

“This recognition confirms what our residents already know: that Wrightsville Beach is dedicated to protecting and responsibly managing public funds,” said **Mayor Mills**. “We are honored to lead with transparency and will continue setting high standards in financial excellence.”

To view the full budget document or learn more about the Town of Wrightsville Beach’s budgeting process, please visit www.townofwrightsvillebeach.com.