## Atlantic House Continued from Page 13

With the guidance and assistance of staff, members contribute each day by helping to operate the programs of the clubhouse, thereby gaining self-confidence as they move toward becoming self-reliant, productive members of society. The Atlantic House work day is divided into two components - clerical and food services. The members engaged in the clerical component become involved with filing, maintenance of records, billing, compiling statistics, data processing and telephone and computer usage. The food services unit involves members in the planning, preparation and serving of a daily meal as well as having responsibilities to maintain a commercial kitchen, shopping for groceries and accounting for the funds received. Members of this unit are responsible for the purchase, inventory, sale and financial aspects of the clubhouse snack bar.

Atlantic House offers members outside employment opportunities in one of three programs: transitional, supported and independent employment. The transitional employment program is guaranteed as part of membership. Parttimejobs are made available to members at local businesses. Supported employment involves a "job coach" who assists the member with finding and training that leads to employment. Independent employment offers members job support and encouragement by involving them in the clubhouse on their days off.

In addition to these employment opportunities, members of the clubhouse are encouraged to continue their education. Some of the members are enrolled in classes at Carteret Community College, while others become involved in Adult Basic Education classes offered by the college at the clubhouse. Finally, an After Hours Program offers fieldtrips, social and recreational activities for members.

All of these programs and activities are designed to assist members in restoring their social and vocational functions while increasing their ability to manage their mental illness.

Once built, the new building will be the third to serve as home to Atlantic House. It will provide needed space and enable an expansion of programs and activities. Anyone wishing more information about the programs and activities at Atlantic House may call the clubhouse at 252-726-1216. A tax deductible contribution can be sent to Friends of Atlantic House, P.O. Box 81, Morehead City, N.C. 28557.

## Expanding Recreational Opportunities By Charlie McBriarty

After several failed efforts, PKS has put their request for funding a bike/ pedestrian path on hold. Earlier efforts requesting funds for this project were denied because the request did not include a community recreational plan or the necessary administrative oversight of design and construction of the path was not in place. During the course of the next year focus will be directed at creating these missing elements so chances of acquiring funding in the future will be enhanced.

Recently, the town board approved formation of a Recreational Advisory Committee. This action, recommended by the ad hoc Recreational Task Force, will establish a planning body that will focus on the development of a town-wide recreation plan. In addition, the town is in the process of identifying a person to serve as director of public services who will have responsibility for public works undertaken by the Town, including recreation. It is anticipated that these two elements will be in place and functioning so that an improved funding request can be submitted to the appropriate sources Meanwhile, work on the town's sound-

side park is progressing. Once completed,

this park will offer citizens and visitors a gorgeous view of Bogue Sound. A handicapped accessible walking path, with several branches, has been staked and actual construction is expected to get underway soon. This permeable-surface path will meander around existing trees and vegetation to the sound. It will be approximately a mile long and will have benches along the way for bird watchers and others wishing to sit to admire nature at work. The park will have a 10 station PAR Course for those visitors wishing to get some exercise. Bathroom facilities and a drinking water station will be included. In addition, the feasibility of creating a canoe and kayak launching site is being explored.

Park visitor parking will be provided by expanding, by about 10, the existing spaces on the sound side of Town Hall. Additionally, a bike rack will be available for those bicycling to the park. Since the hours of operation will follow the "Dawn to Dusk" pattern of the PKS beach access facility at the Iron Steamer, the need for lighting in, and maintenance of the park will be minimal. This park has been made possible thanks to a North Carolina Coastal Management Program grant of \$332,100.



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