MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH

From Left to Right: Mrs. H.B. Huckabee, Mayor Blue Huckabee and Mr. Mark Garner.

Mayor Huckabee Honored

Mayor H. Blue Huckabee received a number of honors during the month of February. On February 6, the South Strand Sertoma Club presented the "Man of the Year - Service to Mankind Award" to him, citing his leadership and accomplishments. On February 24, Representative Ben Thrallkill presented a concurrent resolution honoring his service to the residents of the Grand Strand, South Carolina Coastal Council presented a plaque to Mayor Huckabee on February 28, honoring his "Herculean efforts to preserve the beach environment" which was followed by a concurrent resolution presented by Senator Bud Long. Congratulations to Mayor Huckabee for the recognitions.

Town Hall Has New Hours

The Surfside Beach Town Hall is now open to the public during the hours of 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. All office personnel will work normal hours. Doors will be opened and phone calls received beginning at 8:30 a.m. The new hours have been instituted to provide an opportunity for personnel to tabulate receipts from the previous days work and to initiate tasks for the new day. It is our hope that we will be able to serve you better.

Business License Auditor Secured

The Town Council has appointed Mr. Bill Miller to the position of Business License Auditor. Mr. Miller has over thirty years of experience as an agent for the Internal Revenue Service. The auditor will be randomly checking the returns of businesses who secure a license to operate in the Town.

Mr. Miller will be aiding the Administrative and Financial personnel of the Town to insure that all license returns are filled out fully and factually. This new service is part of an on-going effort to improve the business practices of the Town. The cooperation of all those who are required to secure a business and/or rental license will be appreciated.

Codes Division To Be Instituted

In April, a Codes Division will be organized. The Building Inspector, Fire Chief-Zoning Administrator, Public Works Director and Town Engineer offices will be located together in the building directly behind Town Hall. The Recreation Director's office will be located in Town Hall.

The Codes Division will enable those who need information regarding any of the building or development codes to secure this service from a central location. Further, each of these divisions of the Town will be able to operate as a team to insure adherence to the regulations and to expedite review-processing of requests.

Two Elected To Offices

Mr. H. Neil Ferguson, Financial Director, has been elected President of the South Carolina Municipal Finance Officers, Clerks and Treasurers Association. This is a great honor for Mr. Ferguson and for the town.

Mr. Frank Roberts, Town Administrator, has been elected President-Elect of the Surfside Area Rotary Club. Congratulations to both.
Beautification

Recent steps have been undertaken to improve the appearance of the Town. First, Town Hall was renovated and landscaped. Second, the Surfside Beach Merchants Association planted crepe myrtle trees in the median along U.S. Highway 17 from Surfside Drive to Fifth Avenue North. Third, shrubbery was planted along the Public Works-Fire Department addition on First Avenue North and screening was added to the fence around the Public Works area behind Town Hall. Fourth, landscaping was provided around the well site at Tenth Avenue North.

Further improvements are planned this year which will continue the efforts of many. Projects include landscaping along the Public Works yard on Poplar Drive North with crepe myrtle trees donated by the Surfside Beach Civic Association; the staffing of a three person litter crew to police the beach accesses, major streets and Highway 17; and renovations to Fuller Park, including the "Ark".

Finally, Mr. Bill LeGue, Chairman of the Clean City Committee and Mr. Frank Roberts, Town Administrator, will be traveling to Charlotte, North Carolina on April 9 to initiate the first step to become affiliated with Keep America Beautiful, Incorporated. They will be attending a comprehensive two day training session.

Three Employees Honored

Mayor H. Blue Huckabee and the Town Council honored three employees who celebrated their fifth anniversary of employment. They are Mr. Tom Tracy, Jr., Recreation Aide, Mr. Willie Smalls, Sanitation Laborer, and Mr. Ben Johnson, Sanitation Laborer.

It is due to the actions of these men and others like them, that the Town has been able to secure the service achievements that have occurred. We thank them for their dedication and service.
Reminders of Regulations
Volunteer firemen are still needed to help with the Fire Department. Current staffing levels are low. Those interested should contact the Surfside Beach Fire Department at 238-2621. Remember the lives and property you save could be yours and your loved ones.

The Town has a Tree Ordinance and a Stormwater Management Ordinance. Permits are required before any tree is cut or before any land clearing and/or development activity occurs. Notify the Building Department so that compliance can be assured.

Street address numbers are required to be posted, in plain sight, on the building so that they can be read from the street. This helps the Police, Fire and Rescue Squad personnel in locating your residence or business.

Rescue Squad
The Rescue Squad has changed their emergency phone number. If you need service, please call 238-3029.

Also, the Rescue Squad will take anyone’s blood pressure free of charge. Please come to the Rescue Squad building in the evenings after 6:00 p.m.

Baseball Season Begins
The Dixie Youth baseball season will commence with Opening Day Ceremonies on April 19. The activities will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the H. Blue Huckabee Recreation complex on Spanish Oak Drive. The Recreation Department is still in need of umpires. If you are interested, please call 238-4131 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Coaches Certified
All Youth volunteer coaches will be certified under the National Youth Sports Coaches Association. This is a six hour course of instruction for first year participants. Re-certification is required for the two subsequent years. The Surfside Beach Recreation department has a local chapter, which requires that all coaches in any youth sport be certified.

Tennis Lessons
Tennis instruction will be offered during the month of June for children ages 6 through 18. Additional information will be provided at a later date. Please watch for the announcement in the newspaper.

New Recreation Classes and Trips

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For more information, please check the local newspaper or call the Recreation Department at 238-4131.

Fire Training
Eight Surfside Beach firefighters have completed Phase Two of the South Carolina Firefighter training program. They include Chief Dan Thomas. Assistant Chief Tom Anderson, and Firefighters, Jean Adkins, Steve Maddox, Ivan Liddiment, Bob Austin, Rick Scales and Phillip Ricks. Congratulations and good luck on the Phase Three training which will commence in the near future.

Water Certification Received
We are happy to report that Mr. Bob Powell has successfully completed the “D” level operators test given by the South Carolina State Board of Certification. Mr. Powell is in charge of the meter reading responsibilities for the Town. Once he completes the remainder of his training program, Mr. Powell will receive an operators certificate. Again, congratulations Bob.