Abnormally high tides and northeastern winds caused severe damage along Surfside’s Beach. Here a walkover is shown after the tide washed away the primary dune system.

**Storm Damage To The Oceanfront**

As you are aware, the Grand Strand received considerable damage to its beach, sand dunes, dune walkovers, gazeboes, and other personal property during the storm driven, high tides of December 1st and 2nd, 1986, as well as January 1, 1987. To add insult to injury, the New Year’s Day storm surge struck us with most of the protective dune system already badly eroded from the earlier event.

Why did this happen? Will it happen again during the upcoming astronomical tides of January 29th, February 27th and March 27th? The answer to the latter question is not known at this time. However, we can look back and rationalize what has already taken place. First, the astronomical high tides were due to a very infrequent alignment of the Sun, Moon, and Earth causing higher than normal gravitational pull and subsequent higher than normal tides. The January 1st storm brought the highest tides expected to occur during this particular infrequent alignment. Second, both the December 1st and January 1st events took place simultaneously with a northeastern stormfront which caused higher than normal tides due to high northeast winds. Third, both storms passed through the Grand Strand at or around the exact times of high tide, thereby greatly magnifying wave height and intensity.

Can these factors cause similar problems in the coming months? Again, no one really knows for sure.

In the meantime, what can be done to protect our beach system and adjacent properties? First of all, the South Carolina Coastal Council has ultimate jurisdiction from the critical line (landward toe of the primary dune line) to the ocean. Consequently, due to the lack of a protective dune system in most areas, Coastal Council did issue an emergency beach scraping order to rebuild dunes which was effective through January 16, 1987. It is not, at this time, known whether Coastal Council will extend the emergency order. However, the Town does have an approved permit through Coastal Council for beach scraping after January 16th, and can issue permits after that date. If you wish to apply for a beach scraping permit you must do the following:

First, come or send your contractor to the Codes Division behind Town Hall and apply for the permit. This permit is mandatory before work can begin. At this time, proper beach scraping procedures will be discussed, as there are guidelines which must be adhered to in order to properly work the beach and build dunes.

Second, all contractors performing work in Surfside Beach must have a valid Contractors and Town Business License. The Business License can be obtained at the same time as the emergency permit.

These two procedures are for the protection of our beach, as well as the property owner. Please note that numerous out-of-town contractors have appeared on the scene due to our damage. Most are well meaning contractors out to perform a decent job for a decent wage, however, be advised that the property owner is ultimately responsible for all work performed. So, make sure all appropriate guidelines are followed. If you would like to call first to discuss this process, please contact Mr. Dan Thomas at 803-238-5531.

Additionally, the preceding guidelines apply only to beach scraping to rebuild dunes and protect property. Any proposed construction of seawalls, concrete revetments, or other hard structures are not allowed in the shore protection area. If you would like more information you can contact Mr. Dan Thomas at 803-238-5531.

Finally, how about damage to structures such as cottages, walkovers, and gazebos? Again, certain guidelines must be followed. First, please contact the Town Building Official, Mr. John Woodward, for the appropriate building permit. The Building Inspector will outline what can be done to rebuild or replace damaged structures and will make sure your contractor is licensed to perform such work. Again, this procedure protects both the Town and the property owner. Mr. Woodward can be reached by appointment at the Codes Division, or by phone at 803-238-5531.

**Budget Work Continues...**

It's that time of year again where the Administration is compiling information for the FY1987/88 Budget. The Operating Budget is the fiscal plan for the upcoming year which begins on April 1st. Departments are submitting their requests and the Administrator will review for a proposal to be submitted to the Mayor and Town Council in February. The process is very important since all services are looked at in order to streamline operations and provide the best possible services to our residents and businesses.

The Mayor and Town Council will deliberate on the spending plan which includes Police, Fire, Sanitation, Streets, Water and Sewer services, Accommodations Tax and Capital Improvements. Council will then incorporate its policies, priorities and programs into the plan for the upcoming year. The Budget process will be completed in March when the Spending Plan will receive two Budget readings and become law on April 1st.
The ‘Caboose’

Over the past few months, I’m sure most of us have become familiar with the “Caboose”. The “Caboose” was donated to the Town by Floyd and Stewart Construction Company. The Town accepted this gift because it was unique and found out later that the Caboose was actually a part of the history of the Town of Surfside Beach. The Caboose was placed on what was then known as Floral Beach in 1951 and was used as a summer place for the Reuben S. Taylor family. In 1984, the property was sold and the Caboose donated to the Town. The Town wanted to renovate the Caboose and utilize it for all to enjoy. However, due to budgetary constraints, money was not available for this project and the Town was afraid that it would lose its little piece of history. Due to the generosity of local citizens, the Caboose will become a permanent part of our Town facilities. The Caboose will be relocated to the H.B. Huckabee Complex and utilized as a concession stand. Nelson Jackson, the owner of Ocean Lakes Campground, will move the Caboose, the company of John Gobbell, J&G Construction, will donate the renovations, and the Booster Club will provide the equipment for the concession stand as well as run the concessions at Town sponsored functions. The Town hopes the Caboose enhances our recreational facilities and remains with us for a long time.

Town Hall News

Please join all of us in welcoming Mrs. Dianne Deel as a new staff member at Town Hall. Dianne is employed in the Finance Department.

Denise Voiles, our secretary/receptionist, and her husband, Dave, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Robin Michelle, born on January 8, 1987. Congrats!!

While Denise is on leave, Mrs. Elly Sorenson will be manning our information center.

The Police Department has received a much needed facelift. New carpet has been placed in the hallway and the walls have been painted. We hope this cosmetic change adds to the professionalism displayed by our Police Department.

Town Hall Meeting Schedules

The Town Council of the Town of Surfside Beach meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the Town Council/Court Chambers located on the south end of Town Hall and are open to the public. We welcome all interested residents to attend.

Drainage

In order to help the Town maintain its drainage system, please remember not to put leaves and other debris in the ditches.

From The Mayor’s Desk

I have now been in office as your Mayor for approximately three months. I am glad to be able to serve my community in this way. I can assure you that the Mayor and Town Council will be working hard for its citizens and striving to make our community a better place for all of us to live and work in. Let me tell you about a few projects.

Presently we are working with Senator Bud Long and Representative Ben Thrailkill to have some much needed work done to our streets this year. Senator Long has stated that he will provide us with the funds to pave approximately one mile of our streets with asphalt. Representative Thrailkill is helping us to start a Pilot Slag Program. If successful, funds will be made available to put slag on approximately six miles of streets. It is our understanding that these projects will started in the very near future.

The Town will strive to have the entire median on Highway 17, located within the Town limits, kept litter free and mowed during the upcoming season.

In addition work will continue on street grading, drainage maintenance and litter control. All of these things are priorities that you as citizens have given us.

Please remember, I am here as your Mayor to serve all the citizens. If any individual or group wishes to see me, my door is always open.

Finally, let me personally invite all of our citizens to attend our Town Council meetings. They are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. Come out and get involved in your community.

I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve as your Mayor.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson

Dick M. Johnson

Town Offices Move

The Town of Surfside Beach Codes Division offices will be moving sometime within the next several weeks. They will move from their present location in the Public Works building to the second floor of Town Hall. The offices to move are Building, Engineering and Zoning/Fire.

The Recreation Department will move from its present location on the first floor of Town Hall to occupy offices vacated by the Codes Division in the Public Works building.

When the move takes place adequate signs will be installed to direct the public to the new location. We hope this transition will be a minimal inconvenience to the public. It is contemplated that a more efficient utilization of personnel and space will be realized so that the public may receive better service. This is our goal in 1987.
Water Meter Reading Changes Planned

Currently, the Town reads water meters at two different times during the month. Customers on the southend of Town have meters read at the beginning of each month, whereas northend customers have meters read at mid-month. Several problems have resulted from this procedure including:
1. Issuance of two (2) water bills to customers owning property on both ends of Town, with different due dates.
2. Utility crews repeating reading procedures twice each month, and
3. Finance department personnel repeating billing procedures twice each month.

Consequently, for the convenience of our customers, and in order to maximize the efficient use of Town personnel, the Town will begin reading and billing utility bills once per month starting on April 1, 1987.

Due to this new procedure, northend customers will receive a smaller bill than usual during April, with the following month’s bill returning to normal. Southend customers will not notice any change. Please bear with us during this procedural change, as it will benefit those owning property on both ends of Town, as well as streamlining overall Town operations. Customers will be notified on March bills as to the exact due dates for April utility payments. If you have any questions or comments on this procedural change, please contact Mr. Neil Ferguson, Town Finance Director, at 238-2590 during normal business hours.

House Numbers Are Important

"I've been intending to put address numbers on my house for a long time, but I just haven't gotten around to it." We have all heard this many times but all to often it's too late. If you could read the monthly police log, the monthly fire report or the monthly rescue squad report just once a year, you would know how important your street address numbers on your house or business place. In fact, you most likely would make it an immediate goal.

If you would for a moment, imagine yourself lying in the back bedroom with a heart attack, or someone attempting to break into your home or your stove blazing from an overheated pan of grease, would you want the emergency vehicle running up and down the street trying to find out where you live? Certainly not, but this is exactly what happens when there is no way to identify your house or business. House numbers should be large enough (five inches for homes and eight inches for businesses) to be seen from the farthest room and of a different color from the background on which they are placed. White on white just cannot be seen. Please help us to find you in the eventuality that an emergency exists. House numbers are a must.

South Carolina First In Nation

That's right, since 1985 South Carolina has lead the nation in fire deaths. This time of year, the possibility of a fatal fire occurring to you or your family increases. However, you can do a few things to help reduce your chance of becoming a statistic.

If you don't have a smoke detector, get one for every floor of your house and install them outside sleeping areas. If you do have one, test it, and make sure it is operating properly.

If you have any type of space heater, keep it away from curtains, furniture, clothing and papers.

If you have a fireplace, place a screen in front of it to stop sparks. Always, plan two ways out of your house in case there is a fire.

If you would like more information on how to be fire safe, or if you would like a free home fire inspection, call the Surfside Beach Fire Department at 238-5531.

Employee Training

The Town is continuing to utilize the training offered by the Training Consortium. Following is a list of employees and the courses they have completed:
Automatic Transmissions Overhaul: Terry Grady and Floyd Dixon, Maintenance Department.
Leadership Skills Clinic: Terry Grady, Maintenance.
Introduction to Personal Computers: Ron Peaks, Town Engineer and Neil Ferguson, Finance Director.
Congratulations to these employees. Their continuing education helps to provide our residents the best possible service.

Bi-weekly Pay Period Expected

Employees will begin being paid on a bi-weekly basis starting April 1, 1987. The first pay period will be April 3, 1987, which will cover the hours worked from March 27, 1987 through April 2, 1987. Thereafter employees will be paid every other week with the next check being issued April 17, 1987. This is being done to reduce accounting paperwork and enable the Town to effectively comply with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The Finance Department will do all it can to make this a smooth change-over.

Recreation

Adult Programs:
The Annual Christmas Tree Lighting, Visit with Santa and Hot Line to Santa were all very successful.

Several classes and events are scheduled for the next three months:

January — Stained Glass Basic Beginners Course
Cake Decorating Classes
A Fun and Games Night

February — Basic Calligraphy Classes
Flower Arrangement Classes — Spring
Shag Dance Lessons
How to Photograph People

March — Green Thumb Classes — Spring
Beginners Golf Clinic
Needle Work Classes

Please check with the Recreation Department on registration and class starting dates and times. Also, if there is any type of course that may interest you just call us at 238-4131 and we will try our best to get the course scheduled.

Youth Programs:
The boys basketball league will begin the season on Saturday, January 10th. There are eight teams comprised of 11-14 year old participants. All practices and games are played at the Socastee Middle School gym. A tournament will be held during the week of February 23rd through 28th.

Listed below are the activities and events scheduled for March.

Registration for Baseball, T-Ball, Girls Softball - March 9th-20th
Clinics: Baseball, Softball, and Golf
Certification of all coaches will also be held during this month.
Letters will be mailed to all coaches.

NOTE: Please stop by the Recreation Department and get a copy of the 1987 Adult and Youth Yearly Calendar of Programs and Events.

Survey

The recreation Department is conducting a survey to see which Radio Stations are the most listened to. With the results of this survey, Surfside Beach information will be announced on the most popular stations.

Please list your favorite stations, detach and leave at the Town Hall. Thank you.

Radio Stations:__________________________