MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

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

Mr. Felix, the Town is forever grateful for the fine job you have done; for your devotion in making Surfside Beach a better place for us to live and work. We wish you and your family, the very best in the years to come and look forward to your continued friendship, for you will always be welcome at Town Hall.

Selected to succeed Mr. Felix as Public Works Director, is Mr. Ron Peaks. Mr. Peaks graduated with a degree in Engineering from Virginia Tech in 1976. Before coming to work for the Town, Mr. Peaks was a design engineer for a consulting firm and the City Engineer and Utility Director in Norton, Virginia. In August, 1985, Mr. Peaks began working for Surfside Beach as Town Engineer, and was named Director of the Codes Division in the spring of 1986. Mr. Peaks also served as Interim Town Administrator for three months in the summer and fall of 1986. Good Luck, Mr. Peaks, in your new position.

Town Value System Initiated

The Town Council of the Town of Surfside Beach sets the policy for all town employees. Through the years, the Town Council has set high standards. Their goal has been and still is to give the best services possible to our citizens and to be responsive to their needs. In order to orient employees of these standards, the administrative staff has initiated a Town Value System. Simply stated, “Dedicated people providing quality and responsive services to our community”. The administrative staff believes that this statement incorporates the high standards set by Council. The Town looks forward to projecting these values and working hard for its residents and visitors.

Employee of the Quarter

Mr. Frank Tomko, Recreation Department, was recently selected as “Employee of the Quarter”.

Mr. Tomko has been employed with the Town for approximately 2½ years as the Program Supervisor. He has demonstrated great pride and dedication to the job. He has worked with the athletic program and has started many new adult programs for the Town. Frank is a dedicated family man and is involved in the betterment of the community.

Frank has demonstrated devotion and ability of which he can be proud. Congratulations.
From The Mayor's Desk

For the past 8 months, the Council and I have been working diligently on a plan to solve the Town's drainage problems. We have worked with every group in an effort to jointly resolve our problems. Every known agency has been contacted for technical and financial assistance. To date, no assistance has been forthcoming. It appears that area drainage problems must be addressed at the local level.

A lot of information has circulated regarding annexation as a solution to the drainage problems in the unincorporated areas. Some is accurate, some is not. Recently, I along with staff have visited with interested Town residents on drainage and annexation. The reason for these meetings is to get your input on these very important Town issues. Furthermore, we want to get the facts "on the table".

The information gathering stage is still going on, and the Council wants to establish a comprehensive plan that will expeditiously and fairly resolve our drainage problem. Your input is needed. We welcome the opportunity to present the facts and hear your views.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson
Mayor

Hurricane Season

Once again Hurricane Season is upon us. The following are some Hurricane Safety Rules.

Enter Hurricane Season prepared. Check your supply of boards, tools, batteries, non-perishable foods, and other emergency equipment.

Know the difference between a Hurricane Watch and a Hurricane Warning. A Hurricane Watch means a hurricane may threaten within 24 hours. Continue your normal activities, but stay tuned to radio or television for weather service advisories and instructions. A Hurricane Warning means that a hurricane is expected to strike within 24 hours. Start preparing. Protect windows with boards, shutters or tape. Secure loose outdoor objects or bring them inside. Save several days' water supply. Check battery powered equipment. Listen for Weather Service Bulletins. Stay at home if it is sturdy and on high ground. Leave low-lying areas and mobile homes for more substantial shelter. Stay indoors. After a hurricane has passed, seek necessary medical care. Stay out of disaster areas. If driving is necessary, do so carefully. Avoid loose and dangling wires and report them to the power company or Police Department. Report broken sewer or water mains to the Water Department or Police Department. Prevent fires, water pressure may be low, which may seriously hamper firefighting efforts. The designated shelters for Surfside Beach are Lakewood School and Socastee High School. These shelters will be opened shortly after a Warning has been issued.

Items to be taken to the shelter include a change of clothes, a 24 hour supply of non-perishable food, bedrolls and any required medications. Alcoholic beverages and pets will not be allowed in the shelters.

The Evacuation routes from Surfside Beach are as follows: Highway 17 North to Highway 544 (Dick Poole Road). Turn West on Highway 544. To get to Lakewood School turn onto the first paved road to the right (Crystal Lakes Road). Lakewood School is approximately one (1) mile down that road. To get to Socastee High School, continue traveling West on Highway 544 to Highway 707. Turn right on Highway 707 and the school will be on your left.

You will not be asked to leave your home unless your life is seriously threatened. When you receive word to leave, GO!

Planning Workshop

As the population of the Surfside Beach area continues to grow, long term planning has become essential. In a continuing effort to bring the best possible service to our community, the Town Council recently held a Planning Workshop.

The workshop was geared toward Future Planning of Town Service Delivery. Topics of discussion were fire response, sanitation, water quality, road improvements, secondary drainage improvements and future land acquisition.

The workshop resulted in specific goals and objectives and a commitment from Town Council to accomplish those goals. Council agreed conceptually to streamline the Sanitation Department by converting to a front end loader system and the utilization of a roll-a-way cart; commitment to resolve the two major problems in Town, roads and drainage; to purchase a fire truck with an increased pumping capacity and potential fire insurance savings; and in anticipation of future growth to investigate water quality and expansion needs.

Homeowners Update

This is the time of year when homeowners' minds turn to "fixing up". This is primarily due to the warmer weather and the owners visiting their second home and doing some needed repairs, additions and alterations. All too often the homeowner is contracting for these needed repairs to be accomplished without first checking to see if the contractor has a business license or building permit. If he doesn't, there are no inspections to insure that the work is done properly and meets local standards. As a reminder, don't let work commence on your property until you have a valid building permit. Another good policy is to hold a portion of the payment until the work is inspected and found to be satisfactory. Following these simple pointers will assure you of getting quality work.

Animal Licenses

Please be reminded that all dogs and cats must have a license as required by the local laws. If your animal has not been licensed, please come to Town Hall and obtain one.
**Fuller Park**

New playground equipment, sand box, grass and shrubs were recently installed at Fuller Park to make it one of the finest looking parks in the local area. The basketball courts were resurfaced and four new goals were installed. Take a walk over to Fuller Park and enjoy this fine facility.

**Surfside Beach Recreation Department**

**Youth Programs**

The T-ball, girls softball and baseball season is nearly over, with only the tournament games still being played. The season was successful with 21 teams in all and 275 children participating.

Soccer and cheerleading registration will be held August 17th-August 28th, at the Recreation Department.

**Adult Programs**

In August and September, the Recreation Department will be sponsoring several Adult Classes, to include: tennis lessons, basic camera techniques, stained glass, aerobic dance, and a green thumb class. Please check with the Recreation Department for starting dates and times.

**Police Beat**

Help the Police Department to provide a safer community by reporting suspicious persons, motor vehicles or acts of vandalism immediately. Be a good neighbor by providing "security checks" of unoccupied homes while occupants are away.

**Appearance Award of the Month**

The Surfside Beach Clean City Committee has begun to award the "Appearance Award of the Month". The award is limited to Merchants of the Town. The award will be presented around the 15th of each month along with a certificate and a letter from the Mayor. A merchant may receive the award more than once. The criteria for receiving the award is: 1) overall appearance, 2) special effort, 3) correction of a bad problem, and 4) regular cleanliness.

The first award was presented to the Carolina Opry on July 21, 1987. Mayor Johnson presented the award to Mr. Richard Grieg, General Manager. Congratulations!

**Safety Tips**

A simple way to help the people you love is to be prepared. One way to do this is to ensure that in an emergency, the Fire Department or the Rescue Squad could find your home. Please put numbers on your house, so that it could be found in an emergency. The life saved may be your loved one.

**Employee News**

Mr. James W. McIlrath has recently been employed by the Town as a Business License Auditor. Mr. McIlrath has a BS degree in Accounting from the Pennsylvania State University. He will be contacting local businesses to assure that the correct business license fees are being paid to the Town. Mr. James Johnson and Mr. Frank Cope are also new additions to the Town staff. Both are college students and have been hired as interns. They will be doing various jobs throughout the summer to receive college credit and experience in their chosen fields.

**Business Licenses**

Business License renewals have been mailed out. If you have not received your renewal notice, please contact the Finance Department at 238-2590. Business Licenses were to have been renewed no later than June 30th. Any renewals received after that date are subject to a ten percent penalty. After August 15th an additional ten percent penalty of the license tax shall be added every thirty days. After August 15th if any license tax is in arrears and unpaid, together with the penalty, the Town has the authority to immediately revoke the Business License. Once the license is revoked, that person can be immediately charged with operating without a license and upon conviction, shall be punished as provided for in the local ordinances.

**Sun Fun**

The Town of Surfside Beach hosted the Volleyball Tournament for the Sun Fun Festival again this year. The games were held on the beach, between 3rd and 4th South and 20 teams participated. A team from High Point, N.C., "The Polecats" won this year's event.