MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

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

Property Reassessment in Surfside Beach

As you have probably heard, the County recently underwent reassessment of all real property in Horry County. Reassessment which is required by State Law is used to determine the fair market value of all properties and to insure each is taxed at a fair rate.

The Town of Surfside Beach has experienced rapid growth and development since the last reassessment year in 1982. For that reason property values in the Town have increased by 57%.

State Law mandates that the millage rate set by each taking authority is limited to one percent (1%) overall increase in revenue received from the previous tax year. Under this section of the law, the millage rate (amount paid per $100 of assessment value) for the Town will be recalculated to reflect the 1% limitation. This means that the millage rate will be reduced but your taxes may be higher due to an increase in the value of your property.

At the time this newsletter went to press, the Town was waiting for the final figures from the County Assessor's Office in order to determine the millage rate. Current projections indicate a millage rate of approximately .038 mills or 3.80 per hundred of assessed value.

Budget Retreat Successful

The weekend of October 23, 1987, meant work for the Town Council. This year's Retreat was held at Wampee Plantation in Moncks Corner, South Carolina. Town Council discussed many facets of municipal services as well as special projects for the up-coming year.

Heading the list of priorities was Secondary Drainage Improvements, road enhancement program, capital replacement program and pay for performance system for Town employees.

The Administration will now have until March, 1988, to develop an Operating Budget for the up-coming fiscal year which starts on April 1.

Over 50's Program

The Recreation Program would like to organize an Over 50's Program in January. If you are interested, please call 238-4131 and leave your name and telephone number.

Clean City Committee Appearance Award of the Month

The Clean City Committee is pleased to announce that the appearance Award of the month of August was presented to Conway National Bank. Mayor Dick Johnson (on right) presents this Award to Buzz Freeman, Vice President of Conway National Bank. Also pictured, from left to right, G.D. Yarborough, Joyce Galbraith, and Rebecca Jowers. Other recipients of this Award are:
- Carolina Opry,
- Coastal Federal Savings & Loan,
- Plantation Marketing.

Festival

The Third Annual Old Fashioned Family Festival held on October 3 was very successful. The Festival Committee made up of Patty Wright - Chairperson, Anna Johnson, Virginia Benton, Darlene Hyman, Georgie Martin, Donna Purcell, and Bobbie Whitmire did an excellent job of arranging and coordinating this year's festival. A great crowd was in attendance to enjoy the various events, entertainment, food and booths. The town also stayed within its budgeted allocation for festival expenses. Our hats are off to all of those that made this year's festival the best ever!
Road Improvement Program

Improving Town roads has become a Top Priority with the Town Council. Beginning at the November 1986 Budget Retreat, Council has directed staff to investigate methods of improving the approximately twenty (20) miles of dirt and coquina streets within the Town limits. Additionally, our Council has intensified the lobbying effort for the scarce road improvement monies available through the State.

As a partial result of these efforts, the Council has obtained $100,000 through Representative Thrailkill to apply processed steel mill slag on appropriate low volume, low speed roads. Applied by our own Street Department, estimated costs per mile average approximately $20,000. Five (5) miles of road will be improved using “slag” before the next summer season, and is projected to decrease road and ditch maintenance on these 5 miles by fifty percent (50%). It should be noted that the unimproved dirt and coquina streets continually “wash” loose material into adjacent ditches causing a two-fold problem; 1) extensive ditch cleaning, and 2) continuous patching and road grading. Experience with the slag material shows that it will not wash into our ditches and requires minimal maintenance thereby breaking this vicious circle. Streets tentatively slated to receive slag are:

1. Yaupon Drive
2. 1st Avenue North
3. Hickory Drive
4. Lake Court
5. Magnolia Drive
6. Willow Drive
7. 2nd Avenue North
8. 2nd Avenue South
9. Oak Drive
10. Pinewood Drive
11. 1st Avenue South
12. 9th Avenue South
13. Azalea Lane, 2nd
14. 14th Avenue North

Once slag application is completed, fifteen miles of dirt and coquina streets will remain. In this regard, Council has obtained a commitment from State Senator Long for paving the remainder of Cedar Drive. Additionally, Council is contemplating steps to improve the remaining streets within an approximate five (5) year period which will include a technically developed paving priority list. Other concepts considered by Council include a resident “matching fund” program by which those residents living on a certain street would pay a portion of paving costs with the Town funding the remainder.

In any event, Council is determined to make wide-scale road improvements in this and the upcoming few years and has shown the commitment to obtain this goal.

From The Mayor’s Desk

I would like to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on our Comprehensive Drainage plan and Annexation efforts in our neighboring areas.

As you may have read recently in our local newspaper, the Town Council has agreed to pursue annexation in the Deerfield areas north of Glens Bay Road to Platt Boulevard and west to By-Pass Highway 17. The Town Council has further agreed to not pursue annexation in the Caropines Subdivision. These decisions were based on a sample annexation survey that was conducted over the past several months. A great deal of support has been shown in the Deerfield area while little support has been shown in Caropines. The Town is moving ahead with its comprehensive drainage plans and further efforts, at this time, to annex Caropines would only be counterproductive toward that end. The Town, however, remains open to the residents of Caropines should they desire annexation in the future.

Currently, the Town is developing a Request for Qualification to be sent to qualified engineers in preparation for the final design of the drainage improvements in the Deerfield and Surfside Beach area. The Town has also formally requested funding from the County for its “fair share” of the final design for the County area.

It is with great hope that annexation efforts will proceed quickly and successfully so that the Comprehensive Drainage plan can be implemented. Our goal is to start the actual improvements by the fall of 1988. We believe this goal can and will be attained.

These issues have an affect on each and every resident of our Town. My office is open and I will glad to listen to your concerns. We believe we’re on a positive road toward resolving one of the biggest problems that faces our Town.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson
Mayor
Garbage Collection Improvements

Disposing of household and commercial garbage is not the most pleasant task for you, the resident, business person, and the Town. An early morning ride on collection will show a wide variety of mismatched wooden, metal and masonry garbage racks and cans, as well as overflowing residential and bulk commercial garbage containers.

After one year of study of garbage collection procedures for Municipalities both large and small, Town Council was presented recommendations to pursue more efficient, aesthetic, and modern approaches to residential and commercial garbage collection.

For residential garbage collection, the semi-automated 90 gallon roll-out refuse cart was determined to be the best method to pursue for the following reasons:

1) three (3) times capacity of standard 30 gallon trash can yet moves easily on wheels
2) won’t blow or turn over under normal circumstances
3) removes necessity of garbage can racks in front yard
4) reduces lost time due to worker injuries
5) carts last from seven to ten years, and
6) once implemented, this system will allow transfer of Sanitation Department laborers to the Street/Drainage Department.

To determine your interest, Council directed a “straw poll” be conducted over this past summer. After viewing the 90 gallon roll cart, on display at Town Hall, residents voted in favor of this system by a two to one margin.

Consequently, beginning in January, 1988, the Town will start to assign each residential property with a mobile garbage container. Identified with serial numbers, the mobile garbage container will stay with the property for use by current and future residents.

What changes will be necessary to accommodate the “new mobile containers?” As far as the actual collection of garbage, the answer is none. Although the Town may revise collection routing, garbage will still be collected twice each week on Monday/Thursday or Tuesday/Friday depending on your location. Just roll the cart to the edge of your property at the street by 6:00 a.m. on your collection day. Lawn and other trash pick-up will also remain on Wednesdays.

What are your responsibilities as users of these carts?
Simply stated, treat them as your own, although two basic rules will apply:

1) Don’t burn or place hot objects or caustic materials in the cart.
2) Don’t misuse or abuse the cart. It is not a toy but is constructed to serve the intended purpose.

If it is determined that a user has damaged a cart through abuse, than the user will be liable for expenses to repair or replace the damaged cart. Normal wear and tear items, however, will be replaced or repaired by the Town at no expense to the resident. Complete instructions for use and care of the roll carts will be supplied each user when the carts are delivered. Additionally, the Town has information on the roll carts available at Town Hall, and will be disseminating information through the press as we approach January. Special provisions for the handicapped or elderly can be made, if no one is available in the household to roll out the cart on collection day.

What to do with existing garbage racks? Since the roll carts are to be removed from the street after garbage collection, the old garbage racks are no longer a necessity. If you have wooden or metal garbage racks, the Town will dispose of them at your request. In any event, these racks must be removed by April 1, 1988. If you have brick or masonry racks that are integral to landscaping, you do not have to remove them, but may choose to, and the Town will dispose of them for you.

What do we call these roll carts? Columbia has named its carts “Herbie-Curbies”, and Myrtle Beach has named its carts “Pelicans”. In light of this, a contest was held among Town employees for a name for our carts. The winner was “Moby”.

Due to the large monetary capital outlay for these roll-away carts, and installation of dumping devices on Town garbage trucks, it will be necessary to levy an additional $1.50 per month Sanitation charge to the existing $1.50 charge. However, a total of $3.00 per month Sanitation charge, keeps Surfside Beach far below other collectors on the Grand Strand.

As to the bulk commercial garbage collection a change is also coming. In January, Town’s first front-end loader a single man operation garbage truck will be arriving. The Town’s current rear load trucks have to be operated by three (3) persons, a driver and two laborers. The front load trucks need only one driver to perform the collection procedure. Unfortunately, the current rear load dumpsters are not compatible with the new machine and must be phased out. The Town will begin to implement this new system in January with complete Change over by April 1989. Since all dumpsters are purchased by the users, it will be necessary for users to trade in their old rear loaders for the new, compact, front load containers. The Town will be working with all dumpster owners during the changeover process to assist in obtaining trade-in values and/or replacement of existing and worn out dumpsters.
Town of Surfside Beach Welcomes New Judge

The Honorable Jeffrey Wile has been appointed by the Town Council of Surfside Beach to fill the unexpired term of the Honorable Andy Hendrick. His term will expire April 1, 1988.

Mr. Wile attended the University of Baltimore School of Law and graduated in 1975 with his Juris Doctor. In 1975, Mr. Wile moved to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, and received his license to practice law in the State of South Carolina in May of 1976.

An outside interest of Mr. Wile is coaching basketball and baseball for the Myrtle Beach Recreation Department.

Judge Wile heard his first case for Surfside Beach Municipal Court on September 21, and his first jury trial on November 2, and 3, 1987.

Employee of the Quarter

Alton “Tony” Blackwell, a Police Officer with the Town of Surfside Beach for two years exceeded the required criteria for Employee of the Quarter by his overall job performance, professionalism, maturity, and job knowledge. Tony takes great pride in his day-to-day contact with the public, seeks and engages in activities to improve his skills and displays a personal demeanor that is above reproach. Congratulations to Officer Blackwell!

Christmas Programs

Again this year we will have our annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 3, at 7:00 p.m. in front of Town Hall. Visit with Santa will be on December 12 at 12:30 p.m. at Town Hall.

Hot Line to Santa will be on December 15 from 6-8 p.m. Use telephone number 238-4131.

New Town Clerk

On October 19, 1987, our New Town Clerk, Christine M. Travis, made her way to Surfside Beach from Brandywine, Maryland. After just one visit to Myrtle Beach, she decided to make South Carolina her home.

After graduating from High School with a Business degree, she eventually became involved in the law field, where she has spent most of her working career.

She enjoys many outdoor activities in and around the water. She also has a Morgan horse, which she has actively shown in several states. She is anxiously awaiting the arrival of her Morgan mare, Stebbins Award.

Ms. Travis is a welcome addition to our Town Staff.

Up-Coming Classes:

Tennis Lessons, Basic Camera Techniques, Cake Decorating, Oil Painting, and Needle Work will be available. If there are any new classes that you would like the Recreation Department to conduct, just call us at 238-4131. More information on the above classes can be found in the local newspaper.