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

Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Ernest Collins who was selected as Employee of the Quarter for the period of April, May, and June 1988. Mr. Collins started with the Town as a part-time summer laborer and was then hired to a full time position as Recreation Aide. From that position he was promoted to the Athletic Supervisor position. He has been with the Town for approximately 11/2 years.

Not only is Mr. Collins an asset to the Recreation Department, but he is an asset to the whole Town. He is a man with many talents that range from helping build the new Recreation Department offices, to organizing and supervising athletic programs. He is a very loyal and dedicated employee. Mr. Collins is now eligible for the Employee of the Year Award 1988.

Fire Department Report

Big changes are taking place in the Surfside Beach Fire Department. Beginning May 16, 1988, the Town has a firefighter on duty in the firestation 24 hours per day, allowing the department to work toward a number of goals. These include maintenance of the fire trucks and equipment, testing of fire hydrants and fire hose, pre-planning for fires in large commercial and multifamily buildings, and conducting fire safety inspections in all public buildings. Of course, in addition to these jobs, the firefighter is always available to respond immediately to emergencies.

With the addition of a person in the firestation, some arrangements have to be made for living quarters. The fire station building underwent renovations in July, providing a dormitory, office space, a classroom, kitchen, and bathroom facilities. These renovations will be completed by the end of September.

The top priority of the Fire Department right now is to lower the insurance classification of the Town. In 1983, the Town’s rating improved from a seven to a six. We have been working since then to further reduce it. We are currently compiling the information required for the Insurance Service Office (the rating authority) to schedule an inspection around the middle of September 1988. We should have the results of the inspection in December 1988. A lower insurance classification could mean a savings on insurance premiums for those companies who subscribe to the ISO service.

As usual, the Fire Department is continuing an ongoing training program as well as basic training courses for new recruits. We still have openings for volunteer firefighters. Why not devote some of your time to this worthwhile cause? There is a minimum time requirement, and the skills and knowledge you gain will not only help your neighbors but may even benefit you and your own family at some time.

Flood Insurance Study Completed

Periodically, the Federal Emergency Management Agency must make a study of flood prone areas for municipalities which participate in subsidized flood insurance programs. The latest study has been completed and accepted by Surfside Beach Town Council. Basically, the study dictates how high off the ground a building must be to avoid flood damage and the Town must make sure that all new construction complies with that prescribed elevation. There were not many changes in most elevations, however, small elevation changes on the beach front can be very significant to a builder. The new “flood maps” are available for review at Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Those who contemplate building in flood prone areas are encouraged to review these new maps prior to making any further construction plans.

Speeders Beware!!

Recently, a great deal of concern has been expressed about speeding on Highway 17 and the roads in Town. Given this very real concern and the duty of the Town to provide safe roadways for the travelling public, the Police Department has adopted a “Get Tough” policy. The maximum speed limit allowed on the majority of the paved roads inside the Town is now 30 MPH, including the Frontage Road, and 25 MPH is the maximum for the roads that are unpaved. Police Officers will be monitoring speeds with new “state-of-the-art” radar unit equipment purchased this year.

Please be aware of the new speed limits in town. You might just get caught and face a maximum fine of $70.00 plus 4 points. Those 4 points could cost you $73.00 in increased insurance premiums or more per year, depending on whether or not you already have points on your license. Lastly, and more importantly, by slowing it down, you may just save somebody’s life — your own.
From The Mayor's Desk

As you know, the Town Council has been seeking a long-range solution to the Town drainage problem for some time. Since the completion of the Proctor-Davis-Ray Comprehensive Drainage Study in December 1985, Council has pursued several avenues toward construction of the proposed $3.0 million project. Joint ventures with Horry County, the annexation solution, and other efforts for the construction have been pursued. Some of these efforts are still under consideration. Nevertheless, Council has directed the Town staff to move ahead and continue the improvement process with the Town spearheading drainage design and construction.

As a result, the Town advertised for engineering design companies this past winter and began the engineering selection process. Town Council chose the LPA Group of Columbia as its engineer to perform the final design (blueprints and specifications) for this long awaited project. In June, a contract was signed with LPA to begin the final design process.

Currently, the timetable leading to construction of the multimillion dollar drainage project indicates the final design will be completed in late 1988 or early 1989, with actual construction beginning in the spring of 1989. Our Council has mandated that the Town will move ahead quickly with the solution to our primary drainage problems.

Therefore, when you see surveyors and engineers working through Town drainways this fall, you will know drainage improvements are coming fast.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson
Mayor

Recreation Department Newsletter

Youth Programs:
The 1988 Baseball/Softball season provided a lot of excitement for area youngsters and fans. The “Pirates”, coached by Ron Peakes, grabbed the Dixie Youth Minor League (ages 8, 9, 10) regular season championship. Andy Lanier guided his 1988 “Bulldogs” to another Dixie Youth Major League (ages 11, 12) championship, and Noah Brunty took his “Angels” to the top place finish in Dixie Boys (ages 13, 14) action. Noah’s Dixie Boys All-Stars did extremely well in tournament competition, taking the District 9 Championship in Waccamaw, defeating Georgetown and Andrews twice enroute to the state playoffs in Columbia.

Our Dixie Belles (girls softball ages 13-15) travelled to Georgetown, and the Dixie Ponytails (girls ages 8-12) travelled to Marion for post-season tournament play. The Belles are coached by Donna Fleig and the Ponytails by Gary Sedlack.

Adult Programs:
50’s Plus Group - This group meets every Monday morning at 8:00 a.m. at 3rd Avenue South in Surfside Beach. Please come prepared for a beachwalk. They walk about two and a half miles and then meet afterwards for breakfast (dutch) at one of the local restaurants. We will continue the beachwalk throughout the summer. Anyone interested in joining this “elite” group may do so by calling the Recreation Department at 650-4131. You’ll be glad you did! Various programs are being planned now for the fall and winter. Check with the local newspaper for more information on upcoming events.

Dixie Boys League 1988 — District 9 Champions

Tennis Lessons:
Adult beginners tennis lessons are presently being planned for late summer and early fall. Anyone interested in more information on these classes should call the Recreation Department at 650-4131 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Employee Day:
The Surfside Beach Quarterly Employee Day was held Thursday, August 4th at the Myrtle Beach Blue Jays games. The Blue Jays played Gastonia and won 9-11. Several drawings were held for “gate” prizes among the Town’s employees. Among the winners were: Christine Travis, Bob Anderson, and Terry Grady.

Further Information:
The Surfside Beach Recreation Department has moved from the Public Works Building to our new offices located at H. Blue Huckabee Recreation Complex. Our new number is 650-4131.

All registration for youth and adult programs will be held at the new office. The office hours for the Recreation Department are 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. For more information call 650-4131.

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 650-4131. More information on the above classes can be found in the local newspaper.

Surfside Beach Town Bowling League:
There are six teams entered at the bowling center in Surfside Beach. League Bowling started in October and will continue through May. If you are interested in bowling, please call the Bowling Center at 238-BOWL.

— New Polling Location —
The polling location of the Surfside Beach Precinct Number 1 has been changed from the Surfside Beach Civic Building to the newly remodelled Surfside Beach Fire Station, 800 First Avenue North, Surfside Beach. The next election will be held on November 8, 1988.
Legislative Update

In the year 1988, the following Town Ordinances have been passed:
88-0252 Zoning Ordinance of 1988
88-0253 Utilities, Section 16-71 monthly charges
88-0254 The Code of Ordinances
88-0255 Tree Protection Ordinance
88-0256 Budget for Fiscal year 88/89
88-0257 Amendment to Surfing Ordinance – location of surfing area was changed
88-0258 Amendments to Chapter 17 Articles III and VII – Article III §303 Definition of a bedroom; Article VII §707.3d Request for Change to Planned Development District
88-0259 Amendment Number One to Zoning Ordinance – Rezone From R.3 Residential and Accommodations District to PUD Three
88-0260 Flood Plain Management Ordinance
88-0261 Amendment to Places of Election
88-0262 Amendment Number Two to Zoning Ordinance – Storage of a Commercial Vehicle in a Residentially Zoned District
88-0263 Ordinance to Amend the Cable Television Franchise from Clearview Cablevision to Jones Intercable, Inc.

The above ordinances are available for your inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office.

New Law Affects Beachfront Owners

Below is a notice by the S.C. Coastal Council relating to the new regulatory requirements for beachfront property owners under the 1988 S.C. Beach Management Act. The bottom line appears to be don’t make any plans to repair, rebuild, build new construction or addition to an existing structure without first making contact with the appropriate local Coastal Council office. After contacting the Coastal Council Office and obtaining their information, the next step is to contact the Zoning and Building Codes office at Surfside Beach Town Hall at (803) 238-2590.

“NOTIFICATION TO PROPERTY OWNERS”

All property owners and their agents must comply with the regulatory provisions of the 1988 S.C. Beach Management Act for the permitting of construction activities and other alterations of the beachfront critical area. The critical area designation under the Act includes the construction setback zone from mean high water (MHW) to the landward extent of the setback zone. The setback zone, defined as the landward extent of upland erosion expected to occur over a forty-year period, can be determined for each property with the help of the S.C. Coastal Council.

Alterations to the critical area include repairs, rebuilding, and additions to existing structures, and new construction within this area, including repair and rebuilding of erosion control structures.

Compliance with local government permitting and zoning requirements does not necessarily represent compliance with State Requirements. Please contact the South Carolina Coastal Council at one of the three locations listed below for information or the landward extent of the setback construction zone for any property and for the regulatory provisions governing building, repairs, etc., before you begin your project.

S.C. Coastal Council — Charleston (803) 744-5838
S.C. Coastal Council — Myrtle Beach (803) 626-7217
S.C. Coastal Council — Beaufort (803) 524-6885

New Ordinance is Aid in Clean-up

The 1980 Zoning Ordinance update has been completed and replaced on April 1, 1988 with the 1988 Edition. This ordinance, and the Sanitation Ordinance, go a long way to keep our community looking good and preventing loss of value. When one’s yard is unkempt with junk and other unsightly items, your property will lose some of its value. The Zoning Ordinance prohibits unlicensed, disabled or wrecked vehicles in residential zones unless they are covered with a canvas or completely enclosed in a structure. The Sanitation Ordinance prohibits the outside placement or storage of any dilapidated furniture, appliances, vehicles, machinery, equipment, building materials or any other item which is either in a wholly or partially rusted, wrecked, junked, dismantled or inoperative condition unless it is completely enclosed within a structure. Such items may be outside if you are zoned and licensed as a junk dealer or in the business of repairing or salvaging such items provided that these items are enclosed with a six-foot screening.

Most of the complaints coming into Town Hall relate to the violation of the above ordinances. In an attempt to reduce complaints and try to make our community a better place to live, staff has been authorized to issue tickets to violators. Two recent violators of the disabled and unlicensed vehicle rule were fined $100 and $218 respectively. All need to observe these new ordinances to avoid fines and improve our community.

Emergency Preparedness for Hurricane Safety

Now that the hurricane season is upon us, some important precautions to take are as follows: check your supply of boards, tools, batteries, non-perishable foods, and other emergency equipment.

A hurricane watch means a hurricane threatens within 24 hours. Continue normal activities, but keep in touch with weather advisories. Double check emergency supplies, and keep your car fueled.

A hurricane warning means a hurricane is expected within 24 hours. Protect your windows with boards, shutters or tape. Secure loose outdoor objects or bring inside. Save several days’ water supply in a clean bathtub. Check battery powered equipment. Listen for weather bulletins. Stay at home if it is sturdy and on high ground. Leave low-lying areas and mobile homes for more substantial shelter, and stay indoors.

After the hurricane has passed, seek any necessary medical care. Stay out of disaster areas. Drive 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 are not allowed.

The evacuation routes from Surfside Beach are as follows: Highway 17 Business North to Highway 544 (Dick Pond Road), Turn West on Highway 544. To get to Lakewood School, continue West on Highway 544, at Crystal Lake Road, turn right. Go to the next stop sign and the school will be on the right. To get to Socastee High School, continue 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 the word to leave GO!!
News Around Town Hall!!

New Employees:
Gary G. Melton, Robert D. Trusty, and Timothy E. Clark have joined our Police Force as well as the welcome addition of 4 Police Communicators, Robert E. Anderson, Linda L. Deveny, Kaye F. Long, and Phillip H. Neiman. Our Beach Patrolman was Charles David Walker. Two new firefighters joined our Fire Department over the summer. Town Hall would like to welcome Steven A. Mosco and Don M. Lewis to our "new" fire station. Another welcome addition to the Town's staff, is Terri Chatfield who is the Town's accountant. Robert J. Hurst, Jr. joined our Public Works Department in May as a laborer in the Streets/Drainage division.


Gary "Butch" Stith, a patrolman from our Police Department, and Cheryle Renee Stith are the proud parents of Christina Renee Stith born July 12, 1988.

Police Update

During the first week of August, Sergeant Hughes of the Police Department was injured in the line of duty when he fell and seriously injured his leg. Surgery was required and several weeks of physical therapy will be required before his return to duty.

Up Coming Events

The Recreation Department will be holding its annual Haunted House on October 31, 1988, at 6-8:00 p.m. Everyone is invited. For more information call the Surfside Beach Recreation Department at 650-4131.

The Annual Christmas Parade will be held December 10th at 11:00 a.m. The Town's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting will be held December 8, 1988 at 7:00 p.m. Christmas carols will be sung and cookies and hot chocolate will be served afterwards.

911 Update

The Town, as well as other Horry County municipalities, is establishing an emergency 911 system for residents. In-house responsibility has consisted of designating an area within Town Hall for required equipment and improvements in electrical wiring. The system should be operational countywide in March 1989.