Employee of the Quarter

Jeffrey Isenberg, the Town's Mechanic's Aide since March 26, 1987, was selected by the Town's Department Heads as Employee of the Quarter for the period October, November, and December 1987. Jeff met and exceeded the established criteria for selection, and has proven himself an exemplary employee. Always willing to work as long as necessary to help keep our vehicle and equipment fleet operational, Jeff also finds time to further his education. During the last quarter, Jeff found time to take and successfully complete two courses; "Auto Air Conditioning and Heating" and "Hydraulics and Small Engine Repair".

Jeff, 30 years old, his wife, Annette, and 4 day old son, Jeffrey Lynn, reside in Pawleys Island.

Thanks Jeff, for a job well done, and keep up the good work!

Food, Toy & Clothing Drive Success

The members of the Surfside Beach Fire Department wish to take this opportunity to thank the residents of Surfside Beach, and the South Strand area, for your overwhelming response to our food, toy and clothing drive this Christmas season. Your gifts exceeded our wildest expectations and I'm sure they were appreciated by the recipients. This is a good indication of the high caliber of residents we have in this area. Again, Thank You!

Fire Department Work

The Surfside Beach Fire Department responded to 162 calls during the 1987 year. This was more than a 100 percent increase over 1986. All of these calls were handled by seven (7) paid fire personnel and twelve (12) volunteers, utilizing two pumper and a ladder truck. This number of calls kept this handfull of firefighters pretty busy. Sometimes, in the case of volunteers, we must ask them to spend more time away from their jobs and their families, than we like. Also, in May we are expecting to receive a new fire truck. By the time it arrives, the Department needs ten (10) additional volunteer firefighters. Please search within yourself and see if you can't dedicate a few hours a week to your community and friends by being a Volunteer Firefighter.

Police Beat

Animal Control - All owners of dogs are required to register their pets at Town Hall for an annual fee of $2.50. Proof of current rabies inoculation must be presented at time of registration. The numbered tag is to be displayed on the dogs collar at all times. Owners found in violation of failing to register their dog; failing to control their dogs by allowing them to run loose or allowing them to be a nuisance, will be cited which could result in a $216.00 fine being imposed.

Police Response - The number of arrests and types of crimes experienced by the Police Department for the summer increased tremendously. For the summer period, the Department responded to 1097 incidents, an increase of 42% and made 474 arrests, an increase of 150% over last summer. Also, the Department is showing an increase in the number of motor vehicle accidents reported and investigated. So far, for the year, 226 accidents have occurred with one fatality.
From The Mayor’s Desk

The vast majority of firemen in the United States are volunteers. This is also the case in Surfside Beach. But because of everyone’s busy schedules and other interests, it is difficult to find people who are willing to dedicate their time to the fire department.

If your home was burning and your family was in danger, you would not want to see anything less than a full compliment of firemen show up to extinguish the fire and protect your family. But volunteer firemen do not appear out of thin air. It takes hours of dedication to undergo the training and frills required to properly prepare a firefighter.

The Surfside Beach Fire Department has an immediate need for volunteer firefighters. This year the number of incidents handled by the Fire Department will very probably double any previous year’s totals. More firefighters are needed to help answer these calls. Also, the Department is expecting to receive an additional pumper in the next few months. Additional volunteer firefighters are needed to man that truck.

Please think over your priorities and see if you can’t spare some time to serve your friends and neighbors through the fire department.

No experience is required. You will receive state approved training. Please contact the Fire Department at 238-2314.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson
Mayor

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Single Family Housing Starts

With more and more of the new Federal Tax Laws being implemented, there appears to be a relationship between these laws and the lesser condomiring starts for tax sheltering. Consequently, we are experiencing more single family housing starts here in Surfside Beach. Presently there are five new houses under construction during the month of October. This is more than we have had at any given time in the past sixteen months. Overall, thus far, the value of construction for this calendar year is approximately the same as that of last year, $4,353,211.00 versus $4,336,395.00. This is a healthy growth and indicates our tax base is progressing similar to that of last year.

Recreation Department Update

YOUTH PROGRAMS: Basketball season started in January. There are eight teams total — four in the 11 and 12 year old division and four in the 13 and 14 year old division. Games are played on Saturdays at the Socastee Middle School Gym. Post season tournament will be held at the conclusion of the regular season.

Registration for Baseball (ages 8 through 14 years old), T-Ball (ages 6 & 7 years old), and Girls Softball (ages 8 through 15 years old) will be held from March 7th through March 18th, at the Recreation Department from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. A Birth Certificate is required for baseball and girls softball for those that are registering for the first time.

The Surfside Beach Recreation Department will be sponsoring a Youth Baseball Clinic on March 12th from 10:00 to 11:15 a.m. at Coastal Carolina field. The clinic will be conducted by the Myrtle Beach Blue Jays and Coastal Carolina Baseball Teams. The clinic is open to children 14 years old and under. Bring your glove. There will be no entry fee.

Junior Golf Clinic — for ages 8 through 17 years old will be held on Saturday, March 5, 19, 26 and April 2 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Indian Wells Golf Course. Registration is required. There will be a limit! For more information on these programs, call the recreation Department at 238-4131.

ADULT PROGRAMS:

50’s Plus Group — The newly formed group called the “50’s Plus” was recently organized by the Recreation Department. A very enthusiastic crowd turned out for the first meeting held in January. Mayor Dick Johnson and Town Administrator, Pat DiGiovanni, welcomed the group. This will be a fun type of organization with various programs planned such as...
Recreation Department Update . . . Continued from Page 2

trips, exercise, classes, speakers, and anything else the group would like to do. Also, it’s a good way to get out and meet new friends. The second meeting was held on February 1 with three guest speakers: Bill Hanna covered Legal Affairs; JoAnne Parker on IRS Affairs; and Kim Ellison discussed exercise and nutrition. For more information, please call the Recreation Department. The next meeting will be held on Monday, February 15, at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Council Chambers. Our motto: “We’re not getting older, we’re getting better”.

UPCOMING CLASSES:

How to Photograph People: April 12 & 19 7:9 PM
Beginners Tennis Lessons: April 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Tennis Clinic: April 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28 11:00-12:00 p.m.

NOTE: Registration & Fees required on all classes!
Call the Recreation Department at 238-4131 for more information!

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Fuller Park on Sunday — April 3rd at 2:00 p.m. for 10 year olds & younger!

Construction Permits

“No person, firm or corporation shall erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, remove, convert or demolish any building or structure in Surfside Beach, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a building permit for such building or structure from the Building Official.”

The above statement is taken from the Standard Building Code which your Town Council adopted several years ago. Most people do not have a problem understanding that a building permit is required for a building but when it comes to the word “structure”, there seems to be some misunderstanding. Structure is defined in the Code as — that which is built or constructed. Is a fence a structure? Is a walkway or driveway a structure? Sure they are. Is a building permit required? Absolutely. Why? Certainly not to harass you or prevent you from doing what you want to do. Building permits are required primarily to protect you and provide for the safety, health and general welfare of the Town’s Citizens. When you secure a building permit, you are entitled to have the work inspected to see if the contractor used good workmanship, the correct materials, and the finished product is safe. The non-securing of a building permit can result in the double cost of the permit fee or the removal of the building or structure if it is too close to the property line or if it impedes or encroaches upon or into the storm drainage system.

Assume everything you do in the way of construction requires a building permit. If it doesn’t, let the Town’s Building Official tell you that no permit is required. It’s your responsibility to check first to see if a permit is required. It’s his responsibility to inform you.

Sewer Charge Reduced

Every two (2) years Town Council directs a review be performed of Town water and sewer rates. This year the rate structure was studied in a multi-faceted report which will also include studies on present and future water quality and quantity. Although the quality/quantity phase of the study is not yet complete, the results are in on the rate study, and there’s good news!

At the February 16th Council meeting, the Harwood Beebe Company informed our Council that, due to the growth in customers, it would be possible to reduce the sewer base rate charge on Town water bills. The consultant recommended a dummy run of sewer bills be performed on The Town’s computer with the proposed base rate reduction in place. This was necessary to insure adequate operating and maintenance monies would be generated at the reduced rate. The computer run was successful, therefore at the March 1 Council meeting, an Ordinance was presented and approved on First Reading to reduce sewer bills for all town customers. Second Reading was approved at the March 15 Council meeting establishing the following sewer base rate reduced charges:

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<th>NEW RATES</th>
<th>MONTHLY SAVINGS</th>
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The Town Council is happy to be able to reduce the sewer base rate, and will continue to find ways to improve utilities and provide quality and responsive service to you, the residents of Surfside Beach!
Business and Professional Licenses

All Business and Professional Licenses will expire on May 31. To avoid any penalties you may incur due to late filing, please renew your license by June 30. On July 1, a ten percent penalty is applied, and on August 1, a twenty percent penalty is applied with revocation of license enforced if not renewed before August 15. Renewal notices will be sent out towards the end of April.

Every individual, firm, business or corporation conducting any business within the Town limits is required to obtain a business license whether or not the office of the business is physically located in Town.

Also, every individual whose property is available for rent must obtain a rental license whether rented through a rental agent or privately rented by the owner and pay a 2% Accommodations Tax to the State of S.C. The accommodations tax only applies to rentals, up to 90 days.