MUNICIPAL ELECTION

The Town's Municipal Election of March 10, 1992, saw incumbent Mayor Dick M. Johnson re-elected with 699 votes. Candidate John C. Woodward received 322 votes. Incumbent Councilmembers Archie Benton and P. L. Mabry were re-elected to office with 603 and 629 votes, respectively. Newcomer Judy Lowe, who received 715 votes, is the first Councilwoman elected since Bertha Broom Smith left office in 1977. Other candidates for Council were W. Charles "Butch" Franklin, who received 377 votes; Howard C. Jordan, 373 votes; and Bob Lang 379. Congratulations to the winners.

The newly-elected officials will be sworn in at the Council Meeting of April 7, 1992. At the same meeting, the Town will bid Farewell to Councilman W. O. "Bill" Martin.

MARTIN STEPS DOWN

W.O. "Bill" Martin who has served as a member of Town Council for twenty-eight years—March 19, 1964 to April 7, 1992—chose not to seek re-election this year. Councilman Martin was elected to serve on the very first Surfside Beach Town Council. At age 33, he was the youngest Councilmember elected. Since his election to office he has seen the Town grow from its infancy to a full-service community. During his tenure on Council, he was a driving force for many improvements to the Town, among them improved drainage, paved streets, improved water source, beachfront management and zoning issues.

Councilman Martin and his wife Georgie own and operate the Garden City Pavilion and enjoy traveling. He plans to devote more time to his business and to become involved in efforts for incorporation of Garden City.

Bill Martin is a gentleman of the highest caliber and enjoys the respect of Council employees and the Town of Surfside Beach. We are indebted to him for his wisdom, integrity and dedication, and especially for helping to make Surfside Beach a wonderful place to live and work. We all wish him well in whatever endeavors he may undertake. He will be sorely missed.

PLEASE ABIDE BY YOUR BEACH LAWS

Warmer weather approaches, and with it certain laws governing beach activities will come into effect.

Dogs are not allowed on the beach during the period of May 15th through September 15th. When dogs are allowed on the beach, your dog must be kept on a leash that is seven (7) feet long or shorter, and you must remove your dog droppings from the beach and dispose of them properly. The latter requirement applies to all public property.

Alcoholic beverages of any kind are not allowed on the beach.

No vehicles of any kind are allowed on the beach.

It is illegal to walk on sand dunes, and to pick or otherwise damage sea oats and beach grass.

It is illegal to solicit on the beach or other public property including public access.

Boats, including jet skis, may only be launched and retrieved at the designated access area which is at 4th Avenue South. From May 15th to September 15th, jet skis must be used 150 or more yards from the point where the ocean adjoins the strand. When launched, they must be taken directly out beyond the 150 yard mark in a manner that is perpendicular to the shoreline and brought in in the same manner. It is unlawful to leave boats unattended on the beach between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. No boats may be pulled upon the primary ocean front dune system at any time.

It is illegal for any person to ride a surfboard or similar apparatus of a hard or solid nature between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. during the period of May 15th through September 15th in any location other than the area starting at the swash, 250 feet south of 12th Avenue North and extending northward to 14th Avenue North. All surfers shall be required to wear at all times a surfing leash having a stretch factor of no less than six (6) feet.

Fires are prohibited on the beach and public access.

It is illegal for any person to use, fire, shoot, discharge, sell, store, exchange or give away any type of fireworks within the Town.

Please use the trash receptacles provided. Help us keep your beach clean.

CONGRATULATIONS!
CLEAN CITY AWARD WINNERS

Ocean Boulevard: The Channel Marker and Sea Shadow; Highway 17: Hardee's of Surfside Beach and Wendy's; Yard of the Month: JANUARY - Richard Lawhorn, 410 10th Avenue North and Clifford Price, 913 Hollywood Drive South; FEBRUARY - Bobby and Linda Franks, 317 14th Avenue North.
FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK

Dear Residents:

First of all, I want to thank you all for your resounding vote of confidence in electing me again as your Mayor. I will continue to run my office as before and be available to you at all times. My office hours are from 10:00 a.m. until noon and 2 to 4 p.m. each day. Please feel free to call on me if I can be of service.

It will be good to continue to serve on Council with our re-elected members Archie Benton and P.L. Mabry and also to welcome newcomer Judy Lowe. Judy is the first woman to be elected to Council since 1977 and replaces Councilman Bill Martin. We look forward to working with her.

It is with deep regret that we say goodbye to Councilman Martin, who is stepping down from his 28-year tenure on Council. He was an outstanding member and is a dear friend to us all. We certainly will miss Bill, and we wish him well in all that he does.

In the coming months and years, our Town faces some important issues that must be addressed, not only by the Town of Surfside Beach, but the entire Grand Strand. Among these issues are solid waste disposal, closure of Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, local option sales tax and dual taxation. Two of these issues, the Air Base closure and solid waste disposal, have been mandated by the Federal government, so we have no alternative but to accept them. Solid waste disposal is a problem this entire planet will have to address...and soon. These issues affect us all, and we will need your cooperation and understanding to help us find ways to solve them in a manner which will benefit us all.

With Federal and State cutbacks, municipalities will have to constantly search for new ways to fund services which citizens have come to expect. The Local Option Sales Tax would be an excellent source of revenue for Surfside Beach. We have seen how well it is working in the municipalities which adopted it. This issue will come up again soon, and we would urge you to support this tax. Dual Taxation was, and still is, a problem that the Horry County League of Cities is working diligently to bring to a solution and one which we will not give up on.

Thank you again for your confidence and support.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Town’s VISTA (Volunteers Improving Surfside Beach Through Action) Program is working well. The Finance Department has been utilizing the services of Mr. Wesley G. Andrews who is doing an outstanding job as Business License Auditor. Each business in Town will be audited to ensure compliance with the Business License Ordinance.

Town Council held its annual Budget Retreat November 8, 9, and 10 at Wampee Plantation. Department Heads presented their budget requests for the Fiscal Year 1992-93. Mayor and Council discussed each request and budget priorities were established. The proposed budget received first reading at the March 3rd Council meeting and was adopted at the Council meeting of March 17, 1992.

The Town’s Fiscal Year ends on March 31, 1992, and Staff is busily preparing for the 1991-92 Audit which will be conducted by the Town’s accounting firm, Smith, Sapp, Bookhout, Crumpler and Callihom beginning in April.

Bid packets for replacement of the Town’s existing IBM System 36 computer software were let, and the bid was awarded to Professional Computer Software of Darlington, SC. New software includes Business License word processing programs and expanded programs for accounts payable, general ledger, utility billing and payroll functions, allowing us to better serve the public.

In February, the Town kicked off another year of the Business Education Partnership with Grand Strand Career Center's Center's "OWL" (Occupational Work Learner) Program involves students working with businesses. Coordinator of the program again this year is Interim Finance Director, Terri Chafftill. The program offers qualified high school seniors the opportunity to acquire valuable on-the-job training in their related academic fields. This year's "Partner" is Fred DiGregorio who is doing a fine job in various areas of the Finance Department. Fred is studying computer science and accounting.

Coastal Carolina is also working with our Finance Department sponsoring a Coastal Carolina Senior Internship which started in January. The Town's Senior Intern is Julie Grimmer, a Sociology major who will spend 100 hours under the supervision of the Finance Director.

In order to attain her Bachelor's Degree, Julie is required to read one job-related book and five professional journal articles, prepare a book report and summaries of the journal articles and keep a daily log of her experiences in the Finance Department.

Town employees are enjoying working with these two young students and appreciate the services they are providing in the various areas.

RECYCLING UPDATE

The Town thanks you for your continued utilization of the recycling area across from the Dick M. Johnson Civic Center on Pine Drive.

We think you will agree that some form of improvement is needed around the recycling area. Town Council addressed improvements to the area at its annual "Budget Retreat" last November, and as a result, improvements are slated to begin in April when the new budget year begins.

The Recycling Center will be moved across the street to the south side of Pine Drive and will be enclosed to reduce wind-blow litter and beautified with plantings to make it as attractive as possible. The Town is also working to have the "Igloo" type containers installed.

We will continue to receive plastic milk jugs and plastic soda bottles; clear, brown and green glasses; aluminum cans; and newspapers. Regarding newspapers (the most voluminous item collected), we ask that you pull out all slick, multi-colored inserts, which often get rejected.

Our paper vendor requires that such items be removed or they will not accept them, as they are not recyclable. Your support is greatly appreciated.
EMPLOYEES OF THE QUARTER

Stewart “Stew” Anderson was named Employee of the Quarter—Summer 1991. This was the ‘second time around’ for Stew, who was first recognized as Employee of the Quarter in the Fall of 1988. He has been with town for 4 1/2 years and is the Parks/Recreation Supervisor. Stew, wife Bonnie and 2 1/2 year old Davey reside in the Socastee area.

Employee of the Quarter—Fall 1991 was PFC “Bob” Watkins of the Surfside Beach Police Department. Bob has been with the Department since June of 1990 and currently resides in the Socastee area with his wife, Carol.

Congratulations, guys, for being two of “Surfside Beach’s Finest!”

FIRE DEPARTMENT

For the past few years, the Surfside Beach Fire Department has been telling the bad news that South Carolina is Number One in the United States for fire deaths. In 1989, South Carolina lost 178 people to fire-related deaths, 40 of whom were children under the age of 10. At that time, South Carolina’s Fire Marshall set a goal to reduce fire fatalities by 50% in three years. That goal was realized in 1991 when only 84 deaths due to fire were recorded. Joint efforts between the state, civic organizations, media, private citizens and, yes, your local fire department’s fire prevention programs, have reduced the statistics in South Carolina, proving that cooperative efforts are effective.

With these strides in improving ratings, there are still people who feel a fire cannot happen to them. Recently, two people in Conway died from smoke inhalation. A newspaper article quoted the Assistant Chief as saying, ‘if the home had been equipped with smoke detectors, the lives of these two people would almost certainly have been saved.’

Many of us have smoke detectors. However, the value of a smoke detector lies in its ability to provide that early warning and escape time which is so critical, especially at night when most fires occur. If the battery is not working, the smoke detector won’t do its job. That’s why we so strongly urge everyone to adopt a new habit...every six months, when you set your clocks to reflect the change to and from Daylight Savings Time, change the battery in your smoke detector. It’s a habit that could save your life.

If you are unable to reach your detector safely, call the Fire Department at 238-2314. They will be happy to assist you.

STREETS AND DRAINAGE PROJECT

The Town’s ambitious bond project, which began in 1990, is now winding down. Phase I and Phase II were substantially completed in January, with several improvements added for completion before the summer season. Due to wise investment of the bond monies during the project period and the favorable bidding climate, the Town was able to add to the overall project: resurfacing of all paved local streets; drainage improvements in the pier area; Dogwood Estates drainage improvements; extension of the swash bulkhead to Ocean Boulevard at 11th Avenue North; improvement of the large drainage ditch from 6th Avenue South to 10th Avenue South along Poplar Drive.

Town Council and Staff are extremely grateful for the patience shown by residents during this two (2) year-plus project which affected every resident of the Town in some way. Certainly these inconveniences will pay large dividends in the future as our quality of life continues to improve. As dusty/muddy dirt roads and large expanses of standing water fade away from memory we think everyone will agree...it was well worth it!

In the meantime, bear with us as the contractor finishes up the final “punch list”, completes the added improvements and gets the grass growing!

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Spring brings a few general reminders from the Building and Zoning Department.

1. All types of new construction, driveways, storage buildings, remodeling or repairs require permits.
2. Ask for proof of Business License, state registration and a permit from any contractor or individual performing services. Check with Code Enforcement when in doubt.
3. Report any contracting activity where a Building Permit is not posted in plain view.
4. Cutting down trees requires a Zoning Compliance Permit.
5. Keep drainage swales and ditches clean, and do not dump leaves or yard debris in them.
6. Report any junk or derelict vehicles accumulating on property to help us clean up the Town.

“Building Safety is No Accident”

POLICE BEAT

The Police Department has made several promotions in recent weeks. Privates Robert Anderson and Robert Watkins have been promoted to Private First Class, with PFC Watkins assuming the position of Sector Supervisor. PFC Kaye Long has been promoted to Corporal and is now the Sector Commander. Corporal Robert Trusty has been assigned to the Detective Unit.

Officer Howard Gold, the Town’s Community Service Officer, continues to provide a much needed service by removing stray and wild animals from our streets. With his assistance, 24 raccoons and 5 opossum are no longer ‘residents’ in the Town limits.

Officer Gold is also starting a “Crime Watch” program. His goal is to have two (2) groups—one north of Surfside Drive and one south. Depending on community support, he will soon be meeting with citizens to get the program started.

The FBI has recently instituted a change in the method of collecting and reporting crime statistics. The change will directly affect the Department in the manner that information is reported on every offense.

In 1989, the Surfside Beach Police Department received 5,548 calls for service, and in 1991, calls exceeded 7,000. All of these calls were recorded by hand. Accessibility and retrieval of records, as well as storage, have become major considerations. Since time is of the essence in a law enforcement environment, the ability to quickly access timely, accurate information on what crimes are occurring where enables the Department to direct crime prevention efforts and target pro-active patrols in those areas.

The Department will be automating recordkeeping this year, and if all goes well, a computer-aided dispatch system will be implemented next year, allowing your Police Department to more effectively serve and protect you.
H2O ADVANTAGE PROGRAM FROM SANTEE COOPER HELPS CUSTOMERS SAVE MONEY

Homeowners throughout Santee Cooper’s service area are signing up for an innovative program offered by the utility to help its customers save money on the purchase and operation of energy-efficient water heaters.

Santee Cooper’s H2O Advantage Program, which offers a $150 rebate on the price of a new energy-efficient water heater with a tank capacity of at least 80 gallons, is designed to benefit both builders and homeowners by allowing them to save money on the purchase of a new water heater. In addition, participants in Santee Cooper’s H2O Advantage Program will receive credit on their electric bill for $5 per month for 10 years, or as long as the load management device supplied by Santee Cooper is installed. A qualifying water heater will provide Santee Cooper customers with the hot water they need, and the energy-efficient tank will cost little or no more to operate.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT NOTES

Youth Sports - Baseball/Softball registration was held March 2-13 at H. Blue Huckabee Complex. We are accepting over 400 participants for this season and we need coaches, umpires and scorekeepers. All coaches are required to be certified through National Youth Coach’s Association (NYSCA). Classes are conducted by the Recreation Department. For more information, call 650-4131.

Special Events - Family Festival was held on Surfside Drive this year. Even though it rained during most of the day, there was still a large turnout and everyone had a great time. The festival will continue to be held on Surfside Drive.

Christmas Programs - Tree Lighting was held on December 5 with approximately 150 in attendance. Visit with Santa and Hot Line to Santa were very successful.

50’s Plus - Meet every Monday at 8:00 a.m. at 3rd Avenue South for a 2 mile beach walk. Monthly meetings are held the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m., the 50’s and over play softball at 6th Avenue field. Bring your glove for a fun morning of exercise. Bridge is played every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Civic Center main room.

Note - The Civic Center and Lakeside Clubhouse are available for rent for various functions and events. Scheduling should be done at least one month in advance by calling 238-4131, ext. 333.

Adult Recreation at Civic Center - Every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4 p.m. the main room is available for those interested in playing cards and games (including table tennis), swapping books or just watching tv. Why not come over, have fun and meet new people!

All Children’s Park - The All Children’s Park is open from 8:00 a.m. until dusk every day. Handicapped swings may be checked out at the Surfside Beach Police Department.

TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH
115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH
TOWN HALL
SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29575

MAYOR
Dick M. Johnson
COUNCILMEMBERS
Archie Benton
Roy Hyman, Jr.
Judith L. Lowe
P. L. Mabry
James M. Truett
Joseph E. Whitmire
ADMINISTRATOR
Neil Ferguson
EDITOR
Elaine R. Cowart

NEW CLASSES
Taekwondo-Martial Arts
Wednesday 7-9 p.m.
Ages 5 and up

Beginners Bridge
Wednesday 1-3 p.m.

Painting classes begin in March.

ON-GOING CLASSES

Aerobics
Mon., Wed., Fri. 9-10 a.m.

Show Biz Dance Lessons
Thursday 9:30-noon