EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - SPRING 1993

Georgann Dickens is the Town's EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - SPRING 1993. A Private First Class in the Surfside Beach Police Department, Georgann first came to work for the Town in September of 1990 as a part-time Dispatcher. She is currently the Chief Dispatcher in the Department. Georgann, a former Special Education teacher, hails from West Virginia. She and husband Tommy, a retired mine worker, recently moved into a lovely home in Socastee. CONGRATULATIONS from your fellow Town employees, Georgann!

HELP!

Councilman Archie Benton is spearheading the drive to get the Town’s Crime Watch program “up and running.” He, along with Messrs. Tom Huggins, South End Coordinator, and Jerry Strange, North End Coordinator, are working with Public Services Officer, Howard Gold, of our Police Department, the Town’s liaison for the Program. Four meetings have been held to spur input from citizens and to educate them on how the program works to monitor and deter crime in our Town. It is strictly volunteer and can only work if you, the citizens, are willing to get involved...be the “EYES AND EARS” of your neighborhoods. You will be asked to report any suspicious people, cars, actions in your neighborhood and to be aware of what is going on around you. Names are not used, so your report would be strictly confidential. The Program has worked well and been a definite deterrent to crime in neighborhoods all over the Country.

During the next few weeks, volunteers will be canvassing every street in Town and handing out questionnaires for residents to fill out and return to coordinators. They will compile the information in order to have a record of vehicles, tag numbers, etc. and in what areas they belong, and also to know what is taking place in each area.

So, please get involved and be a volunteer in the Crime Watch “Army.” For further information, you may call Mr. Higgins at 238-0041 or Mr. Strange at 238-2956. You may also contact Officer Gold at 238-2314. We need your help to keep crime out of Surfside Beach!

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Town began its fifth year of the Business Education Partnership with the Grand Strand Career Center. This program was established to enhance public education and to build positive relationships between our schools and our communities in the Horry County School District. Terri Chatfield, Town Accountant, serves as coordinator of the Center’s “OWL” (Occupational Work Learner) Program. This program matches qualified high school seniors with area businesses for the purpose of providing students on-the-job training in their fields of specialized interest. This year, the Finance Department was fortunate to have Joseph Dunaway as its partner. Joseph is a senior at Socastee High School. We enjoyed working with him this Spring.

The Town is also pleased to have Wesley G. Andrews with us again this year. Mr. Andrews is working for the Town through the VISTA (Volunteers Improving Surfside Beach Through Action) Program. He is currently serving as the Town’s Business License Auditor. We appreciate the fine job Mr. Andrews is doing for us in this capacity.

The Business License season is upon us again. We will be sending out business license applications in April. All businesses which operate within the Town limits are required to have a business license and this includes all rental units. All licenses must be renewed before June 1, 1993. If you have any questions regarding your license, call 238-2590.

CLEAN CITY AWARDS

Business 17: February, 93 - Floyd & Prevatte, Attorneys, 833 Surfside Drive; March, 93 - Pizza Hut, 1610 N. Kings Highway


Yard Of The Month: February, 1993 - Frank & Joan Wyeth, 1411 North Poplar Drive; Ed & Natalie Cornelius, 332 13th Avenue South; March, 1993 - Jacques & Genevieve Feyt, 152 Cherry Drive North; Mary Jane Creighton, 518 10th Avenue South
FROM THE MAYOR'S DESK

Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

In March of 1993 the Town adopted its 1993-94 Fiscal Year Budget. The plan removed five (5) mills for solid waste disposal costs from the general operating budget and transferred it to our Capital Improvements/Replacement Budget. The revenue generated from this millage may only be used to offset costs associated with major equipment purchases and facilities expansions that the Town faces in the future. Council sees this as planning for our needs now, rather than having to borrow money or raise taxes to pay these costs.

Along these same lines, Council and Staff are investigating ways to control costs that affect our yearly operating budget. Tough decisions will be made, which may impact service delivery in the future. We are not alone in the arena of controlling costs while providing the services residents expect. Local governments all over the Country are faced with the same problems: solid waste disposal, Federal and State government mandates (without financial aid), increasing insurance rates, and maintaining the infrastructure. Also, in the case of coastal communities like ours, beach erosion and the measures taken to counter it will be on-going expenses. Additionally, the Council Committee appointed to study the feasibility of merging the Town's water and sewer system with Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority continues to gather information so that citizens will be able to make an informed decision on this issue.

Council and I will continue to search for methods to address these issues without impacting our ability to delivery quality services to our citizens.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

Gold and Rick Bonney recently completed training on the Datamaster, which is used to test those brought in on Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges.

With the Summer season soon to be here, let a word to the wise be sufficient: it is illegal to park in handicapped parking spaces if you are not handicapped. Handicapped signs throughout the Town are still being ignored. Officers are instructed to check all handicapped parking areas daily, and will be issuing tickets to violators. The minimum fine is $100, so do not park in these areas unless you have a Handicapped sticker on display, or a Handicapped license tag. Also, do not forget that those less fortunate than you need to be able to park close to the place of business they want to visit. It won’t hurt any of us who are able, to walk a little bit farther. Thank you for your cooperation.

The Police Department expresses sincere thanks to insurance agents Mr. Dale Collins and Ms. Janice Catoe, along with Nationwide Insurance Company, for the generous gift of $500. The money is to be used for the purchase of the Department’s first patrol vehicle video camera. It will be mounted in the patrol car and switched on at each vehicle stop. The entire procedure is recorded, and as the saying goes “one picture is worth a thousand words.” The evidence speaks for itself in the prosecution of DUI cases. It is a very effective tool in keeping drunk drivers off our highway.

BUCKLE UP AND DRIVE SAFELY!

“One Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words”
Thanks to a generous gift, the Surfside Beach Police Department is purchasing its first patrol vehicle video camera.

POLICE BEAT

In February, the Police Department completed the second phase of its Computerized Criminal Records Management System, a/k/a “Code 3”. In April, the Department will complete the third and final phase of the system. Once the system is completed, the Police Department will begin the intensive training needed to bring each officer up to standard with the system.

Training is stressed during the Winter months throughout the Department. Chief Lloyd recently completed a Background Investigations seminar at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Detective Wayne Stewart attended a Technical Surveillance class at the SC Criminal Justice Academy. Officers Howard

PUBLIC WORKS

Drainage: After three years of drainage construction, it is discouraging to see water standing, not flowing, in parts of our drainage system. Although natural influences, such as vegetation and soil accumulation, cause blockages, an equally important artificial factor is also present. The factor is people. The people factor generally represents a small portion of the whole population, but certainly can impact everyone. It only takes one small dam to backup drainage for blocks. Undoubtedly, some articles that find their way into drainage are not there purposely, such as basketballs, soccer balls, buckets and toys. These items can and do cause problems, so please try to monitor this situation if it applies to you.

Possibly the most aggravating people factor problem is the practice of raking or placing leaves, limbs and other yard refuse into drainage ditches and channels. Not only is this unsightly and damaging, it is also against the law. Penalties include fines
as well as liens on property for the cost of removal. Limbs, leaves and yard refuse are collected by the Town’s Sanitation Department each week. Due to these factors, the Town will begin actively enforcing the appropriate Code Sections to ensure that violators will be prosecuted.

Old Refuse: Beginning on May 22, 1993, the Horry County Solid Waste Authority will no longer accept yard waste at the Landfill. This is due to new state regulations and it means that the Town will no longer service either MOBY carts or dumpsters containing yard waste or yard waste mixed with garbage. The Sanitation Department will, of course, continue to pick up bagged leaves and properly bundled limbs each Wednesday. All you have to do is place these articles near the edge of the road. Should yard refuse be found in dumpsters or residential MOBY carts, they will not be collected until the yard refuse is removed.

FIRE DEPARTMENT “HAPPENINGS”

Fire Trucks In The Street

More and more you are seeing our fire engines out and about town. The reasons for this are numerous and are explained below:

• First, the number of emergency responses has increased 500 percent during the last five years. In 1992, the Fire Department responded to 265 fires and other emergencies. These calls require at least one, and very often four or more vehicles to respond.

• Fire Safety Inspections - The Fire Department is tasked with inspecting all commercial and multifamily buildings yearly. There are more than 100 of these buildings.

• Pre-fire Planning - The Department spends considerable time touring and making notes on the commercial buildings and condominiums in the Town. The more we know about these buildings, the more effective we can be when an emergency arises at one of them.

• The Department is often called to assist a citizen or business in some public service such as replacing smoke detector batteries or installing smoke detectors for those who are not able to do it for themselves.

• The Town’s 126 fire hydrants must be tested and flowed twice per year.

• The Department must often respond to reports of unauthorized or dangerous open burning practices.

There is only one (1) firefighter on duty at a time. When he is away from the station working on any of these tasks, he must have the fire engine with him so that he can respond to emergencies without delay. Granted, the fire engine is not the most economical vehicle to drive, but it is not used for routine errands which can be handled otherwise. Should you have any questions concerning the use of a fire engine, please contact the Fire Chief at 238-2314.

Sightseeing

During the recent “Superstorm 1993”, the Fire Department responded to 25 calls within an eight-hour period. The majority of these calls were for downed or arcing power lines, and debris being blown through the air. We came through the storm with relatively little damage. However, it was very distressing to see the number of sightseers on the streets. At times, emergency crews could not perform their duties for trying to keep citizens away from danger. People were driving around barricades, across downed power lines and around emergency personnel to try and see what was going on. During such conditions, Police, Fire, and EMS personnel are taxed to the limit just trying to cope with the emergencies. Please don’t add to the problem by going sightseeing. As soon as conditions are safe, you will be allowed into these areas.

Fire Safety Award Program

While doing fire inspections last summer, Steve Mosco noticed that a particular business had no fire code violations and that the owner was very safety conscious. He felt recognition should be given to businesses demonstrating an effort to comply with fire codes and educate their employees. From this, the Fire Safety Program was born.

To date, there have been two winners of the award in Surfside Beach. They are Dr. David White, DMD, at 1602 Highway 17 North, and Plantation Pancake House at 1150 Highway 17 North. Congratulations to both of these establishments and a sincere “Thank You” from the Surfside Beach Fire Department.

Through recognition, we hope the program will call the public’s attention to these businesses and encourage others to recognize the benefits of a fire safe environment. Any business interested in being considered for the award may request an inspection by contacting the Fire Department at 238-2314.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

How To Select Good Contracting Tradesmen

• Your first step would be to call the Code Enforcement Department and ask for a list of Town licensed tradesmen.

• Ask how long they have been in business.

• Ask your tradesman if his company will do all the work, or will the labor be subcontracted to others.

• Ask for references, with telephone numbers.

• Ask if they belong to any professional organizations.

• Obtain several estimates and be sure you understand each proposal.

• Resist the temptation to accept the lowest bid. A higher price may be your best value.

• Be sure you feel comfortable with your contractor and can communicate easily with him.

• Make sure that your tradesman is responsible for obtaining all permits and ask to see them before work begins.

• Start dates and completion times should be specified in the contract.

• Warranty details should be clearly stated in the contract.

• Make sure there is a procedure for handling changes.

• Sign only a complete and acceptable contract and be sure that both you and your tradesman have a signed copy.

• Make sure all permitted work is inspected by Code Enforcement before final payment is made.

• Report any problems encountered with tradesmen over faulty workmanship.

Code Enforcement stands ready to assist you during construction, remodeling, or repairs, from start to finish. Call 238-5531 for assistance.
RECREATION DEPARTMENT

50s Plus

Meet every Monday at 8 a.m. at 3rd Avenue South for a two mile beach walk. The monthly meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Civic Center. Every Tuesday and Thursday at 9 a.m. the 50s and over play softball at the Recreation Complex at Huckabee. Also, every Tuesday and Thursday from 1-4 p.m., the main room at the Civic Center is available for those interested in playing cards and games (including table tennis), swapping books or just watching television. Come on over, meet new friends and have fun. Also on Monday and Wednesday, those who like to play outdoor shuffleboard and horseshoes can do so by meeting at 1 p.m. at the Lakeside Clubhouse. We have an added attraction, a Bocce Ball court was built this Fall, and is believed to be the first of its kind in the state of South Carolina.

Other Notes

The Civic Center and Lakeside Clubhouse are available for rent for various functions. Scheduling should be done at least one (1) month in advance and may be arranged by calling 238-4131, extension 333.

Classes

The following are ongoing classes in the Civic Center. Easy Stretch - Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-10 a.m., Seniorise - Tuesday and Friday, 10-11 a.m., Line Dance - Tuesday, 7-8 p.m., Sign Language Classes - Thursday, 10 a.m. until noon.

Youth Sports

The 1993 Baseball/Softball season began April 17, 1993. Opening Day Ceremonies started at 11 a.m. and included exhibition games, dedication of the new Children's Playground and a "pig pickin," sponsored by the Surfside Beach Booster Club. Thirty teams with 480 players will participate in various leagues. Regular season games began April 19 with games being played Monday through Thursday each week. Everyone is welcome to come out to the ballpark and enjoy watching our youth play America's favorite pastime.

TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE/Police/Rescue Squad</td>
<td>911</td>
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<tr>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>238-2590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police/Fire (non-emergency)</td>
<td>238-2314</td>
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<td>238-2621</td>
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<td></td>
<td>238-2811</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Complex, Glens Bay Road</td>
<td>650-4131</td>
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<td>FAX</td>
<td>238-5432</td>
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<td>Jones Intercable (24 hours)</td>
<td>651-6699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santee Cooper Power Company (emergency)</td>
<td>448-3070</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Control</td>
<td>238-2621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Water Department/Public Works</td>
<td>288-8581</td>
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TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Council, 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Planning and Zoning Commission, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3:00 p.m.
Municipal Court, Wednesdays, 5:00 pm

All meetings are held in the Town Council/Court Chambers located on the south end of Town Hall and are open to the public. We welcome all interested residents to attend.