Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

Hope you are enjoying a wonderful summer. Hard to believe that we are into the month of July already. It’s been busy here in Surfside Beach, and the tourists seem to be enjoying their vacations in our little “hamlet” by the sea.

The Town is buzzing with activity, and as you citizens well know, we are excited about our nearly completed Library, and things have started to take shape with the new Police Facility and Public Works Building. Council and I are very proud to serve as members of the governing body of such a progressive community.

Recent action that will be of interest to you is that the Town’s Municipal Election Date has changed from the second Tuesday in March (in the even years) to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in April. The Municipal Association of South Carolina requested that all municipalities consider changing their election dates to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in either April or November. The purpose of the change is to encourage higher voter turnout, as well as provide for more uniformity of election dates. Currently, there are 50 different election dates throughout the State. Consequently, our next election will be on April 9, 1996. Council recently enacted an Ordinance to change the date. This means that the present Council will serve an additional month. New terms will commence at the first Council Meeting in May of 1996. Formerly the Oath of Office was administered at the first Meeting in April.

Enjoy the remainder of the Summer. Take the time to relax with your family,... swim in the ocean, walk along our beautiful beaches... and smell the roses. Stay well and safe.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

FOLLOW THE RULES
SUMMER IS HERE. AND WITH IT, CERTAIN LAWS GOVERNING BEACH ACTIVITIES COME INTO EFFECT:

- Dogs are not allowed on the beach during the period of May 15th through September 15th. During the months that they are allowed on the beach, dogs must be kept on a leash that is seven feet (7') long or shorter. Your dog’s droppings must be removed from the beach and all public property, and disposed of in a suitable manner.
- Alcoholic beverages of any kind are not allowed on the beach or public access areas.
- No glass containers of any kind are 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.
- Boats, including jet skis, may be launched and retrieved at the designated access area at 4th Avenue South ONLY.
- From May 15th to September 15th, Jet Skis must be used 150 or more yards from the point where the Ocean joins 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 back to shore 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 boat may be pulled upon the primary oceanfront dune system at any time.
- It is illegal for a 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 are required to wear a surfing leash, having a stretch factor of no less than six feet (6') at ALL TIMES.
- Fires are prohibited on the beach and public accesses, as well as any type of barbecue grille.
- It is illegal for any person to use, fire, shoot, discharge, sell, store, exchange or give away any type of fireworks in the Town.

NO ONE LIKES A "DIRTY" BEACH, SO PLEASE HELP US TO KEEP IT CLEAN BY DISPOSING OF YOUR LITTER IN THE RECEPTACLES THAT ARE PROVIDED. IF YOU ARE A SMOKER, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE YOUR CIGARETTE BUTTS ON THE BEACH. WE APPRECIATE YOUR COOPERATION.

FIRE FUNDRAISING EFFORT
NOT ASSOCIATED WITH TOWN

A group calling itself Grand Strand Professional Firefighters is conducting a fundraising effort within Surfside Beach and the surrounding areas. The group is selling tickets for a benefit concert, and some members of the public contacted by representatives of this group are left with the impression that the funds raised will go to help the Surfside Beach Fire Department. The public should be aware that the Grand Strand Professional Firefighters group is in no way, shape or form affiliated with or recognized by the Town of Surfside Beach, including the Surfside Beach Fire Department. Furthermore, no amount of the funds raised by this group goes to the Town of Surfside Beach or the Surfside Beach Fire Department.

CONGRATULATIONS!
CLEAN CITY AWARD WINNERS
SUMMER 1995

Highway 17: Shoney's - 600 North
Ocean Boulevard: The Islander - 9th South & Blvd., Surfside Realty, Inc.
Residential
North End: "Buch" & Barbara Balderson - 634 6th Avenue
South End: Mary Lou Woody - 1014 Lakeside Drive
**HURRICANE SEASON**

As always, June 1st marks the beginning of Hurricane Season. Even though the most active months for hurricanes are August, September, and October, we need to start our preparations now. Use this time period to prepare your family and home. Check your weather report; it contains information on hurricanes that may affect your area. Prepare for evacuation by having extra supplies, such as food, water, and medical supplies. Take precautions to protect yourself and your property from damage. Check your insurance policies to ensure that you are covered in case of a hurricane.

For further information, contact the Surfside Beach Fire Department at 238-2314 or visit their website at www.surfsidebeachfiredept.org. They provide regular updates on hurricane preparedness and safety measures.

**RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on Easter Sunday, April 16th, at the Huckabee Complex for approximately 125 children ages 10 years old and under. Prizes were presented to the children and fun was had by all.

The 1995 Baseball / Softball season was a tremendous success with 48 teams participating. Dixie Softball continues to grow in popularity. All leagues were full as the community continues its rapid growth. The regular season games ended in June with tournament games going to All-Stars in July.

The Civic Center has ongoing classes for everyone. The Easy Stretch Exercise Class is held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.; Aerobics is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Senior Scene is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; Oil Painting is held on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.; and Bridge is held on Wednesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

The Business License Department has approved approximately 1400 business license applications in mid-April. The applications were sent to businesses that operate within the Town of Surfside Beach and were due on or before June 1st. The department processes applications and ensures that businesses have questions regarding their license. If you operate a business within the Town of Surfside Beach and you have not renewed your license, please contact your office to obtain a license.

The Town began its 1995 - 96 fiscal year on April 1, 1995. The General Fund budget of $3,219,387 includes new vehicles for the Police, Recreation, and Street Departments. A computer system upgrade in the Building Department, new classrooms at Fuller Park, and a press box at the Huckabee Complex. The Accommodations Tax Fund budget of $229,366 is available for Ocean Boulevard beautification program which will be partially funded with grant monies, the continuation of the sidewalk program for Ocean Boulevard which will also be partially funded by grand monies, and for $71,500 to be designated for beach renourishment.

The Town's audit of the 1994 - 95 financial statements also took place this quarter. As a result of the transfer of the water and sewer system to Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority in July 1994, the Waterworks and Sewer System Fund was completely closed out with $630,000 being transferred to the General Fund. These funds will help toward the cost of the new police public works sites and building, and renovations to Town Hall.

**MORE KUDOS FOR SURFSIDE BEACH**

Mayor Johnson reads the words from the Plaque he accepted on behalf of the Town at the National Hurricane Conference in Atlantic City, NJ in April. The Town was recognized for being the first city in the Nation to adopt the "Deemed to Comply Standards," which are cost-effective standards for hurricane-resistant construction, and for the timely dissemination of hurricane awareness information to the public.

Building / Zoning Director Eddie Richardson, who recommended adoption of the Ordinance for the Standards, and Fire Department Public Information Officer / Firefighter Jan Lewis, who organizes the Town's Hurricane Awareness Seminar every year, were also honored for their outstanding contributions to the safety and welfare of the citizens of Surfside Beach. At the Conference, they attended several seminars concerning safety practices and procedures to be implemented in the event of a hurricane emergency.

**BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT**

As most of you already know, the Building and Fire Departments are responsible for the Town being awarded the National Hurricane Conference Distinguished Service Award in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Our efforts in these areas are strictly to preserve lives and reduce property losses. The federal government and insurance companies cannot continue to pay out billions in losses each year for natural disasters without it costing us all. Don't be fooled into thinking Hugo was our major hurricane. Look
what happened ninety miles south in Charleston to McClellanville. Look what happened in Florida with Hurricane Andrew. It could happen here. Major hurricanes will always cause damage. Technology in building construction and code enforcement today can reduce the threat of total property loss. The Building Department has information available to help the average property owner retrofit existing homes to make them hurricane resistant. We have video tapes available that we can show groups of citizens or contractors to help you understand where weak areas are in your home and what to do to correct them inexpensively. The more citizens we have that take advantage of these hurricane resistant construction methods the fewer persons we will have displaced or homeless when the big one comes. Thank your Mayor and Council Members for providing you a head start on protecting your property with strong building codes. Continue your support so we can continue improving the system with the tools to implement the things necessary to upgrade our rating in the ISO Code Enforcement Grading System and start a CRS Flood Mitigation Program to obtain reduced wind and flood insurance premiums. Quality code enforcement and strong building codes is the cheapest insurance you can buy. The bottom line is, if we are going to adopt and require strong building codes, let's make sure we all understand the commitment needed to provide the means to properly enforce them. The codes don't do us any good left in the book. The More People Learn About Intense Hurricanes, The More They'll Want Stronger Building Codes And Enforcement.

NEW COUNTY LIBRARY: PROGRESS REPORT

Construction of the new library is moving ahead rapidly, and bids for library furnishings and equipment were opened on 1 June; contracts will quickly follow.

Landscaping plans are being finalized between the South Strand Garden Club and the general contractor. The Garden Club will donate shrubbery, plantings, and its members’ “green thumbs” to beautify and complete the Fuller Park site.

Since groundbreaking, the Friends of the Surfside Beach Library, Inc., have been busy: publicizing the mission; soliciting membership; organizing the grand opening ceremonies; and developing goals for a campaign to raise funds to provide equipment and furnishings which were not budgeted by the County in the library construction contract. A successful campaign will enable Friends to provide personal computer systems for the use of adult and children patrons, and conference furnishings for the new Community Room by opening date. Fund-raising efforts, which were kicked off at the May meeting of the Surfside Beach Business and Professional Association, began in June and will continue through mid-July.

The formal ribbon-cutting and grand opening ceremonies for the new library will be at 2 p.m., Friday, 3 November in Fuller Park. An opening day review for members of the Friends will be held from Noon to 2 p.m. that day. At 7 p.m. on 3 November, Benefactor Members will be honored at a dedication of the Benefactor Plaque and presentation of Benefactor Certificates of Appreciation. Further details about the opening day ceremonies and the special program events planned for the following week will be published in the next Town Newsletter.

"Almost There"

Over 300 community individuals and families have joined the Friends as members since the beginning of the membership drive in the Town and neighboring residential areas. A drive to enroll local businesses as members, patrons, and benefactors will be a major feature of the fund raising drive. Look for the Friends logo decal in the local business establishments that support your new library.

For those residents who missed the membership enrollment solicitation in the Spring Newsletter, the enrollment form is repeated (above - right). Please call now and join many other area residents who want our new Library to be the best in the County (and contribute to our fund-raising goals, if you can). If you are already a member of the Friends use the form above for making your individual contribution to the fund-raising campaign. Remember that gifts to the Friends of books, estates bequests, and other donations are tax deductible. Call Cynthia Romano 238-5762, Sandra Staton 238-5714, or Buck Catts 238-3442 if you would like to discuss prospective gifts.

POLICE BEAT

Juvenile Crimes which occurred over the Winter months and on into April of 1995 have surpassed last year’s numbers. The increase in vandalism, petty theft, and theft from autos is at an all-time high. Reports of spray painting on walls, sidewalks, and public buildings in Town is becoming a serious problem. Bicycles, golf carts, and mail from front-yard mailboxes are being stolen, as well as items from dashboards and glove compartments of autos. Articles, such as small change, cameras and guns (7 pistols this year) have also been taken from autos. Calls on vandalism to mailboxes and bicycles stolen from people’s yards are accelerating.

Investigations into these petty crimes reveal that a small minority of juveniles are committing the offenses. The juveniles have been caught and charged, but they are returned to their homes by the Juvenile Authorities, and continue to cause problems. In our efforts to combat juvenile crimes, Corporal Kaye Long has been assigned to assist Detective Wayne Stewart. Her duties will include continued tracking and apprehension of the juvenile who are perpetrating these crimes. To further assist the Detecive Squad, a new Reserve Officer, James Max Nobles, has been assigned to that unit. "Max", as he prefers to be called, has six years experience in crime scene investigation with Myrtle Beach law enforcement. He will be a definite asset to the unit, and we welcome him aboard.

The new Federal "Cops Fast" Program has made it possible for the Department to add another officer on the street. As your Chief, it is my intention to divide the Town into two (2) sectors: Sector "A", North of Surfside Drive, and Sector "B", South of Surfside Drive. We will have two (2) uniform officers in marked cruisers on the street, one in each sector, 24 hours a day.

The Department has experienced a 16.4% increase in the amount of calls for service for the months of January, February, March, and April of this year, over the same time period last year. With the reassignment of one full-time and one Reserve Officer to the Detective Unit and the additional uniformed officer assigned to Patrol, the Police Department will be able to continue its policy of providing the quality of responsive service that the citizens of Surfside Beach have come to expect.

The Town held its Annual Surplus Property Auction on Saturday, June 24, 1995, at 10:00 a.m. in the Public Works Yard. Bicycles, office equipment, and other items were offered for sale.

Citizens, for your information, the Town’s Noise Ordinance is as follows: Sec. 7 - 91. Loud, disturbing, unnecessary noise prohibited. The creation and continuation of any loud, disturbing and unnecessary noises in the Town is hereby prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to cause, make or contribute to creating any loud or disturbing noise of such character, intensity or duration as to be detrimental to the life or health of any individual, or disturb the quiet and peace of any citizen of the Town. The acts in this division, among others, are declared to be loud, disturbing, annoying and unnecessary noises in violation of this Section, but such enumeration shall not be deemed to be exclusive. (Code 1969, 14 - 22a)

REMEMBER: Buckle Up, Stay Safe and Have A Great Summer!
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - Summer '95

Hats off to Mike Lewis, Fire Department Lieutenant, for being voted as the Summer 1995 Employee of the Quarter... for the THIRD time! Mike, who is also the Department's Arson Investigator, received the honor for the first time in the Fall of 1989, and the second time in Spring 1991. He has been employed with the Town since July 1988, when he was hired as a Firefighter / Engineer. Sideline from active firefighter duty following heart surgery in June of 1994, Mike has been medically approved to resume regular firefighting duties once again. While on limited duty, he handled all Fire Safety Inspections and other "light" duties. Mike and wife Jan, the Town's Executive Assistant, who is also a Firefighter and the Department's Public Information Officer, live on Maple Drive, and are the parents of four.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Summer Season is upon us and the Public Works Department is geared up! The Department was able to replace and / or repair the sand fencing along "our" two miles of beach and dunes. The Lake Management program is completed for another year with results being the best so far. Only spot treatments will be conducted as needed. Mosquito spraying is ongoing Sunday and Thursday nights each week and will continue through September.

Beautification efforts have been hastened and by the end of June, 60 new Sabal Palm tree's will be in place at the Town's beach accesses along Ocean Boulevard and Seaside Drive. A few of the trees along the Surfside Drive corridor died and replacements are on the way. Of course, these new trees will have to be watered about three times per week for the next couple of months.

The Recycling Program continues to be a success in Surfside Beach. We constantly receive compliments from the Recycling Center in Conway, that our citizens take the most effort in discarding the cleanest items making the job of sorting a little more agreeable. If you are in need of a fresh supply of recycling bags they may be obtained at Town Hall. Thanks for your assistance in the ongoing recycling effort and keep up the good work.

The Sanitation Department advises there are additional Moby Carts available for household garbage if needed. Please contact Town Hall at 238-5531 if you feel one Moby Cart is not going to be sufficient.

Town Council recently awarded the contract for the construction of the new Public Works metal building on Sandy Lane to Harrington Construction Co. of Myrtle Beach. Parts 'n pieces are being relocated to the new site now that the security fence is in place, and we expect total relocation of the Public Works by Thanksgiving.

The Public Works Department has a demanding job and it takes special people to fill that job. Each year the public recognizes the efforts these people put forth to safeguard our health by observing National Public Works Week. May 16th Mayor Dick Johnson and Town Council proclaimed the week of May 21 through May 27 as National Public Works Week in Surfside Beach. Congratulations to our Public Works Department and thank you for helping to maintain our quality of life.

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

MAYOR
Dick M. Johnson

COUNCILMEMBERS
Archie Benton
Tom Higgins
Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem
Judith L. Lowe
P.L. Mahry
Frankie E. Rogers

ADMINISTRATOR
Neil Ferguson

EDITOR
Elaine K. Cowart