FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK

Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

WELCOME TO 1996! I hope that you and yours enjoyed a happy and Blessed Holiday Season.

Reflecting over 1995, a lot has been accomplished in our little Town. We have a new Library, a new, state-of-the-art Police facility, and a Public Works complex under construction on Sandy Lane. Of course all these things did not happen overnight, nor without the usual "glitches". There were late shipments, construction delays, unmet deadlines... but somehow, we managed to get through it, and as always, we continue to do our best to serve you. A "Highlight" of the year was the honor of accepting, on behalf of the Town, the National Hurricane Conference's Local Government Award, for being the first city in the Nation to adopt and enforce the new 'Deemed to Comply' building standards for hurricane-resistant construction and for the public information seminars held annually. The award was presented at the Conference's National Convention at Trump Towers in Atlantic City, NJ, in April. Council and I feel very good about the things we have been able to accomplish, none of which would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our Staff and Employees.

Some Things To Remember In 1996: Town Council Meetings will change from the first and third Tuesday, to the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm, starting with the meeting of January 9th. April 2nd is the date of our Municipal Election, for Mayor and 3 Council Seats. Those with expiring terms are Mayor Dick M. Johnson and Councilmembers Archie Benton, Judy Lowe, and P.L. Mabry. Beginning January 1996, Municipal Court will start at 9:00 am, rather than 5:00 pm. Judge W.R. Dixon, resigned his position as Municipal Judge, effective December 31, 1995, and is moving back to Barnwell, SC. Judge Dixon has done a fine job for the Town, and will be missed. His replacement on the Bench is Mr. Donnie Todd, a retired US Department of Defense employee, as well as Myrtle Beach Detective. He was sworn into office at the December 5th Council Meeting, and will preside at the January session of Municipal Court on the 17th.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

THANKS TO NEWSLETTER BULK MAIL CREW:

As Editor of the "Municipal Message", I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the wonderful volunteers from the "50's Plus" Group, who give so selflessly of their time to help the Town, and especially myself, with the bulk mailing process for the quarterly Newsletter.

Just a phone call is all it takes, to Merritt Zimmerman or Willie Wilson, and in no time 8 to 10 members of the group are "rounded up" and are there to seal, affix labels and bundle by Zip Code nearly 3,000 pieces of mail.

They arrive on the scene promptly, get the job done and are gone as quickly and quietly as they came, within a couple of hours, saving this Clerk a lot of time and stress. Somehow the coffee and snacks we provide seem so little for the service they provide.

Sincere thanks to each of you for "being there": Merritt and Janie Zimmerman; Willie and Kate Wilson, Dot and Clem Grant, Gene and Ruth Stack, Elmer Hoeltge, Jean Grigalunas; Shawnee and Alma Rudisill, Jean Kaufman, Marion Wilson and Frank and Joan Alfiere. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive the oversight and know that you too, are greatly appreciated.

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

This year has seen a record pace of residential construction throughout the Town. As we go to press, 33 residential units have been completed and 35 more are under construction. The coming year's projections are expected to at least equal to if not exceed this year. Numerous changes are planned for the Building and Zoning Department to improve services and cope with all the construction activity. Plans include changing the Department Office Hours to allow opening for business at 8:00 am with continuous service until 5:00 pm. Afternoon hours would be reserved for Zoning and Code Enforcement, special appointments and plan reviews. An additional full time inspector is also planned in next year's budget to provide the proper level of service required to keep the citizen's hazard insurance at the lowest rates possible, as well as keep up with the increased numbers and types of inspections.

The highlight of this quarter, our Building Official, Eddie Richardson, was recognized as Building Official of the Year by Coastal Code Association of South Carolina at their annual conference in Charleston, South Carolina on December 5, 1995.
POLICE BEAT

Brrr, who said it doesn’t get cold in South Carolina? The weather may be cold for some folks, but your police department personnel are feeling warm watching their new Police Station being built. The new furniture for the station that “Crime Watch” worked so hard for will be shipped on the 26th of December. The good people of our Town and the surrounding area raised over $11,000 toward this fund and money keeps coming in! Your Town Council has agreed to provide the extra money should there be a shortfall in funds. The new station should be ready to open shortly after the 6th of January, 1996.

Maybe, I should knock on wood, but crime has slowed down, petty larceny and auto larceny are our main concern at the present time. Vehicles parked next to the condos and people walking along the beach who park their cars and leave valuables where they can be seen are having the most problems. “Crime Watch’ patrols have been out and working on the weekends and they have been a great help to our regular patrol force.

During the cold Winter months, empty homes become a problem. So many of our rental and summer homes are vacant, that vagrants will try to enter them. For example, a “Crime Watch” member called and stated that they noticed a strange man sitting on the front porch of a vacant home nearby. An officer was dispatched and the man was taken into custody. It seems that he had been walking around Town and needed a place to stay, so he cut through the front porch screen and made himself at home. He would sit on the front porch and wave at everyone going by and talk with them and had been doing this for three days. You would think that someone like this would hide and not want to be seen. This suspect did not care what damage he did, or if he was seen. He is presently “staying” at the J. Rubin Detention Center in Conway. If you see someone you don’t know near any of these empty homes, please call your Police Department and let us check out the subject(s). You may save yourself or someone else a lot of problems.

A new marked Police cruiser has been ordered and is on its way and should be placed in the police fleet shortly. Police Officer Chris Dennis has completed a course in “On Scene and Traffic Investigating” which gives him knowledge in judging speed in relation to skid marks. Dan Flood is our new “COPS FAST” officer, bringing the total of sworn officers in the department to 11. He is doing a fine job, and his addition to the force enables us to have 2 officers on duty nearly 24 hours per day.

I want to caution you during this holiday season not to leave valuables in your vehicle while you shop at the malls. Every year, many a Christmas is ruined because presents left in vehicles are stolen. There are those thugs who wait in vehicles and prey on unsuspecting citizens who forget and leave articles in their vehicle even for a short period of time. So don’t be a victim!! If you have to go back into the mall after shopping maybe to get a bite to eat, move your vehicle to a new location. It may save you a broken window or items stolen from your auto.

Have a wonderful season, and come to see the new Police Station when we open.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The 1995 Football/Cheerleading season provided fun and excitement for over 150 boys and 80 girls, ages 8 through 12. The Small Fry League (Ages 8 - 10) consisted of four teams, and the Mite League (Ages 11 - 12) also fielded four teams. Each team had a cheerleading squad cheering them to victory. The Mite League regular season Championship belongs to the “Bears”, coached by Walter Hornbeck. The “Bears” also won the Annual Post-Season Tournament. The “Oilers”, coached by Steve Hawley won the Small Fry regular season Championship while the “Falcons”, coached by David Rogers, came on strong and won the Post-Season Tournament. The 1995-96 Basketball season is in progress with eight teams totaling 80 players. The games are being played at St. James Middle School on Saturdays, in January and February. Four games are on tap each Saturday, beginning January 6, 1996. Baseball/Softball Registration is just around the corner, so mark your calendars for the following dates:

March 2 Starts at 11:00 am (Saturday) and continues till full. (Boys Ages 9-14)
March 2 Starts at 2:00 pm (Saturday) and continues till full. (Girls Ages 8-15)

May 20-31
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Weekdays) (Or Til Full)
(Boys Ages 15-18)
(Boys Age 8 (T-Ball)
(Boys & Girls Ages 6-7 (T-Ball)

All Ages as of August 1, 1996. Birth Certificates are required for 1st time players (except T-ball). Location: Hucakbee Complex on Glenns Bay Road.

In the Civic Center, we have Easy Stretch Exercise on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 10 am; Aerobics each Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 10 am; Seniorercise, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 to 11 am; Oil Painting classes each Wednesday from 10 am to 1 pm, and Youth Karate, Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 7 pm. Other events available at the Center are Cards and Games every Tuesday from 1 to 4 pm; Bridge each Thursday from 7 to 10 pm; Chess Club, Tuesdays 7 to 10 pm and remember the Free Blood Pressure Check every 1st and 2nd Wednesday from 9 to 10 am.

The 10th Annual Family Festival was held on Saturday, October 7 with approximately 7 to 8 thousand attending. Even with the semi-rainy day, the event was very successful. There was great food, entertainment, arts and crafts and fun and games for the children.

Surfside Beach, once again, had a busy Christmas Season for all ages, Tuesday, December 5, children made great use of the “Hot-Line to Santa” with their many requests for the jolly old man to fill on Christmas Morning. As always, the Christmas Tree Lighting Service was well received with over 300 attending the ceremony on Thursday, December 7. Saturday, December 9, the Surfside Beach Christmas Parade, sponsored by Surfside Area Business and Professional Association, began at 11:00 am. Even with the “iffy” weather, there was a large turnout to enjoy the floats, bands and dignitaries of the area. Of course, immediately following, several children found their way to the Civic Center to tell Santa face to face what they wanted for Christmas.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

“Brother To Wilbert”

The last quarter of the year is a time when budget preparation begins; planning is done for improving services; winter projects begin and some time is allotted to reflecting on past events.

Although many good things happened in Public Works, this past quarter will always weigh heavily on our minds due to the passing of an employee, Mr. Wilbert Baker, Jr. Wilbert suffered a fatal heart attack at work on September 11.

A driver in the Sanitation Division, Wilbert had been a great asset to our work force for twelve years. Always congenial, Wilbert was the epitome of a model employee. Hard working and dedicated, he was a past recipient of the Employee of the Quarter award, and had risen through the ranks to C.D.L. Driver in Sanitation. Very seldom missing work for any reason, it is remarkable to think that Wilbert would have been able to attend his daughter’s home in Dillon several times a week, and for the remainder, would drive from his home in Greeleyville, nearly an hour and a half away. Wilbert is survived by his wife, Jeanette, their three children, and his father.
Special thanks should be given to the Public Works employees who responded during this tragedy: Joe Keels and Willie Myers who quickly radioed the shop; Willie Small who had a nearby resident call 911; Dabeey Brown, Ben Johnson and Frank Belcher who assisted at the scene, and especially Terry Grady and my Montgomery who performed C.P.R. on Wilbert and revived him, yet it was not meant to be.

As we begin in 1996, the Public Works Department looks forward to a busy year. We will continue to give the Community good, dependable service, and will strive to meet the demands of a progressive and growing Surfside Beach.

AROUND THE FIRE HOUSE

As this article is being written, we, at the Surfside Beach Fire Department, find ourselves loosening our belts after big Thanksgiving meals and gearing up for our Annual Christmas Food, Toy and Clothing Drive. If you don’t get a chance to make a donation to those less fortunate during Christmas, please try to remember them in the New Year.

Speaking of loosening our belts, the Department is in the midst of a comprehensive wellness program for the firefighters. We’ve recognized that to do a better job as firefighters, we need to be in above average physical condition. This program addresses such topics as flexibility, nutrition, cardiovascular fitness, weight control, muscular fitness, substance abuse and managing stress. So if you happen to see a firefighter jogging through your neighborhood, please cheer him on.

We’re also looking forward to celebrating the end of Hurricane Season. We’ve monitored more storms this year than ever before, and have “dodged the bullet” more than once. However, our celebration will be short lived as we begin reviewing our past operations and making refinements, in time for the coming season, next June.

Over 130 Fire Safety Inspections, of businesses, were conducted during the past quarter. Numerous fire and life safety hazards were found and corrected. Some of these corrections were made at the displeasure of the proprietors. Some, we’ve even had to take to court to force compliance with safety codes. We understand that business people need to keep expenses down as much as possible. But need for them to understand that we are faced with enforcing nationally recognized safety standards and that we cannot rewrite the book because it is not convenient for them to comply with it. If you have a problem with a particular order made by an inspector, talk with him about it. He will do all in his power to help you.

Of the 61 incidents the Department responded to in the last quarter, 15 percent were false alarms due to alarm system malfunctions. While we’re ticked to see that your building is not burning when we respond to your alarm, we worry that one day we may be delayed in responding to an actual emergency, because we’re checking out a false alarm. You’ve paid good money for your alarm system. Please try to keep it in good working order so you can depend on it.

We responded to eight automobile accidents. That’s 13 percent. While you’re traveling about over the holidays and in the new year, please be especially vigilant and alert to other drivers and pedestrians. It’s not worth hurrying if you or some of your loved ones are injured in an accident.

Finally, the Surfside Beach Fire Department hopes you had a Merry Christmas and wishes you a Safe and Happy New Year.

SURFSIDE BEACH LIBRARY

"CHILDREN’S DAY” at the new Library.

Community parents and children enjoyed a festive program of exhibitions, entertainment, and puppetry on Children’s Day, November 4, at the new Surfside Beach Library building in Fuller Park. The building lacked furniture and wasn’t quite ready for books but it was perfect for the enthusiastic group. Town Councilman Archie Benton warmly welcomed the large crowd of participants. Cynthia Romano, President of the Friends of the Surfside Beach Library, Inc., presented award certificates and Barnes & Noble free-book certificates to over 30 winners of library-theme contests sponsored by the Friends at the local elementary and middle schools. Copies of the winning entries are part of the Children’s Day program have been mounted in a commemorative album and retained in library files for everyone’s viewing. It was a great success!

Transfer of books and equipment from the old library building on 100 Avenue was completed in mid-December, and normal library functions were resumed at 410 Surfside Drive on Monday, December 18. The relocated library will offer many new public services and amenities that will undergo “debugging” in the next few weeks. All new services and functions are expected to be “on line” by the formal grand opening date.

County Council has scheduled the formal grand opening of our new Branch Library for 2 pm, Friday, February 9, 1996. County Council Chairman Joey McNutt will preside at the ribbon-cutting ceremony; other County Councilmen, Mayor Dick Johnson, Town Councilmembers and Department Heads will participate. County Librarian, John Gauer, and the Surfside Beach Branch Library staff will host an Open House after the opening ceremonies. All residents, community neighbors and visitors are invited to this “red letter” event in the continuing cultural growth of our Town.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

MICKEY D. FERGUSON ~ Employee of the Quarter ~ Winter 1995

Hats off to MICKEY D. "MICK" FERGUSON, the Town’s "EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER ~ WINTER 1995". Mick came to work for the Town as a Temporary Laborer in February of 1994. In April of 1994 he transferred to the Vehicle Maintenance Division of the Public Works Department, where he worked until being hired as a Mechanic, with Permanent Employee status, in April of this year. From the start, Mick demonstrated a willingness to assume any responsibilities he was assigned. He has attended classes in Hydraulic and system trouble shooting.

Mick assists Head Mechanic Terry Grady in keeping the Town’s rolling stock in "tip-top" condition, and in the time he has been a Town Employee, he has proven his dedication and dependability, and gained the respect of his fellow employees. We are proud to extend this honor to one so deserving.

MICK FERGUSON ~ Employee of the Quarter ~ Winter 1995
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE FRIENDS for 1996 TODAY

or

ENROLL NOW AS A NEW MEMBER

We support the mission and objectives of the Friends of the Surfside Beach Library, Inc.

Family Name

Given Names of Patrons

Address

Telephone Number

Membership Dues: ( ) $5 Family ( ) $3 Individual ( ) $1 Student

Please submit this form and your dues to any member of the Surfside Beach Library staff, or mail to:
FRIENDS OF THE SURFSDIE BEACH LIBRARY, INC.
410 Surfside Drive, Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Friends membership cards are available from the library staff.

TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire / Police / Rescue Squad</td>
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<td>Police / Fire (non-emergency)</td>
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<td>Jones Interable (24 Hours)</td>
<td>651-6699</td>
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<td>Santee Cooper Power Company (emergency)</td>
<td>448-3070</td>
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<td>Sanitation / Public Works</td>
<td>238-5531</td>
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<td>Town Hall</td>
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<td>Recreation Complex, Glenns Bay Road</td>
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<td>FAX</td>
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<td>Grand Strand Water &amp; Sewer Authority</td>
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TOWN HALL MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Council, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m. / Planning and Zoning Commission, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3:00 p.m.
Zoning Board of Appeals, 1st Thursday of each month, 2:00 p.m. / Municipal Court, Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.

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.

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

BULK RATE
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