A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE CITIZENS OF SURFSIDE BEACH

FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK

Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

Here we are into another “Season”. Let’s hope that it is enjoyable and prosperous for all.

Town crews have been busy on seasonal activities. Recreation’s, as and Grounds Supervisor, Bill Fowler and his Assistant have graded and lined all ballfields for Baseball and Softball Programs. Streets/Drainage Department personnel have been hard at work on the Ocean Boulevard Sidewalk Project, and the word from the “sidewalk supervisors” is that it looks real good. Sanitation workers have taken on the extra, seasonal weekend collections in the Boulevard area for the many loads of extra litter created by the influx of visitors. Recreation Department Programs Director, Sparky Tomko, dedicated many hours planning “Surfside Super Sunday” Sun Fun activities in June, as well as lining up instructors for Summer Programs. He is also continuously working on plans for the organization and set-up of the Town’s annual “Family Festival”, which, by the way, celebrates its 13th Anniversary, on October 4, 1997.

Crew Chief/PIO Officer Jan Lewis, of the Surfside Beach Fire Department put together another excellent Hurricane Conference at the Seaside Elementary School last month. The well attended Seminar on June 12th, provided vital information on a subject which concerns us all. After the frightening “close calls” last year, everyone is “hungry” for guidance on what to do before the fact. Hurricane Season runs from June 1st through November 30th, and if you were unable to attend the conference, call Jan, at 238-2590, and she will be happy to answer your questions. She is also available for Hurricane Seminars for civic organizations, schools, churches, HOAs’, etc.

Hopefully, you will enjoy the activities and services the Town has planned for you. Just remember that Council and I will continuously work at keeping Surfside Beach the ‘best little seaside community on the East Coast’. Come to Council Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and see what we are about.

See you in the Fall,

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

PUBLIC WORKS

This past quarter has been a busy one for all of Public Works. The Sanitation Division collected record amounts of yard waste in March and again in April with the two month total approaching 500,000 pounds. In regards, since approximately February, sanitation workers began to notice large piles of tree and yard waste being left on town rights-of-way in areas with vacant property, particularly in the Northend of Town. Even with employee and police surveillance, piles continued to be left until a resident spotted a local tree and yard service company depositing a load on road right-of-way adjacent to vacant lots. The alert resident obtained the company name off of the side of the truck and reported the information to the Police. The company will soon be talking to the Town Judge, as charges of Illegal Dumping have been filed. If you see anyone dumping trash or yard waste around vacant lots in Town, please contact Police Dispatch as soon as possible - 238-2314.

Beginning in June, Sanitation, as is tradition, started work at 6:00 AM. As in Town Code, please have the mohy carts removed from curb by 11:00 PM the day of collection. Roll carts left out are a quick target of vandals, and also give the impression that no one is home.

The Street Division was able to replace the old asphalt sidewalk on South Ocean Boulevard, despite the inclement weather we had this Spring. Additionally, primary ditch clearing was accomplished and mowing operations begun. Streets also installed the parking meter poles, and signage for the parking meter program, and constructed a new public parking area by the Holiday Inn. The Street Division has begun spraying for mosquitoes twice weekly, early Tuesday and Friday mornings.

The Maintenance Division was busy this past quarter reading vehicles and equipment for the long, hot Summer duties. Additionally, Maintenance cut and fabricated all parking meter poles, and installed the meter heads as well.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH DAY

Town employees were treated to an "Employee Health Day", on Friday, May 18, 1997 in conjunction with "Employee Day". "Employee Day" is a quarterly function for Town Employees, which is hosted by one of the six (6) Town Departments. The Police Department arranged for the Lunch portion of the event, and everyone enjoyed Barbecue and all the "fixins".

Administration was responsible for the Health Fair portion, and
invited Health Care Providers from; COLUMBIA Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, who provided screening for Cholesterol and Body Fat Analysis. Staff members from "In Care Home Health" did Blood Pressure Screenings, Blood Sugar and Blood Oxygen Testing, as well as give information on Diabetes and Nutrition; "Responsive Solutions" dispensed information regarding Emphysema and home infusion procedures. Pee Dee Speech & Hearing administered preliminary audio and visual tests. An American Health & Fitness Club Rep was on hand to sign up interested employees and provide information on available programs; Reps from the National Health Care Center did hand strength testing, which a good many employees found interesting as well as amusing; Coastal Carolina Hospital answered questions concerning Drug and Alcohol Abuse and dispensed reading materials; the American Cancer Society staff furnished information and pamphlets; Professionals from the "Heart and Mind Institute for Balanced Living" offered information on weight loss, stress reduction, and how to quit smoking without medication, as well as ways to deal with other emotional problems. Information on Weight Reduction Programs, Allergy/Asthma and Sinus Problems, and Chiropractics was also available from area professionals. Several of the Vendors drew names for a door prize.

The Health Fair was well received by Employees. The Town is always concerned about the well being of its employees and offers the Health Fair as a means of increasing awareness that a healthy lifestyle benefits them and the Town as well.

Several Employees were awarded for Longevity and Service to the Town, and Police Corporal Chris DeMatteo was named "Employee of the Quarter-Spring 1997".

POLICE BEAT

New Police Officers on Patrol:

The Police Department is placing two additional police officers on patrol. The first new officer is Officer Dennis Dayhoff. Dennis is a retired Police Officer from the Ann Arundel County Police Department in Maryland and the second officer, Jay Brantly, is retired from the Air Force Military Police. These officers are both at the Police Academy undergoing training and should be on duty by the middle of July. These officers were hired under a federal grant from the COPSAHEAD PROGRAM. These two officers have extensive training in drug enforcement and investigations.

Computers:

Seven new computers are now operational in the Department, which brings our agency up to date with the latest computer technology. All computers are equipped with Microsoft Office 97 and Intel Electronics. The old computers have been dispersed to other units in Town that do not require fast emergency response. As with any new equipment there is a learning phase and computers and computer software are no exception. New computer software programs, such as Accident and Crime Scene Investigations are being evaluated to determine their usefulness in these particular areas. Hopefully, some of these new software programs will help the Department keep track of over 1,800 incidents reported to the Police Department during an average month.

Parking Meters:

By now everyone is aware that parking meters have been installed at the beach parking lots. 354 meters were installed as of 5/27/97. These meters are designed to take only quarters. The meters will take nickels, dimes and pennies, but will not give any time on the meter. (Quarters only!) So please, should you see anyone trying to put coins other than quarters in the meters advise them that only quarters give time on the meters.

Golf Cart Parking:

Residents who drive golf carts to the beach are urged to utilize the areas designed for golf cart parking. These areas are located at 8th and 12th Avenues North and 8th, and 12th Avenues South beach accesses. Please do not block entrances to accesses and/or crossovers. Your cooperation is appreciated!

Meet the Town's first Parking Enforcement Officer, Bob Thasek.

Please take the time to familiarize yourself with the rules for Parking Meters installed in all Public Parking Lots.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance Department sent out approximately 1,400 Business License applications on April 1st. During the April to June period, 1,100 businesses renewed their licenses. If you are currently operating a business and you have not renewed your license, please contact the Finance Department to renew your license. After June 1st there is a 5% penalty for each month the license is delinquent.

The town began installing a PC network system this quarter. This system will link all departments of the Town and allow them to share information from each of their locations. All departments will have the capability to send e-mail and will also have access to the internet system. The Finance Department is in the process of selecting the software for this system. Once the software is installed and current information is transferred to this system, all departments will be able to access financial information from their desks to assist them in their daily operations.

The town also implemented its parking meter system this quarter. Over 1,000 parking decals were issued to Town residents and businesses that have vehicles or golf carts registered in the Town limits of Surfside Beach. These parking decals allow parking in metered spots without having to put money in the meters. If you would like to obtain a parking decal and your vehicle or golf cart is registered in the Town limits, bring your registration card to Town Hall, Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

AROUND THE FIRE HOUSE

Hurricane Preparations

As I write this article, we are facing the 1997 Hurricane Season. The experts are again predicting a busy season with seven hurricanes and three intense hurricanes. We have just returned from attending the S.C. Hurricane Conference in Pawley's Island, trying to increase our hurricane knowledge a little more so that we can be better prepared. In addition, the Town has taken numerous steps to protect the buildings in the Town Complex and the personnel who must remain in Town during an intense storm. They include a study of the strength of Town Hall, storm panels for the windows of all buildings in the complex, a renovated Emergency Operations Center/Conference area, a communications area with back-up radios and phones, real-time weather monitoring equipment and a "safe area" if all else fails.

By the time you read this article, we will have already had the annual Hurricane Seminar. It was scheduled to be held on June 12 at Seaside Elementary School as the Seminar has outgrown the Civic Center. If you did not attend, you missed presentations by The Weather Channel, South Carolina Emergency Preparedness Division and the National Weather Service. There was also a panel of experts and officials available to answer your questions. If you were not able to be there and have questions about emergency preparedness, give us a call at 238-2314.

Open Burning

Once again, we must talk about open burning. This seems to be a popular method of disposing of yard debris in Surfside Beach. Generally, this is acceptable as long as the laws are complied with and the laws are as follows.
1. A permit is required. You can obtain this permit by calling the Fire Department at 238-2314.

2. No building debris or rubbish may be disposed of by burning. No fire may be kindled within 50 feet of any structure. A competent person must constantly attend all permitted fires until the fire is extinguished. Such person must have a garden hose connected to a water supply or other approved fire extinguishing equipment available for immediate use.

5. Open burning will not be permitted if atmospheric or local conditions make it hazardous, or if unacceptable levels of smoke are created.

Remember that many citizens of Surfside Beach have respiratory problems and are severely affected by smoke. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

"ETCETERAS"

The Fire Department is continuing to make the rounds, conducting the Fire Safety inspections of businesses and public buildings. We are trying to assist you in making your establishment as safe as possible for your employees and patrons. Some common problems found are: illegal use of extension cords, outdated fire extinguishers, inoperable Exit signs and lights, and unlabeled and/or blocked electrical panels. Any changes ordered are spelled out in the Fire Prevention Code, which is adopted as law. Please cooperate and help us make Surfside Beach a safe place for our citizens and visitors. If you would like to request a courtesy Fire Inspection of your premises or would like a Fire Safety Class, give us a call.

Fire Lanes. Fire lanes are so marked because they are reserved for emergency vehicles performing EMERGENCY DUTIES. They are NOT reserved parking places for those who are in a hurry or cannot be bothered by parking in a parking space. Fines for parking in a Fire Lane can be as high as $500.

As usual, the Fire Department has a need for volunteers, firefighters and others. If you are interested in devoting a little of your time to the community, stop by and talk to us.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Civic Center has ongoing classes for your enjoyment and are as follows:

AEROBICS: Everyday Monday-Friday 10:00 - 11:00 A.M.
SENIORISE: Tuesday and Thursday 9:00 - 10:00 A.M.
OIL PAINTING: Wednesday 10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
KARATE CLASSES: Monday and Wednesday 6:00 - 7:00 P.M.
SQUARE DANCING: Wednesday 7:30 - 9:45 P.M.
CHESS: Tuesday 7:00 P.M.
BRIDGE: Tuesday 1:00 P.M. and Thursday 7:00 P.M.

Note: The Civic Center is available to rent for various events and occasions. There is a Main Room and a Day Room, which may be rented for a fee. Please call 238-4131 Ext. 333 one month in advance, to schedule the day you wish to rent a facility.

50’s Plus Group: This group is very active and growing, with currently over 250 members. Every Monday morning, 40 to 60 members meet at 8:00 AM at 3rd Avenue South for an approximate two mile beachwalk. Monday’s and Thursday’s, some meet at Martin Park to enjoy Bocce Ball or Shuffleboard. Monthly meetings are held every third Monday at 7:00 PM at the Civic Center.

Upcoming Classes: Adult and Youth Tennis Lessons; Green Thumb Classes; Arts and Crafts Classes are available so sign up.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

There will be a Blood Drive on Monday, September 22, 1997, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., in the Dick M. Johnson Civic Center.

The American Red Cross will sponsor the drive, and we urge your participation in this very important event. During the busy Tourist Season blood supplies at local hospitals are always in need of replenishment. For further information, please call 236-3970.

ATHLETICS

The 1997 Baseball/Softball Season began in April, and will run through July. Thirty-three teams, Ages 6 through 18, participated in local league play. T-Ball for Ages 6 and 7 fielded six teams, and T-ball for age 8, had four teams. Dixie Youth Minor League (Ages 9,10), and Dixie Youth Major League (Ages 11,12), each had 5 teams.

Dixie Boys (Ages 13,14) also had five teams in local league play. Dixie Softball is gaining more popularity each year. Dixie Ponytails (ages 9-12) had four teams and Dixie Belles (Ages 13-15) had two teams. Dixie Pre-Majors (Ages 15-16), and Dixie Majors (Ages 17-18) each had one team. These teams compete against area teams such as, Myrtle Beach, Conway and Georgetown etc. Each League will select an All-Star Team to compete in Tournament Competition.

At Sub-District and District levels, Surfside Beach will have eight tournament teams participating in games at various locations. Surfside Beach will host the Dixie Ponytails District Tournament on July 7, and the Dixie Boys (Age 13) will also be played the same day. These games will be held at H. Blue Huckabee Complex adjacent to Glenns Bay Road. Everyone is welcome to come out and enjoy our kids as they play "America's Favorite Pasttime". Make plans to join the activities on July 7, 1997.

Football/Cheerleading Registration: Registration for Ages 8-12 will be conducted at Huckabee Complex each weekday, beginning on August 11 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

With Hurricane Season upon us, everyone that has buildings in the designated flood hazard zones in Town should be aware of National Flood Insurance Program regulation amendments that will be a benefit to property owners. This amendment adds coverage under the Standard Flood Insurance Policy to pay for the increased cost to rebuild or otherwise alter flood-damaged structures to conform to State or local floodplain management ordinances or laws consistent with the requirements and guidance of the NFIP. This coverage is referred to as "Increased Cost of Compliance" (ICC). In layman's terms FEMA will pay for the additional costs associated with rebuilding to current code standards such as elevating the structure or floodproofing. In order for flood-damaged structures to be eligible, they either have to be a repetitive loss structure or substantially damaged.

FEMA has created a new definition of "repetitive loss structure" for ICC. A "repetitive loss structure now means a structure, covered by a contract for flood insurance, that has incurred damage on two occasions during a ten year period ending on the date of the event for which the second claim is made, in with the cost of repairing the flood damage, on the average, equaled or exceeded 25% of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event. In addition to the current claim, the NFIP must have paid the previous qualifying claim, and the State or community must have a cumulative substantial damage or repetitive loss provision in its Floodplain Management Ordinance being enforced against the structure.

Policyholders of insured structures are automatically eligible for ICC payments if the structure is substantially damaged from a flood event where the damage equals or exceeds 50% of the market value of the structure.

Basically, ICC makes up to $15,000 available to retrofit (elevate or floodproof) substantially damaged or repetitively damaged structures. Policy fees will increase anywhere from $4.00 to $75.00 depending on their risk. The fee will be applicable on all policies, whether or not a community adopts a Cumulative Repetitive Loss provision. The new coverage goes into effect on June 1, 1997. If you have any questions about what flood zone you are in, please stop by the Building and Zoning Department Office and check our flood map.
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - SUMMER 1997

TOM RICHARDS

Tom Richards of the Fire Department has been selected as the Employee of the Quarter for April, May and June 1997. Tom has been a full-time employee of the Town since October 1996. During his probationary period, and since, Tom has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic. He is always early to work and late to leave. He has taken on numerous projects, many without being asked, which have improved the operations of the Fire Department.

Tom started out as a Volunteer Firefighter in April of 1992. He completed his basic training and became a Certified Firefighter in November 1993. He went on to further his training with classes such as Confined Space Rescue, Leadership, Auto Extrication, Pump Operations, and Fire Marshal Certification to name a few.

Tom is married to Nerissa and they have a son, Danny. Nerissa assists the Department with our Aluminum Cans For Burned Children's program and Danny stops by often to liven things up. One of Tom's hobbies is, what else, collecting fire trucks.

Here is another fine employee who sets the standard for Employee Of The Quarter.

CLEAN CITY / BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS - MAY 1997

RESIDENTIAL: Drs. Karen Carpenter and John Eberwein - 513 11th Avenue North

BUSINESS/SOUTH: Ocean Pines Subdivision and Homeowners Association - 618 15th Avenue

OCEAN BOULEVARD: Bill and Judy Riddle - 913 North

TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FIRE / POLICE / RESCUE SQUAD ........................................... 911
Police / Fire (non-emergency) .................... 238-2314 / 238-2621 / 238-2811
Jones Inncable (24 Hours) ................................................. 651-6699
Santee Cooper Power Company (emergency) ........................................... 448-3070
Sanitation / Public Works ............................................ 238-5531

Town Hall .......................................................... 238-2590
Recreation Complex, Glenns Bay Road ......................................... 650-4131
FAX .......................................................... 238-5432
Animal Control ..................................................... 238-2621
Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority ........................................... 448-1686

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, Fridays at 5:00 p.m.
Clean City / Beautification Committee, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10:00 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
SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29575

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