Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

It's been a long and wet Winter, and hopefully, by now, everyone is "healing" from the havoc wreaked by the torrential rains of "El Nino". Our thoughts and prayers go out to those of you who have incurred loss and/or damage to your homes and property.

This phenomenon called "El Nino" is responsible for severe weather and resulting damage all over the world. Here in Surfside Beach, we have sustained a goodly amount of beach erosion, and the high tides and winds have damaged some of our beach walkovers. Public Works crews have been "steady at it", repairing, rebuilding and extending some of the structures, as well as trying to keep a handle on drainage flow in our ditches and canals. We appreciate your patience and spirit of cooperation in dealing with these unpleasant problems.

It's good to see and feel the sun again, budding trees and yards resplendent with flowers. Surfside Beach is a pleasure to live and work in, but truly, "Springtime in Surfside", is a very special experience.

ENJOY, my friends, and remember... You are welcome and encouraged to attend our Town Council Meetings on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. SEE YOU THERE.

BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS FOR A JOYOUS EASTER SEASON!

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

PUBLIC WORKS

MOBY CARTS

According to Section 7-32 of the Town ordinance, moby carts are to be removed from curbside by 11:00 p.m. on the day of pick up. Failure to comply is a violation of this ordinance.

It has come to our attention that several moby carts are being left a day or two after curbside collection. Not only is this in violation of the above code, it invites vandalism and burglary of your property. Having a moby cart sitting by the curb is a notice that no one may be home.

If you own property with multiple apartment units that are rented, it is your responsibility to advise the tenant to remove the cart by 11:00 p.m. If you have a weekly rental, it should be arranged to have the moby cart removed from the curb by 11:00 p.m. by a neighbor or other person. If you have any questions please call Jan Lewis at 803-238-2590.

EL NINO

This is the "hot topic" of the year. Even though the Town of Surfside Beach has been spared some of the more tragic results of this weather phenomenon, we have not escaped beach erosion and the damage to our beach crossovers. The division has been working hard to maintain drainage flow in our ditches and canals during the recent heavy rains. The crossovers are involved in the process of being repaired, rebuilt or extended in preparation for the approaching season, however, it is important that the public use caution when using the steps, and obey barricades if they are present.

The precipitation outlook for the period through April, shows above average rainfall all across the Southeast. This outlook, along with past storms, the existing above average soil moisture conditions, etc. indicates an above normal spring flood potential. Future rainfall runoff problems due to the saturated soil should be anticipated, however, Surfside Beach's drainage system is being maintained to cope with this situation. Please help by not placing leaves, limbs and other debris in the drainways.

BEACH EROSION

While Surfside Beach itself, is not one of the so called "hot spots" for beach erosion along the South Carolina Coast, it suffers from this problem.

As storms come in from the Northeast and East, the forward speed of the winds drive the ocean landward, eating away at the beach at an average rate of one to two feet per year in some areas. Nourishment of the beaches, coupled with strict building setback laws, help to alleviate this problem, and Surfside Beach has taken the steps in this direction.

SPRING

Of course, with the rains in early spring, come the beautiful flowers for us to enjoy, and this year has been no exception. The tulip and daffodil bulbs planted last fall, have added beauty to the highway and Surfside Drive areas, and have ushered in another Spring with the color and splendor of the season. Summer is just around the corner.

* Portions of this section were taken from Coastal Heritage, S.C. Sea Grant Consortium's Fall, 1997 issue.

HATS OFF

"HATS OFF" to Recreation Director Billy Hendrix! Billy is the town's very first TWENTY YEAR EMPLOYEE. He was hired on January 16, 1978, as Director of the Town's Recreation Department, and at that time,...WAS the Recreation Department! That Summer he was allowed to hire a part-time employee for the season.

As the Director tells it..."I had a screwdriver and a pushmower to work with!" He laughingly recalls moving the only ballfield in Town, which was in terrible shape (at 6th North, now known as "Martin Park") with a push mower. Finally, then Councilman Sid Foster, took the Director to Sears, where they purchased the Town's first riding mower, a "teeny" one says the Director. He then hooked a drag to the back of the mower to prepare the ballfield.

There were a few activities established when director came on
POLICE DEPARTMENT

As Chief of Police, I am often asked, "Where are the Town limits?" Actually, for our newcomers, and those of you who just do not know...the Surfside Beach Town limits begin at 17th Avenue North (Omega Pancake House) on the North End and end at Melody Lane (Oceanside Village) on the South end of Town.

The Town of Surfside Beach is growing by leaps and bounds! Waccamaw Regional Planning & Development Council estimates that presently, Surfside Beach has just over 4,250 permanent residents, and by the year 2000, we will have grown to over 5,000...when that happens, we will become a CITY! During the Summer months our population balloons to +20,000, which means the Department needs the eyes and ears of this Community that much more.

When at full strength, the Police Department has 20 members, 14 sworn officers, 5 certified dispatchers and 3 part-time personnel. I regret to report that Officers Bedford Baker and Kenny Hoffman, have resigned their positions to accept employment with other Law Enforcement Units, at higher salaries. We will really miss these talented and dedicated Officers. At this point in time, we are 3 officers under strength, and will hopefully, find replacements by the Summer Season.

For your edification and information, the following statistical information is provided from available crime data:

1) ASSAULTS - Up 1%
2) B&E AUTOS - Up 44%
3) B&E BUSINESSES - Up 10%
4) B&E RESIDENTIAL - DOWN 16%
5) LARCENIES - Up 2%
6) DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES - Up 6%
7) TRAFFIC TICKETS - Up 32%
8) TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS - Up 18%

• No Homicides reported 1989 - 1997
• Two (2) Rapes reported 1994 - 1997 - both closed w/arrests
• Four (4) Aggravated Assaults reported in 1997
• Twelve (12) Driving Under The Influence arrests in 1996 and forty-eight (48) in 1997
• 306 arrests in 1996 and 347 in 1997 for various crimes and traffic offenses
• Total Police responses in 1996, 18,021, and in 1997, there were 24,735, an increase of 37%

In the recent session of Jury Trials in Municipal Court, out of 44 cases scheduled, 6 went to trial, 15 were continued, 15 Plea Bargained, 5 forfeited Bond, 1 bench trial was held and 2 were dismissed.

Parking meters will soon be installed for the 1998 Season. 368 meters will be in operation from May 15th until September 15th, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Approximate cost of the meters was $71,608, which includes installation. First Season revenues were $66,205 (gross) and $53,392 (net) after expenditures. The meters grossed approximately $550 per day during operation, and the break even amount of 17,608 should be reached within the first 30 days of the 122 day Season.

The Department will have a new pickup truck on the beach this year. Funding for the vehicle will be from Accommodations Tax monies, and will be used to support police drowning, heart attack, etc. victims to the dune area adjacent to an emergency ramp. Drowning victims often collapse at the water's edge and emergency vehicles sometimes bog down in the soft beach sand. The victim will be put on a body board, placed in the pickup and driven to a waiting ambulance. The pickup will have 4 wheel drive, and will carry all emergency equipment normally carried by a beach vehicle.

Please keep an eye out for vandals who seem to enjoy knocking over and trashiing moby carts this time of year. Thanks for your assistance. REMEMBER TO BUCKLE UP, DRIVE SAFELY....AND GET READY FOR THE SEASON!

AROUND THE FIRE HOUSE

Good Weather Safety

Hopefully, by the time you receive this newsletter, we will be experiencing some good weather for a change. It'll be time to work in the yards, enjoy cook-outs, etc. But let's not forget safety while we're enjoying ourselves.

Burning of leaves is permitted, provided you contact the Fire Department first and follow the safety regulations. These include burning at least 500 feet away from any structure, burning construction materials, attending the fire constantly and keeping a garden hose readily available. Also, please be considerate of your neighbors who may suffer from pulmonary diseases. If any complaints are received about the fire or smoke, then the fire will have to be extinguished.

Cook-outs are fun and safe when done properly. Grills should be used only on noncombustible surfaces, and should be kept a minimum of 10 feet away from such things as fences, garage doors, etc. They should not be used at all under combustible ceilings. For those who live in condos or apartments, the use of grills above the ground floor is unsafe and illegal. While you're at it, why not go ahead and check your smoke detectors for proper operation. Although most homes now have smoke detectors, 30% of them do not work because batteries are dead or have never been replaced. Do a complete home fire safety inspection. If you need information, contact the Fire Department at 238-2314. If you need help doing the inspection, call us also.

Volunteer Membership Drive

The Surfside Beach Fire Department wishes to take this opportunity to thank the community for supporting our recent membership drive. Not only did we enlist some firefighter candidates, but we also got some good support personnel. The Department is now at full strength and is working on training those who need it and providing the community with a high level of fire protection. We appreciate all who applied to assist the community through the Fire Department. We may need you later.

1998 Hurricane Seminar

Plan now to attend the next Surfside Beach Fire Department Hurricane Preparedness Seminar. It is scheduled for June 11th. The agenda is not set as of yet, but rest assured that there will be some good information disseminated. Watch the papers for further information on this.

Professional Firefighters Association

We have gotten numerous calls lately about a group called the Grand
Strand Professional Firefighters Association. It seems that this group is raising money for various benefit programs. The public should be aware that this group is in no way, shape or form affiliated with the Town of Surfside Beach, including the Surfside Beach Fire Department. No amount of the funds raised by this group goes to the Town Surfside Beach or the Surfside Beach Fire Department.

Aluminum Cans for Burned Children
We would like to remind everyone that we have an aluminum can recycling trailer located across the street from the Fire Station on First Avenue North. All cans collected are sold and the proceeds go to the Medical University of South Carolina to assist burned children. Please help us to help them.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

BASKETBALL SEASON
The kids had another great Basketball Season conducted at St. James Middle School. Mark Neil coached his Tarheels to a League Championship in the Boys, Ages 11-13. The Heat, coached by Jeff Davis, took home the honors in the Boys, Ages 13-15.

BASEBALL SEASON
Baseball/Softball registration was held February 28, with another tremendous turnout of children Ages 9-14. Opening day is scheduled for Saturday, April 4th, however, practices begin on March 16th.

Registration for T-Ball (Ages 6-7) and 8-Ball (age 8) will be May 16th at 11:00 a.m. at Huckabee Recreation Complex.

Registration for Boys Baseball (Ages 15-18) will be May 18th at 4:00 p.m. at Huckabee Recreation Complex.

Baseball and Softball Coaches held their meeting on March 2nd in the Town Council Chambers, and Coach Certification Classes were conducted on March 11th.

A Baseball and Softball Training Station was designed and built at the Huckabee Recreation Complex.

DICK M. JOHNSON CIVIC CENTER NEWS
The Civic Center continues to hold their on-going classes of Aerobics, Seniorice, Karate, Square Dancing, Chess and Bridge, however in March, Shag lesson began each Monday from 7:30 to 9:00.

Aerobics - Lean Teen lessons each Friday from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and Musik Garten for ages 1 through 5 every Monday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. There is something for everyone, so pick your favorite and enjoy.

The Can-Am Festival was enjoyed by many of our friends from Canada from March 14 through the 22nd. A Welcome Reception was held on March 16th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Civic Center, including an Art Show. On March 19th, the 50+ softball game at the MABFB was rained out, and on Saturday, March 21st, the Youth Baseball Clinic at Coastal Carolina Stadium was held from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS
The American Red Cross sponsored a Blood Drive at the Dick M. Johnson Civic Center on Monday, March 23, 1998. Sad to say...only 14 units were collected. Nine of those units were from Town Employees. FOLKS, there is a critical shortage of blood and platelets in Horry County. Please make an effort to replenish supplies of this vital fluid by donating as soon as possible...your blood could be the "gift of life" for some unfortunate individual...maybe even a family member, friend or neighbor. Contact Red Cross Blood Services Coordinator Debbie Jackson, at 546-0624, or 1-800-731-6360, for further information.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for youth ages 10 years old and younger at the Huckabee Recreation Complex on Saturday, April 11th at 11:00 a.m.

BEACH RESTROOMS ARE NOW OPEN!

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT
March winds blew in big changes in the Department. Effective March 11th, Department Director Eddie Richardson was appointed by Town Council to assume a new position as Assistant Town Administrator. To fill Eddie's vacated position, Deputy Building Official Jackie Donevant was promoted to the position of Building Official / Code Enforcement Officer in charge of the Building and Zoning Department. Our Building and Zoning Clerk Eileen Lewis was promoted to the position of Zoning Administrator / Deputy Code Enforcement Officer. The vacated position of Clerical Assistant for the Department has been advertised and will be filled as soon as possible. Mrs. Donevant and Mrs. Lewis are well versed in Department operations so there will be no noticeable changes in the services the public has come to expect from Building and Zoning.

March also was the end of the Contractor Building Code Interpretation classes that was taught by Department Director Eddie Richardson and Deputy Building Official Jackie Donevant. The Town, at no cost to the contractors, sponsored eight three-hour classes covering every chapter in the 1997 Standard Building Code. A total of 55 contractors were enrolled in the classes and almost all stayed to the end. Almost immediately, there has been a significant upswing in the quality of construction by all the companies represented in the classes. Special thanks go out to all the contractors that stayed the course, the Surfside Beach Public Library for allowing the use of their meeting room, Pelican Building Centers for providing breaks refreshments, and last but not least, Eddie and Jackie for donating their time for instruction.

As you look around Town its plain to see that the residential building boom continues. Several new residential projects are in the works along Surfside Drive and Ocean Boulevard. Along Highway 17 North work is beginning to take shape at "Crabby Mike's" restaurant (formerly Steere's Calabash), Surfside Exxon was razed and came back as "Th' Store" and work has begun for a new Comfort Inn just above 11th Avenue North. On Highway 17 South a new shopping center is in the works, Chicora Real Estate occupied their new building, and Coastal Federal is remodeling to be bigger and better. Department personnel definitely look for another record year in permit activity.

For any Building or Zoning information or assistance please call us at 238-5531.

"FRIENDS OF THE SURFSIDE BEACH LIBRARY"
UPCOMING PROGRAMS
April 8 Monthly Book Sale from 5 to 8 PM
April 14 Bob Lang will discuss old and classic cars at 7 P.M. A 1955 Corvette will be on display in the parking lot.
May 9 A display and talk by Jack "Casey Jones" Craig will be held at 2 P.M. There will be scale model trains of all sizes.
May 12 At 10:30 A.M., Chiropractor Dr. Darrel Molland will talk and give a demonstration, using one of his associates, of Reiki Therapy.
May 13 Monthly Book Sale from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.
June 10 Monthly Book Sale from 5 P.M. to 8 P.M.
June 13 "Come Meet A Friend" Day will be held for all members. Food, fun and more.

All programs are held at the Library at 410 Surfside Drive. For more details, check the bulletin board at the Library or call 238-0122. For more information about these events or any questions regarding the Friends of the Surfside Beach Library, call Chuck or Louise Barth at 215-2062.

OCEAN BOULEVARD SIDEWALK AND BEAUTIFICATION
Inclement weather has caused delays in construction of the sidewalk replacement project on Ocean Boulevard, between 3rd Avenue North and 3rd Avenue South.
Barring more wet weather, the project should be completed this Spring. We ask your patience and cooperation until that time.
Town Council has authorized the planting of three (3) areas along Ocean Boulevard in an effort to beautify the corridor. Hopefully, the work will be completed in early Spring. The project will include piping of open ditches in some areas and planting of Palmetto trees and shrubs. This will be the first phase of what the Town hopes to accomplish in beautifying the entire length of the Boulevard.

AS WE GO TO PRESS, CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER IN THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 1998 ARE ON THE "CAMPAIGN TRAIL". CANDIDATES ARE: Incumbents, Tom Higgins, Roy Hyman, Jr., and Frankie Rogers. Mary Maruca, Phil Jones and James M. Nance, II, have also filed for the office.
CONGRATULATIONS, Gary Phillips, and thanks for the excellent job you do.

CHANGES

WELCOME ABOARD! A hearty welcome to Nancy F. Wilson, the Town’s new “Victims Advocate”, a position mandated by the State of South Carolina by its passage of The Victims Rights Bill. Nancy will assist individuals in invoking their rights as victims of crimes. She has also been named “Assistant Clerk of Court” to Tricia Wells, our present Clerk, who has added a new title to her name since being appointed as an "Associate Judge".

CONGRATULATIONS, LADIES!

TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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<td>FIRE / POLICE / RESCUE SQUAD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police / Fire (non-emergency)</td>
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<td>Jones Intercable (24 Hours)</td>
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<td>Santee Cooper Power Company (emergency)</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, Glens Bay Road</td>
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<td>238-2621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grand Strand Water &amp; Sewer Authority</td>
<td>448-1686</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, Thursdays 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

MAYOR
Dick M. Johnson

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Tom Higgins
Roy Hyman, Jr., Mayor Pro Tempore
Judith L. Lowe
P.L. Mabry
Frankie E. Rogers
Judith K. Tuttle

ADMINISTRATOR
Neil Ferguson

EDITOR
Elaine K. Cowart