FROM THE MAYOR’S DESK

Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. I hope that your Holidays were joyous and that all is well with you and yours.

As we enter this New Year, 1999, the Year 2000 quickly comes to mind... we stand at the threshold of a new Century! How exciting! The Town of Surfside Beach has much to be thankful for, and always more to accomplish. We have been very fortunate in this seaside village. Who could imagine that in thirty years we would have grown and prospered so. We have grown in population from a hamlet of 3,845 people in 1990, to some 5,000+

The Town is 83% built out, and the Building Department daily receives new plans for review. We have approximately 1,800 business license accounts, and service some 2,300 sanitation accounts. Our Building Codes are stringent, but they ensure some of the safest, storm-resistant structures on the East Coast. We want our citizens to be safe and secure, and we don't mind being chastised for expecting the "best". That is what Surfside Beach is all about... being the "Best".

We were recently voted as the "Best Neighborhood" in which to live by the Sun News "Best of the Beach" Poll; In 1994 Surfside Beach was FIRST in the nation to adopt SBCCI "Deemed to Comply Hurricane Construction Standards", and in 1993, FIRST in the state of South Carolina and SECOND in the Nation to build an "All Children's Park", where handicapped and able-bodied children can play side by side.

Looking over the past ten years, Surfside Beach has accomplished many things... after years of serious flooding problems, we adopted a Comprehensive Drainage Plan and implemented several projects to improve drainage. All Town streets were paved, and Surfside Drive, the Town’s main corridor, badly in need of a "facelift", was revitalized. Council voted to completely redo the roadway and improve the aesthetics of the area. Bradford Pear and various other trees were planted with brick pavers, to line both sides of the street. Diagonal parking was established in front of offices, stores, and restaurants. Cluster mailboxes were installed in the residential areas, along with additional streetlighting to brighten the entire area.

Town Council Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month and are regularly attended by citizens who want us to continue to be the "best". These faithful attendees actively participate in their Town government. Council and I invite each of you to join us at these meetings to offer your comments, opinions and suggestions... to become involved in what is happening in your "hometown".

Hope to see you there in 1999!

Dick M. Johnson, Mayor

PUBLIC WORKS

The old asphalt sidewalk on Ocean Boulevard has been replaced with concrete, enhancing the appearance and durability of the walk area. The Town strives to beautify the oceanfront by making the area visitor and citizen appealing. The renovation of the beaches has also succeeded in this as well as fortifying the coast from erosion.

The Street Department crew assisted in the removal and installation of a new underground fuel storage tank, mandated by DHEC. After careful study and area comparisons, it was decided to replace the old 10,000 gallon tank with a new underground tank. Other options included an above ground tank, or buying all our fuel from local distributors.

The Christmas season is upon us, and the Public Works Street Crew assisted in the preparations by supplying the bucket truck for the pruning and decorating of the tree in front of Town Hall for the Tree Lighting Service. The lighted decorations on Highway 17 and Surfside Drive were also done. Members of the Street Department were also busy securing streets for the Christmas Parade.

The 50/50 ditch piping program continues with those citizens who wish to have their ditches enclosed with pipe. Materials and labor are supplied by the Town, which saves the homeowner about half of the actual cost. If you are interested in learning more about this project, contact Jan Lewis at Town Hall at 238-2590.

The Sanitation Department recently received a new 1998 Chevrolet garbage truck. As the Town continues to grow, more garbage and debris requires the updating and replacement of equipment.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

The following officers have received special training in the following areas of law enforcement; Private First Class David Collins attended a Basic Finger Print Class offered by the FBI, as well as a Datamaster Recertification Class. PFC Gene Windsor, Pvt. Jack Parrish and Pvt. Arron Miller attended a class on the new Driving Under the Influence Law (DUI). Sgt. Rod Moore and Pvt. Dennis Dayhoff attended an Emergency Driving Training course. Ten of the Department's sworn officers have completed their annual pistol training requirements with 5 more to attend at a later date. Cpl. Chris Dematteo, PFC Ronnie Martin and Det. Wayne Stewart attended First Aid and CPR classes. Det. Kaye Long and PFC David Collins attended the CPR class. Pvt. Jack Parrish and Pvt. Arron Miller attended the First Aid Class with Pvt. Dennis Dayhoff being
certified as an Instructor in both First Aid and CPR, by the American Red Cross.

A new piece of equipment may be coming to town if Town Council can locate money in the new budget. Perhaps you may have seen one on 17 North in Myrtle Beach near AVX. What is it, you ask? Well, it's a "Radar Trailer"! How many times have you driven a vehicle and just forgot about your speed? Town speed limits are generally 30 mph unless otherwise posted. A ticket of 10 miles over the speed limit will cost you a minimum of $87 plus four points. Each point over two points on your driving record will cost you additional money on your insurance for three years. Officers often report that when they stop a motorist for speeding, they receive comments like, "I'm sorry officer, I wasn't paying attention to my speed."

Traffic citations issued by the Police Department for speeding are up and will continue to increase. In the past year, for every traffic citation issued to an out-of-state motorist, two tickets were issued to an in-state motorist. Locals use our streets more than tourists, and they tend to receive more tickets for speeding. A "Radar Trailer" would remind the errant motorist to slow down. The "Radar Trailer" could also be used to count and record the number and speed of vehicles that travel over any road that it is used on for up to 30 days.

We receive complaints from Town citizens in reference to speeding. While it would be excellent to either warn or ticket everyone that is speeding, it is not possible with the amount of police officers available, and yet something needs to be done. That is where the "Radar Trailer" can be brought into action, quietly sitting on a street advising motorists of their speed and bringing them back to reality.

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

CONGRATULATIONS!!! to our Building Official, Jackie Donevant, who is now a Certified Building Official. Jackie successfully completed and passed the nationally recognized examination sponsored by the International Code Council and the Council of American Building Officials on November 25th. The CABO/ICC Certified Building Official (C.B.O.) program is a service of the American Building Officials that has become a division of the International Code Council. The program has been established to advance the building official profession as a means of improving performance and service to the public. Since its inception in 1980, the C.B.O. credential has been widely recognized throughout the United States with over 3,000 individuals receiving certification to date. The program is administered by BOCA, ICBO and SBCI which also participate in its development. The Town of Surfside Beach is fortunate, indeed, to count Jackie among its staff.

ALTHOUGH 50% OF THE TOWN IS IN A FLOOD ZONE, you do not have to live in an identified flood hazard area to purchase a flood insurance policy. The standard homeowner's policy does not provide coverage for rising water. The term "flood" is defined as a general or temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from: (1) the overflow of inland or tidal waters; (2) the unusual or rapid accumulation or runoff of surface water from any source; or (3) mudslides caused by flooding. Brochures are available on the counter in Town Hall.

THERE STILL CONTINUES to be much new construction in Town. We recently received plans for a new medical facility on the North End of Business 17.

A REMINDER TO PROPERTY OWNERS: Permits are required for ordinary minor repairs to your residence. Fees are not always applicable. OWNERS OF RENTAL PROPERTY must hire a licensed contractor to get a permit to perform repairs on their property. Contact the Building Department if you have any questions.

ZONING: Any property owner who wishes to have trees removed from their property is required to contact our office to arrange for an inspection. After the trees have been inspected and approved for removal, a licensed contractor may obtain a permit.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARADE

The annual Surfside Beach Christmas Parade was held this year on Saturday, December 12, 1998 at 3:00 p.m. With fingers crossed and bated breath, Christmas Events Coordinator, Jan Lewis, and the parade committee prayed that the impending rain would hold off and they obviously "got it right", because the rains did not occur until later that evening. Members of the Committee included Ginger Cox, Pat Essing, Anna Marie King, Leah Rogers, Faye Crel and Cheryl Williams. We thank them for their time and efforts and for a job well done!

This year the parade, usually sponsored by the Surfside Area Business & Professional Association, was planned by the Town of Surfside Beach, with the able assistance of the South Strand Optimist Club.

This event was the largest Christmas Parade, unit wise, with some 92 entries, plus Socastee, Conway and Waccamaw High School Bands. It was a great parade, and compliments are still pouring in. Each year the event draws more spectators, and 1998 has to be the "biggest" to date.

Mayor Dick Johnson, Senator Arthur Ravenel, Jr. and Representative Tom Keegan rode in colorful convertibles and US Congressman Mark Sanford pulled his "little red wagon" along the parade route with sons Marshall, Landon and Bolton, "on board". Many thanks to Tom and Barbara Benfield of Glenmere for offering and driving Representative Tom Keegan and Senator Arthur Ravenel in their beautifully restored 1930 Model A Ford and 1964 Ford Thunderbird. Mr. Buddy Burnett, of Addy's Harbor Dodge, graciously loaned two vehicles again this year, a 1998 Chrysler Sebring, which "toted" Mayor Dick Johnson, chauffeured by Dabney Brown, and a 1997 Chrysler LeBaron. "1998 Citizen of the Year", Fire Chief Dan Thomas, as voted by the Surfside Area Business & Professional Association, rode in the Fire Chief's car, driven by Volunteer Firefighter, Bob Mills. We appreciate the generosity of these folks for letting us use their "classy" vehicles.

Our sincere thanks to all the good folks who contributed their time and talents in any way to this special Holiday tradition in Surfside Beach.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Football and Cheerleading season ended with the Falcons winning the 8, 9, 10 Year Old League, and the Bears winning the 11 and 12 Year Old League. The Falcons were brought to victory through the coaching abilities of David Rogers, and the cheerleaders by Renée Dishong. The Bears were coached by Steve Corkum, and the cheerleaders by Denise Hannah.

The tournament was won by the Jets, coached by Wayne Crawford, cheerleaders by Melissa Mills, in the 8, 9, 10 Year Old League, and the Bears again won the 11-12 Year Old Tournament.

With the beginning of Basketball Season, four teams in each age group (11 to 13 year olds, and 14 to 16 year olds) played their games at St. James Middle School.

Baseball/Softball registration for TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY is scheduled for Saturday, February 20, 1999 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Regular registration will be held for non-residents on Saturday, February 27, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. for Baseball and 2:00 p.m. for Softball. Baseball age groups are 9 to 14 years old, and softball ages are 9 to 15 years old. (Boys age as of August 1, Girls age as of June 1)

The staff of the Recreation Department attended CPR and First Aid Classes offered by the Red Cross, through the Town. Also, the Parks & Grounds Supervisor attended two 4-hour classes through SCARPA.

Special events such as Christmas and Family Festival mean preparation of the areas that will be used, such as lawns, fields, etc. The Recreation Department sees that the lawns are prepared for these events, that bleachers are in place, and that fire ants are not going to be unwanted guests at the festivities. Even when special activities
are not planned improvements and repairs are made to these areas as well as parks and playing fields. Flowers and shrubs are planted, weeds are controlled and new equipment is ordered and installed so that Surfside Beach can offer the latest, well-maintained facilities.

**DICK M. JOHNSON CIVIC CENTER**

There are several new programs being held at the Civic Center along with a new Programs Supervisor. Hopefully, everyone has had the opportunity to meet Ginger Cox, who began her position in October, joining the Town from the City of Isle of Palms, SC. The present classes consist of Aerobics, Seniorercise, Karate, Little Musicians, Bridge, Canasta, Square Dancing & Round Dance. New classes that will be offered beginning in January, 1999 are Yoga on Thursdays from 7:00-8:15 p.m., Step Aerobics on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. and Tumbling, day and time to be announced. We hope to see plenty of participants!

The Family Festival, held the first Saturday in October, was a huge success again this year. The Festival entertained over 9,000 people with arts & crafts, wonderful food and live musical entertainment. The special events kicked off in December with the annual Surfside Beach Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 3 at 7:00 p.m. The Lakewood Elementary Choir, directed by Diane Hart, and Seaside Elementary Choir, directed by Ruth VanSeiver, added beauty to the season with their voices along with Dena Joyce from the Eddie Miles Theatre. The first annual Breakfast with Santa, held December 6, delighted many happy faces as they waited in line to tell Santa their wishes. Doughnuts and bagels were donated by Winn Dixie in Garden City and Benjamin's Bagels on Hwy. 17. Santa Claus received calls from children on December 7th & 8th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Yoga at the Beach, instructed by Lisa Rosof, held an Open House at the Civic Center on December 7th from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Many new faces surfaced, and we hope to add this relaxation stress reducing class to our ongoing programs. The Holiday Salute is the most traveled time of the year, and therefore the most critical time of the year for a blood supply shortage. The Civic Center sponsored an American Red Cross Blood Drive on December 15th with anticipated hope of an abundance of donors.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

The American Red Cross will hold a Babysitting Course on Saturday, January 23rd from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Civic Center to teach and certify teenagers on the correct criteria for babysitting. The Civic Center will be planning a Valentine Party for the children of Surfside Beach in February with plenty of goodies for everyone. It is that time of the year again to celebrate with our friends from Canada at the 38th annual Can-Am Days Festival from March 13-21. A Welcome Reception will be held at the Civic Center on March 15 along with the Art Exhibit. On March 17, the 50's Plus Softball Game will be played and a Youth Softball Clinic will be held on March 20th at H. Blue Huckabee Recreation Complex.

**AROUND THE FIREHOUSE**

**LET'S RETIRE FIRE**

The facts speak for themselves: Americans over the age of 65 are one of the groups at greatest risk of dying in a fire. Every year more than 1,000 Americans over age 65 die in fires. People over the age of 80 die in fires at a rate three times higher than the rest of the population. Why? There are a number of reasons. They may be on medication that affects their ability to make quick decisions. Many older people live alone and when accidents happen others may not be around to help.

- **What fire hazards affect older people?**
  - Cooking accidents are the leading cause of fire related injuries for older Americans. The kitchen is one of the most active and potentially dangerous rooms in the home.
  - The unsafe use of smoking materials is the leading cause of deaths among older Americans.
  - Heating equipment is responsible for a big share of fires in seniors' homes. Extra care should be used with alternate heaters such as wood stoves or electric space heaters.
  - Faulty wiring is another major cause of fires affecting the elderly.

**Safety Tips**

- **Kitchen fires.** Most kitchen fires occur because food is left unattended on the stove or in the oven. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, turn off the burners and take a spoon or potholder with you to remind you to return to the kitchen. Never cook with loose, dangling sleeves. Never throw water on a grease fire. Turn pot handles toward the side of the range and never use a range or stove to heat your home.
- **Space heaters.** Buy only UL approved heaters. Burning fuel can produce deadly fumes; only use them in well-ventilated areas. Do not use electric space heaters in the bathroom or in wet areas. Do not dry or store objects on top of your heater. Keep combustibles away from heat sources.
- **Wiring.** Regularly inspect extension cords for fraying. They are not intended for use as permanent wiring. Unplug them when not in use. Never run electric cords under rugs.
- **Smoking.** Do not leave smoking materials unattended. Do not place ashtrays on arms of sofas or chairs. Use safety ashtrays with wide lips. Never smoke in bed.
- **Having a working smoke detector dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire.**

**OPEN BURNING**

Who doesn't enjoy the smell of leaves burning after a hard day of raking yards? It is a time-honored tradition enjoyed by many. However, before you burn, perhaps you should think about the effect it will have on your neighbors. Are you endangering others property by burning your trash? Are your ashes blowing into your neighbor's yard and onto their belongings? What about your smoke? Unfortunately, we have many citizens with chronic lung diseases. Their lung capacities are already greatly diminished. To them, smoke or even the odor of smoke, is like a noose around the neck that leaves them gasping for air.

There are alternatives to burning your leaves. Shredded, they make great mulch for your flower and vegetable gardens. If bagged and put at the curb, the Town will pick them up and dispose of them for you.

**If you must burn, the burning law is as follows:**

- A permit is required. This can be obtained by calling the Fire Department at 238-2314. If all requirements are met, a permit will be issued over the telephone.
- The fire must be located at least 50 feet from any structure and provision must be made to prevent the fire from spreading within 50 feet of any structure.
- A competent person must constantly attend the fire until it is extinguished. This person must have a garden hose connected to a water supply readily available for use.
- Fires may be prohibited when atmospheric or local circumstances make such fires hazardous.

**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

**WANTED: A few strong people.**

Are you a high school or college student interested in helping out your community library? Can you volunteer for an hour or two once a month? Friends of Surfside Beach Library could use some help in setting up and putting away items for our monthly Book Sale. It is on the second Wednesday of each month. Set up around 1 p.m. and putting away around 7 p.m.

Sound like something you might be interested in volunteering to do? Please come by the Library or call 238-0122, leave your name and phone number and someone will get back to you. We would really appreciate the help, and you would feel good about helping out right here in your own community.
Along with our monthly Book Sale we have many different programs scheduled over the next few months. They include Antique Appraisals, 3rd Annual Talking About Food, Self Defense, Water Gardens, and many more. Check the bulletin board in the Library for additional information including dates and time.

See you at the Library.

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER
WINTER 1998

Congratulations to PFC J. David Collins, a member of the Surfside Beach Police Department, chosen by Department Heads as the "Employee of the Quarter - Winter 1998". David has been employed by the Town since July 1996, and is well thought of by his fellow officers and employees. He came to us from the Society Hill Police Department and is well known for his attention to detail and excellent reporting techniques. He was also "Employee of the Quarter - Fall 1997". He received an Employee of the Quarter plaque and a $100 savings bond as a reward for his outstanding service. David and his family reside in Surfside Beach.

J. David Collins, Employee of the Quarter
Winter 1998

TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE / POLICE / RESCUE SQUAD</td>
<td>911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police / Fire (non-emergency)</td>
<td>238-2314 / 238-2621 / 238-2811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Warner Cable (Trouble Call Line)</td>
<td>651-6699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santee Cooper Power Company (emergency)</td>
<td>448-3070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanitation / Public Works</td>
<td>238-551</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>238-2590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Complex, Glens Bay Road</td>
<td>650-4131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAX</td>
<td>238-5432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Control</td>
<td>238-2621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Strand Water &amp; Sewer Authority</td>
<td>448-1686</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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, 10:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.m. Wednesdays
Clean City / Beautification Committee, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 10:00 a.m. or 5:00 p.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.