Dear Citizens:

The Town of Surfside Beach welcomes the New Year! During the next few months we’ll celebrate Valentine’s Day (don’t forget your sweetheart), St. Patrick’s Day, Canadian-American Days and Easter. Can-Am Days are March 11th through 19th. Surfside Beach will participate in the fun and festivities along with the rest of the Grand Strand. The Town sponsors “Super Sunday” which includes a volleyball tournament on the beach and several other family oriented activities. The 50’s Plus Club sponsors a dinner and the annual Canadian versus American Softball Tournament. You may call the Recreation Department (650-4131) for information on these or any events.

I’m pleased to announce that a new Town Clerk has been appointed. Debra Eaddy Herrmann began duties on November 4th, 1999. Debra and her daughter, Jennifer, are life-long residents of Surfside Beach. Debra graduated from Socastee High School and attended Horry Georgetown Technical College. She majored in English at Montgomery College in Takoma Park, MD. Her background is legal, mortgage lending and banking. Debra also worked for the City of Myrtle Beach in the Mayor’s office in what she calls her “first real job.” Debra says, “It’s exciting to work as an employee to help make my home, Surfside Beach, the BEST!”

I encourage you to attend the regularly scheduled Council Meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. You are invited to share your thoughts with Council. Council can be more effective when it hears from you, the citizens, about issues that concern you. Every meeting has time allotted for “Public Comments.” If there’s something on your mind, we’d love to hear about it!

General Elections will be held on April 4th, 2000. At that time you will be voting on three council seats and mayor. If you haven’t registered to vote, I encourage you to do so. Your “one vote” does make a difference. You may register to vote by contacting the Horry County Voter Registration at 626-1382. You may register any time before March 3rd to be eligible to vote on April 4th.

This will be my last message to you as Mayor of Surfside Beach. At the end of this term, I will have served 13 1/2 years as Mayor in addition to serving five years on Town Council. I want to personally thank you, the citizens, for the privilege and honor of representing you during this time. Thank you for the support and cooperation that I received from you. It was a difficult decision for me not to run again; however, I look forward to spending more time with my lovely wife, Anna, traveling, and visiting my family and friends.

God bless each of you.

Sincerely Yours,
Dick M. Johnson
Mayor

PUBLIC WORKS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Vehicle Maintenance Division has been busy preparing the Town’s fleet by checking anti-freeze and winterizing the vehicles. The two-man crew in Vehicle Maintenance maintains all of the vehicles used by the Town. This division keeps vehicles for the Fire, Police, Sanitation, Recreation and Street Departments in top running order at all times. When a vehicle is inoperable, the down time can make an impact on whether the Sanitation Department keeps its schedule, a police car fails to perform when necessary, or a
fire truck is ready to roll at the next emergency. The Division did an exceptional job working to keep the emergency vehicles prepared for service during hurricane season. This crew has taken advantage of new and informative educational training sources regarding safety and modern techniques so they will be ready to handle situations efficiently and quickly.

Vehicle Maintenance, assisted by the Street Department, has removed some 324 parking meters throughout the Town’s parking lots for winter storage.

Computer software to update all areas of Maintenance Operations was researched and a request was presented for consideration in next year’s budget at the recent Budget Retreat.

STREET DEPARTMENT

This eight-man team has been very busy this season preparing the Town for your winter enjoyment as well as for our fall tourists. They have hauled debris left by the hurricanes, repaired potholes, replaced several dozen stop signs that were damaged during the storms, and have mulched flower beds and trimmed trees. The beach continues to be maintained on a regular weekly basis. They also increased the mosquito spraying this season to combat the increased influx of mosquitoes brought by Hurricanes Floyd and Irene.

The 50/50 Ditch Pipe Program got off to a slower start this year because of the hurricanes, but it continues working with those citizens who wish to have their ditches enclosed with pipe. Briefly, the 50/50 program involves the property owner paying for the cost of materials to fill in a ditch and the Town provides labor. This saves the homeowner approximately 50% of the actual cost. If you would like to know more about this program, please call Jan Lewis at Town Hall, 913-6111.

During the Christmas season, the Public Works street crew assisted in preparations for the Christmas Tree Lighting, hanging lights and decorations throughout the Town, and the Christmas Parade. They also helped the Recreation Department dismantle the old playground equipment at Fuller Park so the new modern equipment could be erected.

SANITATION DEPARTMENT

The Sanitation Department completed a very active summer that consisted of additional pick-ups weekly and on weekends. Moby carts should be curbside by 6:00 a.m. and put away by 11:00 p.m. on pick-up days. We should reiterate that there might be times your Moby Cart is not emptied. Only household garbage that is not recyclable should be placed in the carts. Other items such as empty paint cans and other non-garbage debris will not be emptied. These items should be disposed of in accordance with the Town’s Ordinances. If you have questions regarding acceptable disposal or need bagged yard debris or other debris, i.e. empty paint cans, mattresses, appliances, etc., picked up, please call Town Hall @ 913-6111. You will be advised of the pick-up day when you call. The debris should be placed at roadside the evening before as the crew begins pick up as early as 6:00 a.m.

Due to increased growth, especially on the Southside, the Department is extending the North side route (Monday pickup) to 3rd Avenue South starting February 2000. Residents South of Surfside Drive to 3rd Avenue South will have their carts collected on Monday instead of Tuesday. This change is being implemented before the summer season so everyone can become acclimated to the new schedule. Thank you all for your cooperation.

COLLECTION DAYS

Monday - North End of Town to 3rd Avenue South - Household Garbage
Tuesday - South End of Town - Household Garbage
Wednesday - Yard and Brush Debris
Thursday - North End Recyclables
Thursday - ENTIRE TOWN - Other Debris
Friday - South End Recyclables

BUILDING/ZONING

The Building and Zoning Department continues to issue new construction building permits for both residential and commercial projects. The shops adjacent to the Bi-Lo Supermarket now contain a liquor store and a bank. There are plans for a Japanese restaurant. An ATM machine has also been added in the parking area. An addition to the office building at the corner of Surfside Drive and Highway 17 is underway and five commercial buildings are being constructed at 780 Highway 17 South.

We remind property owners that if you need to use a contractor, please make sure they have a Town Business License and a Permit from the Building Department. The Building Department verifies that the contractor is properly licensed and/or registered by the State of South Carolina and has current general liability insurance. DO NOT give any up-front money to your contractor. You also should make sure the work has had a final inspection and has been approved by the Building Department before you make the final payment. As always, the Building Department is available if you have any questions about contractors, permits, property setbacks or zoning. Don’t hesitate to call us at 913-6365.

SIGNS OF ANY TYPE ARE PROHIBITED from being placed or posted within the streets or rights-of-way according to the Town Ordinance. This includes, but is not limited to: Advertising, For Sale/Lease/Rent, and Political Campaign signs.

A reminder to business owners...if your business is having a special event and you plan to advertise with banners or portable signs or you will be erecting a tent, a Zoning Compliance Permit is required. You may obtain a permit from the Building Department Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.
POLICE DEPARTMENT

As most of you know, the Police Department has gone through some rough times in the past few months; but, feel that now we are heading in the right direction. I would like to thank all of the officers and staff for their cooperation and hard work. Everyone in the Police Department has been working as a team to provide the best service to the Town.

I am pleased to announce the following promotions: Private First Class Ronnie Martin promoted to Corporal; Patrol Officer Stephen Homitz promoted to Corporal; Officers Arron Miller and Tony Huff promoted to Private First Class. Officer Dennis Dayhoff has transferred to the Detective Division. There are several new officers that have joined our Department: Robert Trusty, James Jerdon, Jason Conley, Franklin Skee McAllister, and Freddy Curry.

The Police Department has implemented an information center in its lobby. The Department feels this is more inviting to the general public who enter our facility for assistance. It will provide good exposure for the Crime Watch Program in Surfside Beach. Volunteers are needed to "man" the information center. Please call 913-6368 to volunteer your services or to ask any questions you have regarding the Police Department or the Crime Watch Program.

The Police Department appreciates everything the Crime Watch provides for it and the Citizens of Surfside Beach. Keep up the good work!

AROUND THE FIREHOUSE

LET'S RETIRE FIRE. The facts speak for themselves: 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 less able to take the quick action necessary in a fire emergency. They may be on medication that affects their ability to make quick decisions. Many older people live alone; 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 unsafe use of smoking materials is the leading cause of deaths. Heating equipment, including alternative heating, is responsible for a big share of fires. 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 and use them in well-ventilated areas. Burning fuel can produce deadly fumes. Use carbon-monoxide detectors. 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: Extension cords 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 rims. Never smoke in bed.
- Having a working smoke detector dramatically increases your chances of surviving a fire.

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.

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.

HURRICANE SEASON ENDS. The 1999 Hurricane Season ended on November 30th and it looks like we’ve made it through another season relatively unscathed. Hurricanes Irene and Floyd came close but still managed to miss us. Floyd actually dumped 17 inches of rain on Surfside Beach.

These storms provided another "drill" for the Town of Surfside Beach and it’s Emergency Operation Plan. Our primary goals are to protect the citizens, to provide continuity of our government and to protect the Town’s resources. All departments have developed their own plans, which are included in the Town’s over-all plan. We’re striving to be prepared for the one we all hope never comes.

Please don’t get too complacent with our incredible luck. Any of these hurricanes could just as easily have come right through Surfside Beach. Ask those who have lived through it, even a minor hurricane passing directly overhead is not something you want to experience. If you have questions about Emergency Preparedness, call Town Hall.

FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT. In every newsletter, you see some mention of the need for volunteer firefighters. If it were not for the Volunteers, it would cost approximately one million dollars MORE per year to provide adequate fire protection for the Town. We begin a new recruitment drive in January 2000. We need to gain at least 10 volunteer firefighters from this recruitment drive. If we can’t maintain adequate volunteers to meet the Town’s needs, then we will have to meet them with career personnel and the cost of fire protection will drastically rise. If you are interested in being a volunteer firefighter or know of someone who is, please call us at 913-6369. All training and equipment is provided.
DICK M. JOHNSON CIVIC CENTER

The Town of Surfside Beach has been very busy the last few months of the year. The Town was decorated from head to toe in Christmas lights and we do hope everyone enjoyed the “new look” of Town Hall this season! The Civic Center was filled with children for our 2nd Annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, December 4th. The new Surfside Beach Piggly Wiggly was nice enough to donate bagels and we had plenty of other goodies for the children. The Christmas Parade was a success as well. “Legends in Concert” with Elvis, Dolly Parton, Johnny Mathis, Diana Ross and the Blues Brothers headed up the parade as our Grand Marshall. We do appreciate everyone that came out to support the Town and cheer on the participants in the Christmas Parade. Children were given a second chance to talk with Santa by calling Town Hall for Santa’s Hotline. It is always fun for the children to tell Santa Claus their last minute wishes.

The Civic Center has been busy planning new activities for children and adults. Tennis lessons began in November on the new courts at Fuller Park on Surfside Drive. Lessons are given on Tuesdays from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m., depending on your age. Yoga classes also began in November on Fridays from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. The classes will change to Mondays in January, but the time will remain the same. The interest and popularity in Yoga is growing. Yoga is a great way to relax and unwind. Oil Painting, Tumbling for Tots, Kickboxing and Wonderful Worlds of Music will begin in the New Year! We still have our on-going programs of Aerobics, Seniorise, Karate, Square Dancing and more.

The Town always welcomes the “Snow Birds” joining us in the fall and winter months. The Town will be hosting a Welcome Reception for Can-Am Days in March along with the dinner and softball tournament coordinated by the 50’s Plus Group. Everyone is welcome to participate in Bridge and Canasta that is enjoyed at the Civic Center, call for details.

Please remember the American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at the Civic Center March 29th from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. Also the American Red Cross Babysitting Courses will begin again in the New Year.

All activities and programs are open to the public. You do not have to be a resident to enjoy all that we have to offer. The Neighbors Section in The Sun News every Thursday will inform you as to what is being offered at the Civic Center. If you have any question, please call 913-6339. Thank you again for your support of the Programs and Recreation in the Town of Surfside Beach.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

ATHLETICS

The regular season for football and cheerleading ended on November 9th. This year’s winners are: Small Fry League (8,9,10): Surfside Beach Falcons, Coach David Rogers, and Falcon cheerleaders, Coach Donna Galberg. Mite League (11-12): Surfside Beach Bears, Coach Steve Corcum, and Bears cheerleaders, Coach Melissa Mills. The football/cheerleading tournament was held November 15th through the 18th. Winners were: Small Fry League (8,9,10), Surfside Beach Jets, Coach Wayne Crawford, and Jets Cheerleaders, Coach Ginny Fields. The Mite League was again won by the Surfside Beach Bears.

Basketball registration was held in November. We have four teams in the 11-13 age group and three teams in the 14-16 age group. Basketball practice, which is held at St. James Middle School, started on November 29th.

Surfside Beach Resident’s Baseball/Softball registration will be held on Saturday, February 26th. Non-resident registration will be held on Saturday, March 4th. Registration for BASEBALL is 9:00 a.m. and SOFTBALL at 1:00 p.m. Ages for baseball are 9-14 and softball ages 9-15.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Recreation Department staff assisted in the preparations for the Family Festival. Christmas Tree Lighting, Breakfast with Santa, and the Christmas Parade. Christmas wreaths were hung, the Town Christmas Tree, buildings and shrubbery at Town Hall were decorated with lights for the Christmas season. Decorations were also installed on the lightpoles on Highway 17 and Surfside Drive. Red bows and garland enhanced the first block of Surfside Drive.

PARKS

The public restrooms were closed for the winter at all facilities except at Fuller Park.

Fuller Park underwent a major redevelopment that included re-sodding and new fencing around the entire park. New tennis courts were also built. Forty tons of sand and thirty tons of topsoil were brought in. The play area was enlarged and new playground equipment installed. Old shrubs and Pampas grass were removed and replaced with Crepe Myrtles, Indian Hawthorn and Leriope. All existing plant beds were reworked with hardwood mulch that is longer lasting and more attractive. Two tractor-trailer loads of hardwood chips were also put down at All Children’s Park and new playground equipment installed in the exercise park.

Thank you to the Public Works and Sanitation Departments for all the help with the Recreation Department redevelopment programs.
EMPLOYEE AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER, WINTER 1999:

ARRON B. MILLER

Arron started his career as a Police Officer for Surfside Beach Police Department on March 20, 1998. Before coming here he had been employed by Ocean Lakes Security for approximately three years. Arron assists with field training of new officers and takes care of monthly accident reports. In addition to his patrol duties, Arron works in the Detective Division part time. Arron was promoted to Private First Class on November 15, 1999. He lives in Myrtle Beach with his wife, Jenny, whom he married July 24th of this year, and their new puppy, Jack. We are very proud to have Arron as a member of our Department.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 1999:

DEBBIE ELLIS

In 1995, Debbie Ellis began working for the Surfside Beach Recreation Department as a part-time employee. In April of 1998, Debbie was hired full-time as Recreation Aide working in Athletics. Even though this is a challenging and sometimes demanding area of the Rec. Department, she finds time to assist the Parks and Grounds Division Crew. Debbie also helps with the special seasonal events for the Town such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Sun Fun Volleyball, Family Festival, and Christmas Programs. During a hurricane, you will find Debbie preparing meals for everyone. Debbie’s loyalty, support and dedication have helped make the Recreation Department a successful division of the Town and we are proud to recognize her as “Employee of the Year”.

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR 1999:

KAYE F. LONG

The Surfside Beach Police Department hired Kaye in April 1988 as a dispatcher. In October, 1988, she was promoted to Patrol Officer; to Private First Class in September 1990; and to Corporal in January 1992. In January 1996, she transferred as a Detective to the Detective Division. She sewed on Sergeant stripes in April 1999. Kaye began duties as Acting Chief in October of this year. In Kaye’s time off she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, Shauna and Ashley, working outdoors and coaching her son at the go-cart races. She lives in Murrells Inlet with her husband, Richard. They have been married 32 years. Kaye has done a superb job of bringing together a department from the worst of circumstances. She has met the challenge of stepping in as Acting Chief of Police and demonstrated leadership, discernment, and caring necessary to bring a group of employees to forma group of dedicated, professional police officers. Sgt. Kay F. Long has earned our admiration and respect. It is with great pleasure that the Town names her “Supervisor of the Year”.
TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FIRE / POLICE / RESCUE SQUAD.................911  
Police / Fire (non-emergency).................913-6368 / 913-6369  
Time Warner Cable (Trouble Call Line)........651-6699  
Santee Cooper Power Company (Emergency).....448-3070  
Sanitation / Public Works.....................913-6360  
  Town Hall...........................................913-6111  
  Recreation Complex, Glens 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 pm  
• Planning and Zoning Commission, 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3:00 pm  
• Zoning Board of Appeals, 1st Thursday of each month, 2:00 pm  
  • Municipal Court, 5:00 pm Wednesdays  

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.

DEAR HERMANN

EDITOR

MICHAEL K. MILLER
ADMINISTRATOR

JUDITH L. JOHNSON

COUNCIL MEMBERS

DICK E. JOHNSON

MAYOR

SURFSIDE BEACH, SC 29575

TOWN HALL

115 US HIGHWAY 17 NORTH

TOWN OF SURFSIDE BEACH

PERMIT NO. 123
MYRTLE BEACH, SC
PAID
US POSTAGE
PRESPORATED STANDARD