Dear Citizens of Surfside Beach:

Hopefully you are having a wonderful Surfside Summer thus far and are taking time to enjoy vacationing along with family and friends.

By the time you read this, the medians on Highway 17 throughout Town should be in a somewhat improved condition. Road resurfacing this spring left the areas strewn with pieces of broken pavement and debris, and most of all, "unmovable". We have been dismayed by their ragged appearance, but until the project was finished, we were powerless to do anything, for as you may or may not know, this corridor is a Federal Highway. The South Carolina Department of Transportation contracted with a company to do the work and has assured us that the medians will be restored to their original state.

In our efforts to provide the best in public service and safety for our citizens, the Town will be taking delivery later this year of a brand new Kovatch Motor Equipment Company 1,500 gallon per minute Fire Rescue Pumper Truck. Built to our specifications, this vehicle will not only be used in firefighting activities, it is also equipped to assist with vehicle accident extractions. Also, Public Works has added two (2) new units to their rolling stock. Earlier this year we acquired a 1999 MACK MR 688 Front End Loader for commercial collections in the Sanitation Department. The purchase was approved by Council in the previous year's budget, but because of shortages, it was on back order. Their latest acquisition is a New Holland 555E Backhoe, approved by Council at the 1998 Budget Retreat. This piece of equipment will enhance the Streets/Maintenance Department's capabilities in cleaning maintenance of Town drainage ways, pipe installation, street maintenance, and loading and hauling of materials.

Do come and join us at Council Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Dick M. Johnson
Mayor

PUBLIC WORKS

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The two-man crew of this Division maintains all of the vehicles used by the Town. This is an important area of work in that all departments, including Fire, Police, Sanitation, etc., need to be in top running order at all times. The down time of one vehicle can make an impact on whether moby carts are emptied on time, a police car fails to perform when necessary, or a fire truck is ready to roll on the next emergency. The two employees handling this area take advantage of new and modern techniques and education made available to them so as to be able to handle most situations that occur.

This Department, assisted by the Street Department team, has positioned some 324 parking meters throughout the Town's parking lots for the busy summer season.

STREET DEPARTMENT DIVISION

The eight-man team has been very busy this season preparing the Town for your Summer pleasure, as well as our tourists, by cutting grass and clearing debris, repairing pot holes, watering new landscaping, and maintaining the beach.

The Department has finished a successful spraying of the area lakes with an algacide for algae formation which forms at the time the trees come alive with leaves and flowers begin to bloom.

The 50/50 ditch piping program will not resume again until the fall/winter season for those citizens who wish to have their ditches enclosed with pipe. Briefly, materials are paid for by the property owner, and labor is supplied by the Town, saving 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.

Mosquito spraying is ready to begin. Each street within the Town limits will be sprayed. This is carried out twice weekly during the early morning hours while you are sleeping. If you have any comments or suggestions, you are welcome to call.

An additional 50 palm trees, Indian Hawthorne and mulching have been added along the Boulevard's beautification test block as part of a project for the season.
SANITATION DIVISION

This Department begins long days and long weeks in all kinds of weather in order to accomplish all of the "extras" that are necessary during the Summer months.

Along with their weekly residential and commercial routes, litter crews are working on beach collection, Highway 17 North and South, Ocean Boulevard North and South, and all parking lots weekly.

At times your moby cart may not be emptied. This may be due to what is found in it. Only household garbage that is not recyclable should be placed in the cart. Other items such as paint cans, rocks and other non-garbage debris will not be emptied. This should be disposed of in accordance with Town ordinances. If you have any questions regarding acceptable disposal, please contact Town Hall. Remember, if you have bagged yard debris to be picked up on Wednesday, or other items such as metal, etc., to be picked up on Thursday, you must call Town Hall to inform them of the items and your address. This helps to keep curbside free of litter.

During the Spring months the Sanitation crew collected over 439 tons of garbage waste and over 90 tons of yard debris. Over 58 tons of recyclables were collected.

In the event a truck is down or someone is unable to work due to illness, the Sanitation collection schedule may be interrupted. The Department appreciates your patience when this occurs. We are constantly working hard to stay on schedule and to provide quality service to the residents and visitors of the Town of Surfside Beach.

ADMINISTRATION

Recently the Department welcomed a new member to the "Team", Administrative Assistant for Public Works, Brenda Alverson. As such, her responsibilities include providing office support for the Director, as well as Maintenance, Sanitation and Streets/Drainage Supervisors. The Department is striving to establish effective programs to organize and record the maintenance of all public works vehicles and equipment. This new position will relieve staff of much paperwork and allow them to devote full attention to the needs of the Town and its citizens.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

As Chief, I often get asked questions about the operation of golf carts. Questions like "how to get a permit", "who can operate it" and about insurance needs, etc. For those of you who are interested in this law, it is as follows:

Section 56-3-115: Golf cart on highway or street.

The owner of a vehicle commonly known as a golf cart, if he has a valid driver's license, may obtain a permit from the Department of Motor Vehicles upon payment of a fee of five dollars and proof of financial responsibility which permits him to operate the golf cart on secondary highway or street within two miles of his residence during daylight hours only.

Now that that is said, what does it mean?

- Only the registered owner can operate it. If you are not the registered owner(s) you are in violation.
- You must have a valid driver's license.
- You must obtain a permit for $5 from the Highway Department before you operate the golf cart. Further, you must display the permit on the left front fender in front of the driver. (Highway Department regulations)
- You must have the golf cart insured.
- You must travel only on secondary roads; you may cross over a major highway (from one side to the other) but you may not travel (drive) along the highway. (Ocean Boulevard is a major highway.)
- You must travel no more than 2 miles from your residence.
- You must travel during daylight hours only.

The Police Department often observes juveniles operating these golf carts during late night hours. The carts are becoming a problem in that they are often not locked up at night and they are stolen by joy riders. This occurs mostly during the summer months. The Police Department will be paying close attention to the law again this year, and hopefully with the above knowledge you will be in full compliance with the law.

DUCKS

The Police Department is working on replacing the 16 ducks that were struck and killed by a reckless driver near 5th Ave. N. and Dogwood. A concerned citizen is donating 16 ducks after they can be left on their own. This particular citizen does not live in Town, but he stated that he wanted to help repair the damage done by the reckless driver.

RADAR TRAILER

Perhaps you have seen the new Radar Trailer that has been displayed around Town. This Radar Trailer has been lent to the Department on a temporary basis. We will be using the unit as a demonstration model for a few days, and hopefully, in the next several weeks the Department will purchase a unit for permanent use around Town. A schedule will be set up so that the unit will be available for use in those areas that have high complaints of speeding. Those drivers that operate their vehicles and are not thinking about their speed will have a friendly reminder by way of the Radar Trailer to slow down. There will be times that an officer will be stationed using a hand held radar unit to issue real tickets several blocks from the Radar Trailer just to insure that the drivers continue to slow down.

POLICE REORGANIZATION PLAN

Under the new Police Department Reorganization Plan, Det. Kaye Long has been promoted to uniformed Sergeant.
Mary Marguerite Higgins
*AVE, ATQUE, VALE, Dear Friend*

Our heartfelt sympathy to Councilman Tom Higgins and family on the loss of his wife, Marguerite, who passed away on Sunday, May 30, 1999.

*Hail and Farewell

She has been assigned to administrative duties as well as working in uniformed patrol. Several other positions will be forthcoming that will strengthen the chain of command.

BIKE WEEK

During the Memorial Day bike week, 83 traffic tickets were issued. The breakdown for those that are interested is as follows: Speeding - 56 tickets; Other Moving Violations - 10 (i.e., failing to maintain proper lane, etc.); DUI - 1; Non-Moving Violations - 9 (i.e. Parking); Handicap - 6; and Drugs - 1. Other than the tickets issued, the weekend was uneventful.

TELEPHONES

A new telephone system will be installed in the Police Department within the next several weeks. This will allow the Department more outside telephone lines into the station. I have had several complaints that our outside business line is often busy, and the new system will correct this problem. Please bear with us until the new system is installed.

Please "BUCKLE UP" and have a wonderful Summer!!!

BUILDING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT

The Building and Zoning Department has experienced a very active Spring with the issuance of 184 permits for new construction and renovations. We have also seen the completion of a new Comfort Inn at 1201 Highway 17 North, Piggly Wiggly at 122 Highway 17 North, and Primary Medical & Ocean Lakes Pharmacy on 15th Avenue North and Business 17. The Bi-Lo supermarket at the end of Melody Lane and Business 17 is planning to open sometime during the Summer.

As you know, we are in the beginning of what is predicted to be a very active Hurricane Season. We ask that you plan early to take the necessary precautions to protect your home and property. If you are planning to have any trees cut and removed from your property, please call the Building Department to inquire about the requirements for having trees cut and removed. 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 238-5531.

The Town of Surfside Beach code prohibits ANY TYPE OF SIGN from being placed or posted within the street or right-of-ways. This includes, but is not limited to: Advertising For Sale/Lease/Rent and political signs. Posting signs on utility poles may seem harmless enough. Actually, it's not as harmless as it sounds. Besides being an eyesore that people might not appreciate, it also endangers utility workers who may be injured by tacks, nails or staples. Because of the danger involved, posting signs on utility poles may be against both State law and Town code, and violators could be fined. Do your neighborhood a favor and remove any signs which clutter utility poles.

A Reminder to Business Owners: If your business is having a special event and you plan to advertise with banners, portable signs or use a tent, a Zoning Compliance Permit is required. This can be done Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and noon.

AROUND THE FIREHOUSE

HURRICANE SEASON

June marks the beginning of yet another Hurricane Season. And by the predictions, it will be a busy one. But remember, it only takes one hurricane striking us to be a "bad season". Make your plans and preparations now to deal with a storm. Determine NOW where you will go when the time comes to evacuate.

Plan now and prepare to safeguard your property. Determine what tasks you will need to complete and materials and supplies you will need and stock up with them. Make a list of what you will need when you evacuate, including food, clothing, cash, medicine, and important papers. Make sure your homeowner's insurance is up to date.

Finally, don't be too hard on the weather forecasters and emergency officials. They're all doing the best job possible with the technology and information available. Why try to second-guess them?

By the time you read this article, we will have already had the annual Hurricane Seminar. It was held on June 10 at Socastee High School as the seminar has outgrown the other locations. If you did not attend, you missed presentations by Jerry Jarrell, Director of the National Hurricane Center, Robbie Hood of NASA, and Stu Ostro of the Weather Channel. If you were not able to be there and have questions about emergency preparedness, give us a call at 238-2314.

CURIOSITY AND THE CAT

Not long ago the Fire Department was working a vehicle accident with injuries. Fire, Police and EMS vehicles were all on the scene and had their emergency lights operating. While we were trying to aid a victim into the ambulance, a citizen drove around, stopped traffic and attempted to drive right through the middle of the accident scene, endangering the victim, the emergency workers, himself and other motorists. You see, he was in a hurry. He needed to deliver a pizza.

As it goes, Surfside Beach is a relatively quiet place. So it's only natural for people to be curious when a fire, vehicle accident or any other emergency occurs and to try to get in closer for a better look. However, your curiosity could delay the arrival of needed emergency equipment and take personnel away from handling the emergency to deal with crowd and/or traffic control. And worst yet, you may be involved in an accident yourself because your attention is distracted by the emergency. Please do everything reasonable to avoid going
by or through an emergency scene.

FIRE LANES

Fire lanes are so marked because they are reserved for emergency vehicles performing EMERGENCY DUTIES. They are NOT reserved parking spaces for those SPECIAL people who think that laws don't apply to them. Fines for parking in a Fire Lane can be as high as $500.

FIREFIGHTERS NEEDED

As usual, the Fire Department has a need for Volunteer Firefighters. If you are in reasonable health and physical condition, please consider serving your community in this capacity. No experience is necessary. The Department furnishes all training and equipment. If you are interested, please stop by or call 238-2314.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Opening Day for Baseball and Softball was held on Saturday, April 10, 1999 with a great turnout. The first baseball and softball were thrown out by Mayor Dick Johnson to start the season. Regular season games began on April 12 with 15 teams in baseball and 8 teams in softball. The Minor League (ages 9-11) finished the baseball season on May 31st with the "Pirates", coached by Kevin Murray, winning the league. The Belles League (ages 13-15) finished their softball season on June 1st with the "Hornets", coached by Eric Sanford, winning the league. The Recreation Department strives to provide outstanding quality in baseball and softball.

T-Ball (ages 6-7) and 8-Ball (Age 8) registration was held for Town residents on Saturday, May 8th. Non-residents registered on May 15th, with another great turnout. There are 6 teams in T-Ball and 4 teams in 8-Ball.

On May 17th the Pre-Majors (ages 15-16) and Majors (ages 17-18) registration was held. Once again, there will be full teams in each age division.

Football (ages 8-12) and Cheerleading (ages 8-12) registration will begin August 9th through August 20th, Monday through Friday from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Ages are as of November 1, 1999.

Much preparation is underway to improve Fuller Park and the All Children's Park. Due to drought conditions, chemical applications have been delayed; however, trimming of bushes and plants was completed. The Recreation Department is excited about the improvements to the playing fields and parks.

TENNIS COURTS

The Municipal tennis courts will be closed, as of July 6, 1999 to make way for demolition of the old courts and construction of two (2) new, regulation size courts, which should be completed and ready for play in mid-September, 1999. Thanks for your patience and cooperation.

DICK M. JOHNSON CIVIC CENTER

Easter weekend brought out many children for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt in Surfside Beach. The hunt was held on Saturday, April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. The ages ranged from under 1 year old to 10 years old. The children played games, entered the coloring contest, were visited by the Easter Bunny and left with plenty of candy and smiles on their faces. There were over 350 children running and hunting for eggs on the H.B. Huckabee Complex fields. April was a busy month with the ongoing programs of Aerobics, Seniorise, Self Defense classes, Bridge, Karate, Canasta, Square Dancing, the beginning of Tap and Ballet classes for the youth, along with tumbling classes and cooking classes offered for all ages. The programs started with a boom, and we hope to keep adding more classes!

We would not let another year slip by without the husband/wife team, Dee & Doc McNeely, from Las Vegas, offering their knowledge in classes on engraving, i.e., woodcarving and glass sculpture. These classes were offered at the Floral Clubhouse May 9-13th. Beginner Shag lessons began May 24 and will run through June. The classes are held Monday night from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. The instructors are Bill & Brenda Barber, Certified Competitive Dancers. The class is full with 25 eager participants. We hope to be able to offer more shag classes as the interest grows! We could not forget our ever-helpful 50's Plus Group. The group held their annual yard sale Saturday, May 29th at the Civic Center from 6:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. The group raised money for their local charities and donated all items not sold to South Strand Helping Hand. The yard sale was once again a huge success.

The first weekend in June was bright, sunny and HOT! The perfect weekend for the Sun Fun Festival and especially for the "Surfside Super Sunday" events held in Surfside Beach June 6th. The Volleyball Tournament, sponsored by the Surfside Beach Recreation Department and "Hot 93" Radio, consisted of local and visiting teams. The games began at 9:00 a.m. and lasted until 4:00 p.m. Not to mention the burning hot sand, the players competed for seven hours. The Sand Castle competition began at 11:00 a.m. with 48 entries. The levels of competition ranged from ages 1 to 50. Crabby Mike's was extremely helpful in sponsoring this event, supplying judges and prizes for the various ages, including buffet passes. The Bocce Ball
Sand Sculpters at Work
"Surfside Super Sunday" Sunday, June 6, 1999

Tournament was held at Martin Park. There was plenty of
competition and fun for all ages. The Sun Tan Contest,
sponsored by Days Inn of Surfside Beach, began at 1:00 p.m.,
and the Horseshoe Tournament, sponsored by the Moose
Lodge, began at 2:00 p.m. We hope everyone had a marvelous
time. We are already planning for next year's events.

Please keep your eyes open for all upcoming events being
offered at the Civic Center. The American Red Cross will be
holding a Blood Drive at the Civic Center on Wednesday,
August 4th, from 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. and H.B.
Rockaboe Complex will be hosting the Alpo Canine
Jamboree Competition on Sunday, August 15th. If
you have any ideas or suggestions, please call
Ginger at 238-4131, ext. 333 or drop by the Dick
M. Johnson Civic Center. Regular classes will
resume in August. See you then!

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Business License season began in April with business
license applications being mailed the first week. More than
1,100 licenses were renewed in the period April through June.
Business licenses become delinquent on June 2nd. A five
percent (5%) penalty is added for each month that a license is
delinquent. If you are conducting business within the town
limits of Surfside Beach and you need assistance with obtaining
your license, contact our office at 238-2590, ext. 308.

The Finance Department purchased three new
computers this quarter in preparation for a
software upgrade that will be taking place
towards the end of the summer. The Town's
financial software will be upgraded to a windows
based product. Along with the upgrade of
software, the Town will be converting to laser
printed checks, W-2's, and other miscellaneous laser forms.

Property owners should have received reassessment notices
real estate values in February. State law requires that the
millage rate be reduced in the year of reassessment so that
property tax revenues increase to more than the increase of the
consumer price index. Information on the new millage rate
should be available mid July.

ADMINISTRATION

The Town has contracted with GTE for installation of a
new, modern phone system throughout all our departments. The
new system will consist of the latest in telecommunications
technology enabling such new features as direct inward dialing
to specific persons, message waiting, voice mail, calling line
ID, after hours automated attendant, recorded voice
announcements, hands free operation, and paging, plus many
other features that will enhance our ability to serve the public.
Most importantly, we will still utilize our "live" receptionist
for receiving incoming calls during business hours. The new
features, however, will enable our receptionist to handle all
calls and messages more efficiently and quickly.

In other technology related news, the Town has purchased
and installed a new local area network computer server capable
of filling the Town's needs for our network for years to come.
This acquisition will provide the needed capacity for installation
of the new software for both the Police and Finance
Departments. These changes will make our computer systems
and software Y2K compliant.

NEW EMPLOYEES

A hearty "Welcome Aboard" to the newest
members of the Town's work force. In the Police
Department, Steve Homitz, Patrolman and April
Mize-Kellam, Part-time Dispatcher. Kaye Long is
the new Police Sergeant. Bob Tihasek and Jon
McKelvey, Parking Meter Enforcement Officers, are back with
us for another season. Bob Tihasek has also received his
certification and is a Reserve Police Officer. In the Street
Department we have light equipment operators George
McCormick and Randy France. In the Sanitation Department
part-time laborer, James Moore, has been upgraded to full-
time status.

FRIENDS OF THE SURFSIDE BEACH
LIBRARY

The Friends of the Surfside Beach Library continue to offer
a variety of activities open to the entire community.

Our very popular Book Sale is held the second Wednesday
of every month. Members are invited to a presale from 3:30
p.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a ten book limit. The doors open to the
general public at 5 p.m. and close at 6:30 p.m.

On August 7th we will once again sponsor Children's Day.
Attendance has been high in the past, and we
expect even greater numbers this year. As always,
there will be entertainment, food and fun for all
ages. The Children's Book Sale will also take
place on that day. There are always lots of
bargains available.

Starting in September there will be a Book
Discussion Series entitled "Evolution of the
Detective".

For information on these events and other upcoming
programs, look for our bulletin board at the Library or call the
Library at 238-0122.

See you at the Library!!

Chuck & Louise Barth, Publicity Committee - 215-2062
EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER
SUMMER 1999

Patricia "Pat" Essing is our "EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER, SUMMER 1999". Pat was hired as the Town's Clerk/Receptionist in July, 1996, and as such, she is in charge of the telephone switchboard at Town Hall, as well as greeting the public. She answers all calls and routes them to the proper individual. If not in, she takes and relays messages. She also handles complaints, takes information and contacts the proper department/individual to initiate a solution to the problem. Many times she is able to find a solution herself. The advent of our new telephone system will help to "lighten Pat's load" somewhat, but she will still welcome all visitors and customers to Town Hall, type and file, dispense parking decals, take payments, and do whatever she can to help those who ask.

Pat and her husband, Joe, former New Jerseyites who reside at Indigo Creek, are Volunteer Firefighters with the Town. Pat also volunteree to help with sign-ups for Recreation Department activities; Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Mayor Reception; Easter Egg Hunt; Annual Hurricane Conference, and "Sun Fun Super Sunday" activities. In her "spare time" she crochets articles for family and friends. Previously, Pat was named "Employee of the Quarter, Winter 1997".

Always ready with a smile and helping hand... That's Pat Essing. Congratulations from your co-workers and friends!

TOWN DIRECTORY

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

FIRE / POLICE / RESCUE SQUAD ...................................................... 911
Police / Fire (non-emergency) .......................................................... 238-2514 / 238-2621 / 238-2811
Time Warner Cable (Trouble Call Line) .......................................... 651-6699
Santee Cooper Power Company (emergency) ............................... 448-3070
Sanitation / Public Works ................................................................. 238-5531

Town Hall ......................................................................................... 238-2590
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 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, 5:00 p.m. 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.