MUNICIPAL MESSAGE

Spring/Summer, April 2003

Town Grieves Loss of Public Safety Director

The Town of Surfside Beach expressed its shock and sadness at the death Wednesday, February 5, of its Director of Public Safety, Michael Grigg.

"We have been fortunate in our town’s short history to have been spared a tragedy like this," said Town Administrator Michael Kovacs. "We continue to feel his loss and express our deep sympathy to Mr. Grigg’s family."


He received his master’s degree in sociology and criminal justice from St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and was a graduate of FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

He retired after 26 years of service as police captain in Atlantic City, N.J., and had been the administrator of Atlantic County (N.J.) Police Academy. He was hired as the police chief of Surfside Beach in March 2000 and appointed public safety director in October 2002. He also was adjunct professor of criminal justice at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. He was a member of PBA.

Survivors, in addition to his mother of Turnersville, N.J., include his wife, Pat Grigg; sons, Michael C. Grigg of New Jersey and Daniel J. Grigg of Conway; a daughter, Lauren M. Grigg of Surfside Beach; and a brother, John G. Grigg of Jacksonville, Fla.

Mayor’s Message

The Town of Surfside Beach had a busy winter with a rare snow storm in January and significant rainfall throughout the season. In spite of the hard winter weather, there was a tremendous turn-out for the Veteran’s Memorial dedication ceremony held on Veteran’s Day 2002. We are proud that we are the first municipality on the northern South Carolina Coast to have a memorial to honor and memorialize our veterans. (See related story on page 2)

All the rain experienced during the winter didn’t help the town’s flooding problems. I’m pleased to report that the contract for the Melody Basin stormwater project was signed and work is under-way. Hopefully, our residents on the south end will soon see an improvement in the area’s drainage system. The stormwater committee is working to develop a model for the Floral Lake Basin, which is another critical flooding area.

Town Council adopted a 5-mil tax designated for stormwater to last for 5-years. The revenue generated by this millage will be designated solely for stormwater projects. The goal is to first address critical areas, such as Melody Basin on the southern end of town, and Floral Lake Basin near the center of town, and then work on other areas as they are identified.

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Veterans Memorial
Memorial Bricks are on-site!

On November 11, 2002, Surfside Beach dedicated its Veterans Memorial with over 200 in attendance. Partial funding for the memorial is being raised by selling brick pavers that are engraved with a veteran's name, service branch, and either birth/passing dates or dates of service.

Almost 100 bricks were laid January 29, 2003 honoring and memorializing veterans. Those included (in alphabetical order) John Ackles; Ray H. Armor; C. H. Barth; Frank Belcher; W. S. Bigham; Ralph Bohlen; David Bordiner; Frank Brown; Danny Caldwell; Kenneth Caldwell; Willburn Clary; Anne Coughlin; Barry W. Cumby; Danny DeAngelo; John DeBoer; James E. Deer; George Dodge; N. L. DuRant; Reginald A. Eaddy; Frank J. Elliott; William Farmer; F. W. Fletcher; George Fossen; William Foster; Americo Galdi; A. Galdi; Marc W. Galdi; V. P. Galdi; James Gentry; John Glover; Robert I. Goad; Robert T. Goad; Bob Hanson; C. T. Helms; W. Hockenberry; W. H. Hunter; Roy Hyman, Sr.; Dick M. Johnson; W. V. Johnson; Tom Keegan; B. J. Kimsey; Raymond King; Gene Kulkar; Robert H. Lang; Steve F. Lister; Barbara Loar; James E. Loar; Neil Loar; Don Lowe, Jr.; Donald H. Lowe; F. Carson Lowe; Frank T. Lowe; Alton Mabry; Brian Mabry; Harold Mabry; Lane Mabry; Marine Corp—Grand Strand Semper Fi; Gary McMeekin; T. G. McMeekin; Henry K. Meeks, Russ

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Town Resident, Ashby Ward, Honored

Even though it was a rare snow day, the grand opening of the Ashby Ward Official Myrtle Beach/Grand Strand Welcome Center turned out to be a warm and moving tribute to tourism leader and town resident, Ashby Ward. Despite the snow, more than 100 people traveled to Aynor for the official opening of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce’s newest welcome center. Officials from several local governments were in attendance, including Surfside Beach Mayor Roy Hyman, Jr., and Town Clerk Debra Herrmann, along with numerous chamber officials, business leaders, and members of Ward’s family.

Speaking from a podium, program participants took turns praising Ward for his service to the chamber and contributions to local and state tourism. Dennis Wade, current chairman of the chamber’s board of directors, introduced each of the speakers. They included Aynor Mayor John Dawsey; Horry County Council Chairman Chad Prosser, Tom Pegram, president of Pegram Associates Inc., the architectural firm that designed the building; and Mike Wooten, a past chamber chairman and head of the center’s building committee.

“Nothing could be more fitting than to officially open this beautiful facility that will serve the Grand Strand and to name it after a person who has done just that — dedicate himself fully and unselfishly to serving the Grand Strand,” Wade said, adding, “As president and CEO of the chamber, your leadership has helped guide and nurture this organization, but your real impact has been much broader, as you have helped build and shape the tourism industry along the entire Grand Strand and our state.”

Dawsey also applauded Ward’s accomplishments and recalled discussions with the chamber leader when plans were announced to locate a welcome center near the town of Aynor. He also described Aynor’s objectives in embracing the new welcome center. “We want to be the gateway to the Grand Strand...we want to be involved in welcoming people to Horry County.”

“This is something that’s well-deserved,” Prosser said of the building being named in Ward’s honor. He also described Ward as “the true driving force for this community.”

Near the conclusion of the ceremony, a plaque was unveiled that bears Ward’s image and accomplishments. The plaque is a replica of a larger bronze plaque that will grace the walls of the new welcome center. Wade also read a resolution recounting Ward’s numerous contributions and officially naming the Ashby Ward Official Myrtle Beach/Grand Strand Welcome Center.

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Mayor’s Message
Continued from front cover

To maintain the current level of service the town provides to residents, property owners, and visitors, Town Council adopted a 6-mil increase for operations. Over the past several years, the town has reduced its reserve balances to maintain the status quo, and Town Council has approved using a large portion of reserves to pay-as-we-go for the stormwater projects. An operations millage increase was necessary not only to maintain service levels, but to provide for necessities and personnel. Council and staff worked diligently to make reductions in the proposed budget that were conscientious but did not impact service levels. A copy of the adopted budget is available for your review at town hall.

The town’s website has been redesigned making it much more user friendly. Visit us on the web at www.surfsidebeach.org. You may reach me, any council member, or town employee by e-mail at Town@surfsidebeach.org.

I would be remiss if I didn’t address the wars on terrorism and Iraq. My prayer is that these wars will be resolved quickly and the remaining troops will be safe. To those who have already experienced loss of a loved one, you have our condolences. I hope that the remaining troops are safely on their way home by the time this newsletter is delivered to you.

We are looking forward to a great summer and hope that you will contact us with concerns or compliments. It’s always great to hear from you. If you would like to speak with me, please call 843.913.6330.

Your mayor,

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Administrator’s Advisory
Michael W. Kovacs Φ 843.913.6331

Summer is in the air and the town is moving ahead with a number of projects that I want to update you on. In addition, Town Council recently adopted the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget, which includes continuation of essential public services, implementation of a public safety concept in delivering police and fire responses, and increasing the tax rate for the first time in 17 years to pay for services and begin a cash basis, pay-as-you-go, stormwater improvements program. The Town Council and I would like your assistance in next year’s budgeting process. Your ideas for cost savings or desired services are welcome. Please feel free to submit your comments and recommendations via e-mail at Town@surfsidebeach.org.

Notably, we have lost a friend and colleague, Mike Grigg, our public safety director. Mike’s work is still with us and his contributions to the town will be missed. Patricia Grigg, Mike’s wife, announced at a recent council meeting that a memorial foundation was formed to assist public safety personnel with education expenses and to purchase Kevlar safety vest through the “Vest-a-Cop” program. For information on donations, please see the article, “Town Grieves Loss,” on the front cover. A new public safety director will probably be hired in May 2003.

Here’s the update on a few of the town’s high profile projects:

The annual Surfside Beach Guy Daniels Memorial Surf-Off will be held in August at the southern surfing area located at 13th Avenue South. Volunteers and sponsors are still welcome. See page 4 for contact information.

The Myrtle Beach Area Chamber sent 36,000 Town of Surfside Beach Tourism brochures out between March 10 and April 10! We anticipate a good summer season. Free town brochures are available to send friends and family from Town Hall. (Don’t forget your free recycling bags and vehicle mini-garbage bags.)

The new Town of Surfside Beach web page is up and running. Check out the tourist friendly and professional look at www.surfsidebeach.org.

Veteran’s memorial improvements continue with a new flagpole and lighting at the Fuller Park complex. Bricks are available until June 13, 2003, to memorialize friends or loved ones. See article on page 2, “Veteran’s Memorial,” for more information. The Surfside Beach Business Association recently held their two vigils at the memorial to show support for the troops in Iraq. The Association will keep yellow ribbons and

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Recreation Department
Billy Hendrix, Director ☏843.650.4131

If you are a sports fan, have we got news for you! Admission to all town-sponsored games are FREE! And, games are played year-round at the recreation department.

Baseball and softball games for boys and girls, ages 9 through 15, are played Monday through Thursday at the Huckabee Complex on Spanish Oak Drive beginning at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. After this age group’s baseball and softball season is over, games begin for Coach Pitch, ages 6 and 7, and Machine Pitch, age 8. These games are played weeknights during the month of June. T-Ball for ages 4 and 5 are played on Saturdays.

If baseball or softball is not your game, football games with cheerleading squads begin the first week of October. Games are played Monday through Thursday every week. Age categories for these sports are 8 through 12.

Once winter kicks in, future NBA players head to St. James Middle School on Saturdays for games of “round-ball.” Game times are 9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. The season begins the first of January and ends in mid-February.

Responsibility for upkeep of all the town’s parks, fields, and restrooms belongs to the Parks and Grounds Division. The staff also supplies additional manpower for all special town events, which are outlined on page 10 of this newsletter.

Administrator’s Advisory
Continued from Page 3

flags flying until the troops are home!

Park improvements at All Children’s Park were completed to make it more accommodating and visible from 10th Avenue South.

Sidewalk project along west side of Ocean Boulevard (3rd Avenue North to 3rd Avenue South) to be constructed during fall 2003.

A sidewalk from Ocean Boulevard to Cedar Drive North on 16th Avenue North was completed. Plans are to extend the sidewalk to Business 17 this fall.

The Fiscal Year 2003-2004 budget was adopted March 25, 2003. The general fund required a 6 mil tax increase, the first tax rate increase in 17 years. A stormwater projects fund was also created which will increase taxes an additional 5 mils for a 5-year period.

The Town Council marked a path for the East Coast Greenway along Ocean Boulevard. The East Coast Greenway is a bike route that will run the entire length of the eastern seaboard and will come through our town, providing safe biking lanes for visitors and residents.

Our dune restoration project is complete. The sand fencing and newly planted natural dune grasses are already catching sand. Not only will the dunes build up better, but the sand build up will extend the beach in the future. The next full-scale beach renourishment, where sand is pumped onshore to extend the beach, is planned for 2006.

Ocean Water Quality - Our NPDES Phase II water quality program was submitted to SCDHEC in Columbia. We anticipate conducting studies of the town’s lake system this year. Lake deepening projects were put on hold because of costs.

Water quality enhancements aimed at bacteria reduction in the ocean near the 13th Avenue South swash are underway in the Melody Basin stormwater project. Infiltration piping is being installed along Ocean Boulevard and that portion of the project will be completed within about 45 days.
Public Safety Report
Captain Stephen Homitz, Interim Public Safety Director
843.913.6369 (non-emergency calls)

On March 11, 2003, it was announced at the regular town council meeting that a memorial fund in the name of deceased department of public safety director Michael Grigg was established. Mrs. Patricia Grigg revealed that the fund was set up to assist Surfside Beach public safety personnel with education expenses, including officer survival courses, and to purchase Kevlar safety vest through the "Vest-a-Cop" program.

Director Grigg was a man who believed in the education of his police officers. He was a teacher at heart and jumped at the opportunity to hold an impromptu class. He was the holder of a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science from St. Joseph’s University; attended graduate school at Glassboro State College, and completed a Master of Arts and Science in Criminal Justice from St. Josephs University. He graduated from the FBI National Academy at Quantico, Virginia, and the Certified Public Managers Course at Rutgers University. He was also a certified instructor for the State of New Jersey. He taught several courses of instruction in the criminal justice degree program at Horry Georgetown Technical College.

The Grigg Family has requested that any donations be sent to Coastal Federal Bank at 112 US Highway 17 South, Surfside Beach, SC 29575, Attn: Michael Grigg Memorial Fund. The funds will be used strictly for continuing education expenses and officer survival classes for Surfside Beach police officers and to purchase Kevlar safety vests. Kristen Rogers at Coastal Federal Bank may be reached at 843.205.2003 if you have questions regarding the account, or you may call me at the Surfside Beach Police Department, 843.913.6346.

On another note, the Town of Surfside Beach has instructed me to go full steam ahead with the Department of Public Safety concept. All new hires in the police and fire departments will be hired and considered public safety officers (PSO). We currently have one officer attending at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia, South Carolina. Shortly after his graduation on April 18, he will attend the South Carolina Fire Academy. After graduating from both academies, he will work the streets of Surfside Beach as a PSO ready to respond to law enforcement and fire related situations. I anticipate that two or three other current police officers will eventually attend the South Carolina Fire Academy to complement both police and fire divisions accordingly.

During the past two months, two officers have been completing their military obligations with the SCARNG when they were activated for Operation Iraqi Freedom. On 4/20/03 both officers were dispatched to Iraq to take an active role in the war with Iraq. Both officers are attached to the 133 Military Police Company in Florence and will be providing security for military convoy transports while in Iraq. Please keep both officers in your prayers and thoughts for a safe return after the war.

The summer is quickly approaching and so is the traffic. Please be careful when driving these busy roads. Most of the drivers will be tourists unfamiliar with the roads. When you are driving in unfamiliar territory there will surely be unexpected stops, slow movement, and sometimes no turn signals being used on these vehicles. Drive defensively and anticipate movement of vehicles around you. And of course, buckle up your seat belt for your safety!

Emergency Calls 9-1-1

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2003 Registration for BASKETBALL
November 3 through 14, 2003
4:00-6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
@ Huckabee Complex
Ages 11 through 16
Ages are calculated as of April 1, 2004
Birth certificates are required for first-time participants

2003 Registration for FOOTBALL & CHEERLEADING
August 18 through August 29, 2003
4:00-6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
@ Huckabee Complex
Ages 8, 9, 10 — 135 lb. weight limit
Ages 11, 12 — 150 lb. weight limit
Ages 8-12 — Cheerleaders
Ages are calculated as of November 30, 2003
Birth certificates are required for first-time participants
Sanitation Department

Spring is in the air and another fiscal year has begun! This is a good time to share some statistics with you.

Commercial dumpster accounts had an increase of more than 300-tonnes of garbage that resulted in 40 extra trips to the dump. Conversely, households put out less garbage because more residents are separating recyclable items. Residents removed 31-plus tons more from their household garbage than they did during the previous year by recycling cardboard, glass, plastic bottles, empty aerosol cans, aluminum, steel, tin cans, newspapers, catalogs, magazines, phone books, paperback books, cereal, cracker, and pizza boxes, and much more! This was the equivalent of nearly one more truck a month arriving at the recycling center instead of at the dump. Almost 300 tons of household waste was recycled last year. If you aren’t yet recycling, pick up a roll of free recycling bags at town hall. If you wish, you may call 843.913.6360 or e-mail your request to Town@surfsidebeach.org. Recycle bags should be placed curb-side on Wednesday evening. Town-wide pickups begin at 6:00 a.m. every Thursday.

More and more yard debris is being put out for removal and as many of you have probably noticed, the Wednesday “town sweep” is being completed more often on Thursdays and Fridays. There was a 28 ton increase in yard debris over the last fiscal year, representing around 12 extra trips to the dump.

The good news is, all yard waste is mulched and recycled at the Solid Waste Authority. For more information on recycling, please see the articles on pages 12 and 13.

Ink jet and laser toner cartridges are frequently replaced. You may recycle cartridges by using postage-paid, pre-addressed envelopes that are available to you free of charge from town hall. Just ask for them when you pick up or call for recycle bags.

Change in Summer Service

Town Council approved a proposal to shorten the summer sanitation service and billing periods by one month for properties in the beach area. This affects properties bordering Dogwood Drive on the west to the Atlantic Ocean on the east for which the town provides sanitation collection three times per month, on Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, with rollout service for each cart. The summer service was instituted to help keep the tourist areas clear of garbage during the peak season.

Effective this year, summer service will begin on the 2nd Sunday in May and end the Sunday following Labor Day. Summer sanitation charges have not increased and remain at $56 per cart per month; billing is monthly on the Grand Strand Water & Sewer statements. Property owners who live in or do not

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Employee of the Year 2002

Thomas A. Jordan

Thomas Jordan, a detective with the Surfside Beach Police Division, was named Employee of the Year 2002 by Administrator Kovacs during the town’s annual employee Christmas luncheon. Jordan was Employee of the 3rd Quarter 2002.

Jordan has worked for Surfside Beach since September 2000. His daily assignments include tasks such as investigations to prevent crime, assisting other officers, including officers from other jurisdictions, and testifying before court and Grand Jury. Tom is directly responsible for numerous activities relating to crime solving: crime scene investigations, witness questioning, and familiarizing himself with known “haunts” where activities often lead to criminal and suspect arrests. He also assists the fire department investigation team. In addition to these responsibilities, he is the custodian for the evidence and property room at the police station.

Detective Jordan was all smiles after Administrator Kovacs presented the Employee of the Year Award to him.
Save this information for future reference.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30. Peak months are August and September. This year's hurricane forecast predicts a 45 percent probability of a hurricane landfall somewhere on the east coast and a total of 12 named storms. What you do now and in the event of a hurricane can protect your life and property. Now is the time to prepare!

What is a hurricane? A hurricane is a tropical storm with winds at a constant speed of 74 miles per hour (mph) or more. Hurricane winds blow in a spiral around a calm center known as the "eye." The eye is generally 20 to 40 miles wide. The storm may extend outward for 400 miles.

A single storm can last for more than two weeks over open water and can run a path across the entire length of the eastern seaboard. Hurricanes may also spawn tornadoes, adding to the potential for destruction. Hurricanes are classified by wind speed and storm surge (see "major risks," below.) Storm classifications include: Category 1: 74 to 95 mph winds; 4-5 foot storm surge; Category 2: 96 to 110 mph winds; 6-8 foot storm surge; Category 3: 111 to 130 mph winds; 9-12 foot storm surge; Category 4: 131 to 155 mph winds; 13-18 foot storm surge; Category 5: 156+ mph winds; 18 foot (or higher) storm surge.

What are the major risks of hurricanes?

Wind can dislodge roofing, siding, patio or garage doors on homes; can turn even small debris (tree branches, flowerpots, outdoor furniture, etc.) into missiles.

Flooding can make roads impassable, cause damage and loss of life.

Storm surge is a dome of ocean water as large as 20 feet high and 50 to 100 miles wide. Nine out of 10 hurricane fatalities are attributable to storm surge.

What is the difference between a hurricane "watch" and hurricane "warning"? A hurricane watch means there is the threat of a hurricane. A hurricane warning means a hurricane is expected within 24 hours.

How can I get information about a hurricane or possible evacuation? All local TV, AM and FM radio stations receive direct information from the National Weather Service and will broadcast continuous updates.

In addition, if an evacuation is ordered, Surfside Beach Emergency Services will travel through the town announcing the order by loudspeaker or other means.

Where should I go if an order to evacuate is given? If possible, to family or friends outside the storm area. Emergency public shelters will be set up at area schools and other facilities. Locations will be broadcast on local TV and radio stations. Remember: most public shelters will NOT accept pets.

What route(s) do I take to evacuate? The official evacuation route for Surfside Beach residents is Highway 544. You may also use Glenn's Bay Road to get to Highway 17 Bypass, then to Highway 544.

What if I have a disability and need help or a shelter with special facilities? If family or friends are not available to help, call DHEC at 843-365-3126. Reservations are required! If you require special medical equipment or supplies, be sure to take this equipment with you.

What if I choose not to evacuate? If you stay, you do so at your own risk. All Surfside Beach emergency personnel will be taken off the streets when winds reach 55 mph. Not all emergency medical facilities will be in operation, and driving may be impossible. A curfew will likely be in effect within the town; persons found driving or walking on the streets by police may be arrested.

How long after the storm is over must I wait before returning home? At least three days will generally be necessary for emergency and utility personnel to ensure that streets, buildings, and utility equipment are safe. However, water and electricity may not be available for longer periods. Residents who have evacuated may call toll-free to 1-866-246-0133 to receive information on reopened areas.

What should I do BEFORE a hurricane to protect my family from harm? Teach all family members how to turn off utilities. Stockpile emergency water and nonperishable foods, prescription medicines, flashlights, candles, first aid supplies and a battery-powered radio or TV. Choose a meeting place in case you become separated. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to act as "family contact," and be sure everyone knows the phone number. Plan for pets. And if evacuation is ordered, GO!

How can I minimize damage to my property in a hurricane? Trim back or remove dead or weak tree branches. Purchase storm shutters or prepare plywood panels (1/2" marine plywood is best) to fit all windows. Bring in outdoor items. Check on wind and/or flood insurance for your home. If evacuating, shut off water and electricity at mains.

To learn more, call the Red Cross @ 843.477.0020 or visit FEMA on-line @ www.fema.gov
Government Web Sites are Popular and Influential

Sixty-eight million American Adults have used government agency Web sites to research public policy questions, send comments to public officials, and gather information about how to vote. Thirty percent of them claim that using these sites has improved their interactions with local government and increased their level of civic engagement. Additionally, a Web user’s trust in governmental entities closely correlates with the perceived quality of the respective Web site.

* Reprinted with permission from March 2003 Issue of Public Management (PM) magazine, published by the International City/County Management Association, Washington, D.C.

View the Town of Surfside Beach’s website at www.surfsidebeach.org

Finance Department
Diana H. King, Director ☏ 843.913.6332

The Finance Department sent out renewal applications for the 2003-2004 business license year in mid-April. All businesses, including ALL RENTAL PROPERTY and home-based businesses, operating within the Town must have a license. Business licenses will be effective for the period beginning June 1, 2003 through May 31, 2004. A separate license is required for each business or classification conducted at each location. Changes in ownership require a new license.

License fees are based on the total gross receipts reported on the 2002 tax return for the business or person. License fees are due on June 1, 2003 and subject to a 5% penalty per month for late payment. If you have questions about your application or need assistance in calculating your license fee, please call 843.913.6334.

Short-term rental properties owners are also required to remit local hospitality (1%) and local accommodations (5%) fees to the town each month. These fees are based on the gross rent collected for rental periods of less than 90 consecutive days. A 2% discount is given for returns filed timely and 5% is assessed on delinquent returns. If you use a rental management company, they will collected and remit the fees for you.

Supervisor of the Year 2002

STU ANDERSON

Stu Anderson exhibits a high degree of confidence in himself and consistently assumes a strong leadership role. In spite of budgetary limitations that limit pay incentives, Stu consistently recognizes, organizes, and manages his staff to keep the town’s parks, recreation facilities, and town hall in top shape. When asked about a particular project, if he isn’t sure about the response, Stu is quick to offer, “I’ll find out,” before saying what should be done. This trait is commendable when a wrong decision could not only impact the town financially, but aesthetically.

Striving to continually maintain a high level of job knowledge and new developments in his field, Stu attended two one-week supervisory management school sessions over two-years that were conducted by NC State University. Stu extends his knowledge to his crew through training tapes, holding classes, and placing emphasis on safety and education.

Stu works with all divisions of the recreation department. He assisted with all of the special events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Music in the Park, Sun Fun Festival, the Guy Daniels Surf-off, Alpo Canine Frisbee Championship, Family Festival, Christmas tree lighting, and the Christmas parade. Other activities Stu volunteered for included the Christmas food drive with Helping Hand, the town’s golf tournament at Tupelo Bay, coaching a youth basketball team for the recreation department, and setting up a white-water rafting trip for the recreation department staff.

Parks and Recreation Director Billy Hendrix said, “Stu has always been available when the town has needed him. He has worked especially hard this year with all the projects, special events, and work assignments given to him. He is a very productive, dependable, and cooperative employee, as well as a strong, personable supervisor.
2003 SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

The Surfside Beach Parks & Recreation Department offers numerous activities throughout the year for town residents and visitors. Some events have already occurred, but were listed because they are annual events. A brief listing follows. If you would like more information about an event or want to participate, please contact Program Coordinator, Debbie Ellis @ 843.913.6339 or email: DebbieEllis@surfsidebeach.org.

Can-am Reception. Dick M. Johnson Civic Center. Monday, March 10th, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Sun Fun Super Sunday Festival. On the beach at the Surfside Beach pier Sunday, June 1st, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Hyperlite Youth Disc Championship
H. Blue Huckabee Complex. Saturday, May 24th, 10:00 a.m.

Fourth of July Celebration. Martin Park, 6th Avenue South. Thursday, July 3rd, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Labor Day Volleyball Tournament.
On the beach at 3rd Avenue South Saturday, August 30th, 9:00 a.m. until

Skyhounds Disc Championship. H. Blue Huckabee Complex. Saturday, September 6th, 10:30 a.m. until.

Beach Sweep. Annual beach clean-up. On the beach at the pier. Saturday, September 20th, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Music in the Park. Martin Park, 6th Avenue South. Saturday, September 13th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Surfside Beach Family Festival. Surfside Drive. Saturday, October 4th, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Tree Lighting. Surfside Beach Town Hall. Thursday, December 4th, 7:00 p.m.

Surfside Beach Christmas Parade.
Ocean Boulevard, 10th Avenue South to 16th Avenue North. Saturday, December 13th, 2:00 p.m.

MUNICIPAL COURT
Tricia Honosky, Associate Judge/Clerk of Court
☎ 843.913.6337

YOU DUMP TRASH - YOU PAY CASH! Some people may think the littering law is just a bunch of rubbish, but the State of South Carolina doesn't agree! On July 1, 2000, the Governor's Office funded a litter control campaign and amended the littering law. Dumping litter on private or public property is prohibited under SC Code of Laws Section 16-17-700: "No person may dump, throw, drop, deposit, discard, or otherwise dispose of litter or other solid waste upon any public or private property or waters in the State whether from a vehicle or otherwise including, but not limited to, a public highway, public park, beach, campground, forest land, recreational area, trailer park, highway, road, street, or alley."

The fine for litter or garbage in an area or facility not intended for public deposit of litter or garbage is $425 or imprisonment for not more than 30 days. In addition to the fine or term of imprisonment, the court must also impose 15 hours of litter-gathering labor for a first conviction, 30 hours for a second conviction, and 100 hours for a third or subsequent conviction. This particular section is for a person who violates this law in an amount less than 15 pounds in weight or 27 cubic feet in volume. Depending on the amount of litter and/or the number of offenses, the penalty can be a verdict of $1,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both, if found guilty and a motor vehicle used in the crime could be seized and forfeited to the State.

The Town of Surfside Beach also has a littering law, Ordinance Section 7-1, wherein: "It shall be unlawful for any person to put, place or throw any trash, paper cups, garbage, shavings or other refuse upon any sidewalks, public streets, public alleys, beaches or other public places in the town, except in receptacles of the type required by the town. No person shall deposit or sweep into any street, sidewalk, beach, or in any gutter or catch basin of the town, any paper, trash, rubbish, broken glass, tin cans, bottles, fruit or vegetables, peelings or any other refuse, ashes or waste."

Littering shows disrespect, not only to the environment, but can be harmful to plants and animals. The surrounding soil becomes inadequate for plants to continue nurturing their development when filled with the decomposition of garbage, and plastic fragments and glass bottle shards harm animals; some stumble on broken glass or plastic, or are cut by aluminum cans.

BEAUTIFY THE LAND — USE THE TRASH CAN!!

Note: See other laws on pages 12, 13, and 14.
Building & Zoning Report  ☎ 843.913.6111

Dave Barra, Building Official

The Building and Zoning Department has experienced an increase in new residential construction over the past six months. In addition, there are two planned unit developments that are well underway. Ocean Breezes is located on Surfside Drive and will have 18 residences; Myrtle Oaks is located on 5th Avenue North and will have 13 residences.

A new commercial building was completed on Frontage Road just north of 5th Avenue South. Plans are underway for another commercial building adjacent to the new building. On South Ocean Boulevard the former Grumpy Grouper Restaurant is being renovated. It will become a fast-food/arcade business. The former Meyer’s Ice Cream Shop is being converted into a real estate rental office.

Property owners that are planning repairs and maintenance to their permanent or part-time property should check with the Building Department to determine if permits are required. Contractors hired for repairs or renovations must have a current town business license. Do not give any “up-front” money. Before making the final payment, call 913.6111 to speak with the Building Department to verify a final inspection has been done.

Tree cutting or removal requires an inspection by the building official prior to removal. Please call to arrange an inspection and obtain a permit.

Business owners are reminded that permits are required if the business is having a special event that will be advertised with banners, portable signs, or may be using a tent. Permits are available from the Building Department Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Building Department staff is available to answer questions regarding contractors, permits, property setbacks, zoning and other such building-related issues. Telephone 843.913.6111 or email DBarra@surfsidebeach.org the building official, or the zoning administrator, TBrumfield@surfsidebeach.org.

Employee of the 1st Quarter 2003

Joni Hawks

Joni started work for the town in the Summer of 2000 as a part-time intern responsible for a variety assignments ranging from revenue collection to aiding in the preparation for the town’s annual financial audit.

During college, Joni was selected for membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, a national business honorary society, and served as a senator for the E. Craig Wall, Sr. College of Business Administration in Coastal Carolina University’s Student Government Association. In May, 2002, she graduated Magna Cum Laude from CCU with dual Bachelor of Science Degrees in both Business Management and Marketing and was chosen as the Outstanding Marketing Student among her graduating class.

In August 2002 she was given a full-time position with the town as a management analyst and has since been involved in a variety of projects that include preparing the town’s comprehensive annual financial report and the annual budget. Joni has also aided in the development of a Comprehensive Parking Plan for the Town of Surfside Beach and is currently in the process of implementing a computerized, pro-active management program for the town’s Public Works and Recreation Departments and will be aiding in the re-write of the town’s Comprehensive Plan.

Congratulations, Joni!
Building & Zoning Report

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The Building Department met with a representative from the Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) on March 7th. The ISO evaluates the town every five years on its building codes enforcement, focusing on natural hazard mitigation. The intent is to encourage code compliant construction, thus lowering the insurance costs and ultimately reducing catastrophe-related damage. The program also includes advisory premium discounts for property insurance written in municipalities with effective codes that are well enforced.

The Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule is an insurance underwriting and information rating tool. The ISO evaluation in 1998 earned the town an insurance classification of 4/4 (with 1 being the best.) The ISO had not yet notified the town of its new rating at the time of this newsletter's preparation. By the continued efforts of your Building and Zoning Department, we are confident the ISO will give the town the best rating possible.

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Congratulations, Joni!
Don't Just Trash It

By Pam De Grood
Reprinted with Permission of GS Magazine

Blue bags filled with recyclable goods line my street every Thursday morning awaiting the weekly pick-up. It makes me proud to see that my neighborhood is taking such an important roll in protecting our environment. How is your neighborhood recycling?

Whether it be through blue bags, green receptacles, curbside pick-up, or convenience center drop-off, Horry and Georgetown Counties are recycling at a reasonable rate, but like the rest of the country, we must do better.

“The Grand Strand on a whole is doing O.K.,” says Carson Benton, Horry County Solid Waste Authority Chairman. The South Carolina state goal is to recycle 35% of the waste produced, and Benton says that Horry county as a whole is currently at about 25%. He claims that we are striving to reach that goal, but since Horry county does not have the industry to back us up, we have a more difficult task than say Georgetown county, who has the factories to add to their percentage, while we have mainly hotels. Our challenge, he says, is to find the right system that will help the hotels recycle.

Many cities are increasing their individual goals to as high as 50% because of the lack of space in landfills. If Horry county continues at the same rate, our current household waste landfill facility is expected to only last for about 15 more years. “We also must get a better system adapted where all cities and towns are using one method,” Benton says. The blue bags are not the best solution, because they invariably end up being used as regular trash bags, which often end up in the regular trash and then in the landfill.

*Without getting too technical, here are a few interesting facts!*

- Americans throw away 44 million newspapers everyday. That’s the same as dumping 500,000 trees into landfills each week.
- If we recycled just half of the magazines printed in the U.S. each year, we would save 12 million cubic yards of landfill space.
- Just five recycled soda bottles makes enough fiberfill for one ski jacket.
- Every three months, Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild the entire U.S. commercial air fleet.
- The United States throws away enough iron and steel to supply all the nation’s automakers on a continuous basis.
- If only 15% of U.S. college students used mugs instead of disposable cups every day, we’d eliminate more than a billion cups a year.
- Capturing and recycling methane gas (Green Power) at the landfill has the same environmental benefit as planting 15,000 trees—enough to cover a 24-square mile area.
- Recycling your Christmas trees provides nutrient rich mulch for your plants or gardens.
- In the past 2 years, more than 100,000 pounds of newspaper, cans, and plastics have been recycled by participating in Horry county 4th graders in the “Talkin’ Trash” campaign.

### WHAT CAN BE RECYCLED

*At Horry County Recycle Centers*

- **Cans, Glass & Plastic.** Place all types of cans, glass, and plastic containers in the same receptacle.
- **Cans.** Recycle aluminum beverage cans, steel and metal food cans. Aluminum foil, pie plates, and empty aerosol cans may also be included now. Rinse out cans and put the lids inside.
- **Plastic.** Recycle plastic soft drink and detergent bottles, milk and water jugs, food containers, shampoo, and other personal care item containers. Remove caps and rinse containers.
- **Used Motor Oil & Oil Filters.** Recycle oil and oil filters from cars and other vehicles. Please ask the convenience center attendants for instructions.
- **Yard Waste.** Brush from yards, grass clippings, leaves, small limbs (less than 6” in diameter). Unpainted and untreated wood is also accepted in the yard waste containers at the convenience centers.
- **Cardboard.** All corrugated cardboard that is not wax coated. This includes cereal boxes, cracker and cookie boxes.
- **Scrap Metal.** Dishwashers, refrigerators, stoves, washing machines, dryers, water heaters, bicycles, and other scrap metal.
- **Batteries.** Recycle car, light truck and marine (lead acid) batteries. Ask attendant for instructions. Ni-Cad batteries can be recycled by giving them to a convenience center attendant.
- **Newspapers, Magazines, and Soft Cover Books.** Place clean newspapers, magazines and soft cover books in the same receptacle.
SURFSIDE BEACH RECYCLING INFORMATION

Town staff has worked closely with the Solid Waste Authority (SWA) to develop these guidelines that should make recycling easier for you. Free blue recycle bags are available at Town Hall, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Recycle bags will be delivered if you call Public Works @ 843.913.6360 or email Town@surfsidebeach.org. Recycling is picked up on Thursday town-wide.

The SWA accepts recyclables without charging a tipping fee—cost for trash is $29 per ton. Recycling not only conserves our resources, but saves you money.

Recycling Questions
843.913.6360 Public Works/Sanitation Dept.
843.913.6111 Town Hall
843.347.1651 Solid Waste Authority

MIXED PAPER: PLACE NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, and SOFT COVER BOOKS IN THE SAME BAG Recycle clean, dry newspapers, magazines and soft cover books (including telephone books and catalogs).

METAL/GLASS/PLASTIC: PLACE ALL TYPES OF CANS, GLASS AND PLASTIC CONTAINERS IN THE SAME BAG ☑CANS: Recycle aluminum beverage cans, steel, and metal food cans, empty aerosol cans. Aluminum foil and pie plates are not recyclable. ☑GLASS: Recycle glass containers of any color. ☑PLASTIC: Recycle plastic soft drink, and detergent bottles, milk and water jugs, food containers, shampoo and other personal care item containers. Remove caps and rinse containers when needed.

CARDBOARD: Recycle all cardboard that is not wax coated, i.e., cereal boxes, cracker, and cookie boxes, and pizza boxes. Flatten empty boxes before recycling. Keep corrugated cardboard separate. If boxes will not fit into blue bags, please bind with tape or string and place curbside.

Plastic bags from inside food boxes should be put in the garbage, they are NOT recyclable. Grocery store plastic bags should be returned to the store for recycling...they are not recyclable through the Solid Waste Authority.

Schedule: ALL RECYCLING IS COLLECTED ON THURSDAY. The Sanitation Crew starts at 6:00 a.m. Staff suggest you place your bags curbside on Wednesday evening.

THE TOWN DOES NOT PICK UP TOXICS Paint, chemical, pesticide containers. USED MOTOR OIL & OIL FILTERS Oil and oil filters from cars and other vehicles. BATTERIES Car, light truck, and marine (lead acid) batteries should be delivered to the Solid Waste Authority. Toxics items may be dropped off at the Recycling Center in Socastee.

Please call 843.347.1651 for information on disposing toxic materials.

MIXED MATERIALS
PICKUP DAYS: THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Place furniture, televisions, mattresses, chairs, sofas, toys, shades and blinds curbside on your collection day.

Yard Debris — bagged pine straw, bagged/bundled Pampas grass, brush from yards, grass clippings, leaves, and small limbs (less than 6" in diameter), branches, and unpainted and untreated wood may be stacked at the street edge.

Mixed material and homeowners' construction debris pickups begin Thursday afternoon or Friday morning and continues until Friday @ 2:00 p.m. Staff suggest placing items curbside on Wednesday evening to insure pickup.

NOTE: CONTRACTORS are responsible for removing their own construction materials. The town does not collect paint cans or other toxic containers.
Beach Codes

Section 12, Article IV of The Code of Ordinances of The Town of Surfside Beach applies to use of the town's beaches. The codes were developed to make your visit to the beach safe and enjoyable. Feel free to contact the town at Town@surfsidebeach.org or telephone 843.913.6111 with questions.

§12-61. Authority of lifeguards, deputies, constables, police officers. (a) Those persons who shall be duly appointed as lifeguards, deputies or constables or who are police officers shall have the power and authority to supervise and regulate surf fishing, physical activities and swimming on the beaches, strand and the Atlantic Ocean within the jurisdiction of the town, and in such areas shall the responsibility to maintain peace and order. They shall also have the power to recall from the ocean waters and the surf adjoining the waters any person who shall be in the ocean waters a distance of more than fifty (50) yards from the point where the ocean waters adjoin the strand, or who shall be more than shoulder deep at any time, or when such person shall be in danger of drowning or becoming imperiled or may imperil the safety of others, all of which shall be determined in the discretion of such appointed lifeguard or officer.

(b) Such personnel shall have authority to recall from the ocean waters any person who shall be in the ocean waters at any distance at any time when the condition of the wind, water, weather or any hazard, including the physical or mental condition of the person in the ocean waters, shall be such, in the discretion of such personnel as described in paragraph (a), as to constitute a danger to the health, life, or safety of such person or other persons within such ocean waters.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person to disobey the instructions of any lifeguard authorized by the town with regard to activities on the beach and in the ocean.

See “Related Codes” on next page for more information.

Fishing Codes

§12-62. Shark fishing. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in the practice of shark fishing from the beaches adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean within the town limits.

§12-63. Commercial fishing. It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in commercial fishing on the public beach within the town limits.

FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

SC RESIDENTS licenses are effective July 1 through June 30. State Freshwater Fishing License. ($10) — Required for all public fresh waters when using manufactured equipment and/or artificial bait. Also required on all SCDNR managed and WMA lakes and with all non-game fishing devices.

Saltwater Fishing License. ($5.50) — Required to harvest oysters or clams and to fish for marine finfish from privately owned boats.

NON-RESIDENTS Annual Freshwater Fishing License. ($35) — Required for all public fresh waters. Also required on all SCDNR managed lakes and with all non-game fishing devices.

Saltwater Fishing License. ($5.50) — Required to harvest oysters or clams or to fish for marine finfish from privately owned boats.

WHERE TO BUY LICENSES AND PERMITS: There are 1,100 license agents statewide, many local sporting good stores, bait and tackle shops, major retailers and DNR field offices. Special permits and tags are available through the Columbia office only.

DNR Field Office
Telephone 1-888-434-7472,
Internet: www.dnr.state.sc.us
DNR Columbia, SC: (803) 734-3833
Surfing Zones

§12-64 Surfing.
(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a surfboard or any other similar device of a hard or solid nature between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in any location other than the area starting at swash two hundred seventy (270) feet south of 12th Avenue North and extending northward to 14th Avenue North and between the area starting three hundred (300) feet north of 13th Avenue South extending southward to the southern most boundary of the town.

(b) Surfing will be allowed anywhere along the beach before the hours of 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. except within three hundred (300) feet of the fishing pier.

(c) During the off-season (September 15 to May 15), surfing will be allowed anywhere along the beach from sunup to sundown.

Exception: surfing is not allowed within three hundred (300) feet of the fishing pier.

(d) Telephone poles shall be placed at the dunes' base to mark the designated summer season surfing area. The poles should be marked in such a manner that surfers will be able to view the poles from the ocean.

(e) All surfers shall be required to wear a surfing leash at all times, having a stretch factor no less than six (6) feet.

(f) Surfers must navigate the surfboard in such a way that it does not become a hazard to others in the ocean or on the beach. The individual will be responsible for his or her actions while navigating the surfboard.

Related Codes

§3-4. Cleaning up after pets. It shall be unlawful for any owner or person having possession of any dog or other animal(s), to fail to remove any excrement deposited by said animal(s) on the beach, accesses, public ways, recreational parks, or any other public property.

§4-27. Solicitation Prohibited in certain places. No peddling, hawking, drumming or commercial solicitation is allowed on the beach, town streets, town sidewalks, walkways to beach or other public property.

§7-1. Littering. It shall be unlawful for any person to put, place or throw any trash, paper cups, garbage, shavings or other refuse upon any sidewalks, public streets, public alleys, beaches or other public places in town, except in receptacles of the type required by the town. No personal shall deposit in or sweep into any street, sidewalk, beach or in any gutter or catch-basin of the town, any paper, trash, rubbish, broken glass, tin cans, bottles, fruit or vegetables, peelings or any other refuse, ashes or waste. Such materials shall be accumulated as herein before specified and placed in receptacles. No householder or storekeeper, by himself or agent, shall cause to be swept from any house, yard, store or elsewhere, any dirt or refuse in or upon the sidewalks or public places of the town.

§8.2. Sleeping in automobiles. It shall be unlawful for any person to sleep in, on or around any automobile or other motor vehicle or licensed recreational vehicle upon any of the streets, sidewalks, alleys or on the beach in the town between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and sunrise.

§8-36. Fireworks. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to use, fire, shoot, discharge fireworks without permission from the town council or to sell, offer for sale, store, exchange, give away or possess any type of fireworks within the limits of the town. EXCEPT on the fourth day of July only on which date fireworks may be discharged in the area between the high water mark eastward to the Atlantic Ocean.

(b) The town council may authorize public displays, provided such display is conducted in accordance with the laws of the state and the state fire marshal's rules and regulations. All details regarding the proposed display should be presented to the town council at least thirty (30) days prior to the proposed date of display.

§12-65. Dangerous operation of boats, skis, surfboards. (a) No person shall operate any motorboat or vessel or manipulate any skis, surfboard or similar device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.

(b) No person shall operate any motorboat, boat or vessel or manipulate any water skis, surfboard or similar device when under the influence of alcohol, any narcotic drug, barbiturate, marijuana or hallucinogen.

§12-66. Solicitation. The solicitation of patrons or customers for commercial purposes including but not limited to solicitation incident to the sale of personal property and products and services on the beach and public access areas adjoining the

Continued on next page
Related Codes, continued from previous page

beach by any person, firm, company, corporation or party and their agents, clerks or employees is hereby prohibited within the jurisdiction of the town, except as otherwise provided by a franchise agreement, as conferred by the town council in compliance with SC Code 1976, §5-7-30. Any person convicted of violating this provision shall be punished as provided in §1-16.

§12-67. Obstructions. Beach umbrellas and other beach paraphernalia will be at a distance of at least ten (10) feet to the rear (inland side) of the lifeguard stands and in a line generally parallel with the ocean strand. It shall be unlawful to place any obstruction on the beach in such position that it will interfere with the ground level vision of a lifeguard looking toward the water and the lifeguard stands on either side of him [or her].

§12-68. Dangerous Objects. It shall be unlawful to place, throw, or deposit upon the beach any glass bottle, glass, nails, wire, tacks, cans or other substances likely to injure any person.

§12-69. Dogs and other domestic pets. It shall be unlawful to allow any dog or domestic pet on the public beach within the town limits during the calendar period from May 15 through September 15.

§12-70. Horses. It shall be unlawful for any person to bring or have a horse, or any other animal that can be ridden, on the streets or public beaches within the town's corporate limits.

§12-71. Vehicles. The operation of motor vehicles on the beaches of the town is prohibited, but this prohibition shall not apply to emergency or law enforcement vehicles being used as such.

§12-72. Parking in public access area overnight. It shall be unlawful to leave a vehicle, boat, trailer, motorbike or camper in any public parking access area overnight. Anyone violating the provisions of this section may have his [or her] vehicle, boat, trailer, motorbike or camper towed and impounded and, upon conviction for violation of this provision, shall be punished as provide in §1-16.

§12-88. Beach access area. It shall be unlawful to use any area within the jurisdiction of the town for access for motorized or non-motorized boats or jet skis to the beach, except Fourth Avenue South. Access shall be limited to the crossover ramp, when provided or the existing dune blowout when no ramp is available, at the designated access area. Under no circumstances shall a boat or jet ski be transported to the beach other than at the designated access area. No motorized vehicle may be used for providing access across the ramp and on the beach, as indicated in §12-71. Anyone violating the provisions of this section may have his [or her] boat or jet ski confiscated and impounded in addition to any other penalties. If the boat or jet ski is confiscated, the town will assess an impoundment fee to cover expenses incurred by the town.

§12-89. Operation restricted. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to operate or pilot a boat inside the area fifty (50) yards eastward from the high tide mark of the Atlantic Ocean within the town or elsewhere along the public beach in such a manner as to create a hazard to bathers.

(b) It shall be unlawful to operate any jet ski in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean abutting the Town of Surfside Beach within one hundred and fifty (150) yards of the point where the ocean adjoins the strand during the period from May 15 to September 15 of any year, except that jet skis may be launched from and returned to the beach on a course approximately perpendicular to the beach. When launching or returning as described above, the jet ski shall be operated as slowly as surf conditions shall permit and in such manner as to avoid all swimmers or other persons in the water. For the purpose of this chapter, the term jet ski shall include wave riders and any other similar vehicles by whatever name.

§12-90. Operation of motorboats, etc. in reckless manner. No person shall operate any motorboat, jet ski or other vessel or manipulate any skis, surfboard or similar device in a reckless or negligent manner so as to endanger the life, limb or property of any person.

§12-91. Operation of motorboats, jet ski, etc., while intoxicated. No person shall operate any motorboat, jet ski or other vessel or manipulate any skis, surfboard or similar device when intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic drug, barbiturate or marijuana.
Public Works, continued from page 7

rent for periods of 90 days or less must notify town hall annually in writing. Property status letters may be mailed to Town Hall, Attn: Finance Department, US Highway 17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575, or e-mail messages to: PEssing@surfsidebeach.org.

Vehicle Maintenance Department

Stuart Veringo was recently selected to fill the position of mechanic. The town has a fleet of 100-plus vehicles that are regularly serviced in addition to assorted mowers, backhoes, tractors, golf carts, and other mechanical equipment. Stuart had filled in since the position became vacant and has done an excellent job. He has shown a commitment to fulfill the duties the job requires insuring that the vehicles and equipment are properly repaired and maintained in a professional and organized manner.

Watch for the annual surplus auction in the fall. Vehicles, equipment, confiscated bicycles, and other miscellaneous items the town no longer needs will be auctioned off. Advertisements are placed in the area newspaper announcing the details.

Streets & Drainage Department

This spring the department began constructing a new sidewalk along 16th Avenue North. The crew completed the section from Cedar Drive to Ocean Boulevard. The remainder to Highway 17 will be completed after Labor Day.

During the winter months, personnel constructed two 3-bin storage bunkers. The sanitation department will use one for temporarily storing yard debris and bulk items; one is a 20-yard scrap metal container; and the other will be used by the street and drainage department to store sand, sand, and coquina.

Last year many of the new street name signs at the beach access walkovers were stolen. Therefore the 4x4 inch posts were engraved with the street names and painted green with white lettering.

Our crews continue to work on the drainage ditches throughout town to keep them clean and free-flowing during heavy rainstorms. Town Council awarded a contract and work began on Phase I of the drainage improvement plan. Phase I included Melody Lane to 13th Avenue South. The Stormwater Advisory Committee continues meeting to discuss ongoing plans. Meeting notices are posted on the town marquee and are open to the public.

Effective January 1, the town entered into a contract with Estate Management Services, a lake treatment company. Thanks to a "piggy-back" purchasing arrangement with the City of Myrtle Beach the contract is very cost effective for the town. The company will examine, test, and treat all the lakes within the town and the contract requires the company to keep the lakes algae- and duckweed-free. Public education, centered on the use of fertilizers and other chemicals that contribute to lake degradation, are critical to the success of the town’s water quality program.

The South Strand Garden Club donated hundreds of day lilies and along with support from town crews planted them along the roadway. You can look forward to seeing the beautiful blooms as the season progresses.

The public works department responds to about 90 calls a week. Please feel free to report any hazardous intersections due to overgrown vegetation, damaged or missing street signs, potholes, burned out street lights, storm water drainage problems, or sanitation issues. Every attempt is made to quickly resolve all calls. @843.913.6360, @843.913.6111 or e-mail your message to: Town@surfsidebeach.org.

Beach Wheelchair Access

Wheelchair accesses to the beach are located at 3rd Avenue North, Surfside Drive @ the pier, and Melody Lane.

Ramps at the following locations may be used but might require assistance: 13th Avenue North, 7th Avenue North, 4th Avenue South, and Melody Lane.

Beach Wheel Chairs are rented on a first come, first serve basis and will be reserved with advance notice by Southeastern Health Plus, Inc., 11816 Highway 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. Email: southeasternhealthpl@sc.rr.com @843.651.5795.

This information is provided as a service to visitors requiring beach wheelchairs and is not intended to guarantee availability thereof, nor does this constitute an endorsement of the company providing the service.
Jan Lewis
Employee of the 4th Quarter 2002
Janet M. Lewis was named employee of the 4th Quarter 2002. Lewis has worked for the Town since October 1989, when she was hired as a temporary employee. She was designated a full-time employee on May 14, 1990. Since that time Jan has served in many capacities, serving the town wherever her skills are needed.

Jan is the executive assistant for administration. In that role, she coordinates and prepares grant and bid packages, tracks underground fuel storage tanks, and prepares the town for the annual hurricane conference. She is also a volunteer firefighter.

Notes From the Ambulance
Surfside Beach Rescue Squad, non-emergency calls @ 843.238.1216
By David W. Powers, Assistant Chief of Administration

After several tumultuous years of inadequate funding, decreased recruiting and retention, and minimal ride time, the Surfside Beach Rescue Squad (SBRS) is once again returning to full-strength. Already this year we have matched our entire call volume from 2002.

The reason behind our rebirth is a complete upheaval of the leadership staff. A new core of active members is now running the squad. This new staff consists of two lifetime members and several other long-time members.

For the new year, SBRS is instituting several new programs and positions. The squad has now delegated fulltime duties as Public Information Officer to David Powers, current assistant chief of administration. Powers is a full-time freelance writer and has ample experience in this area. Since he assumed these duties, the squad has been mentioned in The Sun News at least twice a month since January (and all the mentions were positive).

With the new changes and our increased presence on the highways and byways of southern Horry County, keep an eye out for us.

We love to meet our supporters, especially when we're not on a business call. Just stop us at the store or feel free to come by the station and talk, have your blood pressure checked, or, of course, give donations.

The Surfside Beach Rescue Squad is still an all-volunteer, non-profit agency, so we rely on your generosity to staff the ambulances. Since we are volunteers, we can't staff the trucks 24 hours a day, but we make every effort to be there when we can. We also have many members who monitor radios in order to respond to emergencies near their homes. Since SBRS has the largest coverage area of any rescue squad or ambulance in Horry County, we're spread very thin, but remember, our primary responsibility is to you, the citizens of Surfside Beach. If we can ever be of service, don't hesitate to call. The non-emergency number is 843.238.1216.

ALL EMERGENCIES
dial 9-1-1
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a program developed to help protect your community, which is successful because citizens actively participate to keep watch for unusual activity in their neighborhoods. If you're interested in joining the Crime Watch group, please contact Mr. Tom Higgins, 843.238.0041.

How to Report a Crime: 1. Identify yourself - name, address, and telephone number. • 2. Type of crime. “In progress” dial 9-1-1 or “has occurred,” dial 913-6368. • 3. Where? Be as specific as possible. • 4. Description of suspect/s; how many, whether armed...WRITE THIS DOWN! • 5. Description of vehicle, tag number, dents, color...WRITE THIS DOWN! • 6. Direction traveled. The longer the caller can stay on the line, the better. • 7. After calling the police, call a neighbor so they can watch the suspect and help give the police a more detailed description.

Ward Honored, continued from page 2

Ward used the final minutes of the program to acknowledge the efforts of chamber staff and the various boards he has worked under. “I have had about 29 boards of directors who have been my boss,” he said, alluding to number of years he has been with the chamber. He also expressed thanks to local governments for their support of the chamber’s marketing programs. “The money local governments have given us has helped us brand—very successfully, I think—the Myrtle Beach area. We just have to keep reminding people to come back. Our officials have supported our efforts because they realize that business has to work for government to work.” Additionally Ward credited the chamber’s 2,500 members for making the organization a success. He also thanked members of his family who were present, including wife Ann, who was presented a bouquet of roses by Brad Dean, the chamber’s chief financial officer.

The Ashby Ward Official Myrtle Beach/Grand Strand Welcome Center is at 1800 US Highway 501 West, in Aynor, South Carolina. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and will change seasonally.

The Town of Surfside Beach is a member of the Greater Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. As a service to the town, the chamber includes town brochures in the information requests it receives. Five percent of the accommodations taxes paid to the chamber are reserved for town specific projects, which provides partial funding for the brochure and website. Town Clerk Debra Herrmann serves on the South Strand Council which makes recommendations to the chamber’s board of directors regarding programs and services to benefit the town and its neighbors.

For more information, contact the Chamber at 843.626.7444 or www.myrtlebeachinfo.com; or contact Town Hall at 843.913.6111 or www.surfsidebeach.org.

L. ASHBY WARD

1936 to 2003

We are saddened to report that Ashby Ward, President and CEO of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce since 1974, unexpectedly passed away on April 13, 2003 at his home. During his tenure, the Myrtle Beach area experienced substantial growth and world-wide recognition as a major center for recreation, tourism, and business development. Widely regarded as a driving force behind the area's economic success, Mr. Ward was awarded South Carolina's highest civilian honor, the Order of the Palmetto, in 2002. A native of Lake City, South Carolina, Mr. Ward was loved and respected by everyone who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Ann, along with three children and four grandchildren. Town Council and staff extend condolences to the family. Mr. Ward will be missed as an advocate of tourism at the state and local level.
NEW Tour Guide & Map

The town’s new Tour Guide and Map is now available. The guide has a new look that includes photographs of actual town events and updates the map to include new businesses in town.

Brochures are distributed to all who request one on the town’s website and to individuals inquiring through the Greater Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce for information on the town or the south-end.

Accommodation taxes pay for the brochures as a tourism promotion tool. If you would like a copy, please contact Town@surfsidebeach.org, or telephone 843.913.6111.

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ANY EMERGENCY — Dial 9-1-1

FIRE—RESCUE—POLICE — Dial 9-1-1

Email: Town@surfsidebeach.org * Web Page: www.surfsidebeach.org
Mail: 115 US Highway 17 North, Surfside Beach, SC 29575

843 913.6111 Town Hall Main Number
843 238.5432 Town Hall Fax
843 913.6111 Building Department
843 913.6339 DM Johnson Civic Center
843 913.6369 Fire Department non-emergency
843 913.6337 Municipal Court
843 650.4131 Parks & Recreation
843 913.6368 Police Department non-emergency
843 913.6360 Public Works (Sanitation/Streets)

Physical Addresses for town facilities
Town Hall & Court — 115 US Highway 17 North * Civic Center — 829 North Pine Drive
Hackabee Complex, 499 Spanish Oak Drive * Police Department — 811 North Pine Drive
Fire Department — 810 1st Avenue North * Floral Clubhouse — 617 Lakeside Drive