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**A Message from Mayor Childs**

As we reviewed the FY 2016—2017 Town of Surfside Beach proposed budget, I was extremely pleased to hear we would be able to maintain the current level of services we offer our residents, nonresidential property owners and visitors.

Property owners might find it surprising that a typical \$200,000 owner-occupied residential household in Surfside Beach with two \$30,000 vehicles and one moby cart for trash pays approximately \$425 in annual taxes to the Town (\$370 for the house and \$55 per vehicle) and \$225 in annual sanitation fees. That is less than \$60.00 per household per month, for all the services residents enjoy. To be specific, Town services, programs and incentives that residents and nonresidential property owners receive for their tax levy are: 24-hour police protection; 24-hour fire protection; street cleaning and maintenance; drainage maintenance; beach cleaning; parks and facilities cleaning, which includes bathrooms and showers; Town planning and zoning; local elections, municipal court; spectator pier passes; half-price fishing passes; free parking and ability to purchase parking decals. When taking all these services into account, taxes remain extremely low in Surfside Beach. Although North Myrtle Beach has a lower millage rate (39.3) if you include their various impact and assessment fees the total rate is much higher than the 46.2 mils our residents currently pay. In essence, Surfside Beach residents enjoy the lowest municipal taxation rate in the Grand Strand.

Your Town Council will continue to work with staff to successfully manage growth and services within the "Family Beach."

Robert F. "Bob" Childs

**MAYOR'S HOURS**

If you would like to make an appointment to meet with Mayor Bob Childs during his office hours, please contact the Town Clerk at 843-913-6333.

**Upcoming Events**

(see page 2)

**Newsletter Distribution Policy**

If you have a change of address, would like to have your name removed from the mailing or have the newsletter emailed to you, let us know at:

[newsletter@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:newsletter@surfsidebeach.org)

Please include your full name, address and zip code for record purposes. Indicate if you want an e-mail when new publications are issued or prefer to have it delivered by USPS.

You can also view our newsletter on our website at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org).



*Blessing of the Beach  
Sunday, May 29, 2016  
Surfside Beach Pier*



*Memorial Day  
Golf Cart Parade  
Sunday, May 29, 2016  
16th Avenue N.*



*Memorial Day Service  
Monday, May 30, 2016  
Passive Park*

## Questions Regarding Events & Recreation

For more information regarding events and classes please contact Debbie Ellis at 843-650-9548 or by e-mail at [dellis@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:dellis@surfsidebeach.org).

## 2016 Events at the Family Beach

### JUNE

5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>—**Sunday Serenades**—2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Passive Park  
28<sup>th</sup>—**Hula Show**—Tuesday—7:00 p.m.—On the beach at the Pier

### JULY

4<sup>th</sup> – **Fourth of July Celebration**—Monday – 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. – Pier  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>—**Sunday Serenades**—2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.—Passive Park  
12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>—**Hula Show**—Tuesdays—7:00 p.m.—On the beach at the Pier

### AUGUST

8<sup>th</sup> – **Beach Luau** – Monday – 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. – Surfside Pier  
7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>—**Sunday Serenades**—2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Passive Park

### SEPTEMBER

10<sup>th</sup> – **Skyhoundz Disc Contest** – Saturday – 10:00 a.m. – Martin Field  
17<sup>th</sup> – **S. C. Sea Grant Beach Sweep** – Saturday – 9:00 a.m. – Pier  
4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>—**Sunday Serenades**—2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.—Passive Park  
23<sup>rd</sup>—**Senior Fair**—Friday—10:00 a.m.—Fire Department

### OCTOBER

1<sup>st</sup>—**Surfside Beach Family Festival** – Saturday – 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Surfside Drive  
29<sup>th</sup>—**Halloween Rod Run Car Show**—Saturday—10:00 a.m.—Pier

### NOVEMBER

5<sup>th</sup>—**Heritage Days**—Saturday—10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—3rd Ave., South  
11<sup>th</sup> – **Veterans Day Service** – Friday – 2:00 p.m. – Veterans Memorial  
24<sup>th</sup> – **Turkey Trot** –Thursday – 8:00 a.m. – Surfside Pier Parking Lot

### DECEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> – **Christmas Tree Lighting** – Thursday – 7:00 p.m. – Town Hall  
10<sup>th</sup> – **Christmas Parade** – Saturday – 2:00 p.m. – Ocean Boulevard  
17<sup>th</sup> – **Breakfast with Santa** – Saturday – 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. – Golden Egg

Farmer's Market—Tuesdays —10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.—Passive Park—May through October



Autism-Friendly Fishing Experience, Surfside Beach Pier

## Flood Mitigation Ideas

Mitigation refers to any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazardous conditions. The following is a list of possible flood mitigation measures for communities.

- Since standard homeowners' insurance does not cover flood losses, purchase Flood Insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. Insurance is a citizen's first defense against flooding.
- Establish adequate building codes. Building codes are standards for building construction and other structures. If enforced, codes can reduce damages to buildings in flood-prone areas. Examples include:
  - Establish base elevations and first flood elevations consistent with potential flood levels.
  - Strengthen structural codes to withstand water pressure or high velocity of flowing water.
  - Prevent flotation of buildings by requiring proper anchorage.
- Enforce appropriate zoning laws. Zoning is a legal tool used by governments to control development in hazardous areas. Jurisdictions can designate floodways and encroachment lines where no construction or land filling should be permitted.
- Flood-proof homes and businesses. Flood proofing is any combination of changes to a structure or property using berms, floodwalls, closures or sealants, which reduces or eliminates flood damage.
- Raise utilities and appliances. Electrical panel boxes, furnaces, water heaters, and appliances such as washers and dryers should be elevated out of the base flood height.
- Buyout and/or acquire homes, businesses and property in the floodplain to prevent future losses.
- Elevate homes and businesses in the flood-plain above the base flood elevation.
- Perform channel improvements. Examples include:
  - Straighten undesirable bend ways;
  - Deepen and widen stream beds to increase size of waterways;
  - Remove brush, trees and other obstructions, etc.
- Construct and maintain dams and reservoirs built on mainstreams or tributaries that store excessive water and release it gradually after the threat has passed. Build levees or floodwalls to confine flood waters to a floodway thereby reducing flood damage.
- Explore watershed treatment ideas to render the soil more absorbent of excessive water. Measures include: crop rotation; terrace construction; contour strip cropping, and selective planting and reforestation.
- Utilize GIS to determine which homes in your community are in the floodplain or at risk to flooding. Alert residents and provide information about how they can mitigate their property and homes.



## Surfside Beach Fire Department

Hurricane season is just around the corner and the Surfside Beach Fire Department would like to remind everyone that now is the time to go through your emergency kit. A disaster supply kit is simply a collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. You may need to survive on your own after an emergency. This means having your own food, water and supplies to last for at least 72 hours. If you do not have an emergency kit,

please go to [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov) or [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) to find a list of the items you will need. Special needs forms are also available on the Town website under Government and Forms at [www.surfsidebeach.org](http://www.surfsidebeach.org). These forms can help the Fire Department aid people with special needs during an emergency event. Feel free to contact the Surfside Beach Fire Department at 843-913-6369 if you have any questions about the emergency kits or special needs forms.





## Opening a New Business

Opening a new business can be intimidating and a little overwhelming, to say the least. The Town of Surfside Beach understands this and wants to encourage and assist you by making the process faster and easier. Before leasing or purchasing a property within the Town limits of Surfside Beach, **we strongly recommend you stop by the Planning, Building and Zoning Department.** Checking the current zoning of the property before leasing or purchase can prevent unwanted and unnecessary complications. There, you may have your questions answered in a “One-Stop” process.

**Design Overlay District:** You will be advised on whether your business is located within the Design Overlay District and we will provide you with a Design Overlay District packet, if applicable.

**Planning, Building and Zoning Department:** After we meet to discuss the zoning and feasibility of your business opening at your chosen location, we will make a “Feasibility Inspection” to give you an idea of any improvements or modifications that may be required to meet the Town zoning codes and flood codes, if applicable.

After the feasibility inspection Planning, Building and Zoning will meet with you again to go over the results, explain any required changes and explain the next steps in the process. You will receive a copy of the feasibility inspection report along with appropriate checklists to help you prepare plans for any necessary changes.

**Preparing Plans for Submittal:** A design professional should draw the plans.



**Submitting Plans for Approval:** When your plans are complete, submit the site and/or building plans to the permit technician in the Planning, Building and Zoning department. The plan will be reviewed within five business days. You and your design professional will be notified if the plans are approved or require revisions. You will receive a detailed list of review comments.

**Your Contractor obtains the permits and calls for Inspections:** Building permits (for building code requirement changes) can only be obtained by a licensed South Carolina general contractor who must also hold a current Town business license. We provide your contractor with an approved set of plans to use as the field copy.

**No work may begin until all permits have been obtained:** Your general contractor must call for the required inspections of the work as it progresses. Inspections must be requested 24-hours in advance.

**Don't forget your signs:** Signs are issued a separate permit and must be handled by a licensed sign company that can often help you design, manufacture and install the most effective signs.

**(The Town's Sign Ordinance is currently under review and will be revised based on the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the Reed vs. Town of Gilbert case. More information will be forthcoming on the town's website.)**

**DHEC—Health Department Approval:** If your business is regulated by the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), you must obtain their approval before you can get a business license to open your business.

The Fire Department will perform an inspection once your business is set up and ready to open.

The Police Department will require submittal of a “Night Reference Form” prior to opening.

The Public Works Department must be notified by a new business owner/tenant, the sanitation supervisor will meet them on site; review the type of business and/or materials that may be generated. This assessment will determine the type of service required.

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning, Building and Zoning Department at 843-913-6341.



## Surfside Beach Police Department

A component of any successful Police Department is the ability to find new ways of addressing important community issues. Departments have a responsibility to take measures to address the needs of the community. One such area is traffic control and enforcement. This can include speed problems, insufficient traffic signage, and engineering issues. In decades past, departments would often address these complaints by issuing massive amounts of citations in “blitz campaigns” and then return to business as usual. These efforts often had little to no real impact because just as no two communities are the same, no single effort or tool is sufficient to address these problems.

Over the past few years, the Surfside Beach Police Department has embraced a stronger commitment to community involvement with programs such as Coffee with a Cop and the Citizen’s Police Academy. Another change we have made is how we respond to traffic complaints. An example of our focus on new ways to address problems is the use of new technologies. Over the

past year we have purchased and deployed two devices used to collect traffic data on volume and speeds. This data has greatly enhanced our efforts.

We take complaints very seriously because each is important to those involved. Communication is the first step. We work to get as much information about the particular issue and how it may be impacting those in the area. The next step is a plan. The Command Staff meets to discuss the issue and see what steps can be taken to mitigate the problem. This includes tools such as speed surveys, the use of equipment such as speed trailers and counters, and assigning patrol resources for extended periods of time. Once we have a grasp on the scope of the problem, we identify steps that can be taken, implement them and then evaluate their effectiveness. Solutions for each situation are diverse and can include increased speed signage, additional traffic control and stop signs, and extended traffic control by patrol units.

Some problems have more complex solutions and require involvement from

other departments and agencies. The Town is a mixture of Town and state-maintained roadways which presents challenges and obstacles that we must work to overcome. Town maintained roadways are generally less challenging to address and solutions are easier and quicker to implement while state-maintained roadways require final action by SCDOT with requests and recommendations by the Town. In both cases, we rely heavily on the cooperation of the Surfside Beach Public Works Department.

If you have a concern about any issue in your area of the Town, traffic or otherwise, please contact the Police Department at 843-913-6368 or e-mail [amiller@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:amiller@surfsidebeach.org).



## Surfside Beach Municipal Court

The mission of the Surfside Beach Municipal Court is to preserve the rights of the citizens of the Town of Surfside Beach while prosecuting those who violate the law. They are committed to the administration of justice.

The court handles misdemeanor criminal and traffic offenses. Bench trials are held on Wednesdays twice a month, roster meetings are held quarterly and jury trials are held three times a year.

**Statistics from January 1, through April 30, 2016 are as follows:**

Cases Filed: 847  
Pending Cases: 209  
Arrest Warrants Issued: 53

**Statistics from January 1, through April 30, 2015 were as follows:**

Cases Filed: 987  
Pending Cases: 0  
Arrest Warrants Issued: 99

If you have any questions regarding the Court, please call 843-913-6338



# Inside SURFSIDE BEACH

Volume 24, Issue 1



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## Contact Information

### Department Contacts

- 843.913.6111 Town Hall—Main Number  
[town@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:town@surfsidebeach.org)
- 843.913.6111 Town Administrator, Micki Fellner
- 843.913.6337 Court, Municipal Judge Chris Arakas  
[arakasc@horrycounty.org](mailto:arakasc@horrycounty.org)
- 843.913.6336 Finance Director, Diana King  
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- 843.913.6369 Fire Department, Chief Kevin Otte  
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- 843.913.6354 Planning, Building & Zoning, Director Sabrina Morris  
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- 843.913.6351 Police Department, Chief Rodney Keziah  
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- 843.913.6361 Public Works, Director John Adair  
[jadair@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:jadair@surfsidebeach.org)
- 843.650.9548 Recreation & Events, Supervisor Debbie Ellis  
[dellis@surfsidebeach.org](mailto:dellis@surfsidebeach.org)

### EMERGENCY CALLS—Dial 9-1-1

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Web: [surfsidebeach.org](http://surfsidebeach.org)

### Town Council

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