A Message from Mayor Childs

Being an ambassador for the town was a key factor in my deciding to run for the mayor’s seat. It’s important for our constituents to understand what the town does for its citizens, businesses, and visitors. Therefore, over the next several issues, my message will focus on the various town departments.

Public Works consists of five small divisions: sanitation (9), streets and drainage (9), grounds (5), facilities, (2) and fleet maintenance (2). The total personnel, including the director and the administrative assistant, is 29.

We often see the Public Works crews collecting trash and working on the town’s streets and other infrastructure. Did you know that public works also maintains the entire fleet of vehicles and equipment? There are 241 pieces: 79 motorized vehicles (cars, trucks, tractors, gators, etc.), and 162 other motorized pieces of equipment including generators, mowers, chainsaws, blowers, and many more. This equipment serves the entire town in every department.

The most common complaints for Public Works are sanitation related. Usually, it is because of a misunderstanding regarding the town’s procedures (i.e. the Moby cart was placed on the wrong side of the street and not emptied, or was placed curbside the wrong day). To view the sanitation schedule please see page 4 or visit www.surfsidebeach.org/sanitation-schedule.

The Public Works Department strives to use existing resources to the maximum extent possible. It provides beach cleaning, recycling, trash collection including on the beach. They build the beach walkovers with seating areas and maintain the beach restrooms, parks, and ball fields. In addition, they have built scenic decks around several of the town’s lakes, installed fountains, and enhanced parks with exercise trails and new playground equipment.

An aggressive road resurfacing program was also initiated in 2011. Since then 13.8 miles have been paved. This year another 4.25 miles will be resurfaced. A street improvement project is (Continued on page 3)
Inside SURFSIDE BEACH

2017 Events at the Family Beach

MAY

Sunday 28, Memorial Day Golf Cart Parade, 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Ocean Boulevard
Sunday 28, Memorial Day Cookout, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m., Surfside Drive
Sunday 28, Sunday Serenade, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Passive Park
Monday 29, Memorial Day Service, 2:30 p.m., Veterans Memorial

JUNE

Sundays 4, 11, 18, 25, Sunday Serenades, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Passive Park
Tuesdays 20, 27, Hula Show, 7:00 p.m. on the Beach at the Pier
Wednesdays 21, 28, Crafter’s Cove, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. under the Pier
Sunday 25, Surf’s Up Art Show, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Dick M. Johnson Civic Center

JULY

Sundays 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sunday Serenades, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Passive Park
Tuesday 4, Fourth of July Celebration, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Pier
Tuesdays 11, 18, 25, Hula Show, 7:00 p.m., on the Beach at the Pier
Wednesdays 12, 19, 26, Crafter’s Cove, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. under the Pier

AUGUST

Tuesday 1, Hula Show, 7:00 p.m. on the Beach at the Pier
Wednesday 2, 9, Crafter’s Cove, 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. under the Pier
Sunday 6, 13, 20, 27, Sunday Serenades, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Passive Park
Monday 7, Beach Luau, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the Beach at the Pier

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 3, 10, 17, 24, Sunday Serenades, 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Passive Park
Saturday 9, Skyhoundz Disc Contest, 10:00 a.m. Martin Field
Saturday 16, SC Sea Grant Beach Sweep, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Pier

OCTOBER

Saturday 7, Surfside Beach Family Festival, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Surfside Drive
Friday 20, Senior Fair, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Surfside Beach Fire Station
Saturday, Halloween Car Show 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Pier

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

Questions Regarding Events & Recreation

Please contact:
Supervisor Debbie Ellis
Phone 843.650.9548
or by e-mail at dellis@surfsidebeach.org

The 2017 BBQ Festival was a HUGE success.
The BBQ and side dishes were delicious, and the weather was perfect!
Events

On Sunday, May 28th at 1:00 p.m. the Town will hold its 2nd Annual Memorial Day Golf Cart Parade. Last year more than 35 golf cars participated.

The Town would like to double the entries this year and we invite you to join us.

Entry forms are available at Town Hall or contact Debbie Ellis at 843-650-9545 or send an email message to dellis@surfsidebeach.org.

The Farmer’s Market starts Tuesday, May 2nd at the Passive Park (next to the library on Surfside Drive). The market is open from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. every Tuesday beginning May 2nd until October, 31st.

Sunday Serenades begin on Sunday, May 28th at the Passive Park from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and continue every Sunday until September 24th. Bring your beach chairs and a picnic lunch to enjoy the music, great weather, and visit with friends.

Flood Insurance

Flood Insurance—How Important is it?

Every home is vulnerable to flooding. Just an inch of water can cause thousands of dollars worth of damage. More than half of the dwellings damaged by the October 2016 floods and Hurricane Matthew were located in low-risk areas. Floods can happen anywhere and anytime. A National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy protects valuable assets and helps pay for recovery. Properties in moderate- and low-risk areas account for more than 20-percent of the country’s NFIP claims and receive a third of flood-related federal disaster assistance.

NFIP policies cover flood damage that federal disaster assistance and most homeowners insurance policies do not. Depending on the type and amount of coverage, you may receive up to $250,000 for home damage and up to $100,000 for contents. Flood insurance policies go into effect 30 days after purchase.

NFIP payouts are not dependent on state or federal disaster declarations. Floods are the most common natural disaster and usually do not result in a declaration. Policyholders might be eligible to get additional payments up to $30,000 to mitigate a substantially damaged home so it meets local floodplain-management regulations.

www.floodsmart.gov is the site to learn more about any property’s flood risk, estimate an NFIP premium or locate an insurance agent who sells flood insurance. Visit www.ready.gov/floods for flood information and safety tips.

Questions about your flood zone? Call the Planning, Building & Zoning Department at 843-913-6341 or stop by our office at 829 Pine Drive, Surfside Beach, SC 29575 in the Town Hall Complex.

Mayor’s Message, continued

(Continued from page 1)

planned for this coming winter on 3rd Avenue South from Highway 17 to Poplar Drive to create a safe, walkable, and shopper-friendly district for that part of the C2 Business District.

The Public Works Department initiated a semi-annual drop off program for residents where they can bring their unwanted household hazardous waste and electronic waste (e-waste) to the facility on Sandy Lane for disposal.

The department also has an ambitious stormwater maintenance program with regular schedules to clean and maintain the system at peak capacity. Additionally, the North Side Drainage Project, located in the Myrtle and Magnolia basins, has had one phase completed and more phases will be implemented.

Public Works employees are some of the friendliest people you will ever meet. They are quick to assist residents and visitors, alike. Staff regularly works during town street fairs and festivals so take time to thank these employees and let them know they are appreciated.

It goes without saying that it takes all the departments working together to keep our beautiful town operating successfully.

I hope you’ve learned a little more about Public Works. If you have any other questions, please contact me at 843.913.6330 or call Director John Adair at 843.913.6361.

Robert F. “Bob” Childs, III
Cooking brings families and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity, experimentation. It can be relaxing and a good stress reliever.

Regardless of the benefits of cooking, cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries. By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

“Cook with Caution”

Be on alert! Always use caution when cooking. If you are sleepy, or have consumed alcohol, let someone else do the cooking. Enjoy home delivery from one of the town’s many restaurants, or let a friend take you to dinner.

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. This is especially important when using back yard grills.

When kids are cooking with you, take time to ensure they learn kitchen safety as they learn your recipes.

It is always best to stay in the kitchen while food is cooking. If you are frying, grilling, or broiling food, you should never leave it unattended.

If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

When you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, be sure to check it regularly. Always remain in or near the kitchen when the stovetop or oven is on. Using a timer is a great way to help you remember that food is cooking.

Keep anything that can catch fire away from your stovetop. oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, dish towels, and even your curtains can quickly catch fire.

When in doubt, call 9-1-1. But if you have a small grease fire and decide to fight the fire yourself, remember this:

Sliding a lid over the pan will smother the flames. Turn off the burner, and do not take the lid off until the pan is cool to the touch.

If you have an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire, just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire, and then call 9-1-1 from outside the home.

Safety First
Emergency
Dial 9-1-1

Non-Emergency
Fire 843.913.6369
Police 843.913.6368

Surfside’s Swale Tale

Surfside’s swales are a key part of our stormwater control system and one reason that Surfside Beach rarely has flooded streets or areas during heavy storms. Years ago our town was designed and built with planned drainage along our streets. Most streets have a shallow drainage “swale” to catch water and allow it to sink through our sandy soil, as well as drain off toward one of our beautiful lakes.

These drainage swales run along the sides of our streets, along the rights-of-way. Most residents do a great job maintaining the sloped swales along their yards, but occasionally a new resident, who may not understand the importance of our swale system will want to add fill to level their yard.

Over the years, some of the deeper swales or ditches have been completely filled in, along with underground pipes designed to carry water to the next property.

When our swales are filled, there is more risk of stormwater backing up into a home or onto the roads. Hopefully, this article will help you understand the role of the town’s swales in retaining and controlling stormwater.

Questions, contact 843.913.6360 or email jadair@surfsidebeach.org

Swales are designed to allow water to collect to seep into the stormwater system and evaporate.

This prevents flooding in homes and on the roadways.

Sanitation Schedule

Tuesday Trash: South End: 4th Avenue South to Melody Lane West of Dogwood/Lake Court only

Wednesday Trash: North End-17th Avenue North to 3rd Avenue South West of Dogwood and Pinewood only

Saturday Trash: Ocean Boulevard Route: All of Ocean Boulevard, Lake Court, Pinewood, Dogwood, Yaupon, Seaside Drive and all cross streets in between.

Friday Recycle: Town wide.

Carts must be curbside on collection day by 6:00 a.m. and removed by 11:00 p.m. that night. Carts may be put out the night before the collection day.

Call 843.913.6360 for more information or send an email message to jadair@surfsidebeach.org
The pretty geese with the white mark on their heads used to visit Surfside Beach for a week in the spring and in the fall on their way to and from Canada. Because they found; continue to find food sources here, (and people feed them), and they have few, if any, natural enemies, some of the geese stay here and hatch more young each year. These geese we see year round are now designated “resident” Canadian geese by our government. They are not protected as migratory Canadian geese.

Some estimates are that each goose produces over a pound of poop per day—creating a mess on our sidewalks, streets, athletic fields, and lawns. Runoff washes into our streams and lakes and flows into our ocean where thousands enjoy swimming.

Surfside Beach does not allow shooting geese, but the town does allow “shooing them” off your property and roads. Our federal government now encourages “discouraging” the geese from staying. How to “discourage” will be in another issue.

For now let’s share the message with our neighbors and tourists who are unaware of the goose problem.

Tents on the Beach
At the April 25, 2017 regular Town Council meeting, Town Council approved Ordinance #17-0842 that will allow 10 x 10 tents on the town’s beach this summer; however, tents may not be linked together to form a larger shaded areas, and no tents are allowed from 8th Avenue South southward to Melody Lane. Beginning January 1, 2018, shading devices are restricted to umbrellas not larger than nine (9) feet in diameter and tents no larger than 31 inches in height and 38 inches in depth, commonly referred to as “baby tents.”

This was a difficult decision for the town, inasmuch as we are the Family Beach, and understand the importance of shade for youngsters and the elderly. However, after two years of slow emergency response times, the ban had to be placed into effect.
Inside SURFSIDE BEACH

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Please deliver to addressee or current occupant.

Newsletter Distribution Policy

In an effort to save tax dollars, “Inside Surfside Beach” will be posted on the website three times a year (i.e., January, May and September). It can be viewed at www.surfsidebeach.org.

If you would like an email notification when a new issue is posted to the website or if you require a paper copy please contact the Town Clerk at Phone: 843.913.6333 or Email: dherrmann@surfsidebeach.org

Contact Information

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