 Candidate Filing Opens August 23

Filing for the November 5, 2015 regular election opens on August 23rd at 12 o’clock noon and closes on September 6th at 12 o’clock noon. The November election will have the mayor’s seat and three town council seats on the ballot. Town elections are nonpartisan (no party affiliation.) Councilmembers serve the town at large.

There are just a few requirements to qualify as a candidate for the upcoming election:

1. Be at least 18 years of age;
2. Be a registered elector (registered to vote);
3. You must have lived in town at least 30 days, and if elected, maintain that residency throughout your term;
4. Complete a Statement of Candidacy (provided by the town) and
5. Pay a filing fee. $100 for mayor or $75 for town council.

Candidates are also required to file Statements of Economic Interest and Campaign Disclosure Forms with the South Carolina Ethics Commission.

Terms of office for those elected on November 5 begin December 10, 2015, and end on December 12, 2019 (4 years).

If you have a desire to serve the town, please consider offering for public office. No previous experience is required, and there are multiple resources to help you.

The regular election is November 5, 2019. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eлектors are required by SC Code to present a valid photo identification to vote. Visit https://www.scvotes.org for more information or to register to vote.

The last day to register to vote in the upcoming election is October 4, 2015.

For more information about the election or to schedule an appointment to file as a candidate, please contact the town clerk at 843.913.6333 or send an email to townclerk@surfsidebeach.org.

www.surfsidebeach.org/elections
Yard Work to Yard Worth: Curb Appeal

By: Ashley Hein

The Keep Surfside Beautiful Committee works hard to inspire our friends and neighbors to have passion about the beautification in our quaint beach town.

In addition to our scheduled beach sweeps, we encourage our community to take pride in the appearance of this beautiful place we call home. Many seem to think that working in the yard is just that, work! Well, on some levels it may need some clearing, too. Share the love, and make your home safer by creating clear lines of sight.

1. Shut the Door! And PAINT IT!! Adding a little color or a fresh coat is a sure way to get some attention and you can be the trendsetter on the street.

2. Put a planter by the front door. It’s right by the door so you have no excuse not to water it. It’s an inviting way to welcome you and your guests.

3. Trim low branches and clear out any overgrown bushes. The flower beds may need some clearing, too. Share the love, and make your home safer by creating clear lines of sight.

4. Spruce up the mailbox by painting it or adding some foliage around it. Apply new numbers, or simply splurge or adding some foliage around it. Apply new numbers, or simply splurge

Volunteers Sought

The Town of Surfside Beach has statutory (required by law) and ad hoc committees (committees formed to serve an advisory capacity to Town Council).

If you are interested in serving, you may submit an application at any time. Applications are available for download from the town website at www.surfsidebeach.org/committees.

Applications are also available by US Mail, or by email. Simply call 843.913.6333 or send an email message to townclerk@surfsidebeach.org.

Volunteer submissions will be presented to Town Council for consideration as vacancies occur.

Statutory Committees: Accommodations Tax; Construction Appeals; Planning Commission; Zoning Appeals

Ad Hoc: Business; Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful; Senior Citizens; Stormwater.

Surfside Beach Historical Society is open to anyone that wishes to join.

Visit www.surfsidebeach.org/committees for more information about all of the town’s committees.

Regular Meetings

Town Council meets the 4th Tuesday monthly, except in December at 6:00 p.m. The remaining 2019 meeting dates are:

- August 27
- September 24
- October 22
- November 26
- December 10

The newly elected Mayor and three Town Council members will be inaugurated at the December meeting.

Planning Commission meets the 1st Tuesday monthly at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Construction Appeals and Board of Zoning Appeals meet when there are appeals to be heard.

Accommodations Tax Committee meets 3rd Thursday every January at 4:00 p.m. and when there is business to conduct.

Business Committee meets the 2nd Tuesday monthly at 10:00 a.m.

Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee meets the 3rd Friday monthly at the Fire Station.

Ralph Magliette Senior Citizens Committee meet the last Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m.

Stormwater Committee meets the 3rd Tuesday in January, April, July and October. (Note this October the committee will meet on the 22nd.)

Other meetings are scheduled as business dictates. Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act Sections 30-4-40(A) and (B) the public is invited to all meetings and events.

Visit www.surfsidebeach.org/calendar for current schedules. Meeting dates are subject to change.
A project five years in the planning stage came to fruition this summer with the major upgrade of the 3rd Avenue South mini-business district as contractors and town crews widened sidewalks, moved utilities underground, added new lighting and converted parallel parking to more user-friendly angle parking, with a formal dedication ceremony on July 30th.

“The project came off beautifully,” says Lee Zulanch, owner of Benjamin’s Bakery & Cafe, one of the businesses most affected by the work. “The sidewalk expansions greatly expanded our outdoor seating area and there was also the safety aspect of not having car bumpers hanging over the sidewalk (since parking on that side of the street is now parallel). In some places, the sidewalk is now 10 to 12 feet wide, which allows us to apply for a sidewalk cafe permit.”

Zulanch added that the new angle parking on the south side of the street definitely helps, especially since the King of Cart’s firm agreed to give up two driveways on 3rd Avenue so that the entire length of the block could be converted to parking. Unfortunately, the widened sidewalk on Poplar Drive meant losing a number of parking spaces; Zulanch would like to see that area converted to either golf cart or motor-cycle parking and would like to see the town provide bike racks to encourage non-automobile traffic.

A bonus for his facility was that the burying of utilities behind his building was coordinated with the correction of some drainage problems in that area, for which Zulanch shared the cost.

Zulanch plans to apply to the town’s newly instituted business facade and landscaping grant program (see article on page 4) to install an awning over the newly widened Poplar Drive sidewalk, which would make the outdoor seating area more inviting and more comfortable during the summer months. The program provides matching funds up to $5,000 to businesses in the C1 and C2 districts who make improvements to the building’s facade and exterior.

The project was not without its headaches, however. Work began at the end of April and continued through the weekend before July Fourth — with major disruption continuing well into the summer tourist season.

“It did impact our business,” Zulanch says, “although we were grateful to have loyal customers who said we were worth tracking through the mud to get to us.” He also complimented the construction workers who helped ease the inconveniences, for example, using their tractors to carry pallets of supplies from delivery trucks that weren’t able to access the street.

Between the new parking, wider sidewalks, decorative street lighting and greenery planted on the south-side fence, 3rd Avenue South has achieved the look of a welcoming, neighborhood business district.
The Design Overlay Improvement Grant was created to encourage private investment in improving older properties within the Design Overlay District. The grant assists with the cost associated with exterior improvements of buildings and landscaping, and can significantly reduce costs by as much as fifty (50%) percent for awards up to $5,000 dollars for building improvements. Landscaping improvement grants may be up to $2,000 dollars. Grant applications are accepted at any time and are available online at http://www.surfsidebeach.org/business-committee or at town hall during business hours.

Any property owner, tenant, or business within the C1 or C2 Commercial districts may apply for a grant. Basic rules are:

- You may only apply for one grant each fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).
- A grant application with all the attachments must be submitted.
- Two estimates dated within 30 days of the grant submission are required.
- If you are a tenant, your landlord must verify in writing he supports the application, and a copy of your lease is required.
- All your town licenses and fees must be up-to-date.
- The project must be for the exterior renovations of an existing building or to bring landscaping requirements up to current standards.
- Any proposed renovations must be shown to scale on 8.5” x 11” drawings, with specifications outlining the scope of work. Color photographs of the existing conditions shall be submitted.
- The project must meet all zoning requirements. All required permits must be obtained before work begins. The proposed project shall follow the requirements of the overlay district in Chapter 17 of the Town Code.
- Improvements made under the grant must become part of the property and shall not be removed without written authorization of the Town.
- Work performed under any grant award is subject to inspection as stipulated by code. Projects must be completed within 60 days of grant approval. Extensions may be approved for landscape projects upon case-by-case request.
- Grant funds are not automatically provided. Applications are required and are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- Every approved application shall be submitted to Planning, Building and Zoning for review and certification that the project meets all applicable codes and ordinances. PBZ will complete its review in ten business days from the date delivered, and certification delivered to the committee.
- Grant funds may not be used to purchase building permits, business license, or any part of the project plans.
- Town Council will review the grant program during its annual budget process to determine whether funds may be appropriated for this program.
- Improvements shall be complete and PBZ inspection delivered to the committee.
- The Surfside Beach Business Committee reviews the grants for approval recommendation. You will be notified of the meeting date during which your application will be reviewed, and are encouraged to attend the meeting to present your application.
- This is a REIMBURSEMENT BASIS grant. Applications must be approved in writing PRIOR to any work being started. No funds will be disbursed until the project is completed; all inspections are approved; receipts for costs are submitted, and a property tour showing the improvements to the committee has been held.
- Grant applications are subject to public review under the Freedom of information Act.

For more information, contact the town clerk at 843.913.6333, send an email message to townclerk@srfsidebeach.org or visit www.surfsidebeach.org/business-committee.

www.surfsidebeach.org/business-committee

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Work to "Worth", continued from page 2

5. LIGHTS! Light it up with some solar lights. Illuminate that beautiful yard that you are so proud of!
6. Clean and clear out anything not being used or that has been overly used. Power wash anything that can handle the power! If you do not have a pressure washer, nothing is wrong with using the hose to spray it down. See if you can help a neighbor. Helping is always good for the soul.

If you dare to go beyond these tips and try a little more, GO FOR IT! Not only is curb appeal instant gratification, any realtor will tell you good curb appeal improves your property’s value!

Your neighbors will enjoy the view of your accomplishments, and hopefully, will reciprocate. Keep in mind that curb appeal is an on-going project so you don’t have to assert yourself all in one weekend. A beautiful yard takes time.

The Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee recognizes all the hard work and efforts that our citizens make to beautify the homes that line our streets. From April until October, we as a committee vote on Yard of the Month.

We encourage our friends and neighbors to submit nominations. We wish you luck in your projects! Yard of the Month nominations can be sent to the Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful Committee via townclerk@srfsidebeach.org.

Keep Surfside Beach Beautiful #ksbb. Find us on Facebook and Instagram.

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Veterans Memorial Wall

A Memorial Wall was constructed at the Veterans Memorial on Surfside Drive. Plaques are available for purchase at $50 each to honor or memorialize your Veteran. The order form is available at www.surfsidebeach.org/Data/Sites/1/media/events/plaque-order-form.pdf

For more information email dennis@srfsidebeach.org or call 843.650.9548.

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Surfside Beach Police Department
Community Alert Program (CAP)

The Community Alert Program (CAP) is free of charge to town residents. Register your elderly or housebound family members with the Surfside Beach Police Department for wellness checks. You may do so by calling Tonika Parson at 843.913.6346, visit the department at 811 Pine Drive or go online to obtain a form at www.surfsidebeach.org/police.

If your loved one has special needs, the department will keep that information confidential and make it available to first responders when necessary.

Don’t miss this opportunity to provide your family member with an extra measure of protection.