

From the Mayor's desk – 10/24/25

Happy Friday!

Well, the 50th celebration which was planned for tomorrow, October 25th has been postponed due to the threat of rain that has been present all week long. Usually cancelling or postponing a big event due to rain is the best way to ensure we get a nice sunny day, but with most of the activities out in the open air, it was better to be safe than sorry! With the week delay, we did lose our headliner band, Little Screaming Kenny to another booked gig. We will definitely have them back to play the outdoor stage in the spring or summer. Everyone plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Surfside Beach next Saturday, November 1st. We will have a replacement band in place by next Saturday.

Beach & Parks:

The Fort Velasco timeline fence was reconstructed after suffering some damage during Beryl. It looks really nice. Come visit and take in some of the history that we have to offer here in the Village.

Next week we will be planning the off season projects to be completed between November and February. These will include improvements and repairs at several beach entrances, walkovers, and road repairs in rough spots like Texas St. among others, new showers at main entrance, and a few others TBD. Once we have a work plan in place, it will be communicated out to all. As always, your input is greatly appreciated as we attempt to address problems and make improvements to Beach & Parks. Please pass along potential projects to Toby or myself.

Hay bales at the main entrance. We have a plan to utilize some hay bales for miscellaneous purposes during the 50th celebration and decided to bring in the whole shipment now for dune placement at the end of hurricane season. We will place the hay bales on the edge of dunes to allow for sand build up and hay decomposition earlier in the offseason, instead of waiting for January. This will promote more spring growth of vegetation that will improve the dune growth. The Christmas trees will still be placed in January and can be positioned easily in the gaps between hay bales. I personally have noticed measurable dune growth in areas where both the hay and the trees survived the summer. Looking great.

There are currently 4 openings in Beach & Parks for anyone interested. Please contact City Hall. I have a hunch that if you are hired you may be working on some off season projects!!

Public Works:

Top story...the hot tap into our water main was completed successfully on Thursday about noon. The new 6" line that was added will serve the fire suppression for the new restaurant, the Salty Pelican. Thanks to the contractor team for a job well done along with both Erick & Josh for working closely with them to ensure we were set up for success, and had a back up plan in place just in case!

Red tag notices are still being distributed for notifications of water shut off. Reminder that you must have your account paid in full or visit City Hall to agree to a payment plan in order to avoid a red tag disconnect notice.

Other Items of Interest:

The transition to our new and improved Short Term Rental (STR) system, Host Compliance is nearly completed. This system is extremely adept at identifying local rental properties that are in violation of our STR registration and HOT remittance ordinances. If a rental property is operating in a short term capacity (less than 30 day rental periods), and is not registered with VOSB, and/or is not remitting HOT taxes, then the Host Compliance system flags it and collects the necessary documents to be used in court, if needed, for prosecution. The initial run of the Host Compliance system has identified 181 properties in violation! When we go live in mid-November, any property in violation will be contacted to quickly rectify that situation or face legal implications for the violations. For those who are already properly registered with VOSB(Thank you!!), our STR registration licenses are being distributed from City Hall. All STRs must display their license visible from the street. I will say that they are solid aluminum, well designed, and look nice on the properties that I've seen around town that have installed them. Thanks to all who have registered and properly displayed your new registration license.

We have a meeting with a recruiting agency next week to discuss how we plan to fill the new position of City Administrator. With Council approval, we may use a recruiting agency as we did very successfully earlier this year for other high profile positions. Also we plan to assemble an interview panel that includes myself, member(s) of Council, a citizen, and any potential persons of expertise. This approach has also worked well previously this year. If all progresses as planned, we should have a new City Administrator in place before Christmas.

As always, I hope that you have a great day in wonderful Surfside Beach! Get out and enjoy the beach this weekend...unless you get rained out!

Thanks,

Zach