

## POLICE BEAT

### MARCH OFFICER OF THE MONTH

#### OFFICER MICAH SMITH'S SHARP EYE SOLVES RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES



Three residential burglaries occurred in Surfside during a five day period in late February. Personal items worth more than \$8,000 were stolen. During the investigation of the burglaries, Surfside Police Department detectives located a nearby home with surveillance cameras and found an image of a possible subject walking in the area. An informational flyer was distributed to Surfside officers, surrounding agencies and the community.

On March 2, Officer Micah Smith was working an off-duty detail in the Town and saw three juveniles walking on Harding Avenue. He noticed that one wore the same clothing as the subject in the flyer. Officer Smith stopped the juveniles and requested assistance from a detective. The three juveniles were transported to the station and interviewed. All three confessed to their involvement in the three burglaries. They had items that belonged to the

burglary victims and admitted to being in the area again to commit additional burglaries. They were arrested and charged with three counts of Unoccupied Burglary and Loitering and Prowling.

Officer Smith's alertness and keen observation skills led to the arrest of the burglary subjects and his instincts prevented crimes in the community. Congratulations to Officer Micah Smith as the recipient of Officer of the Month for March 2018.

### Officer Gentile Rescues Dog in the Bay



On the night of April 11, a Bay Harbor Islands Police officer advised the Surfside Police Department that he observed a dog in distress swimming along the seawall in the area of Bay Drive. Officer John Gentile responded and found the dog swimming southbound in the waterway behind the 9300 Block of Bay Drive. The dog was struggling and unable to get on land. Officer Gentile was unable to get down to the water level to get the dog. The officers lost sight of the dog until Officer Gentile moved further south and entered a backyard where he found a plastic floating dock. He jumped down on the floating dock and was able to grab the dog by a harness and pull him out of the water. The dog, Max, had a tag with a Surfside address. Officer Gentile responded to the address and returned the dog to the owner who was unaware of the incident. The owner was very appreciative that Officer Gentile's quick actions and determination saved the dog's life.

### SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON BEGINS MAY 1

While most of Surfside's sea turtle nesting activity takes place in the summer months, the nesting season begins on May 1. If you observe an adult sea turtle or hatchling sea turtle on the beach, DO NOT report normal crawling or nesting to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) unless the turtle is in a dangerous situation or has wandered off the beach. Stay away from crawling or nesting sea turtles. Nesting is a critical stage in the sea turtle's life cycle. Please leave them undisturbed. DO REPORT all stranded (dead or injured) turtles to the FWCC. NEVER handle hatchling sea turtles. If you observe hatchlings wandering away from the ocean or the beach, call: 1-888-404-FWCC or \*FWC (Mobile Phone).

