

# POLICE BEAT

## OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

### SUCCESSFUL SEARCH FINDS AUTISTIC CHILD

On April 10, 2019, Bay Harbor Islands police officers responded to a call regarding a missing 9-year-old autistic boy. They were told the boy refused to go to school and may be walking towards Miami Beach where his father resides. Acting Sgt. Tammy Campbell immediately coordinated a response of available Surfside officers and detectives to search specific roadways and areas. Acting Sgt. Campbell obtained the father's residence in Miami Beach and assigned officers to search that area and notified Miami Beach Communications Unit for dissemination to their police officers. Detective Gambirazio met with the missing boy's father at their home. Twenty minutes into the

search, Officer Jose Valino spotted the boy walking in the 8200 block of Collins Avenue. Although the boy ran from him, Officer Valino's experience and training enabled him to calm him. The boy's mother arrived with a Bay Harbor Islands officer. Detective Gambirazio brought the father and the family was safely reunited.

All of the Surfside Police personnel displayed professional excellence in responding to this incident. Acting Sgt. Campbell and Officer Jose Valino are to be commended for their dedication, compassion and commitment to bringing this incident to a safe and successful conclusion. Thank you for your service!

### SGT. CRUZ COMPLETES FBI TRAINING, RECEIVES AWARD

Surfside Police Department Sergeant Marian Cruz successfully completed the FBI-Law Enforcement Executive Development Association's (FBI-LEEDA) Supervisor Leadership Institute training, Command Leadership Institute training and Executive Leadership Institute training. For completing all three, Sgt. Cruz also received the prestigious FBI-LEEDA Trilogy Award.



### SURFSIDE JOINS IN MULTI-AGENCY SHRED-A-THON

The Surfside Police Department joined with the Aventura Police Department, Bay Harbor Islands Police Department and Sunny Isles Beach Police Department to host a Multi-Agency Shred-A-Thon and DEA Drug Takeback on April 27, 2019 at Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park. Officer Bryant Luke and Parking Enforcement Officer Alain Acosta represented the Surfside Police Department and assisted in the event.



### SURFSIDE REPRESENTED AT POLICE MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The Law Enforcement Officers Memorial was established in 1980 to honor fallen officers from law enforcement agency in Miami-Dade County who paid the ultimate sacrifice. The 38th Annual Miami-Dade Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony was held at Tropical Park. Surfside Officer Byrant Luke participated in a prestigious honor Guard Team (right). Chief Julio Yero and Captain John Bambis attended the event.



### SLOW DOWN, IT IS YOUR TOWN

- Allow ample time to reach your destination safely
- Do not speed to compensate for lost time
- Speed limits are a maximum, not a target
- Twenty is Plenty When Kids are About



- Give yourself time, there is no need to speed
- Recognize what makes you speed
- Stay alert when driving at all times - do not be distracted by texts, phone calls, reading, or other activities

## SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMUNITY ALERT: AUTO BURGLARIES

The Surfside Police Department is investigating six vehicle burglaries that occurred in the residential neighborhood on May 17 and 18, 2019. All the vehicles were left unlocked. Three designer sunglasses, tools, currency and gift cards were stolen. **REMEMBER TO LOCK YOUR VEHICLES.**

- DO NOT leave a vehicle key inside your vehicle, even if it is locked.
- DO NOT leave items of value in your vehicle, or in plain sight.

- Immediately report any suspicious persons or vehicles in your neighborhood, including solicitors knocking on doors.
- If you leave on vacation, call the police department to place your house on a watch order and we will check your property daily.
- The Police Department offers free residential security assessments and encourages residents to take advantage of this service.

Report any suspicious activity to the Surfside Police Department at (305) 861-4862.

## SUMMER SAFETY TIPS FOR DRIVERS AND PARENTS

Miami-Dade County public schools are out for summer on June 6, 2019 and the Surfside Police Department reminds drivers and parents about the importance of keeping children safe during the summer. Drivers should be extra cautious for child pedestrians and bicyclists. Here are some tips:

- Be alert, especially in residential areas.
- Children may cross anywhere on the street or suddenly run or ride into the path of traffic.
- Obey all laws. Slow down if see children near the street. Come to a full stop at intersections.
- Be predictable. Do not make sudden maneuvers that others, particularly children, are not expecting.
- Double check behind you and around you when backing out of a driveway or parking space.
- Do not be distracted. Put down coffee and cell phones, and keep both hands on the wheel. Avoid

distractions in your vehicle, including loud music.

- Yield the right of way to pedestrians. It is the law.

### Tips for Parents:

- Focus on the basics. Teach your children to make eye contact with the driver before crossing, even if the walk signal is on.
- Remind them to walk, do not run across the road and to stop, look and listen before crossing the street.
- Teach your children to cross at intersections that have a marked crosswalk or a pedestrian crossing light.
- Teach children to watch for cars that are backing up.
- When walking with your child, avoid unnecessary shortcuts like walking through a parking lot. Drivers may not see children between parked cars and the children may not see the cars moving.
- Remind children not to play in or around vehicles.

## Protect Your Bicycle From Theft

Preventing bicycle theft is essential to the Surfside Police Department. There are many preventative measures residents and visitors to the Town of Surfside can do to protect their neighborhood and their property. Proactive actions will prevent bicycle thefts from occurring and reduce crime in your neighborhood. Follow these tips:

- Never leave your bike unlocked. Take time to make sure your bike is properly secured.
- Always secure your bike to a bike rack or solid object. Secure both wheels and frame.
- Don't park in dark or infrequently traveled areas.
- Use a U-Lock instead of a cable lock. Cable locks can be cut easily. If you prefer a flexible cable lock, make sure that it is at least 3/8 inches in diameter.

- Quick release tires and adjustable bicycle seats are examples of parts that are stolen easily.
- Keep a record of your bike's serial number.
- Don't be fooled that only new or expensive bikes are stolen. The bikes that are the easiest to steal are the ones taken.
- Report to police any person(s) in your neighborhood who appear suspicious or out of place. If possible, get a description of the person(s).

