

POLICE BEAT

POLICE DEPARTMENT REACHES OUT TO ASSIST ELDERLY RESIDENTS

The Surfside Police Department is dedicated to serving the community, particularly the needs of elderly residents during the pandemic crisis. At right, Officer Kemuel Gambirazio delivered medication to a senior resident in need of assistance.



JOSUE CASTRO WINS PRESTIGIOUS LEO AWARD FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

Parking Enforcement Officer Josue Castro won a prestigious LEO award in the Support Services category at the annual Miami-Dade County Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Awards Gala on March 7, 2020. This event recognizes the very best in law enforcement from all local, state and federal agencies in Miami-Dade County each year. In February 2020 Josue was named the Surfside Police Department 2019 Civilian of the Year (see March 2020 Gazette). Congratulations to Josue and well deserved!



OFFICER OF THE MONTH

OFFICER LUKE RECOGNIZED FOR ENHANCING COVID-19 SAFETY

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, Officer Bryant Luke suggested two inventive emergency measures that have been implemented to improve public safety. He also went beyond his law enforcement job to assist a homeless man.

In March, Officer Luke suggested measures to better secure beach access in compliance with Town beach closures and in April he suggested to the Publix management to remove several benches and seating areas around the perimeter of the store. This action discouraged people from congregating in the area as well as promoted social distancing practices.

On Saturday, April 18, 2020, Officer Luke encountered a homeless man he recognized at CVS Pharmacy. Officer Luke selflessly paid for the man's medication, assisting him in a time of need. Throughout Officer Luke's service in Surfside, his compassion for the less fortunate is expressed through his many altruistic actions.

Officer Luke is commended for his job performance, good nature and tireless work ethic. The professionalism and dedication to the community is deserving of the April Officer of the Month Award.



Summertime Safety Tips for Drivers and Parents

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- Be alert, especially in residential areas. Expect the unexpected. Children may cross the street at the wrong place or suddenly run or ride in front of you.
- Obey all laws. Slow down if there are children along the road or crossing the street. Come to a full stop at intersections. Be predictable. Don't make sudden maneuvers that others are not expecting.
- Double check when backing out of a driveway or parking space.
- Don't be distracted. Keep both hands on the wheel. Avoid distractions within your vehicle at all times.
- Yield the right of way to pedestrians. It isn't just courteous, it's the law.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Teach your children to make eye contact with the driver before they cross, even if the walk signal is on.
- Remind them to walk, don't 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 out 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.