



TOWN OF SURFSIDE

Office of the Town Manager

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
9293 HARDING AVENUE
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Town Manager Report

April 14, 2026

Prepared by: *Mario A. Diaz*
Acting Town Manager

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TOWN MANAGER

Team: Mario A. Díaz, **Acting Town Manager**
Ana M. Gonzalez, **Executive Assistant**

First, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly seated Commission for the 2026–2028 term. On behalf of our Team, we look forward to working collaboratively with each of you to continue advancing the Town’s priorities, strengthening our services, and enhancing the quality of life for our residents.

KEY INITIATIVES & ONGOING MATTERS

East Parking Lot – 92nd Street: The Town continues to evaluate the most effective use of the East Parking Lot located on 92nd Street. Currently, the lot operates under a pay-by-phone system, which provides flexibility and accessibility for visitors.

However, we have received requests to transition the parking lot to a resident-only parking model which may better serve the community, particularly in addressing concerns related to availability, neighborhood impact, and quality of life. This would also reduce revenue.

Staff is actively reviewing usage data, community feedback, and operational considerations. We will be seeking Commission direction on whether to:

- Maintain the current system, or
- Transition to a resident-priority or resident-only model

Our goal is to ensure a balanced approach.

Micro-Mobility Workshop – Public Safety Initiative: The Surfside Police Department will be hosting a Micro-Mobility Workshop on **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers. This workshop is being organized in response to increasing concerns surrounding e-scooters and e-bikes, particularly:

- Rider safety
- Increased incidents and near-misses
- Use by minors without proper oversight

The workshop will focus on:

- Community education
- Safety best practices
- Clear communication of applicable laws and regulations
- Upcoming enforcement measures for violations

This initiative reflects our proactive approach to preventing injuries and ensuring that all users of our roadways and sidewalks operate responsibly.

Carlyle Avenue Traffic Calming Open House – Carlyle Avenue Traffic Calming: The Town of Surfside and the Corradino Group are hosting an open house on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**, at 6:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and gather community input on the proposed traffic calming speed table on Carlyle Avenue between 94th & 95th Street.

The Carlyle Avenue Traffic Calming Open House engages residents in a transparent process to review the proposed speed table and provide input. This effort supports safer streets by reducing vehicle speeds and discouraging cut-through traffic, while enhancing quality of life in a residential area. It also reinforces the Town’s commitment to community engagement, data-driven decisions, and maintaining safe, livable neighborhoods.

Public Safety & Liability Measures – Seawall Access (95th Street Pocket Park): As part of our continued commitment to public safety and risk mitigation, the Town has implemented a seawall access restriction at the 95th Street Pocket Park.

This administrative decision was made based on:

- Documented safety concerns
- Potential liability exposure
- Ongoing impacts to nearby residents

While we recognize the value of waterfront view, safety must remain our top priority. The restriction is intended to:

- Prevent unsafe use of the seawall area
- Reduce risk of injury or accidents
- Preserve the quality of life for surrounding residents

Staff will continue to monitor conditions and evaluate any future improvements that may safely accommodate public access.

Town of Surfside Launches Inaugural Poetry Contest:

The Town of Surfside is proud to celebrate its first-ever Poetry Contest as part of the world’s largest literary celebration—an annual event dedicated to honoring the vital role poets play in our culture and highlighting the enduring importance of poetry.

Residents and participants are invited to submit their original works by May 3 for a chance to win exciting prizes and be recognized for their creativity and talent.

We look forward to partnering with the Commission in continuing to serve the Surfside community.

Sincerely,

Mario A. Díaz



TOWN CLERK

The mission of the Town Clerk's Office is to ensure effective functioning of the Town's governance process while concurrently maintaining quality customer service to members of the public, Town Commission and Town staff by utilizing the best possible technological solutions to provide accessible information including access to the Town's official records, archives, and the Town Commission agenda.

Team: Sandra N. McCready, **Clerk**
 Genesis Guevara, **Deputy Clerk**
 Angie Alcalá, **Records Technician/Assistant to Clerk**

PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS

2025
1,096

2026	
<u>MONTH</u>	<u># Public Records Requests (PRR)</u>
January	77
February	104
March	425

MARCH 2026	
<u>ACTIVITIES</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Board Meetings Attended	4
Commission Meetings Attended	3
Public Notices Issued	24
Meetings Transcribed	7
RFP/RFQ Issued	3
Ordinances Published	2
Resolutions Published	14
Elections Conducted	1
Special Master Hearings Attended	1



HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Office provides effective human resources management by developing and implementing policies/procedures, programs and services to attract, develop, motivate and retain a diverse workforce while embracing diversity and inclusiveness as a core value. The Human Resources element of the Executive Department is responsible for personnel matters such as recruitment, compensation, employee relations, benefits and labor relations.

HR Team: Marisol Vargas, **HR Director**
Davina Bynoe, **HR Generalist**
Yolanda “Yoly” Menegazzo, (Consultant)

OPEN POSITIONS - MARCH
Utility Billing & Revenue Administrator
Division Manager – Water & Wastewater
Maintenance Worker I – Water & Sewer
Accountant
Certified Police Officer
Communications Operator

Upcoming Events

Safety at Work Trainings



BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Services Department provides a full range of services to the residents and commercial property developers of the Town with the aim of ensuring that all buildings and other regulated structures do not pose injury and/or death hazards in any reasonably predictable environment (sunshine to hurricane). In addition to reducing risks to life, the Department seeks to minimize risk to property. Reducing hazards through compliance with State of Florida Building Code and appropriate Federal agencies ensures that insurance discounts are received, and code-compliant buildings are completed.

Team: Manuel “Manny” Salazar – **Building Official**
Rony Jean, **Supervisor – Permits**
Randy Courtois, Administrative Support
Sofia Valdes, Permit Tech I
Karen Gutierrez, Permit Tech II
Julia Rajkumar, Permit Tech I

Building/Roofing: Ulises Fernandez
Building/Structural: Ricardo “Rick” Aller
Electrical: Candelario Martinez
Mechanical: Jan Perez
Plumbing: Roberto Conde
Structural/Multi-Family: Chrome Engineering
Planning/Zoning: Scarlet Hammons, The Corradino Group

ACTIVITY	MONTHLY AMOUNT
Building Permits Issued	128
Inspections Performed	285
TCO/CO/CC Issued	4
Gross Revenue Generated	\$2,006,079.52



NEW MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENTS

These approved developments are expected to deliver a high-quality environment, regarding livability, visual interest, identity and sense of place. All new building construction must conform to the development standards of the zoning districts in which they are located. These projects go beyond the basic requirements of the Town’s Zoning Code and deliver character and compatibility without changing existing setbacks or height limitations or regulations. These developments are expected to be in harmony with their surroundings and demonstrate a high standard of quality.

PROJECT / RESOS	ADDRESS	DEVELOPERS / PROJECT MANAGER	STATUS	Proffers	Taxable Value
DAMAC 2023-Z-3209	8777 Collins Avenue	Jeffery Rossely 305-407-4898 info@damacmiami.com www.damacmiami.com	Foundation Est June 2025	\$2,500,000 6/25/25 – Receipt of \$1M	\$1.6B FY2028
Seaway 2018-2489 2021-2782 2024-Z-3246	9133-9149 Collins Avenue	Tom Evans 571-206-2377 tom@fortpartners.com www.theseaway.com	TCO	\$250,000	\$550M FY2026
Hillcrest 2022-2870	9165 Collins Avenue	Kaushik Padala 786-449-5400 kpadala@jmaf.net Tom McKerchie 786-390-0076 tmckerchie@jmaf.net www.hillcrestsurfside.com	Under Construction	\$180,000	\$377M FY2028
Surf House 2019-2661 2022-2895	8995 Collins Avenue	Houman Hadad 786-238-9899 houman@fortpartners.com Nick Hernandez 305-542-2718 nicolas@fortpartners.com www.surfhousesurfside.com	Foundation Ongoing	\$686,050	\$359M FY2028
Kushner Development 2024-3310 2024-3254 2024-Z-3255 2024-Z-3338	9300 Collins Avenue	Rafael Schwartz 9300 Collins Ave. Owner LLC	Groundbreaking May 14, 2025	\$5,900,000 8/4/2025 - \$400K Proffer Received	\$100M FY2028
Ocean House 2022-Z-2955	9309-9317 Collins Avenue	Walter Brailly 786-205-6712 wbrailly@moss.com www.oceanhousereresidences.com	Under Construction	\$380,000 6/26/25 – Trellis Donation Completed \$200K	\$275M FY2028

<u>PROJECT / RESOS</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DEVELOPERS / PROJECT MANAGER</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>Proffers</u>	<u>Taxable Value</u>
303 Surfside 2023-2971 2018-2527	303 Surfside Blvd 9116 Harding Ave	Nelson Fernandez 303 Surfside Blvd LLC	Pre-Construction <i>(Seagrape Tree Donation Completed)</i>	\$70,000 6/30/25 – Seagrape to Dune \$10K	\$24M FY2028
Surf Row 2025-Z-3397 2022-Z-2954 2015-Z-2344	8809 Harding Avenue	Carli Koschel, Esq. 8800 Collins Owner LLC	Approved by Town Commission – May 13, 2025 Groundbreaking November 12, 2025 Pre-Construction	\$200,000 \$450,000	\$59M FY2028
La Linda Surfside 2023-Z-3236	8851-8873 Harding Avenue	Vanessa Madrid Pampa Sunbelt 19 LLC	Pre-Construction	\$31,525.87	TBD



CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION

The Code Compliance Division's mission is to fairly and consistently enforce the Town of Surfside Code of Ordinances. The Division strives to promote and protect the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life for residents and businesses of the Town of Surfside.

Team: Carmen Santos-Alborna, **Director**
 Kimberly Ruvín, **Code Officer**
 Emmanuel Santana, **Code Officer**

MARCH 2026

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>MONTHLY AMOUNT</u>
OPENED MARCH 2026	101
CASES SCHEDULED FOR HEARING BEFORE SPECIAL MAGISTRATE	8
POST HEARING	4
RECORDED LIENS	0

Inspections: 123

<u>MONTH</u>	<u># CASES</u>	<u>FEES COLLECTED</u>
JANUARY	5	\$4,801.05
FEBRUARY	10	\$20,301.05
MARCH	6	\$6,926.05

YEAR TO DATE (YTD) FEES COLLECTED – FY2026: \$69,991.30
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PARKS & RECREATION

We Make Memories

The Town of Surfside Parks & Recreation Department is where the fun happens. Where Surfside's families learn to swim, brush up on their tennis skills, meet new friends and get to know their neighbors.

Mission Statement

Provide recreational and leisure opportunities to build a strong sense of community while increasing the social, cultural, and physical well-being of the residents and to be innovative in the programming needs of the community.

Team: Rodolfo Perez, **Director**
 Carlos Malvarez, **Manager**

STAFF DIRECTORY

7 Coordinators/Supervisors/CSR

16 Lifeguards / **10** Recreation Leaders / **4** Custodians/Maintenance

Aquatics	Recreation
Marianella Lucas – Aquatics Supervisor	Virginia Agramonte – Asst. to Director
Anibal Modica – Head Lifeguard	Jorge Galdo Jr. – Coordinator
Tanya Friedman – FT Lifeguard	Matthew Castrorao – Coordinator
Barbara Vasallo – FT Lifeguard	Alexander Villeda – Coordinator
Leoner Reus – FT Lifeguard	Shawn Walker – CSR
Flor Hernandez – FT Lifeguard	Carlos Vina – Maintenance Worker II
Nicolas Chaban – FT Lifeguard	Lucas Feinstein – Recreation Leader II
Carlos Agon – PT Lifeguard	Kerline Fertil – FT Custodian
Ileana Garcia – PT Lifeguard	Pierre Prophete – FT Custodian
Enzo Rodriguez – PT Lifeguard	Jesus Garcia Ramirez – FT Custodian
Pablo Estrada – PT Lifeguard	Marckenly Metayer – FT Recreation Leader I
Ilan Luckow – PT Lifeguard	Carolina Paz – PT Recreation Leader I
Raidel Orama – PT Lifeguard	Maya Chabanon – PT Recreation Leader I
Jack O'Malley – PT Lifeguard	Jorge Almaguer – PT Recreation Leader I
Nicolas Galtieri – PT Lifeguard	Addel Aguilar – PT Recreation Leader I
Vacant – PT Lifeguard	Kevin Marcell – PT Recreation Leader I
Vacant – PT Lifeguard	Ian Dolan – FT Recreation Leader II
Vacant – PT Lifeguard	

Facilities Overview

Parks & Recreation oversees the following facilities:

Community Center & Aquatic Facility: The pool continues to operate with lap swimming registration required during all operating hours. Pool hours are adjusted monthly to maximize daylight. For April, the pool is open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

96th Street Park: Now open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Kayak Launch: Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.

Tennis Center: Open from 7 am – 10 pm daily. Operates by reservation only. Programming hours are in place and have been adjusted to optimize availability.

Beach Lifeguard Tower: Operational from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in April.

Hawthorne Tot Lot: Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset

Paws Up Dog Park: Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset

Beach Chair Service: The daily Beach Chair Service is operated by Beach Time Max in alignment with the Beach Lifeguard Tower hours (9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in April). This service is available exclusively to Surfside residents. Residents must check in at the Community Center front desk. Each household is eligible for 2 chairs and 1 umbrella per day.

Vending Machines Stats: (Includes Community Center and 96th St. Park):

JANUARY 2026		
# of Ice Creams Sold	# of Beverages Sold	# of Snacks Sold
432	120	536
FEBRUARY 2026		
447	147	513
MARCH 2026		
512	165	602

Town School (Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8) Shuttle: The Town has implemented a live tracking system for the Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 shuttle service. Parents can now access a dedicated tracking link to view the shuttle's real-time location and receive notifications regarding delays. This enhancement improves communication, reliability, and overall service transparency for participating families.

**Surfside Shuttle Bus
March Daily Counts**

Date	Number of Kids (AM)	Number of Kids (PM)
1st	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
2nd	34	40
3rd	N/A	34
4th	23	34
5th	35	33
6th	32	26
7th	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
8th	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
9th	27	43
10th	30	35
11th	17	26
12th	21	32
13th	14	27
14th	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
15th	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
16th	N/A	32
17th	8	23
18th	24	32
19th	N/A	34
20th	N/A	N/A
21st	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
22nd	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
23rd	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
24th	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
25th	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
26th	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
27th	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
28th	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
29th	WEEKEND	WEEKEND
30th	32	34
31st	24	25

Recent Events & Activities

March Senior Brunch: Our March Senior Brunch was a wonderful success! Seniors enjoyed a delicious buffet-style meal surrounded by cheerful spring décor, along with fun and engaging rounds of Bingo. It was truly a warm and welcoming afternoon filled with laughter, great conversations, and a strong sense of community spirit. Thank you to everyone who joined us and made it such a memorable event! **# of Attendants: 35**

March Senior Trip: Our March Senior Trip on **Wednesday, March 18th, 2026**, was an unforgettable experience! Seniors had an amazing time aboard the iconic **Jungle Queen Riverboat**, taking in beautiful waterfront views while enjoying great company. The day was filled with relaxation, laughter, and plenty of memorable moments. It was a fantastic outing, and we're so glad everyone had such a great time exploring one of South Florida's favorite attractions! **# of Attendants: 38**

Spring Camp: Spring Camp, originally scheduled for Monday, March 23rd through Saturday, March 27th, at 96th Street Park, has unfortunately been **canceled due to low enrollment**.

Splash into Spring: Our annual ***Splash into Spring* event**, held on **Saturday, March 28th**, was a huge success! Guests enjoyed a fun-filled morning at the Community Center pool, complete with exciting water activities, games, and plenty of laughter. It was a wonderful way for Surfside residents and hotel guests to come together, celebrate the season, and create lasting memories with family and friends. **# of Attendants: 189**

Spring Egg Hunt: Our annual ***Spring Egg Hunt*** on **Sunday, March 29th**, at the newly renovated 96th Street Park was a fantastic and festive event! Families had a great time getting to hold/feed the baby bunnies, join in on the exciting egg hunts, enjoyed seasonal activities, and celebrating together in a lively and joyful atmosphere. It was truly a memorable morning filled with smiles, laughter, and community spirit. **# of Attendants: 506**

Baynanza Event: Our Annual Baynanza event, held on Saturday, April 11th, at the Surfside Community Center, was a tremendous success! Surfside residents and hotel guests came together for a meaningful and productive morning dedicated to environmental stewardship, beautification, and community pride. Participants worked side by side to help keep our community clean while enjoying a great sense of teamwork and accomplishment. It was inspiring to see everyone's commitment to making a positive impact, and the event truly reflected the strong spirit and pride of the Surfside community.

Upcoming Events & Activities

April Senior Brunch: Our April Senior Brunch is scheduled for Friday, April 17th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Seniors will enjoy a delicious buffet-style meal, festive Earth Day décor, and fun rounds of Bingo. Join us for a joyful afternoon celebrating community, nature, and togetherness!

Earth Day Resource Fair: Our annual Earth Day celebration is scheduled for Sunday, April 19th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Surfside Community Center. This special event is open to Surfside residents and promises a fun and meaningful morning filled with eco-friendly activities, community engagement, and family-friendly fun as we come together to celebrate and care for our planet.

April Senior Trip: The April Senior Trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 22nd, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This month, seniors will enjoy an exciting outing to the ballpark as the ***Miami Marlins take on the St. Louis Cardinals***. Participants will experience the fun and energy of Major League Baseball at Loan Depot Park while enjoying great company, a lively atmosphere, and a relaxing day out. From cheering on the home team to soaking in the excitement of the game, this trip promises to be a memorable and enjoyable experience for all. Don't miss this fun-filled day at the ballpark!

May Senior Brunch: Our May Senior Brunch is scheduled for Friday, May 15th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Seniors will enjoy a delicious buffet-style meal and fun rounds of Bingo. Join us for a warm and welcoming afternoon filled with laughter, connection, and community spirit!

May Senior Trip: The May Senior Trip is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20th, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. This month, seniors will enjoy a special outing to see Dial M for Murder at the Actors' Playhouse. Participants will experience the thrill of live theater, enjoy great company, and spend a relaxing day out immersed in an engaging and suspenseful performance. From the intrigue of the storyline to the excitement of the stage, this trip promises to be a memorable and enjoyable experience for all. Don't miss this captivating day at the theater!

Memorial Day Ceremony: The Town of Surfside will host its annual Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday, May 25th, at 10:00 a.m. at Veterans Park (8750 Collins Avenue). This meaningful event honors and remembers the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country, bringing the community together in reflection and gratitude.

4th of July Event: Join us for our 4th of July celebration on Saturday, July 4th, at the Community Center—doors open at 9:00 AM, festivities start at 2:00 p.m., and the drone/firework show begins at 9:00 p.m.!



COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

The Communications Department's mission is to build strong connections between Surfside residents, elected officials, and the broader community through strategic communication and innovative marketing initiatives. Its objective is to enhance the quality of life in Surfside by providing timely, informative content that educates, engages and empowers residents. As the primary bridge between Town Administration and its citizens, the department ensures transparency, accessibility, and unity within our community, promoting active civic engagement and celebrating Surfside's unique heritage. Through innovative partnerships and implementing forward-thinking strategies, the department strives to position Surfside as a model of effective governance and vibrant community participation.

Team: Cindy Reyes Arboleda, **Director**

In March 2026, the Communications Department upheld its role as the creative and strategic hub for the Town of Surfside, delivering timely, accurate, and engaging communications during a month marked by municipal elections, community events, voter education, and seasonal programming. From facilitating candidate forums to celebrating Women's History Month and Spring Break activities, the Department ensured residents remained informed, connected, and empowered to participate in Town life.

Town Manager's Office:

- Achieved a historic milestone in civic engagement, with more than 50% of registered Surfside voters participating in the March 17 General Municipal and Special Elections, reflecting record voter turnout driven by the Department's comprehensive, multi-platform voter education and outreach strategy.
- Promoted Surfside's Mayoral and Town Commission Candidate Forums, held March 3 and March 5, providing residents with opportunities to hear directly from candidates, ask questions, and engage in the democratic process. Forums were livestreamed to ensure accessibility for all.
- Advanced voter education in partnership with the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections, including ballot explanations, election deadlines, vote-by-mail requests, and multilingual outreach. Efforts emphasized civic participation ahead of the March 17 General and Special Elections. And Mayoral Runoff, April 7.

- Distributed the March 2026 edition of the Surfside Gazette, featuring municipal election results, Commission and leadership updates, youth programming highlights, upcoming community events, public safety messaging, and Parks and Recreation activities.
- Facilitated communications for the mayoral runoff election on April 7, including Vote-by-Mail options and Election Day reminders and information.

Developed strategic messaging around Town policies and programs, including temporary campaign sign regulations and the continuation of Painting Color Palate Guidelines outreach.

Police Department:

- Issued public alerts regarding the launch of resident-only parking in the residential district west of Harding Avenue, providing registration instructions, guest vehicle processes, enforcement timelines, and support from Surfside Police.
- Highlighted officer achievements and community engagement, including recognition of Sgt. Cruz, Officer Matthews, Officer Gomez, and Officer Campbell in the Department’s Officer Spotlight series, reinforcing commitment to public safety, professional development, and community trust.
- Promoted Pre-Passover Holiday Safety initiatives in collaboration with local law enforcement and faith leaders, demonstrating proactive community policing and partnership-building.

Parks & Recreation Department:

- Executed promotion and event coverage for Spring Break Camp, Spring Egg Hunt activities, Splash Into Spring Duck & Egg Hunt, and Movie Under the Stars, providing engaging programming for families and youth.
- Highlighted youth-focused initiatives such as the Find Your Field Fair, connecting students with mentorship, internships, and academic resources to foster personal and educational growth.
- Advanced environmental and sustainability awareness through Native Gardening 101 workshops and community plant giveaways, strengthening Surfside’s commitment to green initiatives and local ecosystems.
- Advanced place-based storytelling through a Discover Surfside Outdoors digital campaign spotlighting the Town’s parks, recreational amenities and community gathering spaces.

Public Works & Infrastructure:

- Supported cross-departmental messaging regarding operational updates, event logistics, and community impact, ensuring residents remained informed about Town services and infrastructure activity.

Town Clerk's Office:

- Led communications surrounding the March 17 elections, including sample ballot access, voter registration reminders, and transparent election reporting.
- Documented ceremonial presentations and swearing-in of newly elected Commissioners, ensuring residents were informed and engaged with local governance milestones.

Digital Strategy, Social Media & Brand Stewardship:

- Deployed a high-volume, resident-focused digital strategy supporting elections, community programming, public safety alerts, and seasonal activities.
- Distributed **35** e-blast campaigns, posted **127** NextDoor alerts, and published **51** Instagram/Facebook posts during March. The Town's Instagram following grew to 3,200.
- Facilitated responsive digital service coordination through SeeClickFix, supporting the completion of seven resident service requests.
- Continued reinforcing the Town's digital presence as a trusted and timely source of information, strengthening organic engagement and community connection through strategic storytelling, video production and real-time event coverage.

Throughout March, the Communications Department upheld its mission to inform, honor, and engage the Surfside community, ensuring all messaging reflected the Town's core values of transparency, service, and civic unity.



TOURISM DEPARTMENT

Surfside is one of only three municipalities in Miami-Dade County currently eligible by Florida State Law to impose a Resort Tax of four percent (4%) on accommodations and two percent (2%) on food and beverage sales as a source of revenue. Miami Beach and Bal Harbour are the other two municipalities with the same capability. This unique revenue-generating opportunity is also defined in the Town's Charter in Sec. 69-A.

Resort Tax. The Tourist Resort Tax Fund is a special revenue fund within the budget of the Town of Surfside. This means that the funds, like all special revenue funds, are collected from specific sources and dedicated to specific allowable uses. The Resort Tax Board Members, appointed by the Town's Commission, oversee the legal and appropriate use of these funds through the Tourism Director and the operations of the Tourist Bureau. The Tourist Bureau is responsible for promoting the Town's dining, shopping, lodging, recreation and beach to visitors nationally, internationally, and within the State of Florida. Attracting visitors from within the State of Florida, the nation, and internationally, including from Latin America, Canada, United Kingdom, and Israel.

Team: Frank Trigueros, **Director**

Third Thursday Series Wraps with Night in Asia – Surfside's Third Thursday series took guests on an unforgettable journey across Asia at its closing event on March 19. The evening transformed the space into a vibrant cultural showcase celebrating the traditions of India, China, and Japan. Attendees were immersed in a colorful lineup of performances, from the powerful rhythms of a Japanese Taiko drumming show to the colorful spectacle of a Chinese Dragon Lion Dance and the high-energy movements of an Indian Bollywood and Bhangra performance. Guests also enjoyed henna tattoo artistry, tested their strength in sumo wrestling, and explored calligraphy painting with Harding Avenue's PotterMe. Culinary offerings further enhanced the experience, featuring a curated selection of flavors from across Asia. Guests sampled kosher caramelized fruit skewers inspired by China, Japanese katsu sando and sushi, and Indian favorites like samosas and pani puri, along with complimentary beverages for adults 21 and over.



MFF By Moonlight Series for “One Life” – On Sunday, March 22, the Resort Tax Board partnered with the Miami Film Festival (MFF) to host its first beachside screening of the season, featuring the film “One Life.” The evening offered a relaxed atmosphere, with attendees enjoying the idyllic weather conditions in addition to complimentary popcorn, snacks and iced tea. Vice Mayor Benmergui, Commissioner Vildostegui and Commissioner Weingot were all in attendance alongside Tourism Director Frank Trigueros and representatives from the MFF.

NWSA Designed Turtle Sculptures Installed at 92nd Street – The Town of Surfside kicked off Earth Month with the unveiling of two vibrant fiberglass turtle sculptures on Thursday, April 2, at the beach entrance located at 92nd Street and Collins Avenue. Designed by students from New World School of the Arts (NWSA), the colorful installations add a creative new touch to the Town’s growing public art collection while celebrating Surfside’s coastal identity and commitment to sustainability. Representatives from NWSA were on hand for the occasion along with winners Nicole Serrano and Noah Caballero, who had their designs realized, and 3rd place winner Angela Munoz.



Live Music on Harding Avenue – The Resort Tax Board will be sponsoring occasional live music performances on Harding Avenue starting this month. Violinist Ian Mann will kick off the new activity on April 12, offering a pleasant, but unintrusive set designed to enhance the atmosphere of the business district without disrupting patrons and diners. This initiative was scheduled to begin last month in March but had to be canceled due to rain.

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Food & Beverage Tax	\$676,870.08
Hotel Tax	\$2,520,984.65
Interest Earnings	\$116,663.55
Registration Fees	\$3,100.00
Gross Revenue Generated	\$3,547,040.08 (FY2025-2026)



POLICE

The Surfside Police Department has adopted a proactive policing philosophy and embraces its approach to developing community partnerships and problem-solving. Our employees are extremely proud of our tradition and are committed to public service and to ensuring the safety of our residents and visitors. We are dedicated to providing quality police service to our residents, businesses and tourists.

Team: Charles R. Press, **Chief of Police**
 Jose “Jay” Matelis, **Major**
 Diana Leon, **Lieutenant**

STAFF: 5 Sergeants / 2 Detectives / 18 Officers / 3 Dispatchers / 3 CSAs / 3 Admins / 5 Parking / 1 Accreditation Manager

Rory Alberto – Sergeant	Joshua Rosario – Officer
Frank Colonna – Sergeant	Lesmes Ruiz – Officer
Marian Cruz – Sergeant	Donovan Saffo – Officer
Alejandro Lorente – Sergeant	Micah Smith – Officer
Julio Torres – Sergeant	Jose Valino – Officer
Ronald Donoso – Detective	Samuel Villegas – Officer
Kemuel Gambirazio – Detective	Christian Acosta – Parking Officer
Loxley Arch, III – Officer	Josue Castro – Parking Officer
Lovenson Beaubien – Officer (Trainee)	Alexander Orduno – Parking Officer
Tammy Campbell – Officer	William Perez – Parking Officer
Bobby Gabriel – Officer	Maria Militello – Parking Officer
John Gentile – Officer	Ana Chamorro – Dispatcher
Rafael Gomez, Jr. – Officer	Jose Dardon – Dispatcher
Dianna Hernandez – Officer	Susie Sperbeck – Dispatcher
Alberto Knight – Officer	Isabelle Dourbecker – CSA
Ariel Lage – Officer	Felix Fermin – CSA
Craig Lovelette – Officer	Donald Laurent – CSA
Bryant Luke – Officer	Kimberlee Blecha – Executive Assistant
Joseph Matthews – Officer	Teresa Fernandez – Admin Aide
Sharon Perez-Rivera – Officer	Stephanie Kamer – Admin Aide
Ruben Ravelo – Officer	Jill Smith – Accreditation Manager

Recruitment Efforts – The department is excited to welcome Ana Carroll, our new Accreditation Manager. She will be responsible for managing the department's accreditation process, ensuring our policies, procedures, and practices meet the highest professional standards set by our accrediting body. We continue to encourage certified officers and those currently enrolled in the academy to reach out to our Human Resources Department if they are interested in joining our ranks.

A message from Chief Charles “Chuck” Press to our Surfside Family:

Press On!



“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, or a kind word, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

— Leo Buscaglia



Three Officers Recognized



The Surfside Police Department and Town Commission recently recognized Sergeant Marian Cruz, Officer Rafael Gomez Jr., and Officer Joseph Matthews for an act of swift, compassionate service to our community.

They were commended for their quick response in locating a missing child with autism who had become separated from his family. The child had been carried offshore by ocean currents and, disoriented and frightened, wandered off before anyone could intervene. What followed was a coordinated effort that reflects the best of what our officers bring to their work every day. Through clear communication and teamwork, Cruz, Gomez, and Matthews were able to locate the child and safely reunite him with his relieved family.

The Town is proud to recognize these officers for their professionalism, their calm under pressure, and their unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of every member our community.

Women's History Month

March was Women's History Month, and the Surfside Police Department took the opportunity to recognize the remarkable women who serve our community every day.

From officers patrolling our streets to dispatchers coordinating emergency response to the administrative professionals who keep the department running, the women of the Surfside Police Department play an essential role at every level of the organization. Their strength, dedication, and impact are felt across the entire department and throughout the community they serve.

The department extends its heartfelt gratitude to these professionals, whose hard work and commitment do not go unnoticed. The Surfside Police Department is stronger because of them; not just during Women's History Month, but each and every day.



Passover Preparations

Ahead of this year's Passover celebration, the Surfside Police Department joined the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office, fellow law enforcement agencies, community leaders, and faith representatives for a Pre-Passover Holiday Safety Meeting.

The collaborative gathering provided an opportunity to proactively discuss safety measures, reinforce partnerships between law enforcement and the community, and help ensure that all who celebrated could do so in a safe and secure environment. Events like this reflect the Department's ongoing commitment to building trust and working hand in hand with the communities it serves.

The Surfside Police Department extends warm wishes to all those who observed Passover this year and reaffirms its dedication to keeping our community safe throughout every season.





PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department provides for the effective management and maintenance of the Town’s roadways, infrastructure systems, and buildings as well as the management and supervision of the solid waste collection operation and the storm water, water/sewer utilities. The Department also responds to and assists other Town departments in emergencies and instances of severe weather preparation and recovery.

Team: Andre Eugent, **Director**
 Lys Desir, Jr., **Operations Manager**
 Matthew Hudson, **Public Works Coordinator**

STAFF DIRECTORY

13 Solid Waste
7 Facilities/Maintenance
3 Water & Sewer

SOLID WASTE	FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE
Derick Scott – Manager	Josvani Iglesias – Manager
Jose Acevedo – Coordinator	Carlos Duarte – General Service Worker
Martinez Saintilmond – Refuse Collector	Gustavo Gonzalez – Maintenance
Pierre Desamour – Refuse Collector	Idael Suarez – Maintenance
Donovan Johnson – Refuse Collector	Iran Gonzalez– Maintenance
Claude Jean – Refuse Collector	Jose Nodarse – Mechanic
Harold Jean Baptiste – Refuse Collector	Guillermo Osorio – CDL Heavy Eqpt.
Harry Saintil – Refuse Collector	WATER & SEWER
Esdyani Puentes – Refuse Collector	Wayne Taylor, Jr. - Maintenance
Sanel Cazeau – Refuse Collector	Rigoberto Chaviano – Maintenance
Mitch Michel – Truck Driver	Jimmy McCray - Maintenance
Albert Noel – Truck Driver	Water & Sewer Manager - Vacant
Bernardo Cordova – Truck Driver	

* Services through March 31, 2026

SOLID WASTE

ACTIVITY	VOLUME	COST
Garbage Collected	503.14 TN	\$45,564.35
Recycling Collected	30.53 TN	\$3,593.38
Bulk Pick Ups	127.65 TN	\$11,559.98
Sewer Backups	2	Internal
Water Leaks	1	Internal

WATER & SEWER

ACTIVITY	QUANTITY	MARCH 2026	COST	TOTAL COST TO DATE	TOTAL TO DATE
Sewer Backups	2	2		Internal	7
Water Leaks	0	0		Internal	4
Drain Cleaning	4	4		Internal/ Contractor	12
Hydrant Flushing	43	6		Internal	102
Asphalt Repair		6		Internal	24
Residential Service Orders				Internal	32
Commercial Service Orders				Internal	15
Hard Pack Maintenance	2	2		Internal	2
Hard Pack Leveling				Internal	36
Wastewater Pumping Station Inspections				Internal	89
Damaged Utility Box or Cover			\$1,112.00	Internal	5
Compliance Samples			\$2,000.00	Internal/ Lab	12
In- House Utility Locations				Internal	70
Meter Installations	2	2		Internal	3
Water Distribution Residual Collected	70	70		Internal	89
Sewer Repairs	1	1		Internal	1



FINANCE

The Finance Department provides for the effective, lawful, and efficient management of the Town's financial matters. The Department manages and maintains the Town's financial records in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles and in compliance with State and Federal laws. The Department develops and runs effective, efficient financial planning and reporting, and supports the operating departments in achieving their program objectives.

Team: Sandra Siefken, **Director**
Christopher Wallace, **Consultant**
Andria Meiri, Budget Officer
Manuel "Manny" Carta, Comptroller
Damaris "Didi" Montes de Oca, Customer Service Representative
Tamara Capote, Accounting Clerk
Maria J. Sommariva, Accountant

Auto-Pay Implementation Completed & Next Steps:

The Finance Department has successfully completed the implementation of the auto-pay feature for utility billing. Customers may now enroll in auto-pay through the Town's new website, enhancing convenience and payment efficiency.

As next steps, staff will develop a plan to deactivate the legacy website and conduct comprehensive testing of the new system to ensure optimal performance. Upon confirmation that the platform is functioning as intended, the Town will initiate a targeted communication campaign to inform customers of the new feature. In the interim, customers contacting the Town will be directed to the new website for enrollment.

Financial Reports (JLAC) Update – Good News:

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Financial Services has confirmed receipt of all required financial reports from the Town. This timely submission reflects the Finance Department's ongoing commitment to transparency, accountability, and adherence to state reporting requirements.



GRANT ADMINISTRATOR

A Grant Administrator is responsible for managing the full life cycle of grants in alignment with the priorities established by the Town Commission and leadership. This includes pre-award activities such as supporting the identification of funding opportunities based on strategic direction, assisting departments in developing project scopes, preparing and submitting grant applications, and ensuring proposals meet eligibility and compliance criteria. Once awarded, the post-award responsibilities include monitoring project progress, tracking expenditures, managing grant compliance, coordinating with departments and funding agencies, and submitting timely financial and performance reports. The Grant Administrator serves as the central point of contact for all grant-related matters, ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective use of funds across the Town of Surfside.

Team: Kristina Brown, **Grant Administrator**
 Email: progrant@townofsurfsidefl.gov

NAME OF GRANT	FUNDER	\$ AWARDED
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Abbott Avenue Stormwater Improvements	FDEP	\$5,000,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Collins Avenue Water Main Replacement Design	FDEP	\$217,731.00
State Appropriations Project Request - Surfside Boulevard Improvements	FDOT	\$250,000.00
Public Transit Service Development Grant Program – Freebee On-Demand (Yr 1)	FDOT	\$120,898.00
State Appropriation's Request - Surfside Memorial Design and Construction	FDOS	\$1,000,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan	FDEP	\$300,000.00
Beach Management Grant Program - Coastal Dunes Rehabilitation	FDEP	\$1,220,683.50
General County Funds - Surfside Memorial	MDC	\$250,000.00

NAME OF GRANT	FUNDER	\$ AWARDED
State Appropriations Request - Transforming and Reformulating the Surfside Downtown Alleyway	FDOC	\$750,000.00
Viva Florida Grant – Flamingo Garden Park	Florida Wildflower Foundation	\$3,000.00
Safe Streets for All – Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	DOT	\$200,000.00
District 4 Capital Improvement Grant - Paws Up Park and Community Recreation Improvement Project	Miami-Dade County - Commissioner Steinberg	\$25,000.00
TOTAL \$ AWARDED	\$9,337,312.50	

Grant applications submitted pending determination:

NAME OF GRANT	FUNDER	\$ APPLIED FOR
Public Transit Service Development Grant Program – Freebee On-Demand (Yr 2)	FDOT	\$126,329.00
Public Transit Service Development Grant Program – Freebee On-Demand (Yr 3)	FDOT	\$135,713.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Surfside Stormwater Outfall Resilience Project	FDEP	\$650,000.00
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Surfside Lift Station 1 Resilience and Capacity Upgrade Project	FDEP	\$1,000,000.00
Biscayne Bay Water Quality Improvement Grant Program - Surfside Lift Station 1 Resilience and Water Quality Improvement Project	FDEP	\$1,000,000.00
Local Government Cybersecurity Grant Program – Town Cybersecurity Software Request	FLDS	\$0.00 (Software Only)
State Appropriations Request – Hawthorne Avenue Drainage Improvements	State TBD	\$650,000.00
State Appropriations Request – Byron Avenue Sanitary Sewer Improvements	State TBD	\$750,000.00
State Appropriations Request – Surfside Safe Streets	State TBD	\$700,000.00
Community Challenge Flagship Grant – EV Charging Station	AARP	\$15,000.00



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

The Town's Capital Improvement Projects Services provides for the effective management and maintenance of the Town's capital improvement projects as well as the management and supervision of these projects.

Improving our community's quality of life for generations to come is a priority for all Town residents. Several Projects are currently underway to make the Town of Surfside safer, more enjoyable, and more resilient long-term.

Team: Andre Eugent, **Director**

Attachment "A"

<u>PROJECTS</u>
96 Street Park
Townwide Utilities Undergrounding
Surfside Memorial
Abbott Avenue Drainage
Collins Avenue Water Main
Dune Restoration
Townwide Vulnerability Assessment

96th Street Park

Scope:

The project is a full park re-development with a 2-story multi-use structure, natural grass field, and playground area. A kayak launch component has also been incorporated.

Phase: Construction Closeout

Status: The Town's retained construction counsel to settle the case with the contractor.

Finance		
	Construction Closeout	Amount Paid to Date
Contract Amount	\$7,243,838.63	\$6,881,647
	Balance	362,191.94

Townwide Utilities Undergrounding

Scope: The project consists of the undergrounding of all current above-ground utilities throughout the Town. These utilities include electrical mains, feeders, communications and residential drop connections.

Phase: Design

Status Update: During the November 2025 election, voters did not approve the Town's request to obtain a bond to fund this project. As a result, the project has been halted in its entirety, including all design work for Areas 1 and 2, as well as the planned construction of Area 3.

TOWNWIDE UTILITIES UNDERGROUNDING	
CONSULTANT	KIMLEY HORN
CONTRACT AMOUNT DESIGN	\$2,431,400
AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$1,450,963
PERCENT PAID TO DATE	60%
BALANCE	\$980,437
DESIGN COMPLETED	AREA 3 – 100% AREA 2 – 95%, AREA 1 – 0%
AREA 3 CONSTRUCTION START DATE	ON HOLD

Surfside Memorial

Scope:

The Town is seeking to create the Surfside Memorial to honor and remember the lives lost in the tragic event that occurred on June 24, 2021, when the CTS Building collapsed. The Surfside Memorial will serve as a permanent remembrance of the immense loss suffered by the Surfside community and will offer a place for families, friends, and visitors to reflect, understand the truth of that day, and find solace through the peace and serenity conveyed through this site.

Phase: Permitting / Contract award

Status: The town has stated negotiation with Shiff Construction the selected contractor for this project. The goal is to get the construction amount to the commission approved \$3,500,000. Keith, the town and Shiff has gone through the plans to ascertain the reduction cost strategy.

SURFSIDE MEMORIAL PROJECT	
CONSULTANT	KEITH & ASSOCIATES
CONTRACT AMOUNT DESIGN	\$590,000
AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$420,674.49
BALANCE	\$169,325.51
DESIGN COMPLETE	100%
PERMITTING	ONGOING
BIDDING AWARD	TBD
CONSTRUCTION START DATE	TBD

April Schedule

- **Continue regulatory permitting approval efforts.**
- **Negotiating the reduction in contract price.**

Abbott Avenue Drainage

Scope:

The construction will entail the addition of two new pump stations with respective force mains to alleviate flooding on Abbott Avenue from 90th Street to 94th Street.

Phase: Construction

Status:

FG Construction has installed most of the structures and piping at the 91st street and Abbott intersection and will be doing temporary restoration to allow for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

ABBOTT AVENUE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT	
CONTRACTOR	FG CONSTRUCTION
CONTRACT AMOUNT	\$8,481,234.01
AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$1,293,150.67
BALANCE	\$7,188,083.33
PERCENT WORK COMPLETE	20%
ORIGINAL COMPLETION DATE	08/27/2026
NEW COMPLETION DATE	11/23/2026

April Schedule

Location – Pump Station # 1 - Abbott Avenue & 91st street

- **Downstream Defender fixture completion**
- **Pipe work on Abbott Avenue north of 91st Street**
- **Manholes 4 & 6 installation**
- **91st Street temporary restoration to allow vehicular and pedestrian traffic**

Collins Avenue Water Main

Scope:

Pursuant to Town Resolution 2022-2907 passed and adopted unanimously on August 9, 2022, Nova Consulting was selected to design this project to replace the current, undersized water main on Collins Avenue. The existing water main is past its useful life and requires up-sizing and replacement. The Town sought and obtained a grant for design services for the project. The water main currently services all the facilities along the Collins Avenue corridor.

Phase: Design

Status: Nova Consultants has submitted the **100% design package** to both the **Town** and **FDEP** for review and approval. Nova is continuing its permitting efforts with other governing agencies to ensure the project progresses as planned. Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue has reviewed the plans and provided comments that Nova consulting is actively addressing.

The **Capital Improvement Program (CIP) team** is actively exploring **alternative grant funding opportunities** to support the project's implementation.

Construction is currently **anticipated to begin in the fourth quarter of 2026.**

COLLINS AVENUE WATER MAIN	
CONSULTANT	NOVA ENGINEERING
CONTRACT AMOUNT	\$340,456
AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$287,561.94
BALANCE	52,893.82
PERCENT PAID	85%
STATUS	PERMITTING
CONSTRUCTION START DATE	TBD

April Schedule

- **Continue regulatory permitting approval efforts.**

Dune Restoration

Scope:

The Commission tasked Town administration to promote both dune beautification and resiliency improvements. Kimley-Horn was tasked to design the required resiliency improvements and beautification of the Town’s dunes.

Phase: Construction

Status: The Town selected Dickerson Construction to perform the construction for the project. The Town is coordinating with FDEP as the construction would fall in the turtle nesting season.

The revised design now includes the walking path segment that was previously omitted, as that portion had already been constructed by a private developer and was not part of the original developer’s design plans.

Construction is anticipated to commence in the 2nd quarter of 2026.

DUNE RESTORATION AND BEAUTIFICATION	
CONTRACTOR	DICKERSON
CONTRACT AMOUNT	\$2,549,630.60
AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$0
BALANCE	\$2,549,630.60
PERCENT WORK COMPLETE	0%
CONSTRUCTION START DATE	TBD
CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATE	TBD

Townwide Vulnerability Assessment

Scope:

The Town of Surfside was awarded a grant for \$300,000.00 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to conduct a Vulnerability Assessment and an Adaptation Plan as well as the development of the Town Hall’s Emergency Operation Center EOC Adaptation Plan.

Phase: Study

Status: Kimley-Horn has received approval and acceptance from the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)** for the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Adaptation Plan Feasibility Report** and the **Final Vulnerability Assessment Report**.

The Town intends to **identify potential projects** outlined in the reports and **pursue grant funding** to support their implementation.

These efforts are part of the Town’s ongoing commitment to **resilience planning** and enhancing infrastructure to better withstand future climate and hazard impacts.

DUNE RESTORATION AND BEAUTIFICATION	
CONSULTANT	KIMLEY HORN
CONTRACT AMOUNT	\$300,000
AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	\$300,000
BALANCE	\$0
PERCENT WORK COMPLETE	100%