



## **TOWN OF SURFSIDE**

Office of the Town Manager

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
9293 HARDING AVENUE  
SURFSIDE, FLORIDA 33154-3009  
Telephone (305) 861-4863

# **Town Manager Report**

November 12, 2025

Prepared by: Mario A. Diaz  
Acting Town Manager

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## TOWN MANAGER

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

### ***A Message from the Acting Town Manager:***

I am honored to begin my service as the Acting Town Manager of Surfside. I am committed to leading with integrity, collaboration, and a clear focus on progress. As we move forward, my focus will be on maintaining transparency, promoting efficiency, and ensuring that Surfside continues to be a safe, welcoming, and vibrant place for all. I look forward to collaborating with our Town Commission, Residents, and Town Staff to address the needs of our community and build on the great work that has already been done. Together, we will strengthen community engagement, improve local services, and ensure Surfside remains a place where families, businesses, and visitors thrive.

*Mario A. Diaz*



## 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 Alcala, **Records Technician**

### **PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS**

<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u># Public Records Requests (PRR)</u></b>
2020	77
2021	227
2022	157
2023	913
2024	974
<b>2025</b>	
<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u># Public Records Requests (PRR)</u></b>
January	81
February	107
March	100
April	150
May	81
June	84
July	92
August	102
September	88
October	91

### **OCTOBER 2025**

<b><u>ACTIVITIES</u></b>	<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
Board Meetings Attended	5
Commission Meetings Attended	2
Public Notices Issued	14
Meetings Transcribed	6
RFP/RFQ Issued	1
Ordinances Published	1
Resolutions Published	12
Elections Conducted	0
Special Master Hearings Attended	1



## HUMAN RESOURCES

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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**  
Yolanda "Yoly" Menegazzo, (Consultant)

OPEN POSITIONS
Operations Manager
Public Works Coordinator
Accountant
Human Resources & Risk Management Clerk
Maintenance Worker I
Recreation Leader I F/T
Certified Police Officer

*Events:* **Powerhouse Workshops**



**Emotional Intelligence/Behavior Management  
&  
Capacity Building for Associates**



## BUILDING DEPARTMENT

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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.

<b>Team:</b>	Manuel “Manny” Salazar – <b>Building Official</b> Rony Jean, <b>Supervisor – Permits</b> Randy Courtois, Administrative Support Sofia Valdes, Permit Clerk Julia Rajkumar, Temp Clerk
<b>Building/Roofing:</b>	Ulises Fernandez
<b>Building/Structural:</b>	Ricardo “Rick” Aller
<b>Electrical:</b>	Candelario Martinez
<b>Mechanical:</b>	Jan Perez
<b>Plumbing:</b>	Roberto Conde
<b>Structural/Multi-Family:</b>	Chrome Engineering
<b>Flood Review:</b>	Erica Valdes
<b>Planning/Zoning:</b>	Scarlet Hammons, The Corradino Group

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Building Permits Issued	159
Inspections Performed	274
TCO/CO/CC Issued	1
Net Revenue Generated	\$1,283,239.45



## 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.

<b><u>PROJECT / RESOS</u></b>	<b><u>ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>DEVELOPERS / PROJECT MANAGER</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>	<b><u>Proffers</u></b>	<b><u>Taxable Value</u></b>
DAMAC 2023-Z-3209	8777 Collins Avenue	Jeffery Rossely 305-407-4898 <a href="mailto:info@damacmiami.com">info@damacmiami.com</a> <a href="http://www.damacmiami.com">www.damacmiami.com</a>	Foundation Est June 2025	\$2,500,000 6/25/25 – <b>Receipt of \$1M</b>	\$1.6B FY2028
Seaway 2018-2489 2021-2782 2024-Z-3246	9133-9149 Collins Avenue	Tom Evans 571-206-2377 <a href="mailto:tom@fortpartners.com">tom@fortpartners.com</a> <a href="http://www.theseaway.com">www.theseaway.com</a>	TCO	\$250,000	\$550M FY2026
Hillcrest 2020-2870	9165 Collins Avenue	Kaushik Padala 786-449-5400 <a href="mailto:kpadala@jmaf.net">kpadala@jmaf.net</a> Tom McKerchie 786-390-0076 <a href="mailto:tmckerchie@jmaf.net">tmckerchie@jmaf.net</a> <a href="http://www.hillcrestsurfside.com">www.hillcrestsurfside.com</a>	Under Construction	\$180,000	\$377M FY2028
Surf House 2019-2661	8995 Collins Avenue	Houman Hadad 786-238-9899 <a href="mailto:houman@fortpartners.com">houman@fortpartners.com</a> Nick Hernandez 305-542-2718 <a href="mailto:nicolas@fortpartners.com">nicolas@fortpartners.com</a> <a href="http://www.surfhousesurfside.com">www.surfhousesurfside.com</a>	Foundation Ongoing	\$686,050	\$359M FY2028
Kushner Development 2024-Z-3255 2024-Z-3338 2024-Z-3339	9300 Collins Avenue	Rafael Schwartz 9300 Collins Ave. Owner LLC	Groundbreaking May 14, 2025	\$5,900,000 <b>8/4/2025 - \$400K Proffer Received</b>	\$100M FY2028
Ocean House 2022-Z-2955	9309-9317 Collins Avenue	Walter Brailly 786-205-6712 <a href="mailto:wbrailly@moss.com">wbrailly@moss.com</a> <a href="http://www.oceanhousereresidences.com">www.oceanhousereresidences.com</a>	Under Construction	\$380,000 6/26/25 – <b>Trellis Donation Completed \$200K</b>	\$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 ( <b>Seagrape Tree Donation Completed</b> )	\$70,000 6/30/25 – <b>Seagrape to Dune \$10K</b>	\$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	\$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

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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 Ruvin, **Code Officer**  
Emmanuel Santana, **Code Officer**

### OCTOBER 2025

<b>STATUS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
OPENED OCTOBER 2025	160
CASES SCHEDULED FOR HEARING BEFORE SPECIAL MAGISTRATE	7
POST HEARING	4
RECORDED LIENS	71
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>242</b>

### Inspections: 143

<b><u>MONTH</u></b>	<b><u># CASES</u></b>	<b><u>FEES COLLECTED</u></b>
JANUARY	28	\$43,364.34
FEBRUARY	15	\$10,492.37
MARCH	18	\$14,555.66
APRIL	5	\$3,000.81
MAY	15	\$9,352.50
JUNE	10	\$147,700.26
JULY	10	\$16,145.00
AUGUST	7	\$7,776.07
SEPTEMBER	7	\$8,170.79
OCTOBER	6	\$7,887.10

<b>YTD FEES COLLECTED - FY24/25: \$345,440.69</b>
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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 / **8** Recreation Leaders / **4** Custodians/Maintenance

<b>Aquatics</b>	<b>Recreation</b>
Marianella Lucas–Aquatics Supervisor	Virginia Agramonte – Asst to Director
Anibal Modica – Head Lifeguard	Jorge Galdo JR – Coordinator
Tanya Friedman – FT Lifeguard	Shawn Walker - CSR
Barbara Vasallo – FT Lifeguard	Carlos Vina – Maintenance Worker II
Fidel Martinez – FT Lifeguard	Matthew Castrorao – Coordinator
Leoner Reus – FT Lifeguard	Alexander Villeda - Coordinator
Flor Hernandez – FT Lifeguard	Lucas Feinstein - Recreation Leader II
Carlos Agon – PT Lifeguard	Kerline Fertil – FT Custodian
Lena Hernandez - PT Lifeguard	Pierre Prophete – FT Custodian
Flor Hernandez - PT Lifeguard	Jesus Garcia Ramirez – FT Custodian
Alejandro Zamora – On-Call Lifeguard	Carolina Paz – PT Recreation Leader I
Daniel Cantero – On-Call Lifeguard	Jorge Almaguer – PT Recreation Leader I
Enzo Rodriguez - PT Lifeguard	Addel Aguilar – PT Recreation Leader I
Fernando L. Pons – PT Lifeguard	Bryan Raffa – PT Recreation Leader I
<b>Vacant</b> – PT Lifeguard	Maya Chabanon – PT Recreation Leader I
Miguel Navarro – Seasonal Lifeguard	Kevin Marcell – PT Recreation Leader I
Pablo Estrada – Seasonal Lifeguard	<b>Vacant</b> – FT Recreation Leader I
Ilan Luckzkow – Seasonal Lifeguard	

## ***Facilities Overview***

Parks & Recreation oversees the following facilities:

- Community Center & Aquatic Facility
- 96th Street Park
- Kayak Launch
- Tennis Center
- Beach Lifeguard Tower
- Beach Chair Service
- Hawthorne Tot Lot
- Paws Up Dog Park

## ***Facility Updates***

- **Tennis Center/Pickleball:** Open from 7 am – 10 pm daily. Operates by reservation only. Programming hours are in place and have been adjusted to optimize availability.
- **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 November, the pool is open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- **Beach Lifeguard Tower:** Operational from 10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in November.
- **96th Street Park:** Now open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- **Kayak Launch & Playground:** Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to sunset.

***Beach Chair Service:*** The daily Beach Chair Service is operated through Beach Time Max in alignment with the Beach Lifeguard Tower hours (10:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in November). 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.

***Parks and Recreation App:*** The Town has updated the Parks and Recreation mobile app to include pool lap lane, tennis court, and pickleball court reservations, allowing all bookings to be managed in one convenient location.

For information on how to download and use the app, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department.

**Town School (Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8) Shuttle:** The Town upgraded to a larger bus in October. This enhancement has increased seating capacity for our residents, allowing us to accommodate all passengers to date.

Surfside Shuttle Bus Daily Counts		
Date	Number of Kids (AM)	Number of Kids (PM)
1st	39	22
2nd	NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL
3rd	35	38
4th	CLOSED	CLOSED
5th	CLOSED	CLOSED
6th	40	40
7th	38	38
8th	40	40
9th	38	38
10th	27	40
11th	CLOSED	CLOSED
12th	CLOSED	CLOSED
13th	11	11
14th	35	36
15th	37	40
16th	30	27
17th	40	40
18th	CLOSED	CLOSED
19th	CLOSED	CLOSED
20th	37	38
21st	40	39
22nd	36	39
23rd	37	43
24th	45	45
25th	CLOSED	CLOSED
26th	CLOSED	CLOSED
27th	41	44
28th	44	47
29th	44	42
30th	41	41
31st	40	42

### ***Community Center Enhancements***

- **Fence:** The Surfside Community Center has upgraded the facility's perimeter fence to enhance appearance and ensure full compliance with safety regulations.

### ***96th Street Park Enhancements***

- **Kayak/Paddleboard Kiosk:** The installation of the rental kiosk at 96th Street Park has been completed and is now fully operational. The service, provided by PADL, has been a welcome addition to the Town, offering residents and visitors convenient access to water-based recreation. Currently, there are four paddleboards and three kayaks available for use.

### ***Vending Machines Stats: (Includes Community Center and 96<sup>th</sup> St. Park):***

JUNE 2025			
# of Ice Creams Sold	# of Beverages Sold	# of Snacks Sold	Total Revenue to Town
556	597	618	\$901.28
JULY 2025			
432	576	534	\$800.63
AUGUST 2025			
512	313	221	\$620.57
SEPTEMBER 2025			
371	298	227	\$462.07
OCTOBER 2025			
352	402	412	\$585.33

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### ***Events & Activities:***

- **Spooky Spooktacular:** Surfside's annual **Spooky Spooktacular** was a thrilling success! Held on **Friday, October 24, 2025**, at **96th Street Park**, the event brought out families and friends for an evening full of Halloween fun. Residents and hotel guests enjoyed exciting games, festive entertainment, a challenging maze, and plenty of sweet treats. The park was transformed into a lively, colorful celebration that captured the true spirit of Halloween, making it one of the most memorable events of the season. **# of Attendants: 1,363.**
- **Under the Stars Movie Night:** The second installment of our *Under the Stars* movie series was a wonderful evening for the whole community. On **Saturday, November 8, 2025**, families gathered at **96th Street Park** to enjoy Disney's beloved classic, *Lilo & Stitch*, under a clear, starry sky. Guests relaxed on blankets and lawn chairs as they enjoyed free popcorn and refreshments provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. The event offered a perfect blend of relaxation, laughter, and togetherness — a true reflection of Surfside's small-town charm.

- **Veterans Day Ceremony:** On **Tuesday, November 11, 2025**, the Town of Surfside proudly hosted its annual **Veterans Day Ceremony**. The community came together to honor and celebrate the bravery and service of our nation's veterans. The ceremony featured heartfelt speeches, patriotic music, and moments of reflection that deeply resonated with all in attendance. It was a moving and meaningful tribute — a powerful reminder of gratitude and unity within the Surfside community.

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### ***Upcoming Events & Activities***

- **November Senior Brunch:** The **Senior Brunch** is scheduled for **Friday, November 14, 2025**, from **11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** The event will feature a buffet-style meal and a few fun rounds of bingo for participants to enjoy.

- **November Senior Trip:** For our **November Senior Trip**, participants will visit the **Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science** in Downtown Miami. The trip is scheduled for **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**, from **11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.** and includes transportation to and from the Surfside Community Center.

- **Winter Wonderland:** Join us for Surfside's annual **Winter Wonderland** celebration on **Sunday, December 14, 2025**, from **10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** at **96th Street Park**. This magical holiday event is open exclusively to Surfside residents and hotel guests. Enjoy a festive morning filled with holiday-themed activities, cheerful entertainment, winter treats, and plenty of seasonal fun for the whole family!

- **December Senior Brunch:** The **Senior Brunch** is scheduled for **Friday, December 12, 2025**, from **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Join us for a festive buffet-style meal filled with holiday cheer, good company, and a few fun rounds of bingo to celebrate the season together.

- **Under the Stars Movie Night:** The Parks and Recreation Department is excited to present the next movie in our **Under the Stars series** at **96th Street Park**. The film will be shown on **Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** Residents and hotel guests are invited to enjoy this festive, family-friendly evening under the stars. **Popcorn and refreshments will be provided.**



## COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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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**  
Ian Dolan, **Administrative Support**

In October 2025, the Communications Department continued to serve as the creative and strategic engine of the Town of Surfside, supporting every department with clear, consistent, and engaging messaging. From major video productions and civic outreach to daily content management and cross-departmental collaboration, the Department ensured all initiatives were elevated, accessible, and aligned with the Town's core values of transparency, service, and community pride.

### **Town Manager's Office:**

- Produced and distributed the November 2025 Gazette one week in advance of the start of the month. The issue highlighted Nov. 4 Special Election and key Commission initiatives, helping residents plan ahead and stay informed. Coordinated Gazette features and digital coverage for the Veterans Day Ceremony, Singerfest, Public Works Appreciation Luncheon, and Movie Under the Stars community event.
- Implemented a comprehensive communications plan to promote the Nov. 4, 2025 Special Election. Efforts included maintaining a dedicated webpage with FAQs, producing an educational video, and coordinating a multi-platform campaign to encourage voter participation.
- Promoted the Special Election through the Gazette, website, text alerts, email, and social media to ensure transparency and strong voter turnout.

### **Police Department:**

- Promoted the upcoming Mobile Driver's License Services (FLOW), scheduled for Nov. 19 at Town Hall, providing residents with convenient access to DMV services.
- Created a social media and website campaign celebrating the promotion of Sergeant Leon to Lieutenant, highlighting her exemplary service and leadership.
- Promoted Community Night Out, a tri-city event with Bal Harbour and Bay Harbor Islands Police Departments, showcasing regional law enforcement collaboration and community engagement.
- Documented Chief Press and Major Matelis's participation in the Aventura Marketing Council Law Enforcement Recognition Breakfast, reinforcing Surfside's leadership in public safety and professionalism.

### **Parks & Recreation Department:**

- Announced the appointment of Rodolfo (Rudy) Perez as the new Parks and Recreation Director, sharing his background and commitment to community enrichment.
- Promoted key community programs, including Hatha Yoga Sundays, Teacher Planning Day Camp, and ongoing Fall recreation classes, to support resident wellness and engagement.,
- Designed and executed a successful campaign for the Surfside Spooktacular, driving attendance and excitement for the annual Halloween celebration.
- Celebrated Florida City Government Week by recognizing the Parks and Recreation team's essential role in maintaining the Town's parks and green spaces.

### **Public Works & Infrastructure:**

- Maintained consistent and timely dissemination of emergency alerts and traffic alerts for road closures and nighttime construction. Alerts were distributed via email campaigns & social media (NextDoor) for maximum visibility and clarity.



### **Town Clerk's Office:**

- Continued promoting vacancies on several Town boards and committees to encourage resident participation in civic life.
- Highlighted opportunities to serve on the Planning & Zoning Board, Personnel Appeals Board, Sustainability & Resilience Committee, Youth Council, Community Relations Board, and Parks & Recreation Committee.

### **Digital Strategy, Social Media & Brand Stewardship:**

- Oversaw all social media content and platform growth, resulting in increased organic engagement and community interaction. The Town's [Instagram following](#) grew to 2,650, marking a 76% increase compared to last month.
- Delivered content in clear, accessible language that aligned with the Town's visual identity and values.
- Managed content creation across multiple platforms, ensuring consistency in tone, message, and visual branding.
- Distributed [34 e-blast campaigns](#), posted 60 Nextdoor alerts, and published 39 Instagram/Facebook posts, maintaining strong communication and engagement with residents.



## **TOURISM DEPARTMENT**

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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**

**Singerfest: Celebrating Isaac Bashevis Singer on Nov.16** – The Resort Tax Board and Community Relations Board (CRB) are working jointly on Singerfest, scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 16th at the Community Center. The Community Relations board (CRB) has sponsored the 'Book Club' portion set to feature Dr. Itzik Gottesman from the University of Texas at Austin as he explores four Bashevis Singer stories relevant to South Florida. The Reception event sponsored by the Resort Tax Board will include a live Klezmer band, drinks, a light bite, and the screening of a short film. Singerfest aims to shine a light on literature while celebrating one of Surfside's most distinguished residents. The event is presented in partnership with the Miami Book Fair which as a benefit, is offering complimentary tickets to its Street Fair event.

**New Lighting Installation** – The Resort Tax Board will re-wrap the palm trees along the Harding Avenue business district with new equipment starting on Nov. 20. The year-round lighting creates an inviting atmosphere for shoppers and diners and is well supported by businesses along Harding Avenue. On Nov. 24, vendor Holiday Outdoor Décor will begin installing the new holiday lighting for the 2025-26 season. It includes custom turtle monument sign lights, a 20-foot Christmas tree for Town Hall, and for the first time, lighting for the palm trees at Veteran's Park and the Community Center front exterior.

**New Nativity Scene** – For the first time this year, the Town will display the new, 4-foot nativity scene acquired by the Resort Tax Board last year at Town Hall. The new nativity scene is considerably larger and more detailed than previous versions, demonstrating the Board’s continued focus on elevating the look and feel of the holiday season.

**Midnight Madness on Harding Avenue** – Surfside’s business district thrives not only on its vibrant dining scene, but on the diverse shops and retailers that bring character, convenience and charm to our community. Organized independently by a handful of businesses in the Harding Avenue district over the last two years, “Midnight Madness” is an initiative where Surfside businesses stay open later into the evening and incentivize patrons with discounts and promotional materials. The Resort Tax Board is sponsoring the 2025 edition of Midnight Madness to help make it the most successful yet scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6th.

**Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony** – The Resort Tax Board continues to plan its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony event scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 7th at Town Hall. The intimate, community-driven event will include sweet treats and hot chocolate, live music, and the unveiling of the Town’s new Christmas tree in addition to a brand-new nativity scene that will be displayed on the south corner of 93<sup>rd</sup> St. and Harding Avenue.

**Social Media Followers Approach 12,000** – The @visitsurfside Instagram account recently hit the 11,900-follower mark, getting closer to 12,000. Most of the content featured is organically produced by staff, aiming to showcase Surfside as a desirable destination to visit, and an idyllic oceanside community to reside in. The account also serves as a promotional tool for many of Surfside’s shops and restaurants which are regularly featured.

ACTIVITY	AMOUNT
Food & Beverage Tax	\$48,643.06
Hotel Tax	\$254,041.79
Interest Earnings	0
Registration Fees	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$400.00
Gross Revenue Generated	<b>\$303,084.85 (FY2025-2026)</b>



## 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 / 19 Officers / 4 Dispatchers / 3 CSA / 3 Admin / 4 Parking / 1 Accreditation Manager**

<b>Kimberlee Blecha – Executive Asst.</b>	
Rory Alberto – Sergeant	Craig Lovelette – Officer
Loxley Arch III – Officer	Bryant Luke – Officer
Tammy Campbell – Officer	Joseph Matthews – Officer
Ana Chamorro – Dispatcher	Ruben Ravelo – Officer
Frank Colonna – Sergeant	Joshua Rosario – Officer
Marian Cruz – Sergeant	Lesmes Ruiz – Officer
Jose Dardon – Dispatcher	Donovan Saffo – Officer
Ronald Donoso – Detective	Maria Sierra – Dispatcher
Isabelle Dourbecker – CSA	Jill Smith – Accreditation Manager
Felix Fermin – CSA	Michah Smith – Officer
Bobby Gabriel – Officer	Susie Sperbeck – Dispatcher
Kemuel Gambirazio – Detective	Julio Torres – Sergeant
John Gentile – Officer	Jose Valino – Officer
Diana Hernandez – Officer	Samuel Villegas – Officer
Alberto Knight – Officer	Sharon Perez, – Officer
Ariel Lage – Officer	Rafael Gomez, Jr. – Officer
Donald Laurent – CSA	<b>PARKING (3)</b>
Alejandro Lorente – Sergeant	Christian Acosta – Parking Officer
Stephanie Kamer – Admin Aide	Josue Castro – Parking Officer
Teresa Fernandez – Admin Aide	William Perez – Parking Officer

**Recruitment Efforts** – The department is still looking to expand its hiring of officers and is actively looking to grow the force. Certified officers and those currently in the academy are encouraged to reach out to our Human Resources team.

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

**Press On!**



“The most important service to others is service to those who are not like yourself.”

— J. Irwin Miller



### **Surf-Bal-Bay National Night Out**



Our annual community crime awareness event was a great success! Command staff, officers, and our favorite parking officer/DJ, JC Castro, brought energy and fun to the day. Residents from Surfside, Bal Harbour, and Bay Harbor Islands came out to meet their officers, enjoy the music and even explore different police vehicles up close.



## Spooky Spooktacular



The police command staff along with several other officers attended the annual Parks & Recreation Spooktacular event on Friday, October 24th. While there to provide safety and security, officers took advantage of the opportunity to spend time with resident parents and children of Surfside. This community outreach was a positively received event for all involved.

## Halloween Event



As is the tradition in Surfside, a large contingent of police officers and command staff set out into the community to ensure our children and families enjoyed this special day. Officers provided over 60 large bags of candy in addition to distributing special high visibility mylar Halloween treat bags and glow bracelets. The evening was a complete success, and a good time was had by all.



## 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**  
**Vacant, Operations Manager**

### STAFF DIRECTORY

**13** Solid Waste  
**6** Facilities/Maintenance  
**3** Water & Sewer

SOLID WASTE	FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE
<b>Derick Scott – Manager</b>	<b>Josvani Iglesias – Manager</b>
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	Jose Nodarse – Mechanic
Claude Jean – Refuse Collector	Guillermo Osorio – CDL Heavy Eqpt.
Harold Jean Baptiste – Refuse Collector	<b>WATER &amp; SEWER</b>
Harry Saintil – Refuse Collector	Wayne Taylor, Jr. - Maintenance
Esdyani Puentes – Refuse Collector	Rigoberto Chaviano – Maintenance
Sanel Cazeau – Refuse Collector	Jimmy McCray - Maintenance
Mitch Michel – Truck Driver	
Albert Noel – Truck Driver	
Bernardo Cordova – Truck Driver	

ACTIVITY	VOLUME	COST
Garbage Collected	406.22 TN	\$36,791.34
Recycling Collected	30.06 TN	\$35,38.06
Bulk Pick Ups	141.63 TN	\$12,827.43
Sewer Backups	3	Internal
Water Leaks	3	Internal





## FINANCE

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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, Accountant  
Damaris "Didi" Montes de Oca, Customer Service Representative  
Tamara Capote, Accounting Clerk

**Robert Half Personnel:**

- Katherine Rivera
- Alberto Erviti



## 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](mailto:progrant@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

NAME OF GRANT	FUNDER	\$ AWARDED
Resilient Florida Grant Program - Abbott Avenue Stormwater Improvements	FDEP	\$2,000,000.00
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

State Appropriations Request - Transforming and Reformulating the Surfside Downtown Alleyway	FDOC	\$750,000.00
Flamingo Garden Park	Florida Wildflower Foundation	\$3,000.00

Grant applications submitted pending determination:

<b>NAME OF GRANT</b>	<b>FUNDER</b>	<b>\$ APPLIED FOR</b>
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
Safe Streets for All – Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	DOT	\$250,000.00
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



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

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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"*

<b><u>PROJECTS</u></b>
<b>96 Street Park</b>
<b>Townwide Utilities Undergrounding<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Surfside Memorial</b>
<b>Abbott Avenue Drainage</b>
<b>Collins Avenue Water Main</b>
<b>Dune Restoration</b>
<b>Townwide Vulnerability Assessment</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Pending Special Election on November 4, 2025

**96<sup>th</sup> 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:** Lunacon and the Town met on October 14 to discuss the Liquidated damages and CO claims. Lunacon sent a settlement request of which the Town request an extension due to the short deadline to respond.

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

## **Townwide Utilities Undergrounding<sup>1</sup>**

### **Scope:**

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

**Phase:** Design

### **Status Update:**

This project construction is on hold pending the November 4<sup>th</sup> election. Kimley-Horn has completed the design for **Area 3**, and the Town has received the **Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP)** from Whiting-Turner to carry out the construction phase. The GMP came in just under **\$14 million**, not including utility provider costs.

Kimley-Horn has provided an estimated total cost of just under **\$80 million** for all three phases of the project. The Town Commission has voted to take the full project cost to a **public referendum in November**, which will determine the project's future.

**Area 3** includes the **Alleyway Project**, which is associated with a grant that may be at risk if the project does not proceed.

**Area 2** design is approximately **83% complete**, with ongoing data gathering that includes surveying and analysis of utility records.

**Publix** has not yet signed the required easement agreement. The Town is actively engaging with them to clarify and resolve any outstanding concerns.

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<sup>1</sup> Pending Special Election on November 4, 2025

## **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:** Design

**Status:** The Town, KEITH team, and the investigative unit for the Surfside Collapse met on October 9, 2025. During the meeting, the investigative team confirmed that the requested debris intended for incorporation into the memorial project has been released. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be sent to the Town for execution prior to the debris being collected. Additionally, KEITH has completed and submitted the 95% design plans to the Town for review. Coordination is ongoing with **FDOT** to address **pre-application permitting requirements**, and KEITH continues to work closely with the **Town Manager's Working Group** and **Planning & Zoning (P&Z)** to ensure the design aligns with project goals and regulatory expectations. Keith team is seeking additional compensation for the design changes and they also presented construction support proposal for review.

### **Project Schedule:**

- **Detailed Design Milestones:**
  - 30% Design – **July 2025**
  - 60% Design – **August 2025**
  - 90% Design – **September 2025**
  - Final Design – **November 2025**
- **Site Plan, Permitting & Opinion of Probable Cost:**
  - **November 2025**
- **Contractor Bidding & Award:**
  - **January 2026**
- **Construction Start:**
  - **Q1 2026**

## **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:** The Town has issued a Notice to Proceed to FG Construction to continue work on the stormwater drainage project, following the termination of Ric-Man International. The termination occurred after both parties were unable to reach an agreement regarding a recent change order.

The Town has secured the necessary FDEP permit for the updated design, allowing FG Construction to proceed with drilling the sixth and final drainage well. The well was successfully constructed to the revised design depth, with a tested discharge capacity of 670 gallons per minute (gpm), exceeding the expected 500 gpm capacity. Following this success, the previous five wells will be adjusted to meet the same 500 gpm performance standard.

FG Construction has mobilized to begin work on Pump Station No. 1, with all DERM and FDEP permits approved. The project remains on schedule for completion in April 2026.

In parallel, the Town continues discussions with Ric-Man International regarding their claim for outstanding payments. Ric-Man currently retains critical materials required for the construction of Pump Stations No. 1 and No. 2, and negotiations are ongoing to resolve the **matter**.



## **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 also continuing its **permitting efforts with other governing agencies** to ensure the project progresses as planned.

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 first quarter of 2026**.

## **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, in collaboration with **Kimley-Horn**, has finalized technical and permitting revisions to the plans and specifications for the **Dune Project**. These updates are focused on facilitating the use of **Surfside Mix**, a specially selected sand that will be applied to the walking path to enhance durability and environmental compatibility.

The **Invitation to Bid (ITB)** was reissued, with a **bid opening on November 24, 2025**.

The Town has also **successfully obtained the required permit** for the use of Surfside Mix on the Dunes walking path, marking a key milestone in advancing the project toward the construction phase.

Construction is estimated to begin in January 2026.

## **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 submitted the **Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Adaptation Plan Feasibility Report** and the **Final Vulnerability Assessment Report** to the **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)** for review and approval. The Town currently waiting on FDEP's approval.

Following FDEP approval, 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.