## **SPECIAL EDITION • CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 UPDATES**



# GAZETTE MAY 2020

# A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Hello Everyone,

As we are approaching two months of quarantining, the tide is gradually beginning to turn, yet we find ourselves in a bit of a paradox, Florida is starting to open up, while South Florida is still not quite ready to follow.

As you may be aware, the South Florida region has been hit considerably harder than other parts of the State, so our reopening is going to be a bit slower. The encouraging news is that the death rate as a percentage of those who've had the virus continues to fall, as the total number of those who test positive for coronavirus antibodies increases. Given that, please stay with the current program of "safer at home," and I believe that we'll continue to make progress towards the goal of "getting back to normal," in the age of this global pandemic.

In spite of the virus, your new Commission is continuing to drive forward with up to two meetings a week in an effort to clean up old messes and address the campaign promises we made.

If you've been able to join us for our weekly meetings, you've seen all your new elected officials in action. Here's only a little of what is being done by each:

- Eliana is working hard to keep the Parks and Recreation Department connected with, and responsive to our residents, while also leading the effort to vastly improve our communications with residents.
- **Charles K.** is leading the Town's Covid-19 response team and has ensured that the Town, and its residents connect with, and are aware of every resource available to overcome the challenge we face.
- **Nelly** has been focused on fixing flooding, safely restarting construction and getting PPE's (personal protection equipment) to the most vulnerable among us.
- Tina is working to upgrade our TV channel 663 and to address the Town's efforts towards sustainability and resiliency.

I've been focused on making sure our meetings are efficient, productive, to the point, interesting, transparent and most importantly, open to all who wish to participate. Virtually every one of my campaign promises is on our current agenda, along with those of our other officials.

*I'm committed, as are my colleagues, to getting results* - because at the end of the day, all the talk, promises and endless political chatter mean nothing without "getting the task done."

As always, we all continue to be at your service. Please stay safe.

- Charles



# STAY IN PLACE. MAINTAIN YOUR SPACE. COVER YOUR FACE.

"The South Florida region has been hit considerably harder than other parts of the State, so our reopening is going to be a bit slower." – Mayor Charles Burkett



# FOOD DISTRIBUTION EVENT TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020 • 10 AM -1 PM TOWN HALL PARKING LOT AT 93 STREET AND HARDING AVENUE

#### TWO BAGS OF GROCERIES (INCLUDING FRESH PRODUCE) WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FREE TO 500 SURFSIDE HOUSEHOLDS IN NEED OF FOOD SUPPORT

Surfside residents needing food support can come to the Town Hall Parking Lot at 93 Street and Harding Avenue and drive-thru in their cars to receive two bags of groceries on a first-come, first-served basis, while supplies last. No walk-ups allowed. Residents must stay in their cars and keep their windows closed. Volunteers wearing protective equipment will place the groceries in the car trunk. Residents who do not have cars or residents who are seniors or at-risk, may contact the Town **prior to May 26** to arrange for delivery of two bags of groceries from Farm Share on May 26, 2020.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL TOWN HALL AT: (305) 861-4863

# **CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY VIRTUALLY**

Surfside has a long and proud Memorial Day tradition, annually holding a patriotic ceremony at the Town's Veterans Park to honor and remember their sacrifice. This year the event will not be held on May 25, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. However, the Town is creating a Memorial Day video as a salute to Memorial Day veterans. The Town will be sharing details on how to watch the virtual ceremony via Town's communication channels.





## SURFSIDE TENNIS CENTER REOPENS

The Surfside Tennis Center has reopened with strict guidelines in accordance with the new Miami-Dade County Emergency Order, CDC guidelines and social distancing requirements. The courts are open 8 am – 8 pm to Surfside residents for singles play only. Residents must book court time by making a reservation at least one day ahead by calling (786) 618-3080. No walk-ins will be allowed for the safety of residents and staff. Reservations can also be made online through https://townofsurfside. skedda.com/booking.

## FACE MASKS REQUIRED ON BEACH WALKING PATH AND HARD-PACK

A new Emergency Order requires one-way traffic (south to north) on the recreational walking/jogging path and calls for the use of facial coverings. Children under the age of two, people who have trouble breathing due to a chronic pre-existing condition, or people engaged in strenuous physical activity are exempt from wearing facial coverings.

This Emergency Measure will continue day-to-day until it is terminated or cancelled earlier by the Town Manager.



# SURFSIDE PARKS AND BEACH REMAIN CLOSED

Parks in Surfside remain closed until further notice as they do not currently meet Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 21-20. Because the public beach in Surfside falls under the jurisdiction of the county, the beach also remains closed. Residents are still welcome to use the walking/jogging path and hard-pack, as long as they wear a facial covering, stay at least six feet away from others and do not congregate in groups (see story above).

# TOWN CARES FOR SURFSIDE'S MOST VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

When Regina Stella, an elderly resident who has lived in Surfside for 54 years, needed a face mask, Sergeant Alejandro Lorente from the Surfside Police Department showed up at her door.

"It was like Easter," said Stella. "I did not expect them [police] to bring me anything. Lo and behold, they came around with a care package. It is such a comfort and a nice feeling to know that someone cares. My cup runneth over."

During the coronavirus crisis, the Town's dedicated police officers and Parks and Recreation employees have been hard at work making sure at-risk seniors and individuals with underlying medical conditions have the supplies they need. This includes placing check-in phone calls, delivering care packages, face masks and medicine to seniors.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with signing up for CodeRed emergency alerts or further support, please call the Surfside Police Department non-emergency number at 305-861-4862. Surfside residents are also encouraged to check in with their neighbors via phone call, text, email or from a safe distance.

#### **IN-HOME COVID-19 TESTING FOR SENIORS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue units are administering in-home coronavirus testing for seniors and adults with disabilities (18 and older). The tests are in partnership with Jackson Health System and are free to those exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms. To make an appointment, call (305) 499-8767.

## SURFSIDE JOINS 33154 DRIVE-THRU CORONAVIRUS ANTIBODY TESTING

Bal Harbour is leading a partnership with Surfside, Bay Harbor Islands and Indian Creek to offer drive-thru testing for coronavirus antibodies. The drive-thru testing site is located outdoors next to the Bal Harbour Shops Parking Garage - 96th Street Entrance. Hours of operation are between 9 am to 5 pm, Monday – Friday. Appointments are required. To make an appointment, visit www.covid33154.com or call (786) 619-3379 (local) or (877) 885-8125 (toll-free) to fill out a screening questionnaire.

According to the World Health Organization, it is not clear whether having antibodies means you are immune from getting infected again. The test results also have a chance of false positives and false negatives. **Regardless of your test result, please continue to take steps to protect yourself and others.** 

## THE TOWN OF SURFSIDE CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY ON MAY 18, 2020



# ZOOM IN FOR COOL CLASSES!

Lace up your sneakers and work up a sweat with virtual classes conducted by the Surfside Parks and Recreation Department via ZOOM. The team is offering a variety of sessions from Zumba, cooking for kids, creative time, to mindfulness tips, and a meet-up for pre-teens and teens. Additionally, this week's schedule includes new COVID-19 support groups for teens and adults. Go to the Town website home page and click on "ZOOM in for Cool Classes and other Activities"

#### CHANGES TO CONSTRUCTION SITES

The Town of Surfside has amended Emergency Measure #5 on construction sites, allowing restricted construction in a limited capacity, incuding:

- Extended working hours from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday-Friday
- Specifying that temperature checks should be taken upon arrival at the construction site
- No more than four workers permitted on a construction site in the single-family residential district
- No more than eight workers, comprised of two groups of four workers, permitted to work at condominiums and multi-family properties (multi-family construction work only on balconies and railings). No more than eight workers permitted for construction sites in the Collins Avenue corridor
- The Emergency Measure continues through May 31, 2020, unless amended, cancelled or extended by the Town Manager.

# **POLICE BEAT**

# Surfside Police Officers Give Away Approximately 800 Face Masks to Residents

With face masks in limited supply, the Town of Surfside purchased hundreds of cloth facial coverings in order to give them away for free and help protect residents from the spread of coronavirus. To date, Surfside Police Officers have handed out a total of approximately 800 facial coverings to residents during two separate giveaway events. During the events, residents lined up in their cars in the Town Hall municipal parking lot and were handed two masks per car, along with an informative flyer on how to sign up for CodeRED emergency alerts and important COVID-19 updates.

In case you missed the giveaway, the Town still has a small



# <u>STOP MEANS STOP</u> HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE

For the safety of drivers, walkers and bikers, the Surfside Police Department reminds all drivers to come to a full and complete stop when entering all stop sign intersections. Police will be monitoring, warning and citing those drivers who do not come to a full stop, particularly at crosswalks.



Help us keep our community safe!





# **HAVE AN EMERGENCY? CALL 911**

Surfside residents may be confused about when to call 911 or the Surfside Police Department non-emergency number. The 911 call center is responsible for receiving, processing and dispatching 911 calls for Surfside and other local jurisdictions. **Calling 911 is the most efficient and fastest way to have Surfside Police Officers respond to a life-threatening emergency.** 

The Police Department offers residents a police non-emergency number (305) 861-4862. This is for informational purposes and general questions. It is also used for minor issues when there is no immediate threat, such as parking violations, animal-related issues, non-criminal matters and criminal matters that happened in the past.

## SURFSIDERS FLASH THEIR LIGHTS FOR HEALTHCARE HEROES & RESPONDERS

Surfsiders have been showing their deep appreciation for healthcare workers and first responders by flashing their lights on Monday evenings for five minutes at 8:15 pm. These courageous professionals continue to be on the frontline for the battle against coronavirus. Residents have been flashing their front porch light or placing a lit candle in their window sill. Because of the sea turtles regulations (see page 8), properties on the oceanfront side of Collins Avenue are encouranged to light candles instead of lights to show their support.

As this is a rapidly changing situation, the information in this Surfside Gazette may have changed since printing. For the most up-to-date information, visit the Town website: www.townofsurfsidefl.gov and sign up for email notifications.



# HURRICANE SEASON IS JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30, 2020

# WHAT YOU CAN DO NOW

- SAFELY TRIM BACK ALL TREES that are in your property and have grown close to FPL electric lines and other utility lines.
- **BEFORE A STORM IS ON THE HORIZON** put heavy landscaping debris and bulk items out for pick-up. Bulk pick-ups are on every Wednesday. Keep the front of your yard free of all mulch. During heavy rain, mulch washes into roadways and ends up in the Town's storm drain system.
- **REVIEW YOUR HURRICANE PLAN NOW.** With the coronavirus crises, early preparation is more important than ever. Check the list below, prepare your home and plan your evacuation route and destination.
- SIGN UP FOR CODE RED & TOWN NOTIFICATIONS to stay connected and aware of the latest information regarding the COVID-19 crisis as well as any storm event that may impact Surfside. Text "Surfside" to 99411 to register, or visit the Town website.
- AT-RISK SENIORS AND RESIDENTS needing medical care or equipment and require transportation assistance during a mandatory evacuation should register with the Miami-Dade County Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program (EEAP) in advance of any storm. If you or someone you know requires assistance, call 311.
- DO NOT WAIT UNTIL A STORM IS THREATENING to complete your hurricane kit. Gather non-perishable food and emergency supplies for your household. To minimize your exposure to other people, use a delivery service, such as Instacart and Amazon Prime. Avoid a direct hand-off by having bags left at your door.

## **CHECK LIST – GEARING UP FOR THE STORM SEASON**

Here is a general list of items you should have and actions you should take if a hurricane or tropical storm watch is imminent.

- Have enough food and drinking water for all members of the family for at least three days.
- Store enough clean water for drinking, bathing, cleaning and cooking for all family members for at least three days.
- □ Fill containers 2/3 full with tap water and keep them in your freezer for ice after a storm.
- For the evacuation destination, make bedrolls from your existing comforters and blankets.
- First aid kit and any necessary medicines
- Food and essential items for any pets
- Protect important documents in zip-lock bags such as birth certificates, passports, insurance documents, etc.
- Cleaning & supplies eating utensils, mosquito repellent, gloves, liquid soap and paper towels.

- Tools flashlights, batteries, pliers, hammers, goggles, dust mask, etc.
- Special items spare eyeglasses, diapers, wipes, masks/face coverings
- Generator and appropriate fuel
- Battery/solar operated radio and/or television
- Ensure your flood insurance is current and in effect
- Charge all essential devices including phone, laptops, pads and back-up batteries
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank
- ATMs may be down during and after a storm, make sure you have cash on hand
- Take pictures of your property before and after the storm for insurance purposes



SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2020 HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS VIRTUAL PRESENTATION

#### **GO TO THE**

Town Website under the Hurricane & Flood Information page: https://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov/how-do-i/hurricane-and-flood-information



# WHAT TO DO WHEN A STORM IS IMMINENT

- **PROTECT YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY** by securing windows and doors with Miami-Dade County-approved storm shutters. Bring in patio furniture, garbage cans, bins and other items that are not secured and could become airborne. Unplug all appliances and if power is lost, only use flashlights not candles.
- **SURFSIDE IS ZONE B** in the Miami-Dade Storm Surge Planning Zones. Oceanic storm surge and interior flooding is possible. If flooding threatens your home, turn off electricity at the main breaker. Stay in a sheltered room in your home and away from windows. Do not leave your home until the storm is completely passed.
- A MANDATORY EVACUATION MAY BE ORDERED IN SURFSIDE meaning residents should leave coastal areas. Evacuation centers will open, but they should only be considered as a last resort. You are encouraged to stay with family or friends in a non-evacuation area. Make your plans now. If evacuations are ordered and you decide to go to a county shelter, visit www.miamidade.gov/hurricane or call 311 to find the closest available shelter. The Red Cross is making accommodations to enable social distancing at hurricane shelters. Bring your own proof of residency, bedding, food, snacks, medications and personal items.

# WHAT TO DO AFTER THE STORM

- MANY INJURIES OCCUR AFTER A STORM, so stay inside until authorities say it is safe to go outside. Call the Surfside Police Department or utility companies immediately to report hazard such as downed power lines, broken gas or water mains or overturned gas tanks. Monitor Surfside notifications or other communications for information on safety issues, waste collection and hurricane debris pickups. Obey curfew and emergency orders when issued.
- IF YOU HAVE EVACUATED, PLEASE BE PATIENT. You may have to wait several days to return. Have your picture ID ready to show to authorities when returning. Surfside Police Department will have a secure perimeter around the Town and will assess damage including extreme flooding, downed electric lines and debris blocking roadways. Residents will not be allowed back into Town until an all clear is issued by Surfside Police Chief Julio Yero or his designee. Residents and business owners will be notified when to return via CodeRed notifications, Town notifications, Nextdoor and the Town website at www.townofsurfsidefl.gov.

#### **BE PATIENT FOR POWER RESTORATION**

Residents can report a power outage or check the status of a reported outage by calling FPL at 1-800- 468-8243. Surfside is a customer of FPL just like you and has no influence on when power will be restored.



#### WORRIED ABOUT YOUR PET?

Miami-Dade County offers resources for pet owners. To learn more, visit: https://www8. miamidade.gov/global/emergency/hurricane/pet-preparedness.page



## KNOW YOUR STORM LANGUAGE

#### TROPICAL STORM OR HURRICANE WATCH

Prepare for possible tropical storm or hurricane conditions, usually within **48 hours.** 

#### TROPICAL STORM OR HURRICANE WARNING

Prepare for expected tropical storm or hurricane conditions, usually within **36 hours.** 

**TROPICAL STORM** - sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph **HURRICANE** - sustained winds of 74 mph or higher

#### SAFFIR-SIMPSON HURRICANE WIND SCALE

- Category 1: 74 to 95 mph
- Category 2: 96 to 110 mph
- Category 3: 111 to 129 mph
- Category 4: 130 to 156 mph
- Category 5: 157 mph or higher



# HURRICANE SEASON CHECKLIST



Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 to November 30. During this time always take the following steps:



Know your evacuation plan

or higher. All Town personnel, including the Police, must also

evacuate.

Surfside is located in Zone B of the

Storm Surge Planning Zone. This

means residents must evacuate in

the event of a Category 2 Hurricane



Have a hurricane safety kit Visit www.miamidade.gov/hurricane for the Miami-Dade County Hurricane Guide, including a safety kit checklist and evacuation routes



Trim large trees and dispose of hazardous materials prior to hurricane season

This applies to homes, as well as local businesses

# HURRICANE WARNING CHECKLIST

When a hurricane warning is issued, it is important to take several safety measures right away. Do not wait until the last minute. Please refer to the following safety checklist:



Bring in loose items from outside your home Garbage cans, bicycles, children's toys, exterior furniture, or anything unsecured



Ensure that no garbage is left outside before or during the hurricane



Unplug all the appliances in your home and office/business



Install storm shutters or board up windows



Make sure to gas up your vehicle before the storm Move your vehicle into your garage or onto higher ground, if available



Document all important valuables in your home and store important documents



Stock up on water and nonperishable food items Make sure to have enough to last up to one (1) week



Charge electronics and keep portable batteries handy



Withdraw emergency funds from an ATM

#### MAKE AN IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

# Apply for a Board or Committee!

Are you a proud Surfside resident who wants to help shape the future of the community you live in? If your answer is yes, then you are strongly encouraged to apply for a position on an official Town Board or Committee. The Town of Surfside is now accepting member applications for the following:

- Budget Committee
- Downtown Vision Advisory Committee (DVAC)
- Parks and Recreation Committee
- Pension Board
- Personnel Appeals Board
- Planning and Zoning / Design Review Board
- Police Trust Fund
- Tourist Board



Each committee or board member must be willing to commit to meet at least one-time per month. The DVAC Committee, Parks and Recreation Committee, Planning and Zoning, Tourist Board and Budget Committee each have a position to be filled by someone with an education or expertise in sustainability & resiliency, including but not limited to, environmental sciences. Surfside's boards and committees are composed of citizens who are registered qualified voters in Miami-Dade County and whose legal residence is in the Town of Surfside. The members shall serve without compensation. The mayor and town manager serve as ex-officio members of all boards or committees appointed by the Town Commission.

To learn more and to apply for a board or committee, visit the Town website and click the blue "Boards and Committees Application" button on the homepage. Deadline to apply is noon on Monday, June 1, 2020.

## FOUR SEASONS AT THE SURF CLUB GIVES AWAY 1,000 MEALS



How do you feed a whole Town? The culinary team at The Four Seasons Hotel and Residences at The Surf Club worked overtime to prepare 1,000 free meals for Surfsiders on May 8, 2022. The dinner included perfectly roasted chicken breast, potatoes, mixed vegetables and a cookie. Surfside police officers kept the line of cars moving along Collins Avenue and the happy drivers pulled up to the historical valet entrance where the meals were put in their trunks.

# 2020 SEA TURTLE NESTING SEASON IS UNDERWAY

Sea turtle nesting season started on May 1 and ends on October 31. Nesting females and hatchlings need dark beaches. Surfisde residents are asked to shut off bright lights, close your blinds and shades, and switch white bulbs to amber or red bulbs during the entire nesting season.

- Stay away from crawling or nesting sea turtles. Nesting is a critical stage in the sea turtle's life cycle. Please leave them undisturbed.
- DO REPORT all stranded (dead or injured) turtles to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
- NEVER handle hatchling sea turtles. If you observe hatchlings wandering away from the ocean or on the beach call: 1-888-404-FWCC or \*FWC (Mobile Phone)



## **#SUPPORTLOCAL**

# # SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS

Help support our local businesses during these difficult times by continuing to patronize our restaurants through takeout or delivery services, or by purchasing gift cards for future use whenever possible. Note that some of the restaurants are also available through food delivery apps.

- 26 Sushi and Tapas (305) 570-2626
- Backyard BBQ and Brew (305) 998-6131
- Big Daddy Liquors (305) 866-8081
- Café Ragazzi (305) 866-4495
- Cafe Vert (305) 867-3151
- The Carrot (786) 216-7355
- ChaiWok (305) 763-8899
- Cine Citta Caffe (305) 866-8688
- Flanigan's (305) 867-0099
- The Greek Place (305) 866-9628 Contactless delivery 20% off Curb side pick-up also available
- The Harbour Grill (305) 861-0787
- Josh's Deli (305) 397-8494
- Moncheese Pizza (305) 868-6499
- Morelia Gourmet Paletas (305) 397-8480
  15% off on Cookies and Cream flavor with mention of #SurfsideStrong Special
- Rita's Italian Ice custard (305) 614-5355
- Rustiko Miami (305) 560-5650
- Serendipity Creamery (305) 865-1506
- Sushi Republic (305) 867-8036
- Le Sirenuse Miami, Four Seasons Hotel at The Surf Club (786) 482-2280. Daily menu
- The Surf Club Restaurant by Chef Thomas Keller Daily Menu Order between noon and 7 p.m. - pickup between 6 to 8 p.m. To order, call (305) 768-9940
- Subway (305) 866-2033
- Esmell Miami Buy Gift Card www.esmellmiami.com
- Lahh Salon Buy Gift Card www.lahhsalon.com
- Pampaloni Silver Buy Online www.pampaloni.com
- The Scarlet Letter Buy Online www.thescarletletterstore.com
- TR Runway Buy Online www.trrunway.com

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Sandra Novoa, MMC, Town Clerk snovoa@townofsurfsidefl.gov

## **BUSINESS NUMBERS**

Town Hall(305) 861-4863Police(305) 861-4862Fire Rescue(305) 861-1115Emergency911

TOWN WEBSITE www.townofsurfsidefl.gov

**TELEVISION ACCESS** Channel 663 (Atlantic Broadband)