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Meetings and events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar please visit TownofSurfsideFL.gov or scan the QR code.

Cover photo: Dec. 7, Christmas Lighting Ceremony. See page three for more details.



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MEETINGS & EVENTS

12/01/25 Youth Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

12/01/25 Resort Tax Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

12/04/25 Clean Campaign Class, 6 p.m.

12/06/25 Midnight Madness, 8 p.m.

12/07/25 Christmas Tree Lighting, 6:30 p.m.

12/09/25 Regular Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

12/11/25 Remembering Arya, 5:30 p.m.

12/12/25 Senior Brunch, 11 a.m.

12/14/25 Winter Wonderland, 10 a.m.

12/15/25 Parks & Recreation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

12/17/25 Special Master Hearing, 10 a.m.

12/17/25 Senior Trip (Bayside Marketplace) 11 a.m.

12/17/25 Planning & Zoning Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

12/18/25 Sustainability & Resiliency Meeting 12 p.m.

12/18/25 Community Relations Board Meeting, 4 p.m.

12/21/25 CRB Walking Group, 8 a.m.

12/25/25 Holiday - Town Hall Offices Closed

For all Gazette inquiries, please contact creyes@townofsurfsidefl.gov









Town Hall closed December 25

TOWN OFFICIALS

Mario A. Diaz, Acting Town Manager mdiaz@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Thais Hernandez, Town Attorney thernandez@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Charles R. Press, Chief of Police cpress@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Sandra N. McCready, Town Clerk smccready@townofsurfsidefl.gov

BUSINESS NUMBERS

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

Emergency 911

TOWN WEBSITE

www.townofsurfsidefl.gov

TELEVISION ACCESS

Surfside Gov't Access Channel

(Check local listings or Town website)

TOWN COMMISSION

Charles W. Burkett, Mayor mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Tina Paul, Vice Mayor tpaul@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Ruben A. Coto, Commissioner rcoto@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner nvelasquez@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Gerardo Vildostegui, Commissioner gvildostegui@townofsurfsidefl.gov



MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING TOWN MANAGER MARIO A. DIAZ

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.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLES R. PRESS

As we approach the holiday season, please keep in mind that the greatest gifts we can give each other are to stay safe, to look out for each other, and to help those in need. Due to the tragedies caused by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, we are working to accept supplies of all types to aid in the recovery of the citizens of those countries. Our Communications Department will be reaching out to provide the Town of Surfside with information on how to donate and provide this assistance. I wish you all a blessed and healthy holiday season.



Please Support the Surfside Holiday Fund

The Surfside Civic Association is proud to continue the "Holiday Fund", a tradition which began 55 years ago. Show your appreciation to the Town employees who serve with dedication throughout the year. The Fund is for the employees of all departments who work to improve the quality of life for our community. Even a small contribution makes a difference.

Contributions are distributed equally to all of the Surfside employees as a holiday bonus. All contributors will be listed in the Town Gazette. Your generosity will help bring joy and happiness to the Holiday Season.

Now also accepting donations through **Zelle** electronic payment system utilizing the email: surfsideholidayfund@yahoo.com

SEND DONATIONS TO:

Surfside Civic Association Holiday Fund P.O.Box 547162 • Surfside, FL 33154

COMMUNITY HANUKKAH EVENTS ON DEC. 18 AND DEC. 21

The Shul will host two community Hanukkah block parties on Thursday, Dec. 18, and Sunday, Dec. 21.

~Thursday, Dec. 18: A street party will take place on the 93rd Street block in front of Town Hall.

~Sunday, Dec. 21: A second community celebration will be held on the 95th Street block.

Each event will feature family-friendly activities, music, treats, and holiday traditions. All events are free and open to the public, and all residents are welcome to attend.

For more information, please visit www.theshul.org/events.



Commission Corner



CHARLES W. BURKETT MAYOR

Firstly, I am sending my heartfelt wish for a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

We all have much to celebrate. Our families, our amazing Surfside quality of life, our friends, and our bright future.

Sometimes we forget how blessed we are, and stopping for a minute to reflect, refreshes the memory about how many good things have happened in my life - and I suspect the same would be true for you too.

Aside from the treasure of our families and friends which each of us can look to and give thanks, I want to walk down Surfside's memory lane to refresh our memories for the things and successes we have achieved together.

In my opinion one of the very high points in my last couple of election cycles has been the honor I have had to collaborate and suggest, submit, and have my colleagues support Charter changes that will (perhaps) forever protect our Town from corrupt or foolish elected officials who would make corrupt or foolish decisions.

The following unique and far-reaching protections, now in full force and effect, are:

- 1) The prevention of elected officials to sell, lease or exchange Town property without permission from our voters. Think the brilliant idea a few mayors ago to lease our Town Hall to a developer for 99 years, for a flat fee, with no increases... 99 years and no interest...a huge scam narrowly averted!
- 2) The prevention of elected officials to put our residents into excessive debt without permission from our voters. Now voters, not politicians, will decide whether or not to take on crushing debt in almost every case!
- 3) The prevention of elected officials to allow private property to be stored on our pristine beach without permission from our voters.
- 4) The prevention of elected officials to demand we cut down our beautiful, privacy providing hedges on our homesteaded properties. Residents love their big, beautiful hedges, and this amendment protects them all!
- 5) The prevention of elected officials to allow oceanfront condominiums to exceed 12 stories, or to allow new oceanfront buildings to cover the entire lot. Now there will be more air and light between our oceanfront buildings and more room for beautiful beachfront landscaping, making Surfside's oceanfront even more appealing.
- 6) The prevention of elected officials to continue allowing anything but high-end residential units to be built on the block between Collins and Harding Avenues. Before our elected officials had allowed a free-for-all, with almost anything being allowed to be

built there. That favored kind of Hialeah zoning, compliments of former elected officials (D, R, & L) * , will now forever be history!

- 7) The prevention of elected officials to ever convert our beautiful residential district, west of Harding to the bay, into apartments, condominiums, townhouses or the like. It was not unimaginable, that the group last in power, would have had the gall to propose to rezone Bay Drive, or even Biscaya Island so that high-rise condominiums could be built there because...more money! Now, our residents have said never to that possibility and our residential district will forever be protected.
- 8) The prevention of elected officials to take our beautiful large lots, and even the smaller ones, and cut them in half, simply to make more.... money. Going forward, the integrity and composition of our beautiful residential district will be preserved.
- 9) The prevention of elected officials to waive loans and amounts due from builders and developers. Currently, our Town is owed millions of dollars by builders and developers. In the past, any corrupt group of three elected officials could have forgiven those millions owed with a simple vote. That is not possible anymore. Surfside will now collect every debt that it is owed, and that is the way it should be.
- 10) The prevention of elected officials to spend more than \$2M, (up to about \$4M), without the full commission being present to vote, and every elected official voting yes to spend that amount. This guarantees that large expenditures will have broad commission support.
- 11) The prevention of elected officials to spend <u>over</u> \$5M without permission from our voters. This guarantees full community support for extraordinary expenditures.

Combined, these 11 Charter amendments will continue to make Surfside the most special and wonderful place to live in all of South Florida.

Lastly, I would be remiss to not mention here the "one that got away." That "one" is the limitation on house size, based on the lot size or in other words, the zoning rules supported by our questionable predecessors who allowed the giant box houses on our smaller lots.

With a low turnout, that Charter change lost. I will be reworking the question to put in front of our voters again in March, when the turnout will be much higher. For now, we are safe in that our Commission has put in place protections against the proliferation of the giant box houses, but a new Commission could easily change that – and that is clearly the hope of some who probably intend to run for office.

Let us hope we can do both: elect great people who want to protect our history and our way of life, **and** get the "one that got away" voted in as a final Charter change, making our contribution to the future of our town an even dozen great decisions!

*Danzinger, Rose and Landsman.

DISCLAIMER: The comments posted by any Elected Official in this publication are the opinions of the commentator and do not represent or reflect the opinions or policies of the Town of Surfside, and do not imply endorsement of, or agreement by, any other members of the Town Commission or Town Administration

Commission Corner



TINA PAUL VICE MAYOR

Greetings Surfside,

As 2025 comes to an end, we are filled with gratitude and excitement as we celebrate a season of light, community, and togetherness. This year brought meaningful milestones, including Surfside's 90th Anniversary, honoring our rich history while embracing thoughtful growth that continues to make our Town a special place to live.

We welcomed Chief Press to lead our Police Department, supporting our dedicated officers and new team members who will serve Surfside for many years. School Bus service for Ruth K. Broad students continued, reinforcing our commitment to residents' safety and the environment.

The Surfside Memorial design is now complete, and we hope to break ground early in the new year. We also formalized continued access to Town facilities and programs for Champlain Towers

South survivors and their families, helping them stay connected to our community, a cause I am especially proud to support.

We welcomed "Jimmy the Turtle" sculpture in memory of resident James Corpora and look forward to the Resort Tax Board's addition of two more Turtle sculptures around Town and a new mobile Surfside sign for the upcoming event season.

We recognized several longtime Town employees for their years of dedicated service, even though some departures came sooner than expected. To better align leadership with Commission directives and properly advance programs that support neighborhood safety, we made a necessary change at the Town Manager level.

Our commitment to sustainability remains strong, with exciting projects ahead, including a living seawall at 96th Street Park, additional Seagrape trees along the raised dunes and beach hardpack, reopening the Community Center concession stand, and a refreshed Paws Up Dog Park.

Wishing everyone in our Surfside community a Happy Holiday Season, and a bright New Year as we look ahead to 2026 together!



RUBEN A. COTO COMMISSIONER

As the holiday season arrives, I would like to wish everyone a warm, peaceful and joyous time. To our residents celebrating Christmas and the festive season, and to our Jewish friends marking the meaningful days of Hanukkah and all of life's blessings, may your homes be filled with warmth, light, and cherished moments with loved ones. Surfside is more than just a place to live; it's an amazing community bound by mutual respect and a shared vision for excellence. Let us carry the spirit of the holidays forward in the coming year as we continue to work together, making our Town the envy of all with its unique charm, strong community bonds, and unparalleled quality of life. Our collective efforts are what make Surfside truly special.

Like in every family, we will have our disagreements and differences, but we are all one family, one community! Let's continue to work together with respect for one another and ask that God guide and protect us always!

I would like to welcome our Acting Town Manager, Mario Diaz. He brings a wealth of knowledge and a great attitude to our community, and we wish him the very best in his new role.

I want to also take a minute to recognize and thank Mark Blumstein for all of his hard work for our Town, for his honesty and integrity and wish him and his family the very best for the future!

I would also like to recognize and express our deepest gratitude to the amazing members of the Surfside Police Department (SPD), led by Chief Charles R. Press, and all of our other great Town employees and staff. Your dedication to public service and safety helps ensure a high quality of life for everyone who lives, works, and visits our Town. I special thank you to Sandra, Marisol and Ana for your support during a very awkward and tough time in Town Hall! You are all amazing! Thank you!!!

May this holiday season be a time of renewal, reflection, and unity for everyone in Surfside. Wishing you all a truly wonderful holiday and a happy new year!



NELLY VELASQUEZ COMMISSIONER

As the holiday season draws near, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to each of you. Our Town shines brightest because of the care, generosity, and sense of community we share throughout the year. It is this spirit that makes Surfside not just a place to live, but a place to truly call home.

This season, I warmly invite you and your families to join us for

Surfside's festive celebrations. Our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on Sunday, Dec. 7 at Town Hall, where we will unveil a beautiful new nativity as part of the celebration. Following that, our Winter Wonderland event will be held on Sunday, Dec. 14 at 96th Street Park, offering fun for residents of all ages. These gatherings bring neighbors together, fostering connections and reminding us of the warmth and unity that define our community.

May your holidays be filled with joy, peace, and laughter. From my family to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Feliz Navidad, and a bright and prosperous New Year 2026!

Commission Corner



GERARDO VILDOSTEGUI COMMISSIONER

This year's Veterans Day brought with it the most significant cold front of the season so far, as Surfside recorded its lowest morning temperatures since January. And in the days since then, there has been a change in the air that includes more than just that passing chill: With Thanksgiving just around the corner, the winter holiday season is suddenly coming into view, and the Town's December calendar is filling up with our traditional festivities, and with some new events as well.

The first weekend of the month kicks things off with a Saturdaynight Midnight Madness event on Harding Avenue and a Sundaynight lighting of the Christmas tree in front of Town Hall. And then the following Sunday, December 14th, brings a holiday double-header, with the Town's Winter Wonderland event in the daytime and the start of Chanukah at sundown.

On a more somber note, on the evening of December 11th the Town will be organizing a forum on gun safety, organized by our Youth Council and the Community Relations Board, and by resident Hilary Feldman, who brought the idea for the event to both boards. The forum will be dedicated to the memory of Surfside resident Arya Gray, who died in a gun accident in 2020. I am glad that the Town can honor Arya's memory by working to build a safer Surfside, and I'm grateful to Ms. Feldman and to the board members who organized this event.

December brings out the very best in Surfside. It's a time to celebrate together, to remember together, and to learn together. I look forward to participating in all of those events with you and with our community.

NOVEMBER COMMISSION MEETING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

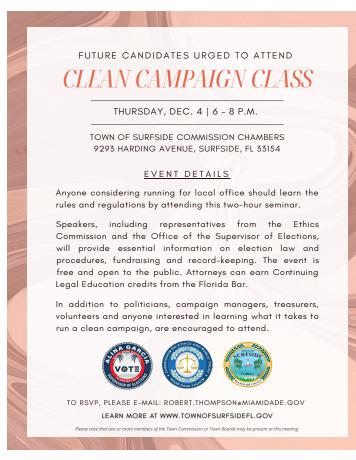
- Resolution Approving Historical Document Preservation with Kofile Technologies, Inc.
- Resolution Approving Granicus Government Transparency Suite and Peak Agenda
- Resolution Approving an Extension of the Agreement with Beach Time Max, LLC for Beach Furniture Services
- Resolution Approving PF Solutions for Gazette Printing and Distribution
- Resolution Approving Renewal of Agreement with CRS Max Consultants
- Resolution Approving GM Sports for Youth Tennis Program
- Resolution Approving the Purchase of a Kawasaki Mule for Parks and Recreation Department
- Resolution Approving Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement Hillcrest Land LLC
- Resolution Approving Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement Surf House Land, LLC
- Resolution Approving Sidewalk Maintenance Agreement SCR Trust, LLC
- Resolution Approving Contract Addendum Requests for the Surfside Memorial
- Resolution Approving Professional Services Agreement MAD Strategic Consulting, LLC Acting Town Manager

Qualifying for Office for the March 17, 2026 Town Election



Do you want to place your name on the ballot for the Office of Mayor or Town Commission? Candidates wishing to run for office in this election may do so now by contacting the Clerk's Office. The qualification period begins Jan. 12 and ends at noon on Feb. 2, 2026, please note there are no exceptions. You may submit your qualifying documents during the qualifying period. View the Town Election page for more information.

All forms must be filed with the Town Clerk to qualify. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sandra N. McCready, MMC, Town Clerk 305-861-4863 ext. 226 or email smccready@townofsurfsidefl.gov. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.





VICE MAYOR PAUL ATTENDS GMCVB 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

The Greater Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau (GMCVB) held its 2025 Annual Meeting Nov. 6 at the Coastal Convention Center at Fontainebleau. Vice Mayor Tina Paul, serving as the Commission liaison for the Resort Tax Board, attended to stay informed on the latest tourism trends and developments.

The event gathered tourism leaders, industry stakeholders, and local officials to review the year's achievements and discuss strategies for continued growth. Panel discussions and presentations highlighted key initiatives aimed at promoting Miami-Dade as a top travel destination while supporting sustainable and innovative tourism practices.







KING TIDES

Schedule

December 4 - 5

SAFETY MEASURES:

- Do not drive through floodwater. It may be deeper than it appears, or it could contain debris that may damage your vehicle.
- King Tides can be observed 1.5-2 hours before and after peak times.
- Do not park your vehicle in low lying areas. Properties in low lying areas should use flood mitigation options such as sand bags.
- Prohibit children from playing in flood water. Again, there may be debris, in addition to wildlife
 or pollutants picked up from the environment.

SURFSIDE WELCOMES NEW ACTING TOWN MANAGER, FINANCE DIRECTOR, AND PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR

The Town of Surfside is pleased to welcome three new members to its leadership team.

Mario A. Diaz, MPA, ICMA-CM (c), was appointed Acting Town Manager on Oct. 30, 2025. With extensive experience in public administration, Diaz is dedicated to serving residents and leading the Town with integrity and vision. He can be reached at (305) 861-4863 ext. 225 or MDiaz@townofsurfsidefl.gov.

Sandra Siefken joined the Town as Finance Director on Sept. 29, 2025. Siefken brings a wealth of knowledge in municipal finance, budgeting, and fiscal management. Her leadership will help strengthen the Town's financial operations and ensure continued transparency and accountability. She can be reached at SSiefken@townofsurfsidefl.gov.

Rodolfo (Rudy) Perez was appointed Parks and Recreation Director, effective Oct. 20, 2025. With more than two decades of experience, Perez holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in Recreation and Sports Management from Florida International University. A familiar face to Surfside, he previously worked with the Town in 2015 and brings strong expertise in community programming, operations, and recreational leadership. Residents can contact him at RPerez@townofsurfsidefl.gov.



TEAM SURFSIDE BUILDS STRONGER CONNECTIONS AT EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE WORKSHOP

Town of Surfside employees recently participated in an Emotional Intelligence & Capacity Building Workshop, a professional development session focused on strengthening communication, teamwork and overall well-being in the workplace.

Led by Dr. Rachel Tourgeman, Dr. Mari Carmen Rodriguez and Ms. Katina Hernandez, the interactive training provided practical tools to enhance emotional awareness, improve collaboration and foster positive relationships with colleagues and the public.

Sworn and management personnel attended the first session on Oct. 24, while non-sworn personnel took part in the second workshop on Nov. 7. The initiative reflects the Town's commitment to supporting a healthy, productive and emotionally intelligent workforce dedicated to serving the Surfside community.





Surfside Launches Digital Parking Permit Program for Residents

The Town of Surfside is pleased to announce the launch of a new digital resident parking permit program. This system is designed to make the permit process easier, faster, and more secure.

How to Get Started

- 1. Visit https://rpp.civicsmart.com.
- 2. Sign up using your email address.
- 3. Create a password of your choice (do not share your password).
- 4. Register your vehicle by completing all required fields.



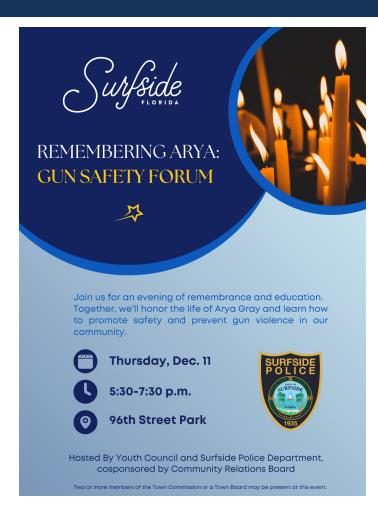
Important Reminders:

- Please double-check that your license plate information is entered correctly. Errors such as typing the letter "O" instead of the number zero (0), or a letter "B" instead of the number eight (8), may result in a citation because the incorrect tag will not register in the parking system.
- For the next 30 days, continue displaying your current Town-issued parking permit while we ensure a smooth transition to the new system.
- Residents may update vehicle information up to six (6) times per year. For example, if your car is in the repair shop and you are using another vehicle, you can temporarily update the permit.
- If you need to make more than six changes within the year, please contact the Town for assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation as we transition to this new system, which will enhance accuracy and convenience for Surfside residents.

Questions? Contact Sergeant Lorente at the Surfside Police department at 305-861-4862 | <u>alorente@townofsurfsidefl.gov</u> or Civicsmart Customer Service at 414-877-5481 Ext. 2







SURFSIDE YOUTH COUNCIL HOSTS COLLEGE PREP EVENT



The Surfside Youth Council hosted a successful College Prep Series event on Sunday, Nov. 9, at 96th Street Park, drawing local students eager to learn more about the college admissions process.

Miami Beach Senior High CAP Advisor Kenny Cabrera led the presentation, offering practical advice and insight into navigating applications, essays, and scholarship opportunities. Following his talk, attendees participated in a Q&A session with current seniors who shared their firsthand experiences preparing for college.

Guests enjoyed Crumbl Cookies as they connected, asked questions, and gained confidence about their next academic steps.

BEACH RENOURISHMENT PROJECT IN SURFSIDE



Through Dec. 23, 2025, Ocean House Surfside, in coordination with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), will carry out a beach renourishment project to restore and enhance Surfside's shoreline between 88th Street and 96th Street.

The project will place approximately 11,000 cubic yards of beach-quality sand from an upland source to strengthen the beachfront and support long-term coastal resilience.

Residents may notice increased truck activity near 88th Street and along the designated staging area on the beach as sand-hauling vehicles transport materials. Work is scheduled Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Police Beat

SURF-BAL-BAY NATIONAL NIGHT OUT BRINGS TOGETHER POLICE AND COMMUNITY

The Surfside, Bal Harbour, and Bay Harbor Islands Police Departments joined forces on Thursday, October 23, for the annual Surf-Bal-Bay National Night Out, a community event promoting crime prevention and positive relationships between law enforcement and residents.

Command staff, officers, and community members gathered to enjoy an evening of music, family fun, and public safety awareness. Surfside's own Parking Officer and DJ, JC Castro, kept the atmosphere lively with music as residents mingled with local officers, explored police vehicles, and learned more about the important work their departments do every day.

"National Night Out is all about building trust and strengthening the bond between law enforcement and the communities we serve," said Chief of Police Charles Press. "It's a reminder that public safety is a shared responsibility—and events like this help us work together toward that goal."

The Surfside Police Department thanks all residents and partner agencies who participated in making this year's National Night Out a success.



SURFSIDE POLICE JOIN RESIDENTS FOR A SAFE AND FUN SPOOKTACULAR CELEBRATION

The Surfside Police Department's command staff and several officers joined families at the annual Parks and Recreation Spooktacular event on Friday, Oct. 24. While on-site to ensure safety and security, officers also took time to engage with residents, greeting parents and children and joining in the Halloween fun.

The event provided a relaxed, family-friendly setting for officers to strengthen relationships with the community they proudly serve.



"Events like the Spooktacular give our officers a chance to connect with residents beyond the badge," said Chief of Police Charles Press. "Building those personal relationships helps foster the trust and cooperation that make Surfside such a special and safe community."

The Surfside Police Department extends its thanks to the Parks and Recreation team for hosting another successful community event.

SURFSIDE POLICE ENSURE A SAFE AND SWEET HALLOWEEN FOR FAMILIES

On Friday, Oct. 31, Surfside Police officers and command staff continued the Town's Halloween tradition by patrolling neighborhoods to ensure a safe and enjoyable evening for families. Officers distributed more than 60 large bags of candy along with special high-visibility mylar treat bags and glow bracelets to help keep children visible while trick-or-treating.



The initiative once again highlighted the department's commitment to community engagement and public safety.

"Halloween in Surfside is about more than candy—it's about connection and care," said Chief of Police Charles Press. "Our officers are proud to be out there with families, helping ensure that children can enjoy the night safely and parents can feel at ease."

The Surfside Police Department thanks all residents for helping make this year's Halloween celebration a fun and safe success.

Police Beat

SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTES DIANA LEON

On Oct. 15, 2025, Sgt. Diana Leon was officially promoted to lieutenant. Family, friends, and staff from Surfside and beyond gathered in the Commission Chambers to celebrate the milestone.

Hired in 2011, Lt. Leon has been an integral member of the Surfside Police Department, playing pivotal roles during the Champlain Towers South building collapse and in numerous criminal investigations. Her professionalism, leadership, and compassion have made her a respected figure within the department and the community.

"Lt. Leon represents the very best of our department," said Police Chief Press. "Her dedication to duty, calm under pressure, and genuine care for this community have set a standard that others aspire to follow. This promotion is a reflection of her outstanding service and leadership."

Major Matelis echoed that sentiment, noting the impact of her work both within and beyond Surfside. "Lt. Leon's career embodies the Town's core values of integrity, teamwork, and excellence," he said. "Her service during some of Surfside's most challenging moments has earned her deep respect and admiration. We are proud to see her step into this new role."

Congratulations, Lt. Leon, well deserved!

















SURFSIDE POLICE STRENGTHEN SAFETY READINESS THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING

In October, the Surfside Police Department conducted a series of hands-on trainings for officers and support staff, reinforcing its commitment to public safety and preparedness.

The sessions included instruction in first aid, CPR, "Stop the Bleed," and Narcan administration—skills essential for responding swiftly and effectively during emergencies. In addition, officers participated in active assailant response training designed to prepare them for high-risk scenarios they may face while on patrol.



The department partnered with The Shul of Bal Harbour to host the active assailant drills, which included participation from The Shul's security team. The City of Miami Beach Police Department also assisted by providing experienced instructors and realistic training scenarios.

"These trainings are vital to maintaining the highest level of readiness," said Chief of Police Charles Press. "By working alongside our community partners and neighboring agencies, we ensure our officers are fully prepared to protect and serve the Town of Surfside."

The department extends its appreciation to The Shul of Bal Harbour and the City of Miami Beach Police Department for their collaboration and continued support.

Police Beat

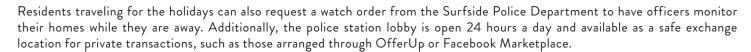
HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS TO HELP RESIDENTS STAY SECURE

As the holiday season approaches, the Surfside Police Department is reminding residents to stay vigilant and take simple precautions to help ensure a safe and enjoyable time with family and friends.

"While the holidays are a time for celebration, they can also bring increased opportunities for crime," said Chief of Police Charles Press. "By taking a few proactive steps, residents can better protect themselves, their homes, and their loved ones."

To help keep the community safe, the department offers the following safety tips:

- Always lock your doors and windows, even when you're home.
- Avoid leaving valuables in plain sight inside your vehicle. If you must store items, place them in the trunk before arriving at your destination.
- If you're expecting deliveries, make sure someone is home to receive packages or ask a trusted neighbor to collect them.
- When shopping online, avoid clicking on suspicious links or emails.
- Use caution and watch for pedestrians and heavier traffic near the business district and Bal Harbour Shops.
- Stay aware of your surroundings and report any suspicious activity immediately.



For more information on watch orders or community safety programs, visit the Surfside Police Department or call (305) 861-4862.

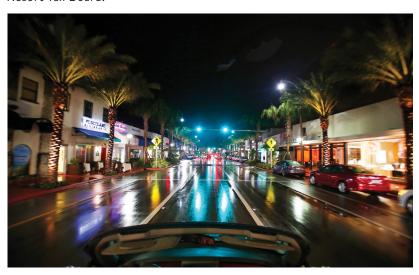




Uptown FunTown

SHOP LOCAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AT MIDNIGHT MADNESS, SATURDAY, DEC. 6 IN SURFSIDE'S BUSINESS DISTRICT

Come out and join us for 'Midnight Madness' on Harding Avenue on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 8 p.m. to midnight! Shop for holiday gifts, stroll the district, support your favorite local retailers, and take advantage of special promotions, prizes, exciting giveaways, entertainment, light bites, and drinks at participating shops. Embrace the spirit of the season. It's a festive night out in Surfside you won't want to miss. Sponsored by the Resort Tax Board.





TOWN THANKS EMPLOYEES WITH BAGEL BAR PARTNERSHIP

As a gesture of appreciation for their hard work and dedication, the Town of Surfside treated employees to a special partnership with Bagel Bar in November.

Throughout the month, Town employees were able to enjoy a discount at Bagel Bar, located at 1990 NE 123rd Street in North Miami, known for its fresh bagels, coffee, and welcoming atmosphere—perfect for a morning pick-me-up or a lunch break.

Commissioner Ruben Coto played a key role in making the partnership possible, helping the Town recognize and celebrate the contributions of its employees.



HELP SHAPE SURFSIDE'S NEXT GREEN GEM!

Exciting changes are blooming at the park on Bay Drive and 92nd Street! As Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui led the expansion of its native landscaping through the Viva Florida Demonstration Garden grant, the Town Commission wants your help choosing a new name that reflects its natural beauty and community spirit.

Vote for your favorite: Flamingo Native Garden, Little Bay Park Or share your own idea! Cast your vote by Dec. 2, 2025 and help us grow this special space together.

Thank you for your patience as this important project helps preserve our beautiful beachfront community.



Scan QR code to Vote







It Starts In Parks

SURFSIDE HONORS VETERANS WITH COMMUNITY CEREMONY

The Town of Surfside proudly honored the brave men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces during its Veterans Day Ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, at Veterans Park.

Residents gathered for a morning of community, gratitude, and reflection as Town officials and guests paid tribute to those who have dedicated their lives to protecting our nation. The event featured heartfelt remarks, patriotic spirit, and a sense of unity and respect.













OVER 100 ATTEND LILO & STITCH MOVIE UNDER THE STARS - STAY TUNED FOR THE NEXT FEATURE!

More than 100 residents and guests gathered at 96th Street Park for the latest installment of the Town's popular Movie Under the Stars series, featuring Disney's Lilo & Stitch. Families enjoyed a relaxing evening under the night sky complete with blankets, laughter, and community spirit.

The Parks and Recreation Department thanks everyone who attended and invites the community to the next Movie Under the Stars on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, at 7 p.m. Popcorn and refreshments will be provided. Don't miss another magical night under the stars!



It Starts In Parks





SURFSIDE SPOOKY SPOOKTACULAR BRINGS HALLOWEEN FUN

The Town of Surfside's annual Spooky Spooktacular returned Friday, Oct. 24, filling 96th Street Park with Halloween spirit and family-friendly fun. From 6 to 9 p.m., thousands of residents and visitors came dressed as ghosts, goblins, witches, fairies, superheroes, and monsters, enjoying music, games, and a variety of festive activities.

The first 75 families received free pumpkins for the popular carving activity, giving children and adults alike a chance to show off their creativity. Attendees also enjoyed face painting, spooky-themed games, and safe trick-or-treating in a vibrant, community-centered atmosphere.

The event is a cherished Surfside tradition that fosters community engagement and celebrates the season in a safe, inclusive environment. Town officials joined in the festivities, including Vice Mayor Paul, Commissioners Coto, Velasquez and Vildostegui, Town Clerk McCready, Chief of Police Press, and Major Matelis.

The Surfside Parks and Recreation Department encourages residents to participate in future events that bring the community together. For more information, contact the Surfside Community Center at (305) 866-3635.

16















It Starts In Parks







REFRESH YOUR BEACH SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

HOW TO BREAK THE GRIP OF THE RIP:

- •Don't fight the current.
- •Swim out of the current then to shore.
- •If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- •Call or wave for assistance.
- Always swim in a lifeguarded area.
- Never swim alone, regardless of your age or level of swimming skills.
- ESCAPE

 IF CAUGHT IN A RIP CURRENT

 Don't light the current
 Free Company of the Company of t

BEACH WARNING FLAGS





Medium Hazard
Moderate Surf and/or Currents
Poligro Medio. Resease Moderade y/o Corrientes Fuertes
Low Hazard

Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution
Peligro Bajo, Condiciones Calmas, Tenga Cuidado

Dangerous Marine Life

*Conditions available during beach tower operations.

For daily beach conditions, contact the Community Center at (305) 866-3635.

- Keep within your fitness and swimming capabilities.
- Be aware of weather and water conditions and heed warnings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL PARKS & RECREATION AT 305-866-3635 OR VISIT TOWNOFSURFSIDEFL.GOV/PROGRAMS. DATES, TIMES AND CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.







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YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS		PROGRAM	DAYS/DATES	HOURS	AGES	FEE PER SESSION
		Gymnastics	<u>Mondays</u> 01/5 - 2/9/26 No class: 01/19	4:30-5:30pm 5:30-6:30pm	3-5yrs. 6-12yrs.	Residents \$60.00 Non-Residents \$85.00
		Taekwondo	Mondays & Wednesdays 01/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	6:30-7:25pm	7-18yrs.	Residents \$144.00 Non-Residents \$204.00
		Snapology	<u>Tuesday</u> 01/6 - 2/17/26	4:30-5:30pm	7-14yrs.	Residents \$84.00 Non-Residents \$119.00
		Tunes for Tots	<u>Wednesday</u> 01/7 - 2/18/26	10:00-11:00am	6 month- 5yrs.	Residents \$84.00 Non-Residents \$119.00
		Mommy & Me	<u>Thursdays</u> 01/8 - 2/19/26	10:00-11:00am	2yrs & Under	Registration Thru Round Robin Playgroup <u>See Flyer</u>
		Gymnastics -	<u>Thursdays</u> 01/8 - 2/19/26	4:30-5:30pm	3-5yrs.	Residents \$84.00 Non-Residents \$119.00
		Jazz Dance	<u>Saturdays</u> 01/10 - 2/21/26	3:00-4:00pm	7-12yrs.	Residents \$84.00 Non-Residents \$119.00
		Нір-Нор	<u>Saturdays</u> 01/10 - 2/21/26	4:00-5:00pm	7-12yrs.	Residents \$84.00 Non-Residents \$119.00

Featured Properties of the Month



REPRESENTING SELLE

9705 COLLINS AVENUE, UNIT 1402N BAL HARBOUR, FL 33154

3 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHROOMS INT: 3,128 SQ FT ASKING PRICE: \$7,200,000



REPRESENTING BUYER

9349 COLLINS AVENUE SURFSIDE, FL 33154

3 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHROOMS INT: 3,325 SQ FT SALE PRICE: \$10,000,000



REPRESENTING DEVELOPE

9110 W BAY HARBOUR DR #6 BAY HARBOR ISLANDS, FL 33154

5 BEDROOMS | 5 BATHROOMS | 2 POWDER ROOMS INT: 5,164 SQ FT | EXT: 653 SQ FT ASKING PRICE : \$13,000,000



REPRESENTING SELLE

8951 HAWTHORNE AVENUE SURFSIDE, FL 33154

3 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHROOMS INT: 2,681 SQ FT | LOT: 5,600 SQ FT SALE PRICE: \$2,525,000



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TOP #18 AGENT COMPANY-WIDE

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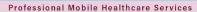
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LEGEND Parking K - Certified Kosher

BEAUTY SALON/BARBER SHOP

20 Surfside No. 2 Barber Shop - 9504 Harding Ave

30 D'Nails Lounge - 9466 Harding Ave

35 Justin Barbershop - 9452 Harding Ave

36 Alexia + Frankie's Beauty Bar - 9448 Harding Ave

48 Uni K Wax - 9567 Harding Ave

50 Femme Coiffure & Spa - 9563 Harding Ave

64 Extension Dreams Hair Salon - 9521 Harding Ave

BOUTIQUES/SHOES/TAILORS

Penny's Alterations - 9532 Harding Ave #104

17C Verdile's/Mario The Tailor - 9520 Harding Ave

The Shoppe Miami - 9486 Harding Ave

27 Bebe Sweeny - 9480 Harding Ave

32 Tsniout Runway - 9458 Harding Ave

49 Condotti - 9565 Harding Ave

50 Lucky Cigar Surfside - 9555 Harding Ave

55 Iris Alterations & Tailoring - 9553 Harding Ave #204

70 WoW The Concept - 9507 Harding Ave

26B Potter Me - 9484 Harding Ave

GIFTS/JEWELRY/FLOWERS

17 Moon Over Miami Gift Shop - 9520 Harding Ave

17B Liborio Cigars - 9520 Harding Ave

26 Miami Gift / Italian J- 9482 Harding Ave

Gray and Sons Jewelry - 9595 Harding Ave

43 Amoris Flowers + Events - 9577 Harding Ave

Sunny Toys & Gifts - 9575 Harding Ave

45 Miamira Jewelers - 9573 Harding Ave

⁵² 7th Plateau - 9559 Harding Ave

JS Diamond Enterprises - 9553 Harding Ave #307

67 Yaffa Wigs - 9515 Harding Ave.

68 Sherels Hats - 9513 Harding Ave.

Jewelers Choice - 9501 Harding Ave

World of Smoke & Vape - 9501 Harding Ave

78 Tzfasman Jewelers - 9425 Harding Ave

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

ONE Sotheby's International Realty - 9588 Harding Ave

4 The Agency - 9564 Harding Ave

17D Infinity BH Real Estate/Goldfarb - 9520 Harding Ave

19 Estelle Stern Realty - 9508 Harding Ave

59 The Corcoran Group - 9537 Harding Ave

95 Surfside Barber Shop - 9431 Harding Ave

HEALTH & WELLNESS

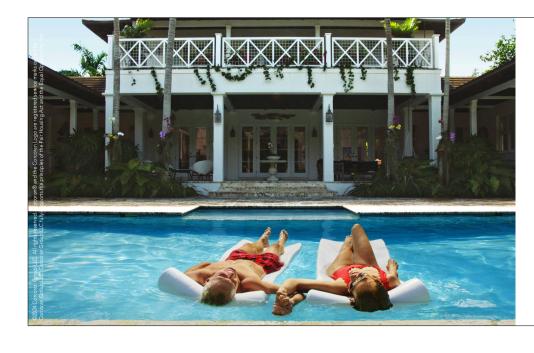
- 3 CVS Pharmacy 9578 Harding Ave
- 7 Oberle Opticians 9552 Harding Ave
- 10 Lemel Medspa 9538 Harding Ave
- 12 Surfside Chiropractic 9532 Harding Ave #101
- 14 Veterinary Wellness Center of Surfside 9530 Harding Ave
- 15 Dr. Curson Podiatry 9528 Harding Ave
- 16 SJI Dermatology 9526 Harding Ave
- 33 Dr. Edy A. Guerra Dental Center 9456 Harding Ave
- 58 BH Rx Surfside Pharmacy 9541 Harding Ave
- 73 Surfside Hearing Aid 222 95th St
- 76B Bal Harbour Smiles 260 95th St #202
- 76D Malekin Law PA -260 95th St #206
- 91 TrufaMED Urgent Care -9445 Harding Ave

FINANCIAL/SERVICES

- Flagstar Bank 9592 Harding Ave
- 6 Chase Bank 9556 Harding Ave
- 17D Camissar International 9520 Harding Ave
- 38 Brookville Cabinet & Design (Showroom)
- 47 AT&T Surfside 9569 Harding Ave
- 54B SKF Tech 9553 Harding Ave #302
- 54C SK Worldwide 9553 Harding Ave #303
- 54E Gelb Productions 9553 Harding Ave #311
- 62 CitiBank 9525 Harding Ave
- 76 Barry Cohen Law Firm 260 95th St #201
- 76C Executive Auto Group 260 95th St #203
- 93 T-Mobile 9435 Harding Ave
- 96 The UPS Store 9429 Harding Ave
- 101 Wells Fargo Bank 9401 Harding Ave

RESTAURANT/SUPERMARKET

- 5 Starbucks 9560 Harding Ave
- 8 Cine Citta Cafe^K 9544 Harding Ave
- 11 Subway 9536 Harding Ave
- 17F Holy Toast 9520 Harding Ave
- 18 Flanigan's Seafood Bar & Grill 9516 Harding Ave
- 21 Cafe Ragazzi 9500 Harding Ave
- 22 Big Daddy's Liquor 9494 Harding Ave
- 23 Cafe Vert^K 9490 Harding Ave
- 28 Rustiko^K 9476 Harding Ave
- 31 Street Kitchen^K 9460 Harding
- 36 Panini Grill^K 9460 Harding
- 37 Publix Supermarket 9400 Harding Ave
- 42 Sushi Republic 9583 Harding Ave
- 46 Morelia Gourmet Paletas^K 9571 Harding Ave
- 51 Street Bar^K 9561 Harding Ave
- 53 Bagel Boss Surfside^K 9543 Harding Ave
- 63 The Gifted Crust^K 9523 Harding Ave
- 65 The Carrot^K 9519 Harding Ave
- 66 Josh's Deli 9517 Harding Ave
- 77 Neya Restaurant^K 9491 Harding Ave
- 79 La Vita E Bella Cafe^K 9485 Harding Ave
- 81 Kosh^K 9477 Harding Ave
- 84 The Grove^K 9467 Harding Ave
- 85 Fialkoff's Express Surfside^K 9463 Harding Ave
- 86 Rita's Ice Custard Happiness 9461 Harding Ave
- 87 Moncheese Pizza 9459 Harding Ave
- 88 Serendipity Yogurt Cafe^K 9457 Harding Ave
- 89 OAKBERRY Acaí 9455 Harding Ave
- 92 Roast^K 9441 Harding Ave
- 94 Miami Beach Chocolates Surfside^K 9433 Harding Ave
- 97 The Harbour Gourmet^K 9427 Harding Ave
- 99/100 The Harbour Grill^K (No Deli) 9415-9421 Harding Ave



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RUBEN A. COTO Commissioner **NELLY VELASOUEZ** Commissioner

GERARDO VILDOSTEGUI Commissioner

TOWN OFFICIALS

MARIO DIAZ **Acting Town Manager**

CARMEN SANTOS-ALBORNA Code Compliance Director

MARISOL VARGAS Human Resources Director

MANUEL A. SALAZAR **Building Official**

CHARLES R. PRESS Chief of Police

SANDRA SIEFKEN Finance Director

RODOLFO PEREZ Parks & Recreation Director

> ANDRE EUGENT **Public Works Director**

SANDRA MCCREADY Town Clerk

FRANK TRIGUEROS Tourism Director

CINDY REYES Communications Director

> ANA GONZALEZ **Executive Office**

FROM ALL SURFSIDE EMPLOYEES AND MEMBERS OF TOWN BOARDS AND COMMITEES.