

FATHERS, MOTHERS, SONS, DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS, SISTERS...

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98 SOULS LOST THEIR LIVES ON JUNE 24, 2021. FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS.

Graciela Maria Cattarossi, 48

Stella Cattarossi, 7

Elena Blasser, 64



Fourth Annual Remembrance Ceremony

Please Join Us

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025 AT 88TH STREET COLLINS AVENUE, SURFSIDE, FL 33154

LIGHTING OF THE TORCH, 1:22 AM MIAMI-DADE FIRE RESCURE 1:15 AM GATHERING TIME

READING OF THE NAMES SURFSIDE POLICE & FIRST RESPONDERS FOLLOWED BY

> 9:45 AM MEMORIAL FLYOVER

10:00 AM

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY





JUNE IS SURFSIDE

Forever grateful for your service.

In Remembrance



























In Remembrance

Town of Surfside Honors Survivors and Victims of 2021 Building Collapse

Nearly four years after the Champlain Towers South collapse claimed 98 lives and forever changed the Surfside community, the Town will host its Fourth Annual Remembrance Ceremony on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, to honor the victims and recognize the strength and resilience of survivors, families and friends affected by the tragedy.

The morning of events will begin at 1:15 a.m. at Veterans Park, 8750 Collins Avenue, near the site of the collapse. At 1:22 a.m., the exact time the building fell on June 24, 2021, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue will perform a torch-lighting ceremony, followed by a reading of the names of the 98 victims by Surfside Police and first responders. Later in the morning, a memorial flyover by Miami Dade Sheriff's Office Aviation Division is scheduled for 9:45 a.m., with the official remembrance ceremony commencing at 10 a.m. Led by Surfside Mayor Charles W. Burkett, the ceremony will feature remarks from local leaders, spiritual reflections, and moments of silence. Join us at 88th Street and Collins Avenue.

"The remembrance ceremony will be a moment for our community to reflect, honor and mourn together," said Town Manager Mark Blumstein. "It is an opportunity for all of us to come together, support those who are still healing and remember the lives lost in a tragedy that will forever be a part of Surfside's history."

This year's ceremony also marks a step forward in the Town's long-term healing and remembrance efforts. Plans for a permanent memorial are actively moving ahead, with groundbreaking expected in the first quarter of 2026.

"Creating a lasting place of remembrance is something we've been working toward with care and input from the families, survivors, and our community," Blumstein added. "The memorial will stand as a solemn space of reflection, a tribute to the lives lost, and a symbol of Surfside's enduring compassion and unity."

Over the past four years, the Town of Surfside has remained steadfast in its commitment to healing and honoring the memory of the victims. The annual ceremony has become a cornerstone of community reflection, resilience, and solidarity.

The event is open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend and join the Town in paying tribute to those lost and honoring the enduring spirit of those who remain.



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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.



Subscribe to Town news and notifications at TownofSurfsideFL.gov/subscribe

MEETINGS & EVENTS

06/02/25	Resort Tax Board Meeting
06/04/25	Youth Council Meeting
06/07/25	Plastic Fishing Clean for Cones
06/08/25	Pride Flag Ceremony
06/10/25	Commission Budget Workshop
06/10/25	Commission Meeting
06/16/25	Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
06/18/25	Special Master Hearing
06/18/25	Sustainability and Resiliency Committee Meeting
06/18/25	Community Relations Board Meeting
06/19/25	Holiday - Town Hall Offices Closed
06/21/25	Youth Environmental Policy Summit
06/24/25	Lighting of The Torch

Remembrance Ceremony

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

PRIDE FLAG RAISING CEREMONY

JUNE 8 | 11 AM | COMMUNITY CENTER FLAGPOLE

06/24/25

TOWN OFFICIALS

Mark Blumstein, Town Manager mblumstein@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Thais Hernandez, Town Attorney thernandez@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Charles (Chuck) 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 Fire Rescue (305) 861-1115

Emergency 911

TOWN WEBSITE

www.townofsurfsidefl.gov

TELEVISION ACCESS

Channel 663 (Breezeline Broadband)

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 TOWN MANAGER



Welcome to Summer 2025 and the close of the school year for our kids and teachers! Congratulations to all the Surfside students for all your accomplishments throughout the school year and for our teachers who dedicate their lives for their betterment. Enjoy the Summer recess and the new and improved trellis structures at your Surfside Community Center.

During this month of June, we celebrate Flag Day on Saturday, June 14, and Father's Day on Sunday, June 15. It was on June 14, 1777, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the flag of the United States. We celebrate our flag annually and everything it stands for. The following day we honor our Dads and show gratitude for all their sacrifices. Fun fact is that the impetus for Father's Day began with a woman named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, who felt that her father was deserving of honor while listening to a Mother's Day sermon from her pastor. I thank Ms. Dodd for this special day.

Of course, in Surfside, June is the time when we remember those neighbors, family members, and friends lost on Thursday, June 24, 2021, following the collapse of the Champlain Towers South building at 8777 Collins Avenue. Please join us on Tuesday, June 24, on 88th Street and Collins Avenue as we remember all the beautiful souls lost, while honoring the families and survivors of that tragedy. At that time, the Town plans to unveil and showcase the latest rendering of the much-anticipated Surfside Memorial to be built there in 2026.

Speaking of building, the Town will see the start and continuation of new development activity. The Kushner development at 93rd Street and Collins Avenue is expected to begin this month, as is The Delmore development at 88th Street and Collins Avenue. The Ocean House at 93rd Street continues its construction activity too. Please be mindful of construction activity on Collins Avenue at 88th Street and 93rd Street.

New parking regulations are also expected this month in our residential district. Please be mindful of the No Parking and One Hour Parking signs and park accordingly. Residents, and of course their guests, are free to park on Town streets within the residential area without limitation or charge, unless otherwise posted. Check out the Town website for details.

Lastly, after the closure of the Surfside Post Office, the Town has arranged for the expansion of Freebee service to the Normandy Post Office at 525 71st Street on Miami Beach. For your next trip to the post office, please take advantage of this free service.

Thank you for being a part of the Surfside family and please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email or phone if I may be of assistance. We are all blessed to live here in Surfside and I thank you for allowing me to be of service to you. By the way, I hope you tune in for "Mondays with the Manager" to learn how your Town Commission is delivering for you. Follow me on Instagram @surfsideflorida.



COMEMORATING Juneteenth THURSDAY, JUNE 19 TOWN HALL OFFICES CLOSED



HAPPY Father's Day!



SURFSIDE NAMES CHARLES "CHUCK" PRESS AS **NEW POLICE CHIEF**

The Town of Surfside has named Charles "Chuck" Press as its new chief of police. Press will lead the Surfside Police Department alongside Enrique "Henry" Doce, who will serve as deputy chief.

Press brings decades of law enforcement experience to his new role, with a career marked by leadership, professionalism and a commitment to public safety. In his first statement to the community, Press quoted President Dwight D. Eisenhower, saying, "The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionable integrity."

Town Manager Mark Blumstein made the appointment and expressed his confidence in the leadership team.

"We're excited to welcome Chief Press to Surfside and are confident that his commitment to public safety and integrity will continue to elevate our Police Department," Blumstein said.

The leadership transition reflects the Town's continued investment in public safety and community trust.

Residents and stakeholders can contact Chief Press directly at cpress@townofsurfsidefl.gov.

Commission Corner



CHARLES W. BURKETT MAYOR

The stars and the moon seem to be lining up for me to do something different (and exciting) at the end of my current term as Surfside mayor. This would necessarily mean I would be stepping away from the duties as mayor, protecting our beautiful Town – and that makes me very nervous.

Why? Because who we elect matters.

For residents who have lived here longer than 10 years, they know the drill, but it is for newer residents that I write this missive.

Signing up to run for office is easy, and simply announcing "you'll make Surfside better" is, for lack of a better word, cheesy.

Easy signup, silly slogans coupled with candidates that stand for nothing is a recipe for disaster.

Before I outline a few recent examples, let me share this very important truth:

If you really want to know who a person is, give him power.

For some, the acquired power enables the recipient to enhance the good that he/she had been doing all along. For others, it corrupts, perverts and disorients.

Look at what happened in November of 2022. Surfside voted for change because residents were tired of the noise – I know because I was an unhappy participant in it, and boy did things change.

With the three amigos, Danzinger, Rose and Landsman elected and in charge, Surfside was opened for business and became a candy store for developers. Goodies were handed out for free, pesky rules were changed, and objectors were shut down and thrown out of meetings by Surfside police at the amigos' direction.

NEWS ALERT: The three amigos or their alter egos are ready to come back, and here is why that is so frightening.

The damage that can be done in just two years is staggering. Once the giant white box house is built next to yours, it is there forever. That also goes for every ill-thought-out commercial project that gets permitted.

The bottom line is, WE CANNOT <u>UNBUILD</u> OR <u>UNDO</u> THE DAMAGE ONCE IT'S BUILT, which is why who gets elected matters.

While I might be busy trying to earn a spot to make our great State even better, I'll still be here in heart and spirit telling residents the truth and vetting our future candidates.

So let me humbly submit to you the kind of candidates I believe we must have in order for Surfside to remain the irreplaceable hamlet this it now is.

Great candidates must be independent, humble, open minded, successful in their own life, have financial knowledge, common sense and strength of character. Candidates must want to run to serve and protect, not rule and ravage. They must be willing to tell residents how they will govern and not go back on their promises. They must be open and honest.

Having said all the above, faux smiles and faux friendliness can distract away from what really matters – just remember how "nice" and "friendly" Danzinger, Rose and Landsman were as they campaigned!

Are <u>you</u> willing to step up and protect our beautiful hamlet and be a soldier standing guard? You might think that the soldier descriptor is a bit overdone, but it's not.

The truth is that guarding our way of life from the grifters, profiteers and their enablers, their attorneys and the experts, is a full-on occupation.

With the right people at the helm, our town will continue to stand out as the one the whole world wishes they lived in.

Electing the wrong people will turn us into Sunny Isles, Kendall, or Fred Landsman's favorite city, Hialeah.

I vote that we keep what we have now.



TINA PAUL VICE MAYOR

Greetings Surfside!

As we celebrate the peaceful beauty of our lovey Town and reflect on its rich history we look ahead to Surfside's future. Construction and traffic surround us as new building projects and homes are being updated and reimagined. The proper balance of growth requires responsible development with consideration of community benefit. As we work towards this goal, I hope you feel the sense of calm and connection your Commission is working to restore.

June marks the beginning of summer, a season of longer days with cherished traditions, like Father's Day, graduations, the end of the school year, beach parties and vacations. Many of my fondest summer memories were made here

in Surfside with family, close friends, and new friendships. This month, we also recognize Juneteenth and Pride month, and I look forward to seeing many of you at our annual Pride flag-raising ceremony.

Summer attracts enjoyment and also invites reflection. On June 24, we pause to remember the fourth anniversary of the Champlain Towers South building collapse. The 98 lives lost were our neighbors and friends, who remain in our hearts and will always be part of our community. Our Commission is committed to creating a permanent Memorial Park next to the site, as a lasting place to bring peace through remembrance for the families who suffered this sorrow.

During my prior term alongside Mayor Burkett and Commissioner Velasquez, I drafted Ordinance 22-1720, which aims to protect neighboring properties during demolition and new construction by establishing clear safety standards with requirements. Public safety in all its forms continues to be a top priority.

Wishing each of you all a fun and safe, meaningful summer!

Commission Corner



RUBEN A. COTO COMMISSIONER

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to take a moment to once again thank our Town staff and my colleagues for their hard work and dedication. We have come a long way, but there are still many projects and issues to resolve. As always, I may not respond to everyone's emails, but I do read them and take your input seriously.

I have received a few not-so-nice emails, and to those individuals, I understand that it comes with the job. I urge you to channel that energy into working together to provide solutions and ideas. We are always open to constructive and positive input.

We recently held many celebrations for our Town's 90th birthday. I received numerous compliments and positive feedback from residents who attended, and I thank the staff and our Town Manager for a great job. I truly enjoyed to the celebrations of our great Town's anniversary!

Our Police Department continues to grow with two new hires and the establishment of our new traffic detail. Thank you to our amazing Chiefs Doce and Press—keep up the great work! Our SPD and all officers have our full support as we continue to move in the right direction.

On a sad note, my condolences and prayers go out to Rabbi Lipskar and his family. While I didn't have a personal relationship with the Rabbi, I know he was a significant part of our community for many years, especially during difficult times.

Once again, thank you all, and may God continue to bless our Town and our nation.



NELLY VELASQUEZ COMMISSIONER

A Time to Celebrate Fathers and Community Progress

This Father's Day, we pause to honor the fathers and father figures whose steady guidance and care continue to shape our families and our town. Their example of responsibility, commitment, and quiet strength is mirrored in the work we strive to do every day on behalf of this community.

Over the past year, the Town Commission has made significant strides in ensuring sensible and sustainable development. One of the most notable

accomplishments is the successful renegotiation of the development order and recent groundbreaking of the Kushner Project. Thanks to the efforts of the current Commission, the town secured much better terms for the town that prioritize long-term community benefits over short-term gains.

In a meaningful gesture of partnership, the developers of the Kushner Project also donated the lot adjacent to 9333 Harding Avenue property the town purchased in January 2025. This additional space opens new opportunities for public use and thoughtful planning in the heart of our growing town.

These milestones reflect a shared commitment to preserving what makes our town special while embracing smart growth. As we celebrate Father's Day, we are reminded that great communities—like great fathers—are built on dedication, foresight, and a deep sense of responsibility.



GERARDO VILDOSTEGUI COMMISSIONER

The Green Buttonwood tree pictured here (scientific name: Conocarpus erectus) is the centerpiece of my backyard. It is also a thriving community in its own right—home to nesting Blue Jays and to countless beneficial insect species, as well host to a whole garden's worth of plants, including Spanish Moss, Tillandsia, and a Climbing Aster vine that covers the tree in purple flowers when it blooms. Birds and butterflies and bugs of all kinds are constantly visiting the tree to check out what's going on there. On a sunny May morning (such as the morning of my Gazette deadline), this Green Buttonwood seems like a world unto itself.

I got this tree for free from the Town of Surfside, as part of a tree giveaway that the Town organized in 2019. Back then, I wasn't much involved in the civic life of Surfside. Running for Commissioner would have been the furthest thing from my mind. But that tree giveaway made a big impression on me. I remember seeing the announcement of the giveaway in the March 2019 Gazette and being

struck by the generosity of it all, and by the hopeful, future-oriented thinking that the giveaway embodied.

When I got this tree, it came in a 25-gallon container, and I was able (barely) to drag it from my driveway, where Town staff had dropped it off, into the backyard. The tree was taller than I was, but it wasn't tall—maybe eight feet? In the six years since I planted it, that tree has put down roots in Surfside. It's now over 20 feet tall and visible from the curb in front of my house.

In those six years, I've put down roots, too. I got involved in the Town, and now I'm in a position, alongside my fellow Commissioners, to make possible another tree giveaway for 2025. We are also working on some additional initiatives to make Surfside more verdant, including a proposal to plant new trees on the beach dune and an effort to relocate (and thus save) a mature Seagrape tree on the development site at 303 Surfside Blvd. I'll have more to say in my July column about these and other initiatives, but for now, I hope you'll keep an eye out for news about the upcoming tree giveaway and consider taking part in it. Six years from now, you'll be glad you did.

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.

IN MEMORIAM: RABBI SHOLOM DOVBER LIPSKAR

The Town of Surfside mourns the passing of Rabbi Sholom D. Lipskar, a revered spiritual leader whose profound legacy will forever resonate within our community. As the founding Rabbi of The Shul and The Aleph Institute, Rabbi Lipskar's unwavering compassion and leadership touched generations of Surfside residents, guiding them with wisdom, faith, and kindness. His deep connection to Surfside was particularly felt through his support of our Commission and Town Administration, including the Surfside Police Department, and his presence at Town events offered blessings and wisdom, instilling strength and unity across our community.

Mark Blumstein, Town Manager, shared, "Rabbi Lipskar was more than a spiritual leader; he was my Rabbi from my early years at Oleh Torah on Miami Beach and his leadership of the Aleph Institute supported me and my fellow sailors, soldiers, airmen, and marines in the U.S. Armed Forces. He was a pillar of support for our community, consistently bringing comfort and strength to those in need. His impact extends far beyond his role as a spiritual leader, and his legacy will continue to inspire us all."

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the Lipskar family and honor the lasting imprint Rabbi Lipskar left not only in our Town but across the globe. His commitment to service and to helping the most vulnerable remains a beacon of compassion and a model for future generations.

In his memory and out of respect for his legacy, the Town of Surfside flew its flags at half-staff during the Shiva period following his burial on May 4, 2025, in New York. May his memory be a blessing.



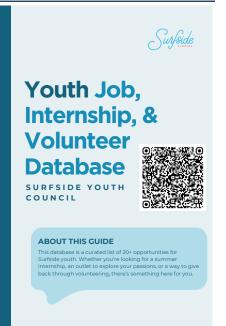












10 SURFSIDE GAZETTE JUNE 2025

MAY COMMISSION MEETING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A Resolution Approving a Site Plan Application to Permit the Development of Property Located at 8809 Harding Avenue, Surfside,
 Florida, for a Multifamily Residential Development Consisting of Twenty Four (24) Dwelling Units and 44 Parking Spaces Known as
 8800 Collins Avenue
- A Resolution Certifying and Declaring the Results of the Town of Surfside Special Municipal Election Held on April 1, 2025, for one Proposed Question to Amend the Town Charter.
- A Resolution Approving the Purchase of Services from Kofile Technologies, Inc. for Preservation, Archival and Digitization of Historical Town Documents; Finding that the Services are Exempt From Competitive Bidding Pursuant to Section 3-13(6) of the Town Code as a Sole Source Provider; Authorizing the Town Manager to Enter Into a Purchase Order for Such Services and/or Agreement as Deemed Necessary by the Town Attorney.
- A Resolution Amending the Public Works Department Fee Schedule to Create an Exception for Permit Applications in the Town's Right-Of-Way
- A Resolution Recognizing the Month of June as LGBT Pride Month.
- A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 2024-3288 by Amending the Interlocal Agreement with Miami-Dade County Relating to Traffic Engineering.
- A Resolution Amending Resolution 2025-3396 Approving an Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Keith and Associates, Inc. for Additional Professional Engineering Building Design Services Related to the Surfside Memorial.
- A Resolution of the Town Commission of the Town of Surfside, Florida, Urging The Florida State Legislature To Enact Legislation To Protect The Town's Condominium Owners From Exploitative And Predatory Tactics By Real Estate Developers Or Other Bad Actors, Taking Into Account The Financial Strain Of Costly Deferred Maintenance, Necessary Structural Repairs, And Rising Insurance Costs.

SEEDS OF CHANGE: YOUTH SUMMIT EMPOWERS NEXT-GEN ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

Join the Surfside Youth Council Saturday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Surfside Community Center for a dynamic policy and advocacy training, in collaboration with Florida Sen. Shevrin Jones. Vist the Town website for more info.

KUSHNER GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY MARKS NEW CHAPTER FOR SURFSIDE DEVELOPMENT

The anticipated Kushner development project officially broke ground on May 14 at 9300 Collins Avenue, with key figures from the Town of Surfside in attendance to celebrate the milestone.

Mayor Charles W. Burkett delivered a few words to mark the beginning of this transformative project, emphasizing its positive impact on the community. Joining the Mayor were Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui, and Town Manager Mark Blumstein, all of whom played important roles in supporting this major development.

The groundbreaking ceremony marks the beginning of a project that will bring new energy and growth to Surfside, positioning the Town for a brighter future.







photo by Arhlene Ayalin

TOWN OF SURFSIDE LAUNCHES "MONDAYS WITH THE MANAGER" TO CONNECT WITH RESIDENTS

"Mondays with the Manager" is the Town of Surfside's newest video series, designed to bring residents closer to the projects, priorities and people shaping our community — one episode at a time.

Each week, Town Manager Mark Blumstein highlights a different topic, offering a behind-the-scenes look at Town initiatives, public works, environmental efforts and resident stories.

In recent episodes, viewers have seen a heartfelt tribute to longtime resident James Martin Corpora through "Jimmy the Turtle," a new holiday-themed sculpture added to the Town's Turtle Walk. Another episode features Public Works and CIP Director Andre Eugent discussing the new trellis installation at the Community Center, a project aimed at enhancing both aesthetics and comfort.

Other episodes take a forward-looking approach, offering a preview of the Sand Dune Restoration Project — a critical effort to protect our shoreline — and coverage of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Kushner Project at 9300 Collins Avenue.

No two episodes are the same. Mondays with the Manager is your weekly window into the Town's work and the people behind it.

Catch the latest episode by scanning the QR code or follow the Town on social

media to stay connected.





SURFSIDE PREPARES: HURRICANE SEASON



From Code Compliance - This month marks the beginning of hurricane season; therefore, we remind you of some essential preparations for any storm.

We trust you already have an evacuation plan should you need to leave the area. You must also ensure that your property and personal belongings do not cause hazards to you or your neighbors.

Please assess all the trees and vegetation on your property. Any overgrown trees must be properly trimmed as soon as possible to avoid any potential damage to your surroundings, including any electrical or utility lines. Any tree debris must be hauled away by the hired landscapers trimming it.

As an additional reminder, any outdoor item has the potential to become a projectile in a storm, so please keep all outdoor items at a minimum and bring them all inside when a storm is forthcoming.

We count on you to keep your community safe.

FREE TREES AVAILABLE THROUGH COUNTY'S ADOPT-A-TREE PROGRAM

Surfside residents in single-family or duplex homes can receive up to two free trees this year through Miami-Dade County's Adopta-Tree program, which has provided more than 246,000 trees countywide since 2001.

The next distribution event will be held Saturday, June 28, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Kaseya Center, 601 Biscayne Blvd. in Miami. Tree options may include Barbados cherry, black ironwood, crabwood, Florida fiddlewood, grafted mango, mamey, marlberry, Simpson's stopper, soursop and sugar apple.

Trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is encouraged to confirm eligibility, though it does not guarantee tree availability. To speed up pickup, participants should bring their registration number.

An additional event is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Dennis C. Moss Cultural Arts Center in Cutler Bay.

To register and learn more, scan the QR code or visit miamidade.gov and search "Adopt-a-Tree."







SURFSIDE RESIDENTS CLEAR HAZARDOUS CLUTTER IN YEARLY EVENT

From Public Wroks - On Saturday, May 10, the Town of Surfside hosted its annual Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Event, offering residents a convenient and responsible way to declutter their homes while protecting the environment.

Dozens of locals arrived at the Town Hall parking lot, dropping off items such as leftover paint cans, used motor oil, household and garden chemicals, pool products, propane tanks, dead batteries, electronic waste, and even sharp medical items for proper disposal.

This vital service not only protects staff and the local environment, but it also fosters a sense of collective responsibility. By disposing of their hazardous waste, residents help prevent harmful chemicals from potentially leaching into the soil and into the waters of Biscayne Bay, protecting local fish and wildlife.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the yearly drop-off and NOT to dispose of these items with their regular trash collection.

Remember that electronics and batteries are collected year-round at Town Hall.

Thank you to all the residents that participated in our annual event.

See you again next year!



Police Beat

SURFSIDE POLICE ISSUE PSA ON RIP CURRENT SAFETY AND BEACH FLAG WARNINGS



As beach season ramps up, the Surfside Police Department is reminding residents and visitors to stay alert and informed about rip current dangers and the meaning behind beach warning flags.

Rip currents are powerful, narrow channels of fast-moving water that can quickly sweep swimmers away from the shore. According to the National Weather Service, they are responsible for more than 100 drownings each year in the United States.

To help prevent tragedies, Surfside Police are issuing a public service announcement urging beachgoers to follow posted signs and understand the beach flag color system:

Green Flag - Low hazard: calm conditions, exercise caution.

Yellow Flag - Medium hazard: moderate surf and/or currents.

Red Flag - High hazard: strong surf and/or currents; swimming not advised.

Double Red Flags - Water closed to the public.

Purple Flag - Dangerous marine life present, such as jellyfish.

SCAN ME!



"Even on calm days, rip currents can develop unexpectedly," said Surfside Police Deputy Chief Henry Doce. "Understanding flag colors can save lives." If caught in a rip current, officials urge swimmers not to panic or try to swim directly back to shore. Instead, they should swim parallel to the shore until they are out of the current, then swim back to land at an angle.

The Surfside Police Department encourages all beach visitors to check conditions before entering the water and to share this information with friends and family. "Safety begins with awareness," Doce said. "We want everyone to enjoy our beautiful beaches while staying vigilant and informed."

SURFSIDE POLICE LAUNCH NEW TRAFFIC UNIT TO TARGET AGGRESSIVE DRIVING AND IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

The Surfside Police Department has launched a new three-member traffic unit dedicated to enhancing road safety and curbing aggressive driving behaviors.

This specialized team will focus on enforcing traffic laws and serving as a visible deterrent to reckless driving. In addition to routine speed enforcement, the unit will conduct comprehensive vehicle safety inspections, targeting violations such as excessively dark window tints, tinted windshields, malfunctioning equipment and seat belt noncompliance.

To maximize their effectiveness, officers will operate on flexible schedules, allowing them to address traffic issues at various times of day and adapt to emerging patterns.



SURFSIDE HONORS POLICE DURING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

The Town of Surfside proudly recognizes National Police Week, May 12–18, honoring the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers across the country. This week, we salute the dedication of the Surfside Police Department and thank them for their unwavering commitment to protecting our community.

Their bravery, professionalism and compassion do not go unnoticed. Join us in expressing gratitude to the officers who serve with integrity every day.



Police Beat

TWO NEW OFFICERS SWORN IN AT MAY COMMISSION MEETING



The Surfside Police Department officially welcomed Officers Rafael Gomez and Sharon Perez Rivera during a swearing-in ceremony held at the May Town Commission meeting.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone in the careers of the two new officers, both of whom bring unique backgrounds, strong academic achievements, and an unwavering commitment to public service.

Officer Rafael Gomez, a South Florida native raised in Hollywood, is the son of Cuban immigrants who came to the United States seeking a better future for their family. Gomez earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida International University by the age of 21. While completing his studies, he began his law enforcement journey as an intern with the FIU Police Department. He went on to serve as a Police Service Aide, where he was responsible for managing the department's property and evidence, as well as quartermaster duties.

In June 2023, Gomez entered the police academy and graduated with the Academic Award for his class. He spent the next year and a half as a police officer at FIU, where he earned recognition as Officer of the Semester and received two commendations for exemplary performance. He joined the Surfside Police Department seeking new challenges and a continued opportunity to serve his community.

Officer Sharon Perez Rivera was born in San Jose, California, and spent part of her childhood in Bolivia before moving to Miami. A graduate of Sports Leadership and Management Charter High School in Little Havana, she went on to study Criminal Justice and Criminology at Miami Dade College. During that time, she volunteered as a K9 decoy for the TSA at Miami International Airport and completed the Miami-Dade Citizens Police Academy—experiences that solidified her passion for a career in law enforcement.

Perez Rivera graduated from BLE Class 391 in November 2024, earning the distinction of Most Athletic Female and serving as class secretary. She now fulfills her lifelong dream of becoming a police officer.

Following the ceremony, the officers were congratulated by Town officials, fellow department members, and their families. They will now begin field training before assuming full patrol duties in the Town of Surfside.







Uptown FunTown

VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAVES AT PLASTIC FISHING FESTIVAL

On April 27, dozens gathered to participate in the Earth Week Plastic Fishing Festival presented by the Resort Tax Board in partnership with local environmentalist @ plasticfisherman.

Attendees collected litter and other debris from the sand, shoreline and beach, which was eventually used to create a myriad of colorful and creative plastic fish. Participants vied for the chance to win five (5) brand new bikes as a reward for their artistic efforts while many also took home a custom dual-branded water bottle. Community partners included the Miami-Dade County Sea Turtle Conservation Program, VolunteeerCleanup.org and Lehrman Community Day School.

Overall, more than 200 attendees helped clean up 86 lbs. of residue from Surfside's coastline! Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui joined Resort Tax Board Members Judy Martinez and Cynthia Calloway in supporting the Earth Week event.









VISITORS & RESIDENTS ENJOY PADDLETOPIA, CRB COMMUNITY SWAP AND YARD SALE









May 3-4, visitors and residents had the opportunity to celebrate Surfside's 90th anniversary and unique waterfront lifestyle at Paddletopia, presented by the Resort Tax Board.

The fitness-oriented event provided complimentary kayaking and paddleboarding for attendees to enjoy, in addition to multiple fitness and yoga classes, live music, refreshments and Surfside giveaways.

Vice Mayor Tina Paul and Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui joined Town Manager Mark Blumstein and other Board members and staff for the special occasion.

The event also included a Community Clothing Swap and Yard Sale organized by the Community Relations Board (CRB), which brought neighbors together for a fun, eco-conscious day of giving and getting.

WHY THE 2025 HURRICANE SEASON DEMANDS OUR FULL ATTENTION

From the Gazette Sustainability Corner and your Sustainability & Resilience Committee:

With climate change fueling stronger, wetter, and slower-moving storms, Surfside must prepare with renewed urgency. Discover key steps to protect your home and community, where to find reliable updates, and how local tools like ISeeChange can help build resilience.



SURFSIDE GAZETTE JUNE 2025

It Starts In Parks

EARTH DAY RESOURCE FAIR IN SURFSIDE

On Sunday, April 27, 2025, the Town of Surfside celebrated Earth Day with an eco-friendly resource fair at the Community Center, hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Residents enjoyed interactive exhibits, educational activities, and sustainability-focused resources.

Vice Mayor Tina Paul and Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui joined the event, which also featured a pelican release by Pelican Harbor Seabird Station. The fair highlighted Surfside's commitment to environmental stewardship and community engagement.













Presented by Parks & Recreation

YOUTH BASKETBALL SPRING MINI SESSION

Young athletes hit the courts at 96th Street Park this spring during the Youth Basketball Mini Session, hosted by the Town of Surfside Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with JR All Stars Inc. Led by Coach Alonso Baigorria, participants ages 5–12 worked on developing basketball fundamentals through skills, drills and fun activities over a five-week program. The energy is high, and the smiles are even bigger as kids learned, play and grow together on the court.











Presented by Parks & Recreation

It Starts In Parks









It Starts In Parks

PROGRAM NEEN **Gymnastics** ф OUTH **Tunes for Tots Gymnastics**

DAYS/DATES **Mondays**

06/2 - 07/21/25 No Class: 06/30

<u>Wednesday</u>

06/04 - 07/23/25 No Class: 07/02

Thursdays

06/5 - 07/24/25 No Class: 06/19 & 07/3

HOURS 4:30-5:30pm

AGES

3-5VIS.

6 month-

5yrs.

3-5yrs.

FEE PER SESSION





Residents \$72.00 Non-Residents \$102.00





ENIO S ф DULT

PROGRAM

Silver Sneakers: Cardio & Strength

H.I.I.T **High Intensity Interval Training**

DAYS/DATES

Tuesdays & Fridays 06/3 - 07/25/25 No Class: 07/01 & 07/04

Saturday

06/7 - 06/28/25

HOURS

10:00-11:00am

4:30-5:30pm

9:00-10:00am

9:00-10:00am

AGES

50 ಆ over

16 ෂ older

FEE PER SESSION

S.S Members: Free Non-Members: \$10.00

Residents \$48.00 Non–Residents \$68.00





TOWN OF SURFSIDE **AQUATICS HOURS OF OPERATION**

MONTH	BEACH TOWER	MAIN POOL	TOT LOT POOL
June	10:00-7:00	9:00-8:00 LAP SWIMMING 7:00-8:00	10:00-7:30
July	10:00-7:00	9:00-8:00 LAP SWIMMING 7:00-8:00	10:00-7:30

SCAN TO RESERVE A LAP LANE





SCAN QR CODE **FOR THE** AQUATIC **PROGRAMS**

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.





BEACH WARNING FLAGS Water Closed to Public

■ High Hazard High Surf and/or Strong Currents Medium Hazard

Low Hazard Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution

Dangerous Marine Life

*Conditions available during beach tower operations.

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

- Always swim in a lifeguarded area.
- Never swim alone, regardless of your age or level of swimming skills.
- Keep within your fitness and swimming capabilities.
- Be aware of weather and water conditions and heed

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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Featured Properties of the Month



8951 HAWTHORNE AVENUE SURFSIDE, FL 33154

3 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHROOMS INT: 2681 SO ET 11 OT: 5 600 SO ET SALE PRICE: \$2,799,000



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

5 BEDROOMS | 5 BATHROOMS | 2 POWDER ROOMS INT: 5.164 SO FT | LOT: 653 SO FT SALE PRICE: \$13,000,000



270 ATLANTIC ISLE SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FL 33160

9 BEDROOMS + DEN | 8 BATHROOMS | 2 POWDER ROOMS INT: 8 211 SO FT | 16 568 SO FT SALE PRICE: \$11,495,000



10175 COLLINS AVE #307 BAL HARBOUR, FL 33154

2 BEDROOMS | 2.5 BATHROOMS INT: 1 967 SO FT SOLD PRICE: \$1,000,000



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9537 HARDING AVE | SURFSIDE











20	Surfside No. 2 Barber Shop - 9504 Harding Ave

- 27 LAHH Salon 9480 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
- Femme Coiffure & Spa 9563 Harding Ave
- 64 Extension Dreams Hair Salon 9521 Harding Ave
- 95 Surfside Barber Shop 9431 Harding Ave

BOUTIQUES/SHOES/TAILORS/CLEANERS

- Penny's Alterations 9532 Harding Ave #104
- 17C Verdile's/Mario The Tailor 9520 Harding Ave
- 17F H20 Dive Center 9520 Harding Ave
- 24 The Shoppe Miami 9486 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

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.
- 71 Jewelers Choice 9501 Harding Ave
- 72 World of Smoke & Vape 9501 Harding Ave
- 78 Tzfasman Jewelers 9425 Harding Ave

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

- ONE Sotheby's International Realty 9588 Harding Ave
- 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

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
- Dr. Curson Podiatry 9528 Harding Ave
- 15 SJI Dermatology 9528 Harding Avenue
- Mycardiology, Dr. Jonathan GreenBlatt, MD 9528 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

FINANCIAL/SERVICES

- 1 Flagstar Bank 9592 Harding Ave
- 6 Chase Bank 9556 Harding Ave
- 17D Camissar International 9520 Harding Ave
- 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
- 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 Zohar's Gelato^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
- 69 Naamah Sushi 9509 Harding Ave
- 73 Bagel Boss^K 9543 Harding Ave
- 77 Neya Restaurant^K 9491 Harding Ave
- 78 26 Sushi + Wok 9487 Harding Ave
- 79 La Vita E Bella Cafe 9485 Harding Ave
- 81 Kosh^K 9477 Harding Ave
- 84 The Grove^K 9467 Harding Ave
- Fialkoff's Express Surfside^K 9463 Harding Ave
- 87 Moncheese Pizza 9459 Harding Ave
- 86 Rita's Ice Custard Happiness 9461 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 Bistro^K 9427 Harding Ave
- 99/100 Harbour Grill Deli^K 9415-9421 Harding Ave



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