

Town of Surfside  
Happy New Year

## Citizen Police Academy Holds Fall Graduation



Pictured above are the proud graduates of the **8th Surfside Citizen's Police Academy**, which recently completed the 11-week Fall Academy series of classes. The popular event was held each Thursday in the second floor Police Training Room. The class graduates are Yamileth Slate-McCloud, Nelida Rastelli, Olga Bentancourt, Susana Escayola, Elizabeth Sanchez, Sandra Maharaj, Sabrina Fasana, Cesar Correa, Yolanda Correa, Karla Silvagni, Jackie DiBuono, Ileana Caballero and Lourdes Romero. Not pictured are Kent McCloud, Andy Labrada, Gus Ibanez and Pilar Lesmes. The Academy classes included: Patrol Procedures, Criminal Investigation Unit, Crime Scene Unit, Homicide Investigation, Marine Patrol Operations, S.W.A.T., Firearms Range and K-9 Operations. New this fall was a trip to the Miami Dade Fire Rescue Station. The participants also enjoyed a graduation party. The Academy is held twice a year and the next is scheduled for Spring 2011. For more information, call (305) 861-4862, ext. 283.

## Town Manager's Message

The conventional wisdom about New Year is "out with the old and in with the new." As your Town Manager, my thoughts are a little different. It is "how can we make the old a little better and try something new as well?" To that end, we will soon reinvigorate the Downtown Vision process so that all stakeholders in our downtown can share their thoughts and we can create a vision with specific goals and timelines, find the necessary funding and make it happen.

There are so many stakeholders in the downtown. We have property owners, tenants, service providers, retailers, religious institutions, restaurants, governmental entities such as the Post Office, the Florida Department of Transportation and the Town of Surfside; financial institutions and the Downtown Business Association. We have anchors for our downtown including Publix on the south, the Abbott parking lot and Bal Harbour Shops on the northwest and the Shul of Bal Harbour on the northeast. There is a whole other set of stakeholders including our single family and condo residents as well who use the downtown for essential services and entertainment. We will also have many new customers when the St. Regis opens soon and the opportunities/risks of an expanded Bal Harbour Shops are yet to be determined.

What a wonderful mix of competing and complementary stakeholders. Please join us in open meetings where all the concerns and ideas will be put on the table and where the goal will be consensus that culminates in a plan that is measurable, quantifiable, financially feasible and doable with tight timelines. Whether you

*Continued on Page 3* →



TOWN  
of  
SURFSIDE

GAZETTE

# FAQs *Water, Sewer and Stormwater Rate Increases*

## **Why is there a rate adjustment in my December, 2010 water and sewer bill?**

A very high percentage of the water and sewer system in Surfside is more than 60 years old. The connections are in the backyards of most single-family homes and those will be changed to the street side. Also, the sewage lines, which have leaks, will be lined with a plastic pipe that will extend the life of the lines. The rate increase will fund the debt service on the system upgrade program and keep it in first rate condition. Reserves will also be established to help stabilize rates in the future.

## **Will these rates go up in the future?**

It depends on water costs from Miami-Dade County and the cost to dispose of the sewage through Miami Beach. If these entities increase their fees, we must pass it on.

## **Will there be any costs to tap into the new water system?**

The Town will pay to bring your water service from the back of your house to the front. By County Code, the connection to your home must be done by a licensed and authorized plumber. The Town will make that service available at approximately \$500 per home.

## **How can a resident be assured that the Town will achieve the best prices possible for building this project?**

The project will be competitively bid and awarded to the lowest compliant bidder. A committee of knowledgeable citizens will provide advice to the Town. If you have the experience, interest and time to serve on the committee, call the Town Manager's Office, 305-993-1052.

## **How long will the project take and how disruptive will it be?**

The entire project will be completed in 15 months by utilizing an early completion incentive. The plan is to complete an area and then repave, so that no area will be under construction more than three of four months.

## **What about the storm drainage system?**

The storm drainage system will also be upgraded at the same time. We have been operating under a consent decree due to inadequate pollution control for many years. To finance the project, the stormwater utility for single family or multi-family will increase from \$10.70 to \$21.40 bimonthly, places of worship will increase from \$5.36 to \$10.72 bimonthly and non-residential property will increase from \$13.38 to \$26.76 bimonthly.

## **What else do I need to know?**

The construction will include upgrading traffic calming devices, improved landscape and sprinklers and adding four different types of trees to line the streets, if funds are available. We will also receive prices for providing underground conduit for eventually placing the FPL, telephone and cable lines underground, and possibly fiber optic lines.

## **What about construction and financing costs at this time?**

Contractor costs are the lowest they have been in years. Financing costs are also very low now and we will receive advice from an independent financial advisor and bond counsel regarding the best time to sell bonds.

## **How were the water, sewer and stormwater rates determined?**

The rates were determined by a comprehensive water and sewer rate study done by a independent contractor, TischlerBise. The study was used to set the rates which were adopted during two advertised public hearings, Aug. 10 and Oct. 12, 2010.

## **Why raise rates during these difficult economic times?**

The Town Commission voted, by ordinance, to adopt the new rates for the purposes of recovering the full cost of providing service, promoting equity in utility rates, establishing reserve policies, encouraging water conservation, improving water and sewer capital infrastructure and enabling the Town to secure funding for the capital improvements.

## **When did the increase in rates take effect?**

Sept. 25, 2010 and will be reflected in the December 2010 bill.

## **What is the percentage of increase for water and sewer?**

The increase is not based on a percentage. The charge is determined by the consumption of water used, meter size and type of dwelling unit. You can impact the amount you pay by a number of conservation measures which can be seen on the Town's website at [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov).

## **What is the tax rate charged on utility bills?**

The tax rate remains at 7.5% per State Statute.

## **What is the discount amount?**

There will no longer be a discount, which will result in a more equitable assessment. Rather than having a discount incentive, the new rate structure gives a water conservation incentive.

## **Is there a variation of meter sizes throughout the Town?**

Yes, there are eight different meter sizes that have been installed over the years.

### **Water/Sewer Rate Structure Calculator for Non Consumption (Bi-monthly, not including stormwater charges)**

Meter Size	Water Bill	Sewer Bill	Total Bill
5/8"	\$ 29.89	\$7.38	\$ 37.28
1"	\$ 43.48	\$7.38	\$ 50.87
1.5"	\$ 66.13	\$7.38	\$ 73.52
2"	\$ 93.31	\$7.38	\$100.69
3"	\$156.72	\$7.38	\$164.11
4"	\$247.32	\$7.38	\$254.70
6"	\$473.80	\$7.38	\$481.19
8"	\$745.58	\$7.38	\$752.97

## **Why do you charge me if I don't use any water?**

The Town still needs to provide the infrastructure for when you are using water.

## **How can I find out more information?**

Visit [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov) or contact Town Hall at 305-861-4863.

## **Assistance Available With Open Building Permits**

Recently, more than 300 letters were sent to Surfside residents who had open and expired building permits on their properties, announcing the requirements for closing the permits. The Building Department has reviewed its records and many residents simply need to show the closed out permits or check with their contractor.

The Building Department will assist in resolving these open permits. Outstanding open permits may inhibit future efforts to sell or refinance your property and delay real estate closings. Also, new permits will not be issued until the previous ones are closed. For more information, contact Paul Gioia, Building Director, at (305) 86-4863, ext. 23.

# Senior Citizen Exemption Can Be Renewed Online

Surfside homeowners who currently benefit from the additional homestead exemption known as the *Senior Citizen Exemption* can now apply online to renew the exemption. The exemption provides a reduction in taxable value up to \$50,000 for homeowners who are more than 65 years old, who have a homestead exemption and meet the State-defined Adjusted Gross Income limit as determined by the Florida Department of Revenue. The Adjusted Gross Income limit for 2011 will be released in late January. The 2010 limit was \$25,780.

Miami Dade County has announced the on-line service, available at [www.miamidade.gov/pa](http://www.miamidade.gov/pa). The deadline to file renewal applications is March 1, 2011. Applicants with questions about this new service should call the Property Appraiser's Office at (786) 331-5321.

## Residents Can Choose Library Items in January

Surfside residents wanting to choose up to five (5) books per household from the former Town Library must bring the voucher from the December issue of the Gazette that includes their printed name and address. Come to the Library modular on Saturday January 8 and Sunday January 9, based on the schedule below. Residents must bring the **original voucher**, with corresponding identification. Those residents unable to make their allotted time can come **on Sunday January 9 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. only.**

<i>First letter of last name</i>	<i>Date and time</i>
M, N, O	Sat. Jan 8, 10 am - 11 am
S, T, U, V	Sat. Jan 8, 11:30 am - 12: 30 pm
G, H, I	Sat. Jan 8, 1 pm - 2 pm
D, E, F	Sat. Jan 8, 2:30 pm - 3: 30 pm
A, B, C	Sun. Jan 9, 10 am - 11 am
P, Q, R	Sun. Jan 9, 11:30 am - 12: 30 pm
J, K, L	Sun. Jan 9, 1 pm - 2 pm
W, X, Y, Z	Sun. Jan 9, 2:30 pm - 3: 30 pm

### Town Manager Message - continued from Page 1

think downtown is just fine or you think we need a few adjustments – join us in the process – it will be fun to be part of a creative look at our future. It is clear that without a viable downtown that meets the needs of our evolving population and keeps us competitive in generating tourism dollars, we will not meet our full potential as a terrific place to live and enjoy life.

More detail on the process can be seen on the Town's website, [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov). Quick Links/ Town Meetings & Agendas - December 14, 2010 Agenda

## 2011 CALENDAR

### JANUARY

**Mon 3** Town Tourist Board Meeting , 5:30 p.m.  
**Tue 4** Communications Committee, 7 p.m.  
**Thur 6** City Commission Executive Session, 6:30 p.m.  
**Sat 8** Resident access to Library assets (details at left)  
**Sun 9** Resident access to Library assets (details at left)  
**Mon 13** Town Beautification Committee, 7 p.m.  
**Mon 17** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday- Town offices closed  
**Tue 18** Rescheduled Town Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.  
**Thur 20** Third Thursday 6-9 p.m., 95th St. & Harding Ave.  
*EXPERIENCE ITALY*  
**Sun 23** Family Funday, 1-4 p.m., 96th Street Park  
**Wed 26** Senior Trip, Actor's Playhouse, "Putnum County"  
 Parks & Recreation Board TBA

### FEBRUARY

**Mon 7** Town Tourist Board Meeting , 5:30 p.m.  
**Tue 8** Town Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.  
**Mon 14** Town Beautification Committee, 7 p.m.  
**Thur 17** Senior Trip to Bass Museum of Art, Egyptian Gallery  
**Thur 17** Third Thursday 6-9 p.m., 95th St. & Harding Ave.  
*ASIAN FUSION*  
**Mon 21** Parks & Recreation Board  
**Sun 27** 5K Beach Run, 8 a.m.

All times and dates, except Town Commission meetings, are tentative and subject to change. To verify, contact Town Hall at (305) 861-4863, visit the website [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov) or tune in to Channel 77.

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HomeFoods.us@gmail.com [www.HomeFoods.us](http://www.HomeFoods.us)

– item 3C Town Manager's Report.

One last thought. Thanks to the Mayor and members of the Town Commission for removing the "Interim" from my title and making me permanent Town Manager. Surfside is a wonderful community to manage with a very engaged citizenry and a very hard working and committed Town Commission. Please email me with your thoughts on the Downtown Vision process, [rcarlton@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:rcarlton@townofsurfsidefl.gov).

*Roger M. Carlton, Town Manager*

## Surfside Employee Spreads the Joy of Purisima in Nicaragua

Each December, native Nicaraguans celebrate a nine-day event of songs, prayers and gifts called *Purisima*, a centuries-old rite. Yamieth Slate-McCloud, the Surfside Human Resource Director and a native Nicaraguan, is keeping the tradition alive by leading an effort to send toys, clothing, food and household goods to the central American country every Purisma.

With the support of her siblings, friends and co-workers, Yami gathers items throughout the year and raises money to ship the goods to Managua, Nicaragua where the gifts are distributed among 200 local residents, mostly children. This takes place on the ninth day of Purisma and after songs and prayers, the food baskets (rice, beans, cookies, coffee and candy) and health baskets (soap, toothpaste, shampoo, detergent) are distributed. Children also receive toys, clothing and school supplies.

This year, more than 1,500 pounds of supplies were shipped, much to the delight and appreciation of the local recipients. Surfside salutes Yami and her family for their labor of love in supporting the less fortunate in her former neighborhood.



## Holidays Come to Surfside! Carolers Visit Downtown, Shul Celebrates Chanukah

The joys of the year-end holidays abounded in Surfside with the sounds of the children's chorus from Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center in Surfside business district on December 15. The chorus, accompanied by a bearded man in a red suit, spread holiday cheer as they visited several Harding Avenue businesses. The event was sponsored by the Surfside Business Association and HSBC Bank.

Adding to the seasonal festivities was the celebration of Chanukah by the members of the Bal Harbour Shul, held in the lot across from Town Hall. The event attracted more than 200 participants. The service included children entertaining with songs and performances, a candle lighting ceremony and refreshments for all in attendance.

## Advertise in the 2011 Surfside Business Directory



Now is your opportunity to advertise in the 2011 Surfside Business Directory. Contact Duncan Tavares, Tourist Bureau Director, for information regarding advertising opportunities at [dtavares@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:dtavares@townofsurfsidefl.gov) or (305) 864-0722. A complimentary copy is available in the lobby of Town Hall or can be downloaded from [www.visitsurfsidefl.com](http://www.visitsurfsidefl.com).

### *I am your Surfside neighbor and realtor of choice!*

If you are thinking on selling, buying or renting, please call me. I can help with all your real estate needs.

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**Stefan Lätt**  
Email: [info@homeinus.net](mailto:info@homeinus.net)  
Tel: (+1) 786 664 8290

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## Dummers and Kids Rock at December Third Thursday

Residents enjoyed the musical entertainment of the December Third Thursday, which included a performance of African drummers and the youth musicians of Live School.



*Enjoy*  
the festive  
Italian  
ambiance  
at the  
"Experience  
Italy" Third  
Thursday  
Event on  
January 20th!

**Surfside**  
3rd THURSDAYS  
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ATA Southbound from 94th to 94th Streets 6-9PM

**Taste The World on Two Blocks**

- Nov 18 - A Taste of France
- Dec 18 - Multicultural Holiday
- Jan 20 - Experience Italy
- Feb 17 - Asian Fusion
- Mar 17 - Latin Spice
- Apr 21 - Mediterranean Odyssey

For a listing of shops & restaurants  
Surfside Tourist Bureau / [www.downtownsurfside.com](http://www.downtownsurfside.com) / 305.844.2722

## Asst. Chief Honored for Parking Implementation



Asst. Chief John DiCenso and Mayor Daniel Dietch

John DiCenso, Assistant Chief of Police, was honored at the December Commission meeting for leading the Town's implementation of the new automated "pay and display" multi-space parking system. Asst. Chief DiCenso coordinated the planning, notification,

removal of the old meters and installation of the new automated kiosks for all the Town's on-street parking and Town-owned lots. He thanked and acknowledged all the Town staff involved in the challenging process.

WISHING ALL SURFSIDE RESIDENTS A  
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# Youth Winter 2011 Parks and Recreation Programs

Registration now in progress. Call (305) 866-3635 or visit [www.townofsufsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsufsidefl.gov) for holiday hours and more information.

CLASS	DAY	DATES & TERM	HOURS	Fee (per person)	No class
Pre-School ballet, age 3-5	Monday	1/10/11-3/7/11	3:45-4:30 p.m.	\$56 residents/\$112 non	1/17 & 2/21
Pre-School ballet, age 3-5	Monday	1/10/11-3/7/11	4:45-5:30 p.m.	\$56 residents/\$112 non	1/17 & 2/21
Ballet, age 6-10	Monday	1/10/11-3/7/11	5:45-6:30 p.m.	\$56 residents/\$112 non	1/17 & 2/21
Tots Kidokinetics, age 2-4	Tuesday	1/11/11-3/1/11	9:15 a.m. -10 a.m.	\$88 residents/128 non	
Soccer, age 4-5 coed	Tuesday & Thurs	1/25/11-4/7/11	4-5 p.m.	\$135 residents/\$284 non	3/15 & 3/17
Soccer, age 6-9-coed	Tuesday & Thurs	1/25/11-4/7/11	5-6 p.m.	\$135 residents/\$284 non	3/15 & 3/17
Soccer, age 8-13 coed	Tuesday & Thurs	1/25/11-4/7/11	6-7 p.m.	\$135 residents/\$284 non	3/15 & 3/17
Fitness Fun Bootcamp, age 10-15	Tuesday	1/11/11-3/1/11	4-5 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Tot Playball, age 2-4	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	2:15-3 p.m.	\$88 residents/\$128 non	
Playball, age 5-10	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	3:15 -4:15 p.m.	\$88 residents/\$128 non	
Gymnastics, age 3-5	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	3:45-4:40 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Gymnastics, age 3-5	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	4:45-5:40 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Gymnastics, age 3-5	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	3:45-4:40 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Gymnastics, age 6-13	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	4:45-5:40 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Interm. Gymnastics 6-13	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	5:45-6:55 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Hip Hop Jazz Dance, 6-13	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	4:45-5:40 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Youth Acrobatics & Cheer, age 6-12	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	5:45-6:35 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Kidokinetics, age 3-5	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	4:30-5:15 p.m.	\$88 residents/\$128 non	
Kidokinetics, age 5-8	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	5:15-6 p.m.	\$88 residents/\$128 non	
Toddler & Me, 18-36 months	Friday	1/14/11-3/4/11	9:15-10 a.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	
Adventure Crafts, ages 4-7	Saturday	1/15/11-3/5/11	11:30-12:15 p.m.	\$64 residents/\$128 non	

## Adult Winter Programs

CLASS	DAY	DATES & TERM	HOURS	Fee (per person)	No class
Matter of Balance	Tuesday	1/11/11-3/1/11	9:30-11:30 a.m.	FREE	
Current Events	Tuesday	1/11/11-2/8/11	6-7 p.m.	FREE	
Senior Social Time	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	10:30-12:30 p.m.	FREE	
<b>Bring a yoga mat to the following classes:</b>					
Beach Ready Boot Camp	Sunday	1/9/11-3/6/11	8-9 a.m.	Resident \$85/non \$132	2/27
Zumba	Monday	1/10/11-3/7/11	7:15-8:15 p.m.	Resident \$48/non \$96	1/17 & 2/21
Yoga	Tuesday	1/11/11-3/1/11	7-8 p.m.	Resident \$85/non \$132	
Senior Yoga	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	9-10 a.m.	Resident \$48/non \$82	
Salsa (NEW)	Wednesday	1/12/11-3/2/11	7-8 p.m.	Resident \$54/non \$110	
Zumba	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	9:30-10:30 a.m.	Resident \$54/non \$110	
Pilates	Thursday	1/13/11-3/3/11	7-8 p.m.	Resident \$54/non \$110	

## Tennis

Adult Meet & Greet Doubles	Monday	1/6/11-1/31/11	7:30-10 p.m.	Resident \$10/non \$12 (Per class)	
Beginners Ladis Doubles	Tuesday	1/11/11-2/1/11	5-6:30 p.m.	Resident \$7 (Per class)	
Junior Group Tennis	Tuesday & Thursday	1/11/11-2/1/11	4-5 p.m., 5-6 p.m., 6-7 p.m.	\$48 (4 classes) \$95 (8 classes)	

## Senior Trips

Jan. 26	Putnum County Spelling Bee, Actor's Playhouse	Mar. 16	Flamingo Gardens
Feb. 17	Egyptian Gallery, Bass Museum of Art	April 14	Butterfly World
		May 18	Alfred Hitchcock's <i>The 39 Steps</i> , Actor's Playhouse



## Upcoming Events

### Family Fun Day Sunday, Jan. 23

1-4 p.m.  
96th Street Park  
Games • Rides • Arts & Crafts  
Residents only. Bring your Surfside I.D.



### 5K Beach Run Sunday, Feb. 27

8 a.m. start, on the hard pack  
\$25 prerace and online registration  
\$15 for under 14 (\$3.25 online fee)  
  
Race day registration: \$35,  
\$25 14 & under  
  
Race day registration ends at 7:15 a.m.!  
Early packet pick-up on  
Sat. Feb. 26, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.  
  
Post race food & refreshments,  
awards ceremony  
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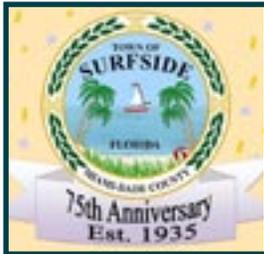
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### **ADVERTISING IN THE GAZETTE**

Reach the residents and businesses of Surfside by advertising in the monthly *Gazette*. For rates, deadlines and more information go to the Town website [www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov) or email [dhunziker@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:dhunziker@townofsurfsidefl.gov).

### **TOWN MEETINGS ON DVD**

A DVD recording of the current monthly Town Commission and Planning & Zoning meetings are available for check out at the Town Hall front desk. For more information, contact Debra Eastman, Town Clerk at 305-861-4863 x226.

### **TOWN COMMISSION**

- Daniel Dietch, *Mayor*  
[mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- Joe Graubart, *Vice Mayor*  
[jgraubart@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:jgraubart@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- Michael Karukin, *Commissioner*  
[mkarukin@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:mkarukin@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- Edward Kopelman, *Commissioner*  
[ekopelman@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:ekopelman@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- Marta Olchyk, *Commissioner*  
[molchyk@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:molchyk@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

### **TOWN OFFICIALS**

- Roger M. Carlton, *Town Manager*  
[rcarlton@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:rcarlton@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- Lynn M. Dannheisser, *Town Attorney*  
[ldannheisser@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:ldannheisser@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- David Allen, *Police Chief*  
[dallen@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:dallen@townofsurfsidefl.gov)
- Debra Eastman, *MMC, Town Clerk*  
[deastman@townofsurfsidefl.gov](mailto:deastman@townofsurfsidefl.gov)

### **BUSINESS NUMBERS**

- Town Hall (305) 861-4863
- Parks & Recreation (305) 866-3635
- Tennis Courts (305) 866-5176
- Tourist Bureau (305) 864-0722
- Police (305) 861-4862
- Fire Rescue (305) 861-1115

### **TOWN WEBSITE**

**[www.townofsurfsidefl.gov](http://www.townofsurfsidefl.gov)**