

RESIDENT GUIDE



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

How amazing is little Surfside? Let me count the ways.

Our beaches and bays are as beautiful as Aspen's mountains. Our little downtown is as quaint as Bar Harbor, Maine. Our restaurants are as tasty and wonderful as one could ask for. Our private security Surfside Police force treats residents as well as the Secret Service does our President. Our weather and climate are the envy of the world. The level of our community's service to our residents is second to none. And finally, our elected officials love our residents and treat them as they would their own family.

What else could you want? The answer is nothing, which is why all the world wants to live in Surfside.

Thank you for loving and caring for Surfside as we do.

If you live here, congratulations. If you are visiting, congratulations also.

Enjoy all we have to offer and relish what America has to give when you combine awesome natural resources with smart, caring, and forward-looking Surfside residents.

The foregoing combination makes, and keeps, our community the envy of the world... And I am here, along with my four amazing colleagues, Nelly, Tina, Ruben and Gerardo to ensure that it always stays that way!

MAYOR CHARLES W. BURKETT



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SURFSIDE

A large, white, three-dimensional sign with the word "SURFSIDE" in blue, block letters. The sign is set against a background of palm trees and a clear sky.

About the Town of Surfside

A beautiful pedestrian-friendly oceanfront community located in South Florida's subtropical paradise. Surfside is home to nearly 6,000 residents and has an attractive residential neighborhood featuring multi-family condominium and apartment buildings, and a charming business district, as well as public art, award-winning restaurants, resorts, spas and recreational facilities enjoyed by residents and visitors year-round.

As a resident, you get to enjoy our beautiful scenery and bustling downtown all year. Harding Avenue, the center of our Business District, is home to dozens of small, locally owned shops and restaurants that will quickly become favorites on your list.

The Town of Surfside, Florida is a Commission-Manager form of government.

The Town Manager is the chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of the Town. All Town administrative departments, such as Finance, Public Works, Planning & Zoning, Parks and Recreation, Code Compliance, Human Resources, Clerk's Office, Police and Communications fall under the leadership of the Town Manager.

The Legislative Department consists of the Mayor, Vice Mayor and three Town Commissioners. Collectively, the legislative body is responsible principally for setting the general policy direction of the Town. The Town Commission appoints and oversees the Town Attorney, Town Manager, Town external auditor and Town boards/committees members.



SURFSIDE COMMISSION



MAYOR
Charles W. Burkett



VICE MAYOR
Tina Paul



COMMISSIONER
Ruben A. Coto



COMMISSIONER
Nelly Velasquez



COMMISSIONER
Gerardo Vildostegui

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

TOWN OFFICIALS

Peter Jankowski, Town Manager
pjankowski@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Mark Blumstein, Town Attorney
attorney@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Enrique (Henry) Doce, Chief of Police
edoce@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Sandra N. McCreedy, Town Clerk
smccreedy@townofsurfsidefl.gov

The Town Commission regularly holds meetings. Check the Town website for dates and times.

CALENDAR



Meetings are live-streamed on the Town website and Channel 663 (AtlanticBroadband). Recordings can be found on the Town website at townofsurfsidefl.gov.



STAY ENGAGED

Communities are more effective when everyone participates in the process. The Department of the Town Clerk manages all meeting agendas and public records requests in addition to overseeing municipal elections.

To help carry out Town business, the Commission appoints resident representatives to the following boards and committees:

- Planning and Zoning Board
- Parks and Recreation Committee
- Pension Board
- Police Officers Pension Trust Fund
- Resort Tax Board
- Personnel Appeals Board
- Charter Review Board
- Youth Council
- Community Relations Board
- Sustainability and Resiliency Committee



To keep up with Town Commission meetings and other boards and committees, register for the Town Meeting Agendas mailing list on the Town website under 'sign up for alerts.' For Public Records Requests, look for the corresponding tab within the Town Clerk's page.



VISIT TOWN HALL

There are multiple reasons to visit Town Hall. Here are several:

- Apply for a utility account and sign up for online bill pay
- Obtain a resident parking permit and a resident ID
- Submit a library card reimbursement form
- Register for a free dog identification tag
- Apply for a building permit



TOWN HALL
9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154
305-861-4863
townofsurfsidefl.gov

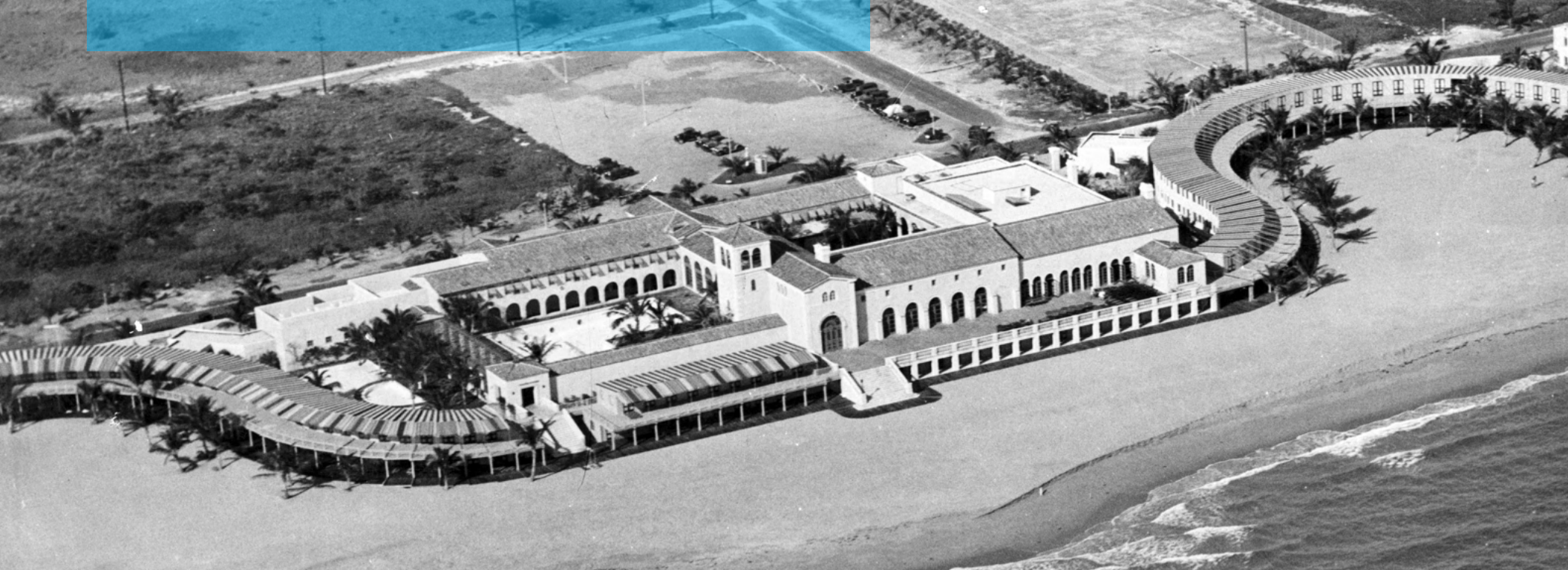
HOURS
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Holidays

Town Hall Closed

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr Day
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Day After Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day



HISTORY

The Town of Surfside was incorporated in 1935 by 35 members of the exclusive Surf Club, which was renowned for hosting glitterati events and major celebrities, including Frank Sinatra, Elizabeth Taylor, Dean Martin and Winston Churchill. At the time, there were only 50 residents and a few buildings.

Spearman Lewis, Surfside's first mayor, and the Commission envisioned a seaside town that incorporated resorts, residences and businesses, which is not so different from the Town today. Surfside made history in 1976 when it elected its first female mayor, Marion Portman, who was also the first female mayor in all of Miami-Dade County.

Surfside began emerging after World War II and by 1957 had outgrown its original Town Hall. The current Town Hall was renovated in 2001 and serves as a hub of public services, and includes the Town Commission chambers, the executive offices of the Town Manager, Town Clerk, Public Works Department, Building, Code Compliance, Finance, Human Resources and Police Department.

In 1962, the Town built its first oceanfront Community Center at 93rd Street which was later replaced by a world-class recreation facility in 2011. For the enjoyment of all Surfside residents, the Community Center boasts a multipurpose room, green space and butterfly garden, children's activity pool, pool with lap lanes, jacuzzi, and concession stand.

Community and recreational facilities also include the Tennis Center, 96th Street Park, Hawthorne Tot Lot, Paws Up Dog Park, Veterans Park and Community Garden. A popular summer camp program initiated over 35 years ago still operates today.

Today, our oceanfront community encompasses the area from 87th Terrace to 96th Street, between the City of Miami Beach to the south and the Village of Bal Harbour to the north. Surfside's charm is its walkability--making it easy to stay fit and live more sustainably. You can find everything in our downtown district with grocery shops, clothing stores and health and beauty options, all within a friendly walking distance.

Surfside has been home to notable authors and songwriters. Its most famous literary resident was Isaac Bashevis Singer, the renowned Yiddish poet and writer who received the 1978 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Coincidentally, Surfside's streets west of Harding Avenue are named after famous literary figures, including Edwin A. Abbott, Lord Byron, Charles Dickens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Richard Hurrell Froude, Hamlin Garland, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Washington Irving.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Get moving and get to know your neighbors through ongoing programming and events hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Various social, physical fitness and cultural engagements help support the Parks and Recreation Department's commitment to bring neighbors together.

In the heart of Surfside is the oceanfront Community Center, a hub of exciting activity. Swim laps, splash around with the family in the children's activity pool, relax in the jacuzzi and enjoy savory and sweet treats from the snack bar. Resident ID cards are required to enter the Community Center.

Additionally, the Community Center offers health and wellness classes, sports, after-school programs and camps for kids and teens and regularly holds activities for senior citizens. To the east of the center, an open green space is the perfect setting for party rentals and community events.

The Parks & Recreation Department also oversees the following:

- **96TH STREET PARK** - The Town's signature parks boasts a brand new two-story recreational building with multipurpose space for programming, camps, aftercare and special event rental space. The park also includes a kayak launch, a multi-purpose field for athletic sports and special events, a custom-designed playground, basketball courts, a handball/tennis wall and more. (Location: 9572 Bay Drive; open daily from dawn to dusk) - *Currently under renovation.*
- **HAWTHORNE TOT LOT** - This ideal play area for children six (6) and under was custom redesigned in 2023 by the award-winning FRPA Gold Member team of Dominica Recreation/Gametime. It features a sand pit, two large play apparatuses, swings, picnic tables, and benches. (Location: Intersection of 90th Street and Bay Drive; open daily from dawn to dusk)
- **PAWS UP DOG PARK** - The perfect spot for your furry friend. (Location: Corner of Byron Avenue and 93rd Street; open daily from dawn to dusk)
- **VETERANS PARK AND TENNIS CENTER** - Offering three lighted courts for recreational and instructional play. In addition, the park area serves as a pleasant public space where annual events are held for Veterans Day and Memorial Day. (Location: 8750 Collins Avenue; open daily from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.)

Are you a runner? You will find a walking/jogging path flanked by a pristine beach right behind the Community Center.



**PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMUNITY CENTER**
9301 Collins Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154
305-866-3635

BEACH CLUB CHAIR SERVICE

Park and Recreation Department offers beach chair service at 93rd Street behind the Community Center.

Spearheaded by the Town Commission, the beach chair service is complimentary and exclusive to actively registered Surfside residents only. This service is not available to visitors staying in Surfside hotels. To request a chair, residents must present a valid Surfside ID card.

Please be sure to have your resident ID card up to date to request the needed wristbands at the Community Center front desk prior to heading to the beach.

For more information, please contact the Community Center.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW
PROGRAMS PROVIDED BY
PARKS AND RECREATION.

RESIDENT SAFETY

The Surfside Police Department is committed to public service and ensuring the safety of residents, business owners and visitors. The Surfside Police Department is State Accredited through the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation, Inc. For important safety notifications, be sure to sign up for AlertSurfside on the Town website or text “Surfside” to 888-777 to be automatically registered for Town notifications.

GET TO KNOW US

ENJOY COFFEE WITH THE COPS the third Thursday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Starbucks located at 9560 Harding Avenue.

THE CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY is a free 11-week program offered each year from September to November to provide residents with a better understanding of police policies and procedures, responsibilities, personnel demands, and the laws that guide their decision making.

GOT A FURRY FRIEND? Pick up a free dog tag that will enable Surfside Police to contact the owners of lost dogs without calling Miami-Dade Animal Control. For more information, contact Dina Goldstein at 305-861-4862 or email dgoldstein@townofsurfsidefl.gov.



SURFSIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT
9293 Harding Avenue
Surfside, FL 33154
305-861-4862
Twitter @SurfsidePolice



FOR NON-EMERGENCIES, CALL 305.861.4862



SURFSIDE'S ONLINE CUSTOMER SELF SERVICE PERMITTING PORTAL



Taking care of business has never been easier, thanks to the fully digital Customer Self Service (CSS) Portal. Our online portal has user friendly features that allow residents to:

- Apply for permits
- View Inspections/Completed Inspections Status
- Pay for permits
- View permit status

To create an account and to see the full list of available permits, please visit the CSS page at townofsurfsidefl.gov.

BUILDING, CODE PLANNING & ZONING

Before planning to build or renovate your home or business, it is important to understand what building permits you might need and how to obtain them. The Town of Surfside's Building Department, Code Compliance Division and Planning and Zoning Division are here to guide you. Office hours run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the Town Hall lobby counter.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department provides a full range of services to both residents and the construction community with the goal of ensuring that buildings protect the health, safety and welfare of the people who live and work in the built environment. The responsibilities of the Building Department include the administration and enforcement of the Florida Building Codes by reviewing plans, issuing permits, performing field inspections, and issuing Certificates of Occupancy.

■ BUILDING DEPARTMENT 305-777-2184

CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION

The Code Compliance Division's mission is to fairly and consistently enforce the Town of Surfside Code of Ordinances. In addition, the Division strives to promote and protect the health, safety, welfare, and quality of life of residents and businesses of the Town by educating the community, enforcing applicable laws and municipal ordinances, and assisting affected parties to achieve compliance.

The Division responds to complaints and monitors residential areas, commercial districts, and the public beach for code violations. Common code violations include but are not limited to property maintenance standards, overgrown lots, unpermitted/illegal construction, sign regulations, beach furniture operations, and marine turtle lighting regulations.

■ CODE COMPLIANCE DIVISION 305-993-1063

PLANNING DIVISION

The Planning Division is responsible for reviewing all plans for new development or modifications to existing development. The Planning Division provides a number of services to the residents and commercial property owners of the Town to ensure compliance with the Town's codes.

■ PLANNING DIVISION 786-498-2110



PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department is responsible for the effective management and maintenance of the Town's roadways, infrastructure systems, and facilities, as well as the management and supervision of the solid waste collection operation and the storm water and water/sewer utilities. The department also responds to and assists other Town departments in emergencies and instances of severe weather preparation and recovery.



TRASH & RECYCLING

Cleanliness and sanitation is top priority in the Town of Surfside. For a list of items that may or may not be recycled, visit the Public Works Department page on the Town website. A waste collection schedule is provided below. Be sure to refer to the Town website for schedule changes around specific holidays.

GARBAGE PICKUP - Monday-Friday (except holidays) **Dates subject to change. Please refer to the Town's website for changes**

RECYCLING - Thursday

YARD WASTE - Monday

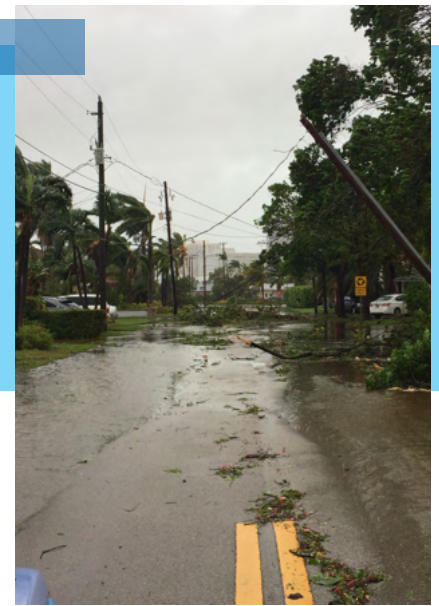
RESIDENTIAL BULK TRASH* - Wednesday

STREET SWEEPING - Schedule is found on the website; residents are reminded to park in driveways during street sweeping days.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION - Once a year in May, the Town collects hazardous waste materials. Please call Town Hall at 305.861.4863 for our schedule and more information.

**Condos and multi-family households must schedule bulk trash collection by calling 305.861.4863*

SCAN THE QR CODE TO VIEW THE SOLID WASTE PICK-UP CALENDAR AND TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TRASH AND RECYCLING >



HURRICANES & FLOODING

As a coastal community, Surfside is vulnerable to storm surge, King Tides and flooding during severe weather events. That is why the Town has put several measures and procedures in place to guide residents through hurricane preparations and evacuation procedures, if necessary.

Sign-up for AlertSurfside on the Town website to receive updates during an emergency and visit townofsurfsidefl.gov to view all the resources available.

Prior to a hurricane, residents who need skilled nursing care, assistance with daily living or have life-saving medical equipment dependent on electricity can register with Miami-Dade County's Emergency & Evacuation Assistance Program to ensure help is available. To learn more, search the Miami-Dade County website or call the Surfside Police Department at 305-861-4862.



TOURISM

Surfside's Tourist Bureau, aka Visit Surfside, promotes the Town as a destination including its hotels, shops and restaurants thanks to funding by the the Resort Tax Board. The Board also sponsors a high number of special events throughout the year, ensuring there's always something happening in Town. Visit @visitsurfside on social media to learn more.

Surfside is granted by the State of Florida to charge a Resort Tax of four percent (4%) on accommodations and two percent (2%) on food and beverage sales as a source of revenue. Resort tax revenue has yielded a number of positive benefits and projects for the Town of Surfside. For instance, a total of 66% of resort tax revenues is invested back into the operation of the Community Center, which is fully funded by this money, thus lessening the tax burden on residents.



EVENT SERIES

THIRD THURSDAYS
Winter-Spring

HISTORICAL WALKING TOURS
Winter-Spring

PADDLETOPIA
Spring or Fall

SUMMER SUNDAYS
Summer

MUSIC ON THE BEACH
Year round

**Events are subject to change*



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

-  @VisitSurfside
-  @SurfsideFlorida
-  @SurfsidePolice
-  @TownOfSurfside

ART IN SURFSIDE

KÉ SURFSIDE'S MOTHER TURTLE

Surfside's newest curated turtle sculpture, Ké, commemorates Surfside's first inhabitants, the Tequesta Indian tribe, and celebrates the environment. Ké, the middle syllable of the word Tekésta (Native American spelling), refers to planet Earth as turtles also represented "Grandmother Earth" in their culture.

The sculpture was designed by Aylin Chaparro in partnership with the Miami International University of Art & Design and funded and approved by members of the March 2020 - March 2022 Surfside Tourist Board.

Visit Ké at the beach entrance at 95th Street!

To learn more about this project and Surfside's Tequesta history, visit SurfsideKe.com.



INCONTRO DI LUCE SCULPTURE can be found at 94th Street Beach Entrance. This statuesque marble sculpture (Find Your Light) by artist Pablo Atchugarry is an elegant reminder to enjoy the Surfside sunshine.

TURTLE WALK, public art sculptures along 93rd Street, help to bring awareness to the Town's beloved loggerhead sea turtles. Each turtle sculpture design was custom created by a local artist. Nesting season takes place from May to October each year in Surfside. If living by the ocean, residents are reminded to dim their lights at night during nesting season.



HARDING AVENUE BUSINESS DISTRICT



Surfside's business district on Harding Avenue and 94th and 95th Streets is the Town's bustling commercial corridor. The fully walkable "downtown" features a myriad of shops and restaurants ensuring you won't have to venture far to stock up at home, take care of errands, shop for a special occasion, or enjoy a night out with your family. Downtown includes grocery stores like Publix and The Grove (k), pharmacies like CVS, veterinary services, barbershops and salons as well as major banks like Citi and Chase. UPS and USPS are also conveniently located and offer mail and shipping services within Town.

Surfside might be a small Town, but not when it comes to culinary scenes. The two-block business district features more than 20 restaurants, kosher and non-kosher, of all cuisine types and price points, ensuring you'll find something for everyone.

If shopping is more your pleasure, Harding Avenue is lined with unique finds including mom & pop shops and chic boutiques. From dapper dads to resort wear, toy shops and everything in between.

Learn more about Surfside's shops and restaurants:

Website Listings >



Destination Guide >



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Take advantage of free car service in Surfside and to surrounding areas, including Bal Harbour and Bay Harbor Islands.

Visit the Town website at townofsurfsidefl.gov/freebee for the latest information on service routes and accessibility. To start, make sure to download the Freebee App on your smartphone or call 855-918-3733.



A GREENER WAY TO GET AROUND

In 2024, Surfside welcomed Freebee, an innovative and eco-friendly ridesharing service. Here's what you can look forward to:

Free Rides: Say goodbye to transportation costs within our service area – all rides are absolutely free for all users.

Zero Emissions: Freebee operates using 100 percent electric vehicles, actively promoting clean energy and reducing carbon emissions, thus contributing to a healthier environment.

Door-to-Door Convenience: Freebee offers door-to-door service, making your commute more convenient and hassle-free.

Reduced Traffic Congestion: By choosing Freebee, you'll help minimize single-occupancy vehicle use, which in turn reduces traffic congestion and frees up limited parking availability.



PLACES OF WORSHIP

Surfside is home to a number of religious institutions within walking distance.

CASA DE JESUS / CENTRO INTERNACIONAL DE ALABANZA
228 89th St
305-864-9283
casachurch.app

HECHAL SHALOM SEPHARDIC CONGREGATION OF SURFSIDE
310 95th St, 2nd Floor
305-867-6024
hechalshalom.org

MAGEN DAVID SYNAGOGUE
9348 Harding Ave
305-520-9348
magendavidcongregation.com

THE SHUL
9540 Collins Ave
305-868-1411
theshul.org

YOUNG ISRAEL CONGREGATION
9580 Abbott Ave
305-866-0203
yicbh.org

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH
8670 Byron Ave
305-866-6567
stjosephmiamibeach.com



SCHOOLS

Kids and teens can attend a variety of nearby public, charter and private schools.

Public Schools in the area include:

- Ruth K. Broad Bay Harbor K-8 Center (305-865-7912)
- Miami Beach Senior High School (305-532-4515)

For more information on Miami-Dade County Public Schools, visit dadeschools.net.

STAY INFORMED/GET INVOLVED

Be in-the-know about special town initiatives, community activities, adopted resolutions and more.

- **VISIT** the mobile-friendly Town website at townofsurfsidefl.gov
- **SUBSCRIBE** to receive Town Notifications, including emergency and traffic alerts, events, news and more via the Town website
- **SIGN UP** for AlertSurfside via the Town website or text "Surfside" to 888-777
- **RECEIVE** the monthly Town of Surfside Gazette in the mail each month
- **VISIT** the Support Local page on the Town website to learn about businesses in Surfside and view special offers
- **WATCH** TV Channel 663 on Atlantic Broadband
- **CONNECT** with the Town of Surfside and your neighbors on the Nextdoor social media website
- **JOIN** a Town board or committee
- **FOLLOW** @SurfsideFlorida on Instagram and @TownofSurfside on Facebook



REPORT A PROBLEM

Download the free SeeClickFix app to report conditions that need to be addressed by Town Administration, such as graffiti or a pothole in your neighborhood. SeeClickFix allows residents to use descriptions, photos and videos to instantly report the problem. For emergencies, contact 911.



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

TOWN HALL
305-861-4863

PARKS & RECREATION / TENNIS COURTS
305-866-3635

TOURIST BUREAU
305-722-7578

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY
305-861-4862

FIRE RESCUE
305-861-1115

EMERGENCY
911

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY CONTACT CENTER
311

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
TownOfSurfsideFL.gov

Check out
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
with the Town of Surfside and sign up
to receive employment notices
at TownofSurfsideFL.gov.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.townofsurfsidefl.gov