



SAILING

Surfside  
FLORIDA

# INTERNAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2023

## Celebrating Our Hardworking Team

Achievements

Birthdays

Work Anniversaries

Pin Ceremonies

New Hires

Town of Surfside



### Important Announcements

Active Shooter / Hurricane  
Season Presentation,  
Health & Wellness Fair,  
Employee & Family  
Appreciation Day!



### Team Building

Ice Cream Social  
Earth Month Mural  
Appreciation Breakfast  
Admin. Day Luncheon  
Pet Picture Corner

## A LOOK INSIDE



# Important Announcements

## EMPLOYEE & FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY



Please join us and your loved ones for an enjoyable afternoon filled with games, fun and great company. You and your immediate family will receive complimentary unlimited video game play, a \$20 power card, food and soft drinks.

**FOOD | DRINK | MUSIC | GAMES**

**SUNDAY | JUNE 11 | 2-5 PM**  
Dave & Buster's Hollywood  
3000 Oakwood Blvd, Hollywood, FL 33020

**RSVP REQUIRED BY JUNE 7**  
EMAIL YAMI TOTAL NUMBER OF GUESTS  
yslate-mccloud@townofsursidefl.gov



## STAFF HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR



Thursday, June 8  
10:30 am - 2:30 pm  
Commission Chambers

At our health fair, you'll have the opportunity to:

- ✓ Learn about healthy eating habits
- ✓ Participate in fitness activities
- ✓ Discover new ways to improve you
- ✓ Get free health screenings, Health Discounts, Giveaways, Door Prizes & more!

Please secure your biometrics screening time via:



my.questforhealth.com

- REG KEY: SURFSIDE2022
- UNIQUE ID: SSN & DOB

SCAN ME



## Active Shooter / Hurricane Season Presentation

The Town's Police Department will be hosting an Active Shooter, How to Respond and Hurricane Season Presentation training for all civilian employees.

The training is a two (2) hour training and will be held in the Chambers as follows:

- June 6th – 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- June 7th – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

All Town employees (except Police Officers) are required to attend one (1) of the sessions.

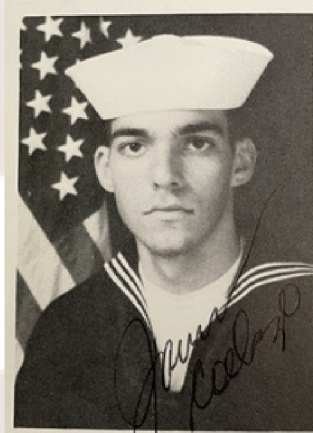
# Honoring Our Veterans



Surfside, a Town known for its unwavering community spirit and commitment to honoring our heroes, takes great pride in recognizing and celebrating our dedicated veterans who have chosen to serve once again, this time in service to our Town. We extend our heartfelt appreciation and deepest gratitude to these remarkable individuals. With their unwavering dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to excellence, our veteran employees bring a wealth of experience, discipline, and unparalleled work ethic to every task they undertake. Their selfless sacrifices in the defense of our nation have shaped them into extraordinary leaders and teammates, enriching the fabric of our Town with their remarkable skills and expertise. We honor these veterans for their remarkable service and extend our sincerest thanks for their continued contributions to making Surfside a better place for all.



Antonio Marciante member of the U.S. Coast Guard from May 9, 1987, until May 4, 1994 (Honorable Discharge).



Javier Collazo, US Navy.



Juan R. Duran, the rank of Sargent in the United States Marine Corps, 8 years of service.



John Nelson, US Army, 11 years.



## Hector Gomez Named New Town Manager



Surfside's Town Commission unanimously selected Public Works Director Hector Gomez as the Town of Surfside's new Town Manger on April 17, 2023.

### What do you want the community to know about you?

I joined the Surfside family seven years ago. My goal was always to stay here for as long as I could serve this community. With Surfside being a small Town, one has to wear many hats which fits well with my personality and fast-paced character. I am privileged and delighted to continue serving this community in my new role and I'm here for you if I can be of service.

# Work Anniversaries: June to August

We thank you for your commitment to excellence



## New Hires

Let's give a warm welcome to the new talent joining the Surfside family



Jhon Escobar  
Refuse Collector



Katarzyna Jagielska  
PT Recreation Leader I



Matteo Morais  
PT Lifeguard



Chrishawn Nicholson  
PT Recreation Leader I



Magalys Quintero  
F/T Custodian P&R



Clara Riveron  
Building Permit Clerk III



Nyrva Chavannes  
Code Compliance Officer



Hilda Rodriguez Lozano  
PT Lifeguard

# Celebrating Accomplishments



Administrative Professionals Day (4/26) was celebrated with a delicious lunch gathering in the Commission Chambers. Little Havana was the restaurant of choice, the team enjoyed delicious Cuban food.



The team come together for a heartfelt lunch in the Police Training Room on April 28th to say farewell to Idialis Chaparro. All enjoyed a delicious Domino's pizza while sharing well-wishes.



Congratulations to the following Parks employees for recently obtaining their Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certification; Andres Sassi, Barbara Vasallo and Marlon Revolta. These are all full-time lifeguards. The Aquatic Facility Operator (AFO) certification provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date training on operations, mechanical systems, water chemistry, disinfection, safety and much more. All our full-time aquatic staff now has this certification which will ensure that our pools are always running at optimal condition.



Town celebrated Public Safety Telecommunications Operators. The Town administration and Chief presented Susie Sperbeck with a heartfelt Thank You. There was additional presentations for the other 2 communications operator staff.



Dina Goldstein was presented with the Civilian of the Month. Dina received a gift card and many thanks for her continued dedication and commitment to the Town.

## Surfside Beach Hard Path Fitness Trail



Cheers to the Parks Team for the addition of a brand new Beach Fitness Trail! Our esteemed staff is welcome to enjoy it during their leisure time. This invigorating trail, nestled in the hard-pack area, offers a perfect blend of exercise and relaxation, providing a rejuvenating experience for all.

# Celebrating Accomplishments



Congratulations to the Tourism & Communications team Frank, Luiza and Cindy for successfully arranging the following 21 events this season (so far): 5 Surfside Under the Stars monthly event series, 5 Third Thursdays monthly event series, 7 Music on the Beach events, 2-day Paddletopia, Surfside Car Show, Plastic Fishing Festival and many, many more to come!



The Public Works Department's dedicated Staff plays a direct supporting role in the accomplishments of the Town of Surfside's major projects.



Maintenance Worker Carlos Duarte performing power washing and window cleaning activities at Town Hall.



Refuse Collectors Derrick Scott and Jean Cerene performing Solid Waste Services.



Water & Sewer Supervisor Kenny Chaviano operates the combination back loader and Maintenance Supervisor Josvani Iglesias guides excavation efforts at the 96th Street Beach End Shower.



Water & Sewer Maintenance Workers Wayne Taylor and Curtan Turner supervising Vactor truck activities at the 94th Street Pump Station.

# Celebrating Accomplishments



Maintenance Workers Carlos Duarte and Gustavo Gonzales constructed the new Tot Lot dedication memorial wall; Operations Manager Felix Alvarez and Maintenance Supervisor Josvani Iglesias provided expert construction guidance and oversight during the duration of the Tot Lot Improvement Project.



Water & Sewer Maintenance Worker Curtan Turner blocking off a tripping hazard in Downtown.



Solid Waste Supervisor Silace Petitcar performing a commercial container inspection.



Water & Sewer Maintenance Worker Curtan Turner repairing a backyard residential waterline.



Public Works Director Randy Stokes performing a drainage Inspection at the 96th Street Park Project.



Water & Sewer Maintenance Worker Wayne Turner conducting meter replacement training to a new employee.

## Pin Ceremony



Josue "JC" Castro, Parking Enforcement Officer, 10 years



Dina Goldstein, Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police, 15 years



Marisol Vargas, Building Department Supervisor, 20 years

# 20 Years of Dedication: Marisol Vargas's Remarkable Journey in Surfside



**Sailing Surfside: What initially drew you to work for the Town of Surfside, and how has the community evolved over the course of your 20-year tenure?**

**Marisol Vargas:** I am proud to be part of the Surfside Family. I read an interview with the Town Manager about 20 years ago and I was so impressed with his commitment to diversity in hiring! I was a member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee at my college and it's important to me to work for a company that shares my values. Over the past few decades, technological, social, cultural, and economic changes have revolutionized the structure of our Town of Surfside community. Our Town of Surfside community has evolved tremendously from offering the best pension plan to hosting spreading kindness, creating a social media portal, creating a safer neighborhood, a beautiful beach path and street ends, events for neighbors, a new community center, sand renourishment, a dog park, a complete remodel of our Building Department/Front lobby, established several new department & committees to have a better functionality to serve our Town Residents efficiently.

**SS: As someone who has likely seen a lot of changes and challenges in your role, what do you consider to be one of the biggest accomplishments or achievements during your time at the Town of Surfside?**

**MV:** In the Town of Surfside, I have seen lots of changes. I worked with 10 Town Managers and 10 Town Commissions. My biggest accomplishment while working full-time has been obtaining my Master of Public Administration, my BAS Supervision and Management with a concentration in Finance & C.C.C. Business Specialist in Human Resources, volunteering at many events, assisting over 4 departments reached their vision, creating a digital signature in the Accounts Payables/Payroll checks for the Finance Department, mentoring coworkers. The biggest achievements have been many but, to mention one, as a new member of the Building Department has been the transformation and re-organization of the entire Department, concluding all outside storage units and preparing all documents for digitalization to better assist the residents of the Town.



**SS: With the benefit of hindsight, what advice would you give to someone who is just starting out in a role within the Town of Surfside?**

**MV:** Think of yourself as a lifelong learner, continue to learn no matter what stage of your career you are in. Cultivate perseverance so that you can reach your career goals and become a top performer. Work harder than those around you, cultivate habits that can contribute to your performance and put in more time and effort than those around you. Doing so will show your dedication and result in respect from your peers and leaders. Be a team player, countless great things can be accomplished by working well with your teammates and often it is essential for the success of a Town.



**SS: What motivated you to remain in the Town of Surfside for 20 years, and what factors have contributed to your longevity here?**

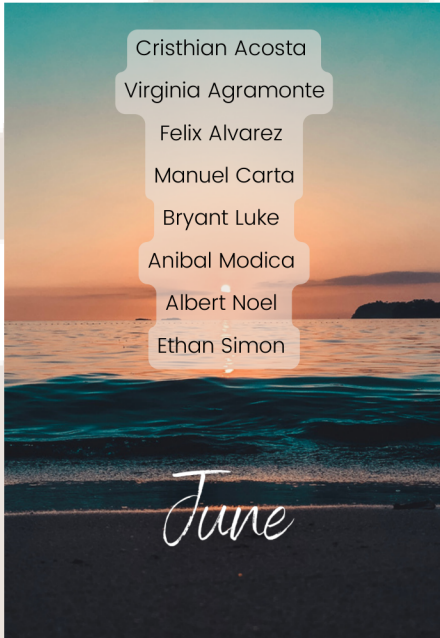
**MV:** Seniority, leadership opportunities, stability, retirement funds, increased benefits, dependability, self-Improvement, Career Growth Opportunities and the great people I have worked with. Factors that have contributed to my longevity at the Town of Surfside are Work-life balance, Healthcare benefits and Retirement benefits.





# SURFSIDE WISHES HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To all of our summer birthdays



Cristhian Acosta  
Virginia Agramonte  
Felix Alvarez  
Manuel Carta  
Bryant Luke  
Anibal Modica  
Albert Noel  
Ethan Simon



Tamara Capote Guanche  
Roberto Conde  
Carlos Duarte  
Ulisesfernandez  
Marianne Howard  
Alejandro Lorente  
Cherlandy Marcelin  
Irina Mocanu  
Alan Portaluppi  
Jill Smith  
Julio Torres  
Barbara Vasallo



Jose Acevedo  
Loxley Arch III  
Dianna Hernandez  
Pedro Hernandez  
Gigette Huings  
Timothy Milian  
Eddy Pando Fernandez  
Misael Rodriguez  
Derick Scott  
Frank Trigueros

## U.S. Southern Command Recruiting

The Town proudly participated in a Veterans Career Fair held at the U.S. Southern Command. This event aimed to honor and support our nation's veterans by providing them with valuable career opportunities. Representatives from our Town joined forces with other organizations to showcase a wide range of employment prospects, resources, and support systems tailored specifically for veterans. The career fair served as a platform to connect veterans with potential employers who value their unique skill sets, experience, and dedication.



On Friday, May 19, David Alba led an informative and engaging training session titled "Business Writing with Performance Evaluation Emphasis" in the Chambers. The session took place from 10 am to 12 pm, providing participants with valuable insights and skills related to effective business writing techniques, with a specific focus on performance evaluation.



Sailing Surfside

# TEAM BUILDING AND EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES



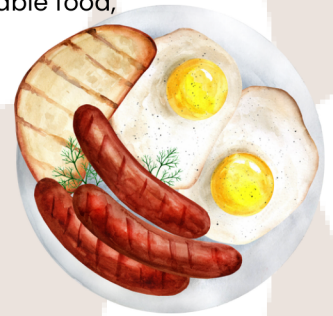
## Ice Cream Socials

The team joyfully assembled twice, on both March 3rd and May 18, to indulge in delightful Ice Cream Socials. Notably, the gathering on May 18 was dedicated to commemorating the Town's 88th anniversary, adding an extra layer of celebration to the occasion.



## Staff Appreciation Breakfast

On April 26, 2023, the team relished a delightful Staff Appreciation Breakfast. The scrumptious spread, expertly prepared by Town Retiree Hector Perez, added a delightful touch to the occasion. There was an abundance of delectable food, refreshing beverages, delectable treats, and shared laughter.



## Earth Month Mural

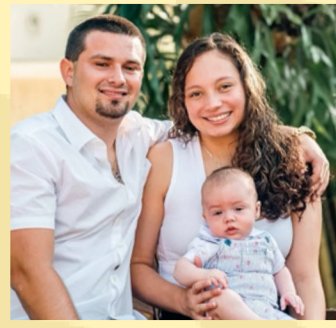
In celebration of Earth Month in April, our esteemed Town employees united their talents to unveil a captivating mural, infusing our Town Hall hallway with an exuberant and vivid artistic expression.



# Celebrating Life Milestones



On February 17, 2023, at 2:42 p.m., Arianna Gladys Pequeño, the granddaughter of Deputy Town Clerk Evelyn Herbello, came into the world. She weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz. and measured 19 1/2 inches in length.



Alex Villeda, Recreation Leader II, welcomed his firstborn Luca Alexander Villeda-Villagran born Jan. 30, 23 at 12 noon, he weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz.



Town Manager Hector Gomez welcomed Alma Gomez into the world on October 26, 2022, at 1 a.m. She weighed a healthy 8 lbs.



The Public Works Department Director Randy Stokes recently celebrated his daughter, Mikala, college graduation from Michigan State University.



John Nelson, Assistant Director of the Public Works Department, welcomed Jett Boone Nelson on September 11, 2022 at 4 a.m.

# Crossing The Finish Line

Congratulations to Parks & Rec.'s Marianella L. Marciano, Carlos Agon and Michel Hernandez for their successful participation in the Panama City Beach 2023 IRONMAN 70.3 Gulf Coast on May 13.



# Koko's Pet Corner



## Sister, sisters!

Brandy and Stella are American Bulldog sisters from the same litter and were born on September 2, 2017 (5 years old). Even though they are sisters, they are very different. Stella (White with brown spots) is playful, mischievous in a good and happy way, and has a mind on her own. Brandy (Brindle) is more serious, obedient, but very loving as well. Stella & Brandy are the fur daughters of Sandra and James McCreedy. They bring a bit of chaos, joy and much happiness into our home.

# Stay tuned

## SAILING SURFSIDE

Sailing Surfside, the internal employee newsletter for The Town of Surfside is published quarterly on the first week of the season.

- Fall Edition – September 1st
- Winter Edition – December 1st
- Spring Edition – March 1st
- Summer Edition – June 1st



Code Compliance Director Carmen Santos-Alborná had the privilege of witnessing a nesting sea turtle emerging from the ocean right here on Surfside's beach in May.

If you'd like to recognize a team member, shout out a colleague, or feature any other relevant information in our next publication please contact Cindy Reyes at creyes@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Thank you