

SAILING

Surfside
FLORIDA

INTERNAL EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Winter 2023

Celebrating Our Hardworking Team

Achievements

Birthdays

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Town of Surfside



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Important Announcements

Town Retirement Plan Wins Award



The Town's Retirement Plan for the seventh year in a row, was awarded the Public Pension Coordinating Council Award – Public Pension Standards Award For Funding and Administration.

A little background regarding the Public Pension Coordinating Council (PPCC) and award:

The Public Pension Coordinating Council is a coalition of three national associations that represent public retirement systems and administrators. They are the National Association of Retirement administrators (NASRA), the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) and the National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems (NCPERS). Together they represent more than 500 of the largest pension plans in the U.S.A. serving most of the nation's 18+ million state and local government employees.

The PPCC establishes minimum standards for public retirement systems. These include administration, management and funding.

The Standards are separated into and Administrative Standard and Funding Standard. A retirement system may qualify and receive a recognition certificate for either the Administrative or Funding Standard. A retirement system that qualifies for both certificates is awarded the Public Pension Coordinating Council Award; demonstrating a high level of plan design, funding, member communication and administrative practices. You may visit NASRA's webpage for additional information.

This award would not have been possible without the support of our Elected Officials, Town Administration and the stewardship, professionalism, and dedication of our Pension Board and consultants.

2024 Observed Holidays

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • New Year's Day | January 1 (Monday) |
| • Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | January 15 (Monday) |
| • Presidents' Day | February 19 (Monday) |
| • Memorial Day | May 27 (Monday) |
| • Juneteenth | June 19 (Wednesday) |
| • Independence Day | July 4 (Thursday) |
| • Labor Day | September 2 (Monday) |
| • Veterans Day | November 11 (Monday) |
| • Thanksgiving Day and Day | November 28-29 (Thursday/Friday) |
| • After Christmas Day | December 25 (Wednesday) |

Reminders

- Personal days must be used by Dec. 31. Unused personal days will be lost as there is no carryover of personal days.
- You can only carry over a max. of 300 vacation hours from one year to the other i.e. Dec.-Jan.
- Remember to submit manual payments for health services refunds through Sept. 30 by Dec. 31. If you miss the deadline you will have to pay with your own funds.

Pink October



Town employees proudly wear pink shirts every Friday in October, uniting in a visual display of support for breast cancer awareness. This vibrant tradition not only adds a splash of color to the community but also underscores their collective commitment to promoting awareness and solidarity in the fight against breast cancer.



Chief John Healy's Retirement

After years of dedicated service, Chief John Healy bids farewell to a distinguished career in Surfside. His retirement marks the end of an era, characterized by leadership, integrity, and a steadfast commitment to the community's safety. As we express our gratitude for his contributions, Chief Healy leaves behind a lasting legacy that has left an indelible impact on the Town.



— HAPPY —
Retirement



Work Anniversaries: December to February

We thank you for your commitment to excellence



New Hires

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



LaToya Garland
Public Works Coordinator



David Gaspart
Parking Enforcement Officer



Claude Jean
Refuse Collector



Guillermo Osorio
CDL & Heavy Equipment Operator



Henry Popoteur
Community Service Aide
Tourism



Emmanuel Santana
Code Compliance Officer I



Shawn Walker
PT Recreation Leader I



Donald Laurent
Community Service Aide
Tourism



Lauren Felder
Customer Service
Representative Building

Celebrating Promotions



Assistant Chief Antonio Marciante will be serving in the capacity of Interim Chief. Additionally, Dina Goldstein has been promoted to Senior Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police. Join us in congratulating them and extending a heartfelt support in their ventures!



#DONE 🇺🇸

On Thursday, Nov. 16, Detective Diana Leon was officially promoted to Sargeant. Family, friends and staff from Surfside and beyond gathered in the Commission Chambers for the promotion ceremony. First hired in 2011, Sargeant Leon has been an integral part of the Police Department playing pivotal roles during the Champlain Towers South building collapse and for her painstaking work with criminal investigations. Congratulations, Sargeant! Way to go.



Service Pin Ceremony



Darlene Martinat, Finance, 25 years



Micah Smith, Police, 20 years



Jay Matelis, Police, 15 years



Bernardo Cordova, Solid Waste, 15 years



Irina Mocanu, Executive, 10 years



Aníbal Modica, Parks & Rec, 5 years



Celebrating Accomplishments



The Public Works department hosted an appreciation barbecue on Nov. 22, acknowledging the efforts and contributions of its team members.



Congratulations to Frank, Luiza, and Cindy from the Tourism & Communications team for their exceptional coordination of Tourist Board events, creating unforgettable experiences, including the standout Surfside Seaside Soiree beach celebration, making this summer and fall exceptionally noteworthy.



Surfside resident James McGuinness, who serves as Building Official, took part in the Nov. 7, 2023 special election for the Town, demonstrating civic responsibility and leadership by ensuring his participation in the event. His involvement serves as a forthright example for others in the community.



Surfside police officers recently attended a Stop the Bleed training, focusing on wound packing and tourniquet application. The session equipped them with essential skills to address traumatic injuries and control bleeding effectively. This initiative underscores the commitment of Surfside's law enforcement to enhance their capabilities in emergency medical response, further ensuring the safety and well-being of the community. The hands-on training provided valuable insights and practical knowledge, empowering officers to act swiftly and decisively in critical situations.

SURFSIDE WISHES HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To all of our Winter Season birthdays



- Jorge Cortes
- Mayte Gamiotea
- Tanya Friedman
- Rony Jean
- Jean Guerrier
- Jan Perez
- Josue Castro
- Ronald Donoso
- William Perez
- Diana Leon
- Shawn Walker
- Micah Smith

December

- Yamileth Slate-McCloud
- Jose Feliz
- Mauro Avila Mesa
- Alberto Knight
- Josvani Iglesias
- Kenny Chaviano

January

- Carmen Santos-Alborna
- Candelario Martinez
- James McGuinness
- Tammy Campbell
- John Gentile
- Susie Sperbeck
- Damaris Montes De Oca
- Matteo Morais
- Fidel Martinez
- Jose Dardon

February

Behavior Management

Powerhouse Workshops conducted a Corporate Behavior Management Workshop on, Sept. 6.



Retirement Plan Presentation



Adam Levinson, the Town's retirement plan attorney, presented a one-hour session on Nov. 29 in the Chambers, covering essential topics such as plan background, retirement eligibility, pension calculations, payment options, DROP, and practical retirement tips, followed by a Q&A session.

Staff Appreciation: Smoothies and Massages

As a gesture of appreciation, the staff enjoyed a delightful session featuring refreshing smoothies and soothing massages. This thoughtful initiative aimed to recognize the hard work and dedication of the team.



Celebrating Accomplishments



County Commissioner Kionne McGhee recently honored Sgt. Cruz and her non-profit, Closet of Living Hope, with a Certificate of Appreciation, recognizing Cruz's unwavering dedication to assisting needy families and victims of domestic violence. This acknowledgment stands as a testament to her impactful contributions. Recently, in a heartwarming collaboration, Surfside Police partnered with Closet of Living Hope for the successful "Cram the Cruiser" charity event on Saturday, Nov. 18. Led by Interim Chief of Police Antonio Marciante, the initiative emphasized community values and compassion, directing clothing donations to Closet of Living Hope, which supports individuals facing hardship, including domestic violence victims. Simultaneously, non-perishable food items were allocated to a local domestic violence shelter.



In its 20th anniversary celebration, the Parks & Recreation team orchestrated an outstanding Spooky Spooktacular. The event, marked by its remarkable success, showcased the team's dedication and creativity. Attendees experienced an unforgettable celebration that exceeded previous years, making it a milestone to remember.



Surfside's Parks and Rec. Team at the FRPA Annual Conference

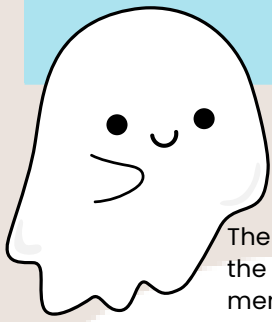
The Town of Surfside Parks and Recreation administrative staff recently embarked on a journey of professional growth at the annual Florida Recreation and Park Association (FRPA) educational conference. This conference has become the ultimate hub for park and recreation professionals across the Sunshine State. The event's allure lies in its diverse and enriching program, featuring an array of workshops and sessions meticulously designed to elevate the skill set of every participant. From aquatics to park administration, athletics to childcare, programming to park maintenance, the conference assembled an impressive lineup of presenters who shared their expertise and insights. Surfside's team returned home not only rejuvenated but also armed with fresh ideas and renewed motivation to make the community's parks and recreational spaces even more vibrant and inviting.

TEAM BUILDING AND EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES



Halloween

The staff embraced a vibrant and festive atmosphere in their Halloween celebrations, bringing a lively spirit to the occasion. The festivities were marked by creative costumes and a shared sense of enthusiasm, creating a memorable experience for all. Overall, the Halloween celebration was a spirited and enjoyable event for the staff.



Staff & Family Appreciation Day at Sparez Bowling

Bowling was a resounding success, bringing together team members and their loved ones for a day of fun and camaraderie. The bowling alley provided a lively backdrop for friendly competition and laughter, fostering a strong sense of unity among the staff and their families. The event was a memorable way to express appreciation, creating lasting connections and enjoyable moments for everyone involved.



Thanksgiving Lunch

The Staff Thanksgiving Lunch was a heartwarming occasion, bringing colleagues together to share a delicious meal and express gratitude.



TEAM BUILDING AND EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES



Ice Cream Social

On Sept. 29, the Ice Cream Social was a sweet success, with colleagues gathering for a delightful event filled with various ice cream flavors and toppings. Laughter and conversation flowed as everyone enjoyed their frozen treats, creating a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere.



Birthday Celebrations

Happy birthday wishes are in order for all celebrating fall birthdays, marking a season filled with joyous moments. The collective recognition of these birthdays brings a sense of festivity and warmth, uniting everyone in celebration. It's a time to extend best wishes and acknowledge the unique milestones of each individual born during this autumnal period.



Thanksgiving Lunch

The festive gathering fostered a sense of unity and appreciation among the staff, creating a memorable atmosphere of fellowship. The event provided a meaningful opportunity for reflection and thanks, enhancing the team spirit as we celebrated the holiday together.



Koko's Pet Corner



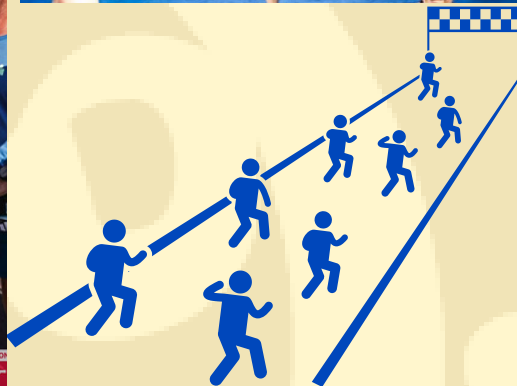
A Surfside Kitty Rescue

In a heartwarming turn of events, compassionate police officer Joshua Rosario discovered a lost kitten on 88th and Byron Ave. Showing incredible kindness, the officer brought the little furball to Town Hall, where the Communications team swiftly rallied the community to find the owner. When no one came forward, Dina Goldstein, with a heart full of care, ensured the kitten's journey took a joyful turn by securing a loving, adoptive family. Now named Dolly, the kitten has found a forever home, turning a chance encounter into a tale of warmth, community, and feline joy.

Crossing The Finish Line

Carmen Santos-Alborná, Code Compliance Director, showcased her resilience and determination at the Berlin Marathon on Sept. 24, 2023.

Successfully completing the challenging course, she demonstrated not only her commitment to fitness but also her personal dedication to overcoming obstacles.



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.

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

If you wish to acknowledge a fellow team member, extend commendation to a colleague, or include any pertinent details in our forthcoming publication, kindly get in touch with Cindy Reyes at creyes@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Thank you