



# Bay Harbor Islands

JANUARY 2021 + VOLUME 67 NUMBER 1

**NewsWaves**

## A Message from Mayor Bruder

April 6, 2021 Election  
- Page 2

Police Chief Diaz  
Takes Oath of Office  
- Page 2

Holiday Happenings  
- Page 3

New Programs and  
Classes for Residents  
- Page 4 & 5

Happy New Year Bay Harbor Islands!

When January arrives we usually find ourselves making resolutions and planning for the bright shiny new year ahead, while looking back fondly at memories of the previous year. Not this year. I don't know about you, but 2020 is one year that I would really like to forget. Still, we did accomplish much that is positive, despite being in the midst of nationwide political and social upheaval – and a pandemic, and for that I am truly thankful.

We have an incredible new Town Manager in Maria Lasday, who so totally committed herself to our community that she and her husband relocated here. We also have a supremely qualified and experienced new police chief in Raul Diaz, who was sworn in on December 14th and hit the ground running. Also brand new to our Bay Harbor Islands team is Financial Director, Peter Kajokas. To be able to find such talented professionals, in times such as these, is a clear indication of the appeal of this wonderful community we have here in Bay Harbor Islands.

So, I ask you to look forward with hope and positivity. Yes, these past nine and a half months, since our first positive case, have been rough. This was totally uncharted territory for all of us. But like all living beings must do to survive, we learned to adapt. I remember the first time I wore a mask, I felt like I was suffocating; now it's second nature. The first time I had to get tested – I was a wreck – now, it is just something we do. We wash our hands, we carry hand sanitizer and spare masks and we distance ourselves to stay safe. Now, I look forward to being able to be vaccinated.

In closing, I want to thank Town staff and my fellow council for putting in the extra hours this past year; for finding and coordinating resources for our residents, and advocating on all our behalf. Whether working from home or remotely, please know we have never stopped working to keep our community safe and thriving. I also want to thank those of you who have reached out to me with your thanks, support and concerns. Keeping an honest, open dialogue going is so important, especially now. Finally, I want to thank my husband Harry and my children for their undying love and support.

Yes, 2020 was hard on all of us. Let's make 2021 a year of positive change. I look forward to being able to be close and to hug and to being together, in person, as our little Town of Bay Harbor Islands again.



- *Stephanie*

# TOWN OF BAY HARBOR ISLANDS GENERAL ELECTION TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

The Bay Harbor Islands annual municipal election will take place on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021**. If you are not already properly registered to vote with a residential address in Bay Harbor Islands, you may obtain a registration form at Town Hall or at any state Driver's License office. Under state law, the books close to new registrations 29 days prior to the election (Monday, March 8th). If you already have a current Miami-Dade County voter's registration card with the proper address, you need not re-register. If you are not sure your registration is current, call Miami-Dade County Elections Department at (305) 499-8683 or email to [register@miamidade.gov](mailto:register@miamidade.gov)

For new voter registration, a resident must be at least 18 years of age and be a citizen of the United States. There is no minimum residency requirement for registration. Now you can register on-line if you visit the Miami Dade County Elections website, <http://www.miamidade.gov/elections/voter-registration.asp>. If you will be unable to go to the polls on the day of the Town election, vote-by-mail ballots may be requested by calling the Miami-Dade County Elections Department at (305) 499-8444, or on-line when you visit the county's elections website. Mail ballots must be returned no later than 7 p.m. of the day of the election.

Two seats on the Town Council will come up for vote in the April 6, 2021 General Election (Stephanie Bruder and Kelly Reid). If you wish to become a candidate for a Town Council seat, please contact the Office of the Town Clerk during regular business hours at Town Hall for more information at (305) 866-6241 or email [achang@bayharborislands-fl.gov](mailto:achang@bayharborislands-fl.gov) For more information you can also visit the Town's website at: [www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/234/Elections](http://www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/234/Elections)

## ELECTION QUALIFYING PERIOD

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| BEGINS:                  | THURSDAY, FEB, 25, 2021 AT 9 A.M.  |
| ENDS:                    | FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021 AT 5 P.M.  |
| CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MUST BE A REGISTERED VOTER</li> <li>• MUST BE A BAY HARBOR ISLANDS RESIDENT FOR AT LEAST 12 MONTHS</li> </ul> |

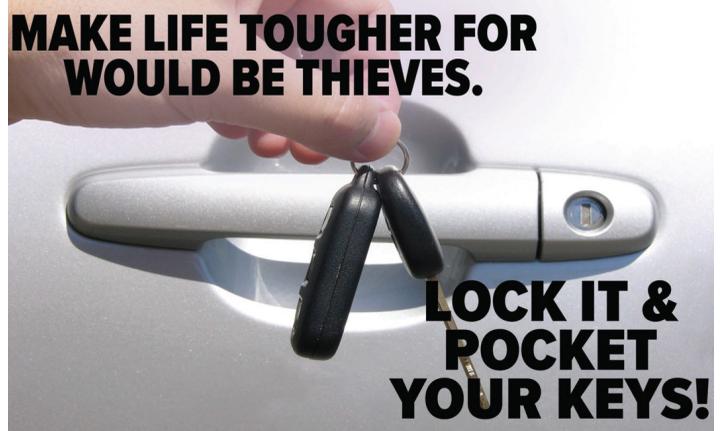


## Chief Raul Diaz Sworn-In

Raul M. Diaz, the new Chief of Police for Bay Harbor Islands, took the Oath of Office on December 14 at a ceremony in the 95th Street Park. The event was live streamed on the Town's social media.



(L-R) Chief Diaz, Town Manager Maria Lasday and Deputy Clerk Alba Chang



# Holiday Happenings in Bay Harbor Islands



The spirit of the holiday season was in full form at the Community Center on December 20, attracting children and families with visits to Santa in the day and an eye-popping light show in the night. For safety during the COVID-19 pandemic, Santa sat behind a Plexiglas shield while parents snapped photos. Many of the children dropped their lists of hoped-for gifts in Santa's North Pole mailbox. When the sun set, the decorative lights on 95th Street came alive as residents drove by and stopped for candy canes. Thanks go out to the Community Services and Police Departments, Police Explorers, crossing guards and Santa for making the day a success.



## Part-time Crossing Guards Needed

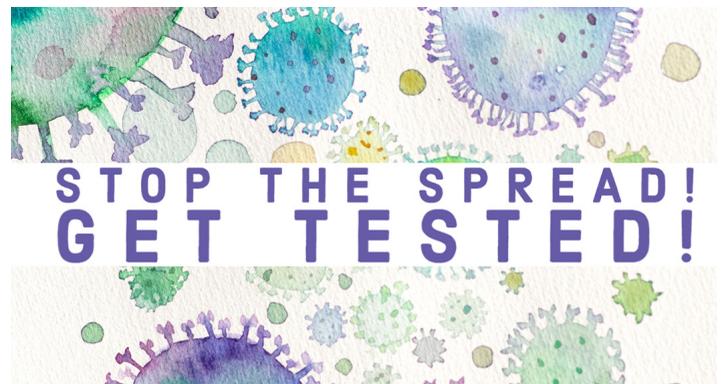
There are immediate openings for dedicated individuals to join our team. Serve the community by protecting the children and adults of Bay Harbor Islands as they walk to and from school and during special events.

For the complete details on this and other current job opportunities with the Town, or to download an application, go to [tinyurl.com/bhi-jobs](https://tinyurl.com/bhi-jobs)



## COVID-19 Testing from Miami-Dade

Free testing for COVID-19 is being offered at drive-up, walk-in and mobile sites by Miami-Dade County through NOMI Health. Visit the Miami-Dade County COVID-19 Testing Site Finder at [miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/testing-locations.page](https://miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/testing-locations.page) and enter your zip code, for available locations and appointment times.





# BAY HARBOR ISLANDS COMMUNITY SERVICES

REGISTER ONLINE at [tinyurl.com/bhi-cc-register](http://tinyurl.com/bhi-cc-register)

For more information, visit [www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/154/Community-Services](http://www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/154/Community-Services) or call the Morris N. Broad Community Center at (786) 646-9970



## YES!

We are still offering our free virtual classes!

Log in to the link below:

[tinyurl.com/bhi-fun](http://tinyurl.com/bhi-fun)

### SHOPPING SHUTTLE FOR RESIDENTS

Pick-up will be at 9:30 am at the Morris N. Broad Community Center on scheduled dates. Afterwards, residents will be dropped off at their homes. The free Shopping Shuttle is exclusively for Town of Bay Harbor residents. **Masks and social distancing on the bus are mandatory.** Registration is preferred but not required, please register for your trip via email to [cgorin@bayharborislands-fl.gov](mailto:cgorin@bayharborislands-fl.gov)

- Wednesday, January 6, 2021 to Costco
- Wednesday, January 20, 2021 to Whole Foods

### MONTHLY HEALTH LECTURES WITH AVENTURA HOSPITAL

Zoom in for our Health Education Lecture Series every third Thursday of each month. Topics such as nutrition, mental health, heart, first aid, and staying safe during the pandemic will be discussed.

This month's lecture is scheduled for January 21 at 2 p.m. For the Zoom link, please visit [tinyurl.com/bhi-fun](http://tinyurl.com/bhi-fun).



On Facebook?

**So are we!** Want to know what is happening now at the Community Center? Go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for us!

Search: BHI Community Services Department Community Events, Youth Athletic Highlights, and New Updates for what's happening at the Community Center.

### AFTERCARE PROGRAM (K TO 8TH GRADE)

*Our popular After School Program is back!*

Due to COVID-19, space is limited. The program is now open to Kindergarten through 8th grade students. Registration is available online only at [www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/278/After-School-Programs](http://www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/278/After-School-Programs)

### FUN DAY OFF ONE DAY CAMP

Fun Days Off are held every Miami-Dade County Teachers' Planning Day. From 8 a.m.–5 p.m. Children will enjoy a fun & safe day at the Community Center. Children will do sports, games and arts & crafts. Breakfast and Lunch not included. **Children must wear a facial covering/mask over their nose and mouth and their temperature will be checked daily.** Space is limited so please register today. Residents only \$40.

#### FUN DAY OFF DATES

- Friday, January 22, 2021
- Friday, March 26, 2021

### BOOK CLUB ON DECEMBER 9



Join the Book Club on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 7 p.m. through Zoom. They will discuss "This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger. The unforgettable story of four orphans who travel the Mississippi River on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. The zoom link for the Book Club is <https://zoom.us/j/93892007486>.

### FINANCIAL WELLNESS SEMINAR

Join Jonathan Macy, Financial Advisor with Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, on Tuesday, January 12 from 1–1:30 p.m. for a Financial Wellness Seminar. The seminars, on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, will include: Investing with Impact, Credit & Debit Management, Raising Money Savvy Kids, Understanding Social Security and Planning for Families with Special Needs Children. For the Zoom link go to [tinyurl.com/bhi-fun](http://tinyurl.com/bhi-fun)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

(786) 646-9970

# OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

STARTING JANUARY 2021

**REGISTER ONLINE at**  
[www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/154/Community-Services](http://www.bayharborislands-fl.gov/154/Community-Services)

A face covering/mask over their nose and mouth is required and body temperatures will be checked daily upon arrival.

## TOT AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

(12 MONTHS – 4 YEARS)

### Storytime at the Park

The first Friday at 10 a.m. at the 98th Street Park and third Fridays at 4 p.m. at the Tot Lot. Parents and children older than two must wear a mask and follow social distancing.

### Pee-Wee Soccer

At the 98th Street Park on Sundays for children, ages 12 months to five years. The 8-week session is \$95 for residents. Parents and children older than two must wear a mask and follow social distancing.

### Just You & Me Club

For parent and child ages 2-4. Parents and children older than two must wear a mask and follow social distancing. Wednesdays, 10 –10:50 a.m. Parents and children older than two must wear a mask and follow social distancing. The cost is \$60 for 8 weeks.

### Jiu-Jitsu/Boxing

Jiu-Jitsu is on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Boxing on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Must wear a mask and follow social distancing. Program is five days a week, 3:30–4:30 p.m. for January to March 2021. \$450.

## TEEN PROGRAMS

(AGES 14-17 YEARS)

### Instructional Basketball for Teens

For ages 14-17 on Saturdays 10 a.m. -12 p.m. from January to May 2021. \$425.

### Jiu-Jitsu/Boxing

Class rotations on Saturday & Sunday 2 – 4 p.m. from January to March 2021. \$490.

### Mentor Program for Middle School and Teens

On the third Saturday of the month from 5–6 p.m. Free.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### Tai Chi in the Park

Thursdays at 10 a.m. \$60 for 8 weeks.

### Yoga in the Park

Wednesdays at 10 a.m. The cost is \$60 for 8 weeks.

### Jiu-Jitsu/Boxing

Both classes will be weekly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 6–7 p.m. Each class is \$175 a month.

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

### Stretching/Self-Defense

Class will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Self-Defense/Cardio Boxing will be Tuesday and Thursday outside at 95th Street Park from 9:30 a.m.

## GET TO KNOW OUR OFFICERS

### Meet Officer Mark Klepser

Each month we will feature a different officer from our department.

Born and raised in Miami, Mark has law enforcement in his blood. His dad wore the shield for more than 30 years, working as a homicide detective with the county



Mark's father in 1967 with the Dade County Homicide Department.

before joining the force in Bal Harbour Village, where he retired as a Sergeant in 1996. Education was big in his family, too; Mark's mom taught for Miami-Dade County Public School system for 30 years. Officer Klepser earned his Business Administration degree before he going on to the Broward Police Academy and starting his police career with Indian Creek's Marine Patrol.



Officer Klepser leads the Honor Guard at a 9/11 ceremony.

In 1997, Mark joined our department and knew he had found a home. In addition to his regular policing duties, for 10 years, he was the primary member of BHI PD's Honor Guard, representing the Town at special events and proceedings throughout South Florida. Officer Klepser has also been called upon to put his talent for photography to work creating images and multimedia for the Police Department and the Town. His work behind the lens has been on national police websites, in training videos and featured on the Town's website and social media pages. Whether it be aerial photography, department photos, a hurricane preparedness video or a fun project like the filming of "The Running Man Challenge," Mark's flair for the visual arts truly shines.

Officer Klepser is most proud of his children, Jalen and Jenna, who both recently graduated from high school and are moving forward with their studies, one as a vet



and the other in the performing arts.

"Bay Harbor Islands is a very special place," said Officer Klepser. "Keep looking out for one another because that is part of what makes this such a great community. Know that I am proud to represent and serve all of you. I currently work the day shift; be sure to wave or say hello next time you see me."

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Stephanie Bruder<br><i>Mayor</i>            | Maria D. Lasday<br><i>Town Manager</i>      |
| Joshua D. Fuller<br><i>Vice Mayor</i>       | Marlene M. Siegel<br><i>Town Clerk</i>      |
| Jordan W. Leonard<br><i>Council Member</i>  | Frank Simone<br><i>Town Attorney</i>        |
| Kelly Reid<br><i>Council Member</i>         | Raul M. Diaz<br><i>Chief of Police</i>      |
| Isaac Salver<br><i>Council Member</i>       | Peter V. Kajokas<br><i>Finance Director</i> |
| Elizabeth Tricoche<br><i>Council Member</i> |   |
| Robert Yaffe<br><i>Council Member</i>       |   |



9665 Bay Harbor Terrace  
Bay Harbor Islands, FL  
33154

**PRESORT  
STANDARD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
MIAMI, FL  
PERMIT NO. 2001**

**For information or emergencies:**

**Town Hall: (305) 866-6241**  
**Building Department: (305) 993-1786**  
**Police: (305) 866-6242**  
**Emergency: 911**

**[www.bayharborislands-fl.gov](http://www.bayharborislands-fl.gov)**

## Upcoming Town Meetings

The Town Council welcomes your attendance and participation at meetings. All meetings, unless regarding topics specifically exempt by state law, are open to the public. **To confirm all meeting dates and times, please contact the Office of the Town Clerk at 305-866-6241.**

- Planning & Zoning Board, Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6 p.m.
- Regular Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 at 7 p.m.
- Planning & Zoning Board, Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6 p.m.

The Town Council & Planning & Zoning Board Meetings will be held as a "Virtual Meeting" with elected officials and Town Staff participating through video conferencing. The Virtual Meetings will be held through the Zoom Platform used by the Office of the Town Clerk. Members of the public may join the meeting via the Zoom Platform or by calling a dedicated phone line. Meeting ID details and dedicated phone lines information will be published with each agenda. **Future tentative meeting dates are subject to change.** As the date gets closer contact the Town Clerk's Office or visit the Town's website [www.bayharborislands-fl.gov](http://www.bayharborislands-fl.gov)

## Future Tentative Meetings

- Regular Council Meeting, Wednesday, February 10, 2021
- Planning & Zoning Board, Tuesday, February 2 & 16, 2021

## These topics are anticipated for discussion or possible action at the January 13, 2021 Regular Town Council

- Consideration and Approval of employment contract for Chief of Police Raul Diaz.
- Consideration and Approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town and the Dade County Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (PBA).
- Consideration and Approval of an "Amendment to Toll System Maintenance Agreement" between the Town and TransCore to monitor the Town's AET Collection System.