

BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

FALL 2024

VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 2

BAL HARBOUR POLICE DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE

HONORING LIFE & LEGACY

To honor those who gave their lives in the line of duty, President Kennedy signed a proclamation establishing May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the week it lands on, as National Police Week. The week is held close to many officers' hearts, as it is a time when they ponder the lost lives of their fellow law enforcement officers and how much they risk serving our country.

For Bal Harbour Village, this week is not taken lightly as there have been two fallen officers in the history of our Police Department, Lieutenant Robert Stabb and Sergeant John Melendez. This week is about paying homage to the unwavering commitment of our fallen heroes, and reminding surviving families that their loved ones are always remembered. To honor the officers lost in Bal Harbour, Miami-Dade County, and around the country; our BHPD decided to host an inaugural multi-agency 13-mile bicycle ride on Saturday, May 11.

The concept of the event was developed by our very own officers and quickly grew to encompass greater Miami-Dade County. There were about 100 riders and different police agencies in attendance. Whether it was an officer, a spouse, or a friend, it was evident that everyone present felt a sense of honor and pride to be there. The event embodied community and family with the opening ceremony featuring Cynthia Rivera, the sister of Sergeant John Melendez, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. This symbolized a special moment for Cynthia who has become a part of the BHPD family.

Our Police Department is honored to lead this event for years to come, as it aligns with their mission of maintaining the safety and well-being of those living, working, and visiting our community. The goal is to continue to expand this event to allow the public an opportunity to participate and support the initiative as well. There is no better way to bring individuals closer than an event symbolizing unity, peer support, and honor.



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MESSAGE FROM THE VILLAGE

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As the seasons change and we welcome the cooler weather in Bal Harbour, the Village is excited about everything that is to come in the next few months.

The Village is proud to announce the introduction of many new programs and services. Our Bal Harbour Police Department recently launched a new 411 Tips App to provide the community with a convenient and efficient way to share information with our officers. The Public Works & Beautification Department has been hard at work making significant improvements to the jogging path along the beach and our sidewalks along Collins Avenue. The Capital Programs Department has made significant advancements with both the new Harbourfront Park, Jetty and Cutwalk project as well as the future of our new Village Hall. We have awarded the Construction Manager at-Risk for the new jetty, and we issued an RFQ solicitation for Architectural Design and Construction Administration services for the new Village Hall. Learn more about these projects on page 3.

The General Election took place on November 5 and included the election of District 2 and District 4 council members as well as a referendum to levy a homeless and domestic abuse tax in the Village. Following the results of the election, the referendum did not pass. Incumbent Mayor Jeffrey P. Freimark ran unopposed and was automatically elected. We congratulate and welcome Councilman-elect Alejandro Levy and thank Councilman David Albaum for his years of service. The community is invited to attend the Village Council Induction Ceremony on Monday, November 18, where our recently elected council members will be sworn in, and the new Council will formally elect the Mayor and Vice Mayor. Additional details are available on page 7.

Fall marks the beginning of the high season for Bal Harbour as we welcome back our seasonal residents and those visiting for the holidays. It also symbolizes the return of many of our favorite events such as our Movie Night series. This season also marks the start of the holiday season with our Holiday Light Celebration on Thursday, November 21. Read more about the event on page 7.

For questions or more information: please feel free to visit Village Hall (Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.), call us at 305.866.4633, or email us at communications@balharbourfl.gov.

VILLAGE COUNCIL



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AROUND THE VILLAGE

PD PROMOTIONAL & BADGE PINNING CEREMONY

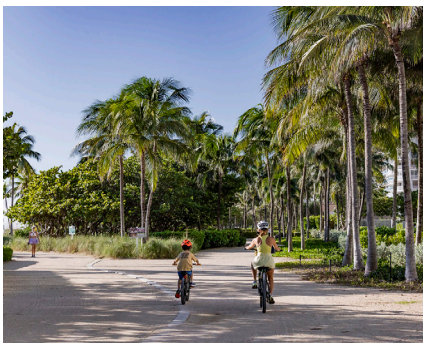
Earlier this year, the Bal Harbour Police Department held its Police Promotion and Badge Pinning Ceremony. The first ceremony to take place at the Bal Harbour Waterfront Park welcomed dozens of members from the community as well as various Police Officers from neighboring cities. The Department celebrated Mauricio Escarra's promotion to Deputy Chief of Police and officially welcomed Officers Regina Haugabook and Aaron Mitchell, Dispatcher Toni Gause, and the Department's new Police Chaplain Father Roberto Cid. These dedicated individuals will continue to expand on the BHPD's mission of Community Policing making Bal Harbour one of the safest places in South Florida.



INTRODUCING THE 411 TIPS APP: EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY

Preserving the safety and well-being of our community is the top priority of our Bal Harbour Police Department. Recently, the Department launched a new tip application to provide residents with a convenient and efficient way to share relevant safety information with our officers. The app, developed by tip411, significantly improves the public's access to the BHPD allowing residents to connect with the Department to find information, view alerts, and submit anonymous tips from their smartphones.

BUILDING A BETTER BAL HARBOUR



You may have noticed some recent improvements in the Village. The Village has made significant refurbishments to the jogging path this year, to enhance the beauty, safety, and convenience of the path. This included clearing the beach vehicle access road to provide a wider space for pedestrians, refurbishing the coquina sand on both areas, replacing lighting and safety bollards throughout, and replenishing landscaping in deficient areas. In the past year, the Village has restored 3,122 linear feet of jogging path and repaired 530 square feet of decorative granite sidewalk along Collins Avenue. As we work to maintain and enhance these areas for our residents and visitors, we welcome you to share any damage, issues, or concerns with us. If you see power outages, damage to our public right-of-ways, or an area in need of improvement, you can report it 24/7 online. To submit a request, visit balharbourfl.gov/reportaconcern or call the hotline at 305.993.7391.

CAPITAL PROGRAMS UPDATE

The Village is currently making great strides in the progress of the Harbourfront Park, Jetty and Cutwalk project (along Haulover Cut). The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company was selected for the Construction Manager At-Risk delivery of the project. Their Pre-Construction phase will provide for the design team and construction team to work hand-in-hand during the final Construction Document phase to identify cost savings, constructability issues and to maximize cost-efficiency as well as timelines for the project. We anticipate breaking ground on this reconstruction project in late Spring 2025. Capital Programs department has also made progress on the new Village Hall. We issued an RFQ solicitation for Architectural Design and Construction Administration Services and we had three teams that submitted qualification packages. These capital projects will continue to propel Bal Harbour as a unique and beautiful destination for both residents and visitors.

PRESERVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

Many of you are likely aware of the property development application submitted by the Whitman Family Development group early this year that attempts to make use of a recent State statute known as the "Live Local Act" (LLA). This proposal would dramatically and forever change the character and scale of our community. We believe it to be an improper use of the LLA and are taking all measures within our ability to protect the quality of life of our community. There are currently two pending lawsuits from the Bal Harbour Shops, and the Village filed its answers and defenses to these lawsuits in October. Information and links to pertinent documents can be found on the Village website at balharbourfl.gov/BHS2024.

2024-2025 ANNUAL FISCAL BUDGET REVIEW

Bal Harbour Village is proud to have adopted a conservative and fiscally responsible Operating and Capital Budget for the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year. Bal Harbour Village has three (3) primary funds used to operate our municipal government: (1) General Fund, (2) Resort Tax, and (3) Water and Wastewater Utility Fund (Utility Fund).

Bal Harbour Village continues to maintain a very strong financial position in all of our funds, due to our disciplined approach to resource allocation, careful management practices, and conservative fiscal policies. The Current Service Level Millage for fiscal year 24-25 is proposed to remain the same, 1.9654 mills. This is the same rate we have held for almost 10 years and is used to fund all of the Village General Fund services provided. However, this year it was recommended that we establish a BHS Processing and Defense Fund with a 0.1785 millage rate to fully fund the expenses to review, process and, likely defend the Village from challenges arising from the proposed development project submitted by the Whitman Family Development group earlier this year. The Village's current millage is the second-lowest combined millage of the 34 municipalities in Miami-Dade County and the lowest among all legacy cities.

THE BAL HARBOUR EXPERIENCE

The four elements which denote the essence of the *Bal Harbour Experience* are reflected in the venn diagram below.



At our annual Village Council retreats, we have an opportunity to revisit and discuss our priorities to ensure that they remain relevant. During this year's retreat, our review and prioritization exercise resulted in a reaffirmation of the order of importance of these priorities as in prior years, ranked in the following order: (1) Safety, (2) Beautiful Environment, (3) Modernized Public Facilities and Infrastructure, (4) Resilient and Sustainable Community, (5) Destination and Amenities, and (6) Unique and Elegant.

Developing funding strategies, specific initiatives and programming that will further our vision, top priorities, and the *Bal Harbour Experience* have been, and will continue to be, the focus of our budget development process in FY 2024-2025.

BUDGET DEVELOPMENT: ACCOMPLISHMENTS & GOALS

In developing the proposed budget for FY 2024-2025, we focused on our key goals, which help ensure that our resources help achieve our vision and mission for Bal Harbour Village, thus further enhancing the Proposed Budget is the culmination of an evaluation and assessment process undertaken each year. We carefully evaluate the existing activities, determine where the Village would benefit from additional investment, and ensure that we establish appropriate levels of service and identify efficiencies or enhancements for each operational activity.

The following is a breakdown of the operating and capital allocations (inclusive of the creation of the BHS Processing and Defense Fund of \$1,169,500) proposed for FY 2024-25 for each of the distinct funds:

GENERAL FUND EXPENSE

In developing the Proposed Budget, we considered the residual impacts that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on costs and availability of supplies and labor, as well as the impact of the high inflation continues to have on expenses, opportunities for cost savings or efficiencies.

Expenditures Summary by Fund	
	FY 2025 Proposed Budget
General Fund	\$ 29,388,700
General Fund - BHS Processing and Defense Fund	1,169,500
Resort Tax Fund	5,860,000
Water and Wastewater Fund	6,829,900
Security & Landscape Assessment Fund	1,573,300
Total Expenditures	\$ 44,821,400

The Proposed General Fund Operating and Capital Budget incorporates the funding for operating departments and activities within the proposed FY 2024-25 Budget expenditures of \$30,558,200 (includes \$7,478,200 in proposed capital project related appropriations; as well as minor equipment purchases and reserves; and funding for the BHS Processing and Defense Fund of \$1,169,500), at the proposed millage rate of 2.1439 mills.

The Proposed FY 2024-25 Operating and Capital Budget of the General Fund includes additional building department professional service costs to match an anticipated increase in

the demand for construction related building permitting; an additional increase in the property insurance premium relating to the new Waterfront Park; additional staffing cost to support the recreational program; increase in the pension related employer contributions; and an overall cost of living increase and other adjustments placeholder for employees - pending the completion of union negotiations to begin FYE 2025.

2024-2025 ANNUAL FISCAL BUDGET REVIEW

CAPITAL PROJECTS

The FY 2025-29 Capital Budget and 5-Year Capital Improvement Program includes capital improvements Village-wide, as summarized in the below table. All appropriations and encumbrances related to the CIP are generally re-appropriated into the subsequent year's budget. Grant awards received subsequent to a project's appropriation are used to offset the previously planned use of Fund Balance/Budget Allocations. The FY 2024-2025 Proposed CIP Budget includes investment towards the Village Hall, close-out of the new Waterfront Park, Harbourfront Park - Jetty/Cutwalk project, and the Utility Infrastructure project. Totalling \$7,367,223 in new appropriations for capital projects, of which; \$4,400,000 will be funded by developer contributions (Shops and others); \$722,172 will be funded by rental income from the Suntrust/Truist Building; and \$1,200,000 from the Utility Fund in relation to the Utility Infrastructure project. The Village anticipates additional grant awards in the near future that will be applied to any to be determined balances.

EXPENDITURE BY PROJECT				
Parks and Public Spaces Operations Facility	\$ 3,164,704	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,164,704
Waterfront Park (Phase A)	21,156,869	1,372,223	-	22,529,092
Harbour Front Park - Jetty/Cutwalk	18,614,489	1,000,000	3,385,511	23,000,000
New Village Hall	3,100,000	3,400,000	16,823,318	23,323,318
Waterfront Park (Phase B)	50,000	-	6,050,000	6,100,000
96th Street Plaza	200,000	-	-	200,000
Collins Avenue Beautification	50,000	-	12,000,000	12,050,000
BeachSide Landscape	50,000	-	-	50,000
Utility Infrastructure - Sewer, Water and Stormwater Improvement	31,120,260	1,595,000	10,546,200	43,261,460
TBD:				
Use of Suntrust/Truist Funds	-	-	3,044,327	3,044,327
Use of Shop Funds	-	-	500,000	500,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$ 77,506,322	\$ 7,367,223	\$ 52,349,356	\$ 137,222,901

RESORT TAX

Bal Harbour Village is one of only three Miami-Dade County municipalities, along with the City of Miami Beach and the Town of Surfside, to levy a resort tax, and in doing so takes advantage of the benefits derived from this revenue source. This includes the reinvestment in the promotion of tourism and enhancing tourist-eligible activities throughout the Village as well as efforts related to the beautification and maintenance of the Village in areas visited by tourists.

The Resort Tax Fund FY 2024-25 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget exemplifies a reinvestment in ourselves with the implementation of our new Tourism Strategic Plan. After detailed research and evaluation by Ernst & Young (EY) over the last fiscal year, the Tourism Strategic Plan was formally adopted at our June 2024 Council Meeting. The implementation of a Tourism Strategic Plan for the Village will further refine and guide the strategies and goals already executed by the Village.

BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW PROCESS & RECOMMENDATION

The Bal Harbour Village Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) was established to assist with the development of the budget and fiscal policy. The BAC began meeting in June 2024 to review the development of the Proposed Budget for FY 2024-25, and to provide recommendations for the Village Council's consideration. The Budget Advisory Committee met throughout the summer to review current year progress and to provide advisory recommendations on the budget development process. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend the proposed operating budget, water and sewer rates, and the solid waste assessment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Mayor Jeffrey P. Freimark, Vice Mayor Seth E. Salver, Councilman David Albaum, Councilman Buzzy Sklar and Councilman David Wolf for their continued guidance, support and leadership with our budget process and in helping to accomplish so much on behalf of our residents and the entire Bal Harbour Village community. In addition, We would like to thank the Village's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) chaired this year by Neca Logan and Committee Members: Jonathan Kader, Andrew J Shechtel, Raj Singh, and Raymond Slate for their time, efforts and thoughtful guidance and recommendations during the preparations of the FY 2024-25 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget. We would also like to thank all our Village staff, particularly our Chief Financial Officer Claudia Dixon, her team as well as all our department directors, who worked so diligently to identify every opportunity for improved service delivery. I appreciate all of us working together to accomplish our collective goals to achieve our vision and to continue to preserve and enhance the *Bal Harbour Experience* for all who live, work, play in and visit Bal Harbour Village.

RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE

WHAT'S NEW AT THE BAL HARBOUR WATERFRONT PARK

The Bal Harbour Waterfront Park offers many amenities, including a full-size basketball court, outdoor fitness equipment, and a yoga deck. Since its opening in late 2023, we have continuously gathered feedback from residents regarding the amenities and how the park can best meet the needs and interests of our community. Throughout the year, we developed low-cost enhancements to better serve our community's needs. This included the deployment of mobile pickleball nets to create multi-use courts, which are available for drop-in play three days a week. We also added exercise equipment to our fitness room. The equipment is available for residents to use at their leisure outside of program hours.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Our Bal Harbour Waterfront Park has been bustling with programs and activities for all residents. Over the summer we hosted 19 demo classes as part of National Park and Recreation Month. Over 65 residents participated in these classes, and we collected feedback, which fueled our planning for the fall and winter seasons.

New classes were added, such as restorative yoga, pickleball clinic, art, and Baby and Me, which have quickly seen success in their inaugural season. Additional suggestions were taken into consideration, and we have been actively looking into implementing those as well. These include additional class dates for our program favorites, such as Strength and Flexibility, as well as social hours. Residents can also look forward to additional dates for a Women's Self-Defense class taking place quarterly and as well as the introduction to new activities such as The Social and Bridge.

Below is a preview of the programs available and the complete lineup is available online at balharbourfl.gov/recreation.

- Art
- Ballet
- Basketball
- Bingo
- Crochet
- Lyrical Dance
- Mat Pilates
- Pickleball
- Soccer
- Strength & Flexibility
- Tae Kwon Do
- Tai Chi
- Yoga
- Zumba

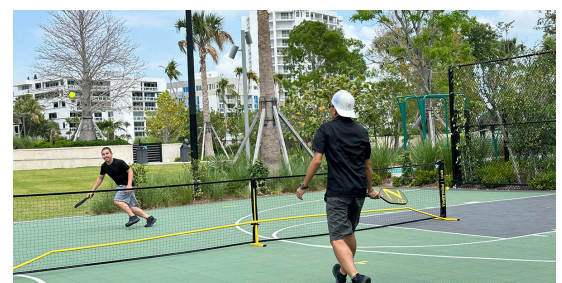
If you have a program you would like to see added to our lineup, you can email us at recreation@balharbourfl.gov.

REGISTRATION

Registration is currently ongoing for all fall recreation programs and save the date for winter program registration beginning Monday, December 9. Programs are open to all current Bal Harbour residents with an approved *All Access Card*. Residents can register online through the online registration portal at balharbourfl.gov/recreation or in person at the Bal Harbour Waterfront Park.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: LUNCH & LEARN WITH PD

This November 13, our Bal Harbour Police Department will host a special Lunch & Learn at the Bal Harbour Waterfront Park. Join us for this eye-opening session as our officers unravel the truth about holiday scams, and how to protect yourself from the latest fraud tactics. Register online at balharbourfl.gov/events.



EVENTS & MEETING CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

The Market at Bal Harbour Beach South

Saturdays and Sundays | 10 AM - 5 PM

Full Moon Yoga on the Beach

Friday, November 15 | 5:15 - 6:15 PM

BHPD Thanksgiving Basket Drive

Sunday, November 17 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Holiday Lighting Celebration

Thursday, November 21 | 7 - 9 PM

Unscripted Art Chat:

Miami Book Fair

Sunday, November 24 | 11 AM

American Fashion with Julie Satow, Nancy MacDonell and moderator Rachel Felder.

The Academy of American Poets Celebrates 90 Years of Poetry, with Joy Castro and Carlie Hoffman.

Art Basel

Sunday, December 1 -

Sunday, December 8

Various locations throughout Miami.

Visit balharbourfl.gov/artbasel for details.

BHPD Gift Wrapping Event

Sunday, December 8 | 10 AM - 12 PM

Full Moon Yoga

Sunday, December 15 | 5:30-6:30 PM

Movie Night on the Beach

Sunday, December 22 | 7 - 9 PM

Sunlit Palette

Monday, December 30 | 11 AM - 1 PM

New Year's Eve Fireworks Display

Tuesday, December 31 | Midnight

New Year's Day Concert

Wednesday, January 1 | 4 - 5:30 PM

Starstruck: A Stargazing Experience

Thursday, January 2 | 8 - 10 PM

To register and for more information, visit balharbourfl.gov/events.

Upcoming Meetings

Village Council Induction Ceremony

Monday, November 18 | 10 AM

Regular Village Council Meetings

Tuesdays | 6:30 PM

November 19 | December 17



Holiday Lighting Celebration

Thursday, November 21, 2024 | 7 - 9 PM

Founders Circle, 97 Street & Collins Avenue

Welcome the holiday season in Bal Harbour with our annual Holiday Lighting Celebration! Gather with family and friends to watch as we light up the Village to make the beginning of the holiday season. Enjoy an evening of holiday tradition with live performances, festive treats, activities, and special surprises. The event is open to Bal Harbour residents and hotel guests. Registration is required. Visit balharbourfl.gov/holidays to register.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS: A LOOK BACK AT SUMMER 2024

This summer was filled with new memories made under the warm Florida sun. We kicked off the summer with our Sounds by the Seas Concert featuring a Hawaiian Luau style concert with live dancers. The summer fun continued as we expanded our Independence Day Celebration to a full week of events. The week featured a concert, a new painting class - Sunset Palette at the Bal Harbour Waterfront Park, an indoor movie, and an *Unscripted Art Tour* to the Paradox Museum. The week culminated in a beachside soiree as we celebrated the 4th of July with a larger 200-drone show and a spectacular fireworks show. Our Village came alive this summer with events that brought residents and visitors together to create unforgettable memories. Cherish the memories of this past summer by saving your photos from our events at balharbourfl.gov/photos.

Do you have an event you would like to see next season? Share your ideas with us via email to events@balharbourfl.gov.



BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

Bal Harbour Village Hall
655 96th Street
Bal Harbour, Florida 33154

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Connect *With Us*

With various platforms and outlets, staying connected to the latest news and events is now easier than ever. Visit balharbourfl.gov/communications to learn more.

WEBSITES

Village - balharbourfl.gov
Tourism - balharbourflorida.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

-  Facebook
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[@balharbourgov](https://twitter.com/balharbourgov)

EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS

balharbourfl.gov/stay-connected

BAL HARBOUR ALERTS

balharbourfl.gov/textalerts

HOURS OF OPERATION

Village Hall
Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 5 PM

Bal Harbour Waterfront Park
Park:
Daily, 7 AM - 8 PM
Community Center:
Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 8 PM
Saturday & Sunday, 9 AM - 1 PM

VILLAGE HALL
305.866.4633

BUILDING DEPARTMENT
305.865.7525

POLICE DEPARTMENT
305.866.5000
(NON-EMERGENCY)

RECREATION, ARTS & CULTURE
305.993.7444

Your Village, Your Way!

Thank you for being a loyal reader! Our quarterly newsletter has been produced in some format since our incorporation in 1946.

As technology has evolved so has the way we communicate. While print communications still play a valuable role in our community it is no longer the only option. As we work to better serve you, we want to hear from you, and how you prefer to receive your Village news.



We invite you to complete a brief survey at balharbourfl.gov/survey.

Let us know what you think about our current newsletter and how you would prefer to hear from us in the future. As a thank you, all participants will receive a special gift!