

City Scape

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March/April 2025

photo by: Jacqueline Faust

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STORM RECOVERY UPDATES

CITY PARKS *by: Robert Moser, Parks & Building Maintenance Superintendent*



Parks and Building Maintenance Staff have continued to work on restoring parks and their amenities following the 2024 storms. Numerous fences have been replaced or repaired, with still more coming throughout the Spring. Tree evaluations and hazardous removals continue to be a priority, as well as large replacement projects for damaged assets. Notable replacement projects include the Marshall Street playground swing set, which has been ordered and is scheduled for delivery and installation in late April or early May. The shade structure at Waterfront Park has a brand-new set of shade sails in production, with a target for installation occurring in March. Other projects that have been completed or are nearing completion at the time of writing include Daisy Douglas Park playground repair, Marina Park decorative fountain repair, Safety Harbor City Park backstop padding and windscreen replacements, various roof repairs on citywide facilities, and tree replacements at Waterfront and Marina Parks.

FIRE MARSHAL DICK BROCK MEMORIAL PIER *by: Renee Cooper, Public Works Director*

The 2024 Hurricane Season resulted in significant damages to Pinellas County. Unfortunately, the Fire Marshal Dick Brock Memorial Pier suffered catastrophic damage. The City had already been in design since August 2022 and completed permitting in June 2024 for the pier's replacement. The damage sustained during the storms pushed the City to rewrite portions of the completed bid documents. The project will not be bid for construction until staff verify the amount and completion of waterway debris removal.

Following Hurricane Helene, the City contacted multiple private demolition contractors to provide budgetary pricing for removal of waterway debris and remaining pilings. Simultaneously, the City also contacted the State of Florida for assistance. Under the direction of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM)'s mission is to work collaboratively with state and local agencies to remove waterway debris ensuring the safety and navigability of Florida's waterways. Waterway debris is seen as an environmental hazard that must be removed to restore and maintain healthy aquatic ecosystems, as well as a safety hazard to boaters and kayakers, and has an economic impact through loss of use for visitors and a detriment to fishing through destruction of habitat. As of the writing of this article the City is finalizing plans for the State to remove all debris.

The City is committed to the swift removal of waterway debris followed by the timely issuance of a Request for Proposal for the pier replacement. Check the City's social media accounts as well as the City website for updates.

CITY OF SAFETY HARBOR CREEKS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN *by: Michelle Giuliani, Engineering Director*

On January 21, 2025, City staff provided the City Commissioners information on the management and maintenance of public sections of Bishop Creek and Mullet Creek and legal options for the management and maintenance of private sections of the creeks. The City's Consultant, Kimley-Horn, presented project work scopes constructed by the US Army Corps of Engineers study provided to the City in 2023. The City Commissioners provided further direction for the need of a Comprehensive Plan for all creeks within the City of Safety Harbor.

An evaluation of creek bank erosion will continue as a Comprehensive Plan is developed. Note that City staff will continue to receive permit applications for private property repairs to creek bank damage that occurred during Hurricane Debbie, Hurricane Helene, and Hurricane Milton for private property work on Bishop Creek and Mullet Creek.

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AROUND SAFETY HARBOR

DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP GRANT APPLICATIONS – BUSINESS RESILIENCY SPECIAL

by: **Cecilia Chen, Community Planner & GIS Analyst**

The City of Safety Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency is accepting Downtown Partnership Grant applications through April 1, 2025.

The Spring 2025 grant season focuses on non-residential improvements that increase business resiliency from hurricanes and other natural disasters. Eligible improvements include: generators (non-portable), electrical upgrades for portable generators, interior renovations to repair storm damage, window and door replacements, floodproofing measures, gutters, drainage improvements, and signage.

Please refer to the application form below for detailed categories and descriptions: cityofsafetyharbor.com/DowntownPartnershipGrant

For more information, please contact Cecilia Chen at cchen@cityofsafetyharbor.com.

Apply Today!



Scan for
Application

MAYOR'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

by: **Cecilia Chen, Community Planner & GIS Analyst**

The City of Safety Harbor is accepting Mayor's Award of Excellence applications through April 1, 2025. The award recognizes property owners for beautifying their property and enhancing the property's curb appeal.

Application Form can be found at:
cityofsafetyharbor.com/NeighborhoodGrants

For more information, please contact Carol Stricklin, AICP at cstricklin@cityofsafetyharbor.com.

Submit Your Nomination Today!



Scan for
Application

MAIN STREET ENTRYWAY TREE REPLACEMENT by: **James Ryan, City Arborist**

The EAR tree at Main Street and McMullen Booth Road stood for many years as beloved entry feature to the city. Damaged by Hurricane Helene, the tree was removed in October 2024 and a commitment made to plant a significant tree in its place. Safety Harbor's Tree Committee is happy to announce the feature tree has been selected. Our Community Development Department will oversee the planting of a field grown Gumbo Limbo Tree (*Bursera simaruba*). In addition to the featured Gumbo Limbo, plans also include the planting of two Southern Magnolias (*Magnolia grandiflora*), and two ornamental Weeping Bottle Brush Trees (*Melaleuca viminalis*).

Gumbo Limbos are native, semi-evergreen shade trees often referred to as the "tourist tree" due to the red peeling bark, reminiscent of a sun burnt tourist. Together with the flowering trees, these plantings will create a colorful and memorable display.

More details will be forthcoming about the schedule and community celebration of the restoration of the Main Street entryway.

HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Check cityofsafetyharbor.com for meeting locations

MARCH

CITY MEETINGS

- 3 City Commission, 7PM
- 11 Library Advisory Committee, 7PM
- 12 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30PM
- 13 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30PM
- 17 City Commission, 7PM
- 19 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1 Junk in the Trunk (Community Ctr.), 9AM-1PM
- 7 1st Friday Flicks (Waterfront Park), 8PM
- 8 Folly Faire (Folly Farm), 9AM-12PM
- 8 Craft Beer Festival (Waterfront Park), 3-6PM
- 15 Bloom n Chalkfest (Main Street), 9AM-7PM
- 16 Bloom n Chalkfest (Main Street), 9AM-5PM
- 16 Kiwanis Arts & Crafts Show (Main Street), 9AM-4PM
- 21 3rd Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10PM
- 22 Bands on the Bay (Waterfront Park), 3-10PM

APRIL

CITY MEETINGS

- 7 City Commission, 7PM
- 8 Library Advisory Committee, 7PM
- 9 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30PM
- 10 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30PM
- 16 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30PM
- 18 **Spring Holiday - City Closed;**
Recycling Collection Occurs as Usual
- 21 City Commission, 7PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 4 1st Friday Flicks (Waterfront Park), 8PM
- 12 5K by the Bay (Main Street), 8AM
- 12 Folly Faire (Folly Farm), 9AM-12PM
- 18 3rd Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10PM
- 26 Walk to Defeat ALS (Waterfront Park), 12-9PM

Market on Main

Sundays ☺ 10am - 3pm ☺ Gazebo on Main St.



Creative Conversations

X Safety Harbor Diversity Advisory Board

Join the **Diversity Advisory Board** for **Creative Conversations** at the **Museum & Cultural Center**

— celebrating —

Black History Month
March 12th • 6:30–7:30PM • Free

Women's History Month
April 16th • 6:30–7:30PM • Free

Remember... Only Rain Down the Drain



Do Not Blow Leaves & Grass into Street, Curb, or Storm Drains



Leaves should be bagged and disposed of with your regular yard waste collection. The City will collect up to 10 bags on your regular collection day or use the Quarterly Clean-Up to dispose of your yard debris.

2025 Spring Clean Up

March 10 – 12

Collection occurs only once during the clean-up cycle. Be sure to place items at the curb by 6:30AM on your regular collection day.

For more details & what will/won't be collected:



SAFETY HARBOR PUBLIC LIBRARY

WELCOME SPRING & THE LIBRARY'S SECOND STORY

by: Lisa Kothe, Library Director



If you've been downtown lately, you've noticed the facelift on the library's original building with the addition of a new aluminum, copper colored roof, a fresh coat of paint, and new coordinating awnings. The big change is the near completion of the second story, adding approximately 4,800 square-foot to the facility.

During construction, the Children's Wing was closed for safety reasons due to work happening above. Part of the youth collection was placed in storage and part moved to other locations within the library. We are excited to announce the reopening of the wing in late March with some

additions coming soon, including a Reading Nook Tree and adjacent mural, comfortable new seating, relocation of the computer stations, two new educational computers, and upgraded toys for the Imaginative Play Area. A glass storefront door, funded by the Friends of the Library and Library Foundation, will be installed to insulate the wing from the rest of the library and the small Story Time room repurposed primarily for tween programming. Staff is excited to welcome you back to the Children's Wing and bring programs back on site after being hosted at other locations.



The second story will be open to the public soon. Upstairs will house an 1,800 square-foot meeting room for library programs, non-profit use, and public rentals. The meeting room on the first floor will also reopen for the same. The Deaf Literacy Center will relocate to the second floor, opening space on the first floor for staff and library programming. Upstairs will also house a quiet, public workspace on first come, first serve basis for study and remote workers.



Every year in April, libraries across the United States celebrate National Library Week, a time to recognize the vital role libraries play in fostering learning, literacy, connection, and opportunity in our communities. With our new space and upgrades, staff is eager to bring programs for all ages, back in-house. We are planning our first musical program for adults during National Library Week, (April 6-12), to showcase our new space.

Visit our website SafetyHarborLibrary.com, follow us on social media, or contact the Answers Desk at 727-724-1525 x4112 for upcoming details on this event or one of the many others we have planned.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

★ **Toddler Yoga:** (Ages 2 - 4)
Tuesdays, 3/4 & 4/1 at 10:30 am.
Event will take place at Harborside Church

★ **Story Tots:** (Ages 19 mos. - 5 yrs.)
Wednesdays at 10:30 am.
Event will take place at Harborside Church.

★ **Baby & Me Story Time:** (Ages 18 mos. & under)
Fridays, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28 & 4/11, 4/25 at 10:00 am.
Event will take place at Harborside Church.

★ **ICRE8:** (Ages 5 - 95)
Mondays, 3/10 & 4/14 at 5:30 pm.
Event will take place at the Safety Harbor Museum.

★ **Ukulele Sing-Along in the Art Park:** (Ages 7 & under)
Saturdays, 3/15 & 4/19 at 10:30 am.
Event will take place at the Art Park - weather permitting.

★ **Baby Stars:** (Ages 3 mos. - 2 yrs.)
Tuesdays, 3/18 & 4/15 at 10:30 am.
Event will take place at Harborside Church.

★ **Pawsome Readers:** (Ages 11 & under)
Saturdays, 3/22 & 4/26 at 10:30 am.
Event will take place at the Safety Harbor Library.

★ **Zumbini:** (Ages 6 mos. - 5 yrs.)
Tuesdays 3/25 & 4/22 at 10:30 am.
Event will take place at Harborside Church.

★ **REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT**
SAFETYHARBORLIBRARY.ORG



TWEEN LIBRARY PROGRAMS AGES 8-12

Homework Help: (Grades K-8) Mondays,

3:00-6:00 pm

* **Doodling for Tweens:** 3/4, 5:30-6:30 pm

* **Tween Graphic Novel Book Club:** 3/11 & 4/8,
5:30-6:30 pm

* **Tween Creative Writers Group:** 3/12 & 4/9,
6:00-7:00 pm

* **Tween Jellybean Taste Test:** 3/25, 5:30-6:30 pm

* **Tween Craft:** 4/1, 5:30-6:30 pm

Minecraft Party: (All Ages) 4/29, 5:00-7:00 pm



* **REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

Register at events.safetyharborlibrary.org



Teen Library Programs Ages 12-18

Teen Anime & Manga Club: 3/5, 4/2, 5:00 pm

*Teen Creative Writers Group: 3/12, 4/9, 5:00 pm

Teen Craft Cart: 3/14, 3/28, 4/11, 4/25, 3:30 pm

*Teen Book Bag: 3/17, 4/14

Teen Rainbow Room: 3/26, 4/30, 5:00 pm

*Teen Craft: 4/23, 5:00 pm

Minecraft Party: (All Ages) 4/29, 5:00-7:00 pm



*Registration required at events.safetyharborlibrary.org

LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

**Grow the Rainbow
Seed Pods**
3/13 | 6:30 pm

ESOL Conversation Club
Weds | 10:00 am
Weds | 6:00 pm

**Friends of the Library
Book Sale**
3/15 | 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Citizenship Prep
Weds | 11:30 am

**Growing Up in the
Woodstock
Generation**

**Wholistic Wellness
Lifestyle**
3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/22
1:00 - 2:30 pm

Concert with Marc Black
3/27 | 6:30 pm

Book Clubs

**Ukulele Workshops &
JamAlongs**

Words & Wine
3/17 & 4/21 | 6:00 pm

3/5, 3/12, 3/19 | 6:15 pm
4/2, 4/9, 4/16 | 6:15 pm

Books & Bagels
3/18 & 4/15 | 10:30 am

Visit us at SafetyHarborLibrary.com for a complete
listing of upcoming events and meeting locations.



SAFETY HARBOR RECREATION

SUMMER CAMP EXPO!

by: **Shannon Schafer, Recreation Superintendent**

Summer is fast approaching, and we understand you have many options for your children this season. That's why we're excited to invite you to our Summer Camp Expo! Both residents and non-residents will have the chance to pre-register for camps with limited availability. This event is also a great opportunity to meet our instructors and learn more about our camp options.

Safety Harbor Camp Expo is March 8, 2025, 9–11AM.

Safety Harbor resident registration starts March 9, 2025.

Open registration starts March 16, 2025.



What to Expect:

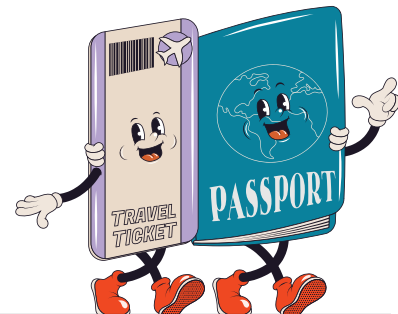
This year's Summer Camp theme is *Passport to REAL Fun!*, and our team has planned countless adventures that will create memorable and enriching experiences for your little ones. Why leave Safety Harbor when there's so much to do right here in your own City?

New to Summer Camp?

We know that planning your summer can feel overwhelming—there are so many options and choosing the right one can be tricky. Rest assured, the REAL team is here to help! Stop by any of our facilities to pick up a Summer Camp Planning Form or download one from our website. This form is a helpful tool for navigating the 80+ programs we offer, including:

- Sports
- Arts
- Farming
- Science
- Sailing
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- And Much More!

We can't wait to help you and your family plan a summer filled with REAL Fun!



VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Are you looking for ways to meet new people and take part in your community? Join the REAL Fun volunteers! We have some great opportunities to get involved:

- Gardening and Invasive Control
- Animal Care
- Special Events
- Programs
- Sharing Our City History - Tour Guides
- Historical Research - Cataloging Our City History
- And More!



*Scan for
Volunteer
Opportunities*

REAL FUN! EVENTS & PROGRAMS

MARCH

Pickin in the Park

All Ages, Fri, 3/14, 6:30-8:15PM, Free, Folly Farm

DIY Rain Barrel Workshop

Adults, Sat, 3/8, 1-2:30PM, \$62, Folly Farm

Lucky Leprechaun Bingo

Adults, Fri, 3/28, 7-9PM, \$7, Museum



APRIL

Kids Market

Children, Sat, 4/5, 9AM-12PM, \$10/space, Community Center

Pickin in the Park

All Ages, Fri, 4/11, 6:30-8:15PM, Free, Folly Farm

DIY Rain Barrel Workshop

Adults, Sat, 4/12, 1-2:30PM, \$62, Folly Farm

Tween/Teen Flashlight Egg Hunts

Ages: 11-15, Thu, 4/17, 8-9:30PM, Folly Farm

Daisy Douglas Community Picnic

All Ages, Sat, 4/26, 12-3PM, Free, Daisy Douglas

FOLLY FAIRE

Free entry

2nd Saturday of the month

9am-12pm

Vendors
Live Music
Plant Help Desk
Native Plant Sale
Nature Activities
Educational Programs

Come visit the
NEW Farm House!
open Thu-Sun
11am-4pm

The poster features a green background with colorful bunting at the top. It includes three circular images: a gazebo with people, a goat, and a child with a chicken. At the bottom is a photo of a red building with a sign that says "The Farm House".

SAFETY HARBOR SHREDS

SAT 4/5 • 8AM - 12PM • FREE

- LIMIT 3 BAGS/BOXES
NO MORE THAN 10 POUNDS
- REMOVE BINDER CLIPS
- NO NEED TO REMOVE PAPER CLIPS

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
CALL 727-724-1562

PUBLIC WORKS • 1200 RAILROAD AVENUE
CITYOFSAFETYHARBOR.COM

The poster features a large image of a pile of shredded paper. The text is in green and black, with a green banner at the bottom.

CITYSCAPE

CityScape is a publication of the City of Safety Harbor. For the latest updates on these and other stories visit us online at cityofsafetyharbor.com.

CITY OFFICIALS

Joe Ayoub, Mayor
Andy Steingold, Vice Mayor
Nancy Besore, Commissioner
Jacob Burnett, Commissioner
Carlos Diaz, Commissioner
Josh M. Stefancic, City Manager

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall: 727-724-1555
Community Center: 727-724-1560
Fire Department: 727-724-1520
Library: 727-724-1525
Museum & Cultural Ctr.: 727-724-1562
Public Works: 727-724-1550
Rigsby Recreation Center: 727-724-1545



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Safety Harbor Florida
34695
(727) 724-1555
www.cityofsafetyharbor.com

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The City of Safety Harbor is a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System (NFIP/CRS).

We offer FEMA flood map determinations and information regarding wetlands and other natural systems on property located in the city. Elevation certificates, if available, may be obtained through the Building Department.

For more information regarding this program, please contact the City of Safety Harbor at 727-724-1555.

WEBSITE REFRESH PUBLIC INPUT

CityofSafetyHarbor.com is about to get a refresh, and we want to hear from you! Let us know what works, what doesn't, and what we can do to better serve you with the City's website. Below are the different ways that you can participate.

TAKE THE ONLINE SURVEY

March 1–31, 2025



Scan
for
Survey

ATTEND AN INPUT SESSION

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
11:30AM – 12:30PM

Thursday, March 20, 2025
6:30PM – 7:30PM

Location:
Safety Harbor Commission Chambers

