

CityScape

Volume 35 | Issue 6
November/December 2025

www.CityofSafetyHarbor.com

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CUP OF JOE WITH JOE

Please join Mayor Ayoub for a "Cup of Joe with Joe" townhall-style meeting at our beautiful Baranoff Park on Saturday, November 8th at 10:00 a.m. Complimentary coffee will be provided.

If you can't make it, you can view the event live and ask questions at [Facebook.com/MayorJoeAyoub](https://www.facebook.com/MayorJoeAyoub).

This is a great opportunity to join the conversation about the direction of our city and to hang out with your neighbors. I hope to see you there!



Saturday, November 8, 2025 at 10:00AM
Baranoff Park • 101 2nd Avenue North



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

Safety Harbor Fire Department is gearing up for another collaborative holiday event with none other than Old Saint Nick. The Santa Tour is an annual celebration that's been happening for over 50 years when local firefighters invite Santa Claus to ride atop a fire engine and spread Christmas cheer around the community. This family-friendly Santa Tour is largely a success due to the community's strong support and commitment to observing safe practices as the fire engine passes.

Don't forget, the fire truck will not travel down dead-end streets, cul-de-sacs, or narrow roads to avoid potentially dangerous situations and remain on schedule. The real-time Santa GPS Tracker will be available on the City's website and by scanning the QR code on this page.

See below for this year's Santa Tour schedule. You can view route maps at: cityofsafetyharbor.com/Santa-Tracker

SANTA'S APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE:

- Friday, 12/12: South of Enterprise & East of 9th Ave
- Saturday, 12/13: South of Enterprise & West of 9th Ave
- Friday, 12/19: North of Enterprise & East of RR Tracks; North of 580 & West Oldsmar
- Saturday, 12/20: North of Enterprise & West of RR Tracks; South of 580



Questions?
Contact Public Works:
724-1550 x 2002



Quarterly Clean-Up Schedule

December 8 – 10: Holiday Clean-Up

for more details: CityofSafetyHarbor.com/sanitation



WHO DO YOU CALL FOR CITY MAINTENANCE?

by: **Renee Cooper, Public Works Director**

Ever spotted a cracked sidewalk, a pesky pothole, or a low-hanging tree limb and wondered who to contact? The City's Public Works Department is here to help with a wide range of right-of-way and park-related issues, including:

- Sidewalk repairs within City rights-of-way
- Potholes on City streets
- Water leaks from the road to the meter (South of SR-580)
- Sanitary sewer back-ups
- Low-hanging limbs over roadways and sidewalks
- City garbage, recycling, and special pick-ups
- Stormwater drainage concerns
- Street sign maintenance
- Any work occurring within City rights-of-way
- Maintenance issues within City parks



Contact Us

Public Works
1200 Railroad Ave.
Safety Harbor, FL 34695

(727) 724-1550

www.cityofsafetyharbor.com

?
Sidewalks, Potholes, Water
Leaks, Sewer Back-Ups, Trees,
Garbage/Recycling, Parks,
Stormwater, Street Signs, Parks



CUT ME OUT & SAVE FOR REFERENCE!

You can reach Public Works:

- **In-person:** Monday–Friday, 7:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at our Public Works Campus, 1200 Railroad Ave.
- **By phone:** 727-724-1550 (automated prompts available for after-hours emergencies)
- **Online:** Submit a request here <https://tinyurl.com/5xz97x62>
- **QR Code:** Scan the QR code on a City storm drain to report a drainage related issue.

Let's keep our city safe, clean, and beautiful – together!

PROTECTING YOUR HOME AGAINST FLOODING

by: **Derek Reeves, Community Development Assistant Director**



The 2025 hurricane season is almost over, but that doesn't mean you should forget about getting and staying prepared for flooding. Plus, flooding doesn't only happen from hurricanes, and it's easier to prepare for flooding when the weather is nice.

Here are some steps you can take now to protect property from hurricanes and flooding:

- Install storm shutters and reinforced garage doors.
- Retrofit to protect the building, elevate outdoor AC units or install hurricane resistant features like garage doors.
- Note that some flood protection measures may need a building permit and others may not be safe for your type of building. Please contact the Community Development Department at (727) 724-1555 before doing any retrofitting, making alterations or starting repairs. Report unpermitted work to Code Enforcement by calling (727) 724-1555.
- The City of Safety Harbor Engineering Department can offer advice about drainage and nuisance flooding problems on your property. Call (727) 724-1555 for advice about appropriate flood protection. A representative can give advice over the phone or visit the site in question and review the problem with the resident.
- Have adequate insurance in advance. Remember, homeowners insurance policies do not cover flood loss, and there is a 30-day waiting period before flood insurance coverage goes into effect.

Taking these steps before next hurricane season will have you prepared and ahead of the curve.

HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Check cityofsafetyharbor.com for meeting locations

NOVEMBER

CITY MEETINGS

- 3 City Commission, 7 PM
- 5 Public Art Committee, 6 PM
- 6 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 PM
- 11 **Veterans Day - City Closed;**
Trash Collection Occurs as Usual
- 12 Library Advisory Committee, 7 PM
- 12 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30 PM
- 13 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30 PM
- 19 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30 PM
- 27 **Thanksgiving - City Closed; No Recycling Collection**
- 28 **Day after Thanksgiving - City Closed;**
Thursday & Friday Recycling Collection Occurs

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 7 Gazebo Gatherings (Gazebo on Main Street), 6-8 PM
- 8 Folly Faire (Folly Farm), 9 AM-12 PM
- 11 Veterans Day Ceremony (Gazebo on Main Street), 11 AM
- 21 3rd Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10 PM



Market on Main
Sundays ↗ 10 AM – 3 PM
Gazebo on Main Street



City of Safety Harbor celebrates diversity
November is
NATIVE AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH



Safety Harbor
Diversity Advisory Board

DECEMBER

CITY MEETINGS

- 1 City Commission, 7 PM
- 3 Public Art Committee, 6 PM
- 4 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, 6 PM
- 9 Library Advisory Committee, 7 PM
- 10 Planning & Zoning Board/Board of Appeals, 6:30 PM
- 11 Finance Advisory Committee, 6:30 PM
- 15 City Commission, 7 PM
- 17 Code Enforcement Board, 6:30 PM
- 24 **Christmas Eve - City Closed;**
Trash Collection Occurs as Usual
- 25 **Christmas - City Closed;**
No Recycling Collection

SPECIAL EVENTS

- 5 Sip & Shop (Main Street), 5-9 PM
- 5 Tree Lighting (Gazebo on Main Street), 6-7:30 PM
- 6 Holiday Parade (Main Street), 10 AM
See page 6 for route update.
- 13 Folly Faire (Folly Farm), 9 AM-12 PM
- 14 Kiwanis Arts & Crafts (Main Street), 9 AM-12 PM
- 19 3rd Friday Street Celebration (Main Street), 6-10 PM
- 19 & 20 Harbor Holiday (Folly Farm), 6-9:30 PM

2025 Library Survey

**WE CARE WHAT YOU
THINK. HELP US
IMPROVE BY TAKING
OUR SURVEY.**

Your Feedback Matters



SAYING GOODBYE TO LISA KOTHE & WELCOMING NEW DIRECTOR BRITNEY NORSWORTHY



Lisa Kothe (left), Britney Norsworthy (right)

HELLO FROM BRITNEY NORSWORTHY

Hi, Safety Harbor! I'm so excited to introduce myself as the new Director of the Safety Harbor Public Library. I've worked in Pinellas County libraries for over ten years, including time as the Library Services Manager for Community Engagement and Outreach at Largo Library and, most recently, as the Youth Services Manager at the Dunedin Public Library.

My husband and I have three amazing daughters, all currently in college (it's a busy and exciting season for our family!). We also share our home with two dogs and two cats (it's a full house!), and I wouldn't have it any other way. True to the librarian stereotype, I'm an avid reader and proud member of my neighborhood book club.

What drew me to Safety Harbor is the vibrant, tight-knit community and the library's central role in it. The new second story is a beautiful addition, and I'm especially excited to have more meeting space to offer the community. The library has so much to offer including access to technology, creative programs for all ages, and innovative services like the Tool library. With all these services and so much more, I am excited to be a part of the next chapter of the library.

I'm truly honored to be here and can't wait to meet more of you. Please stop by the library to say, "Hello," and take a moment to fill out our library survey, available on our website or in person at the library. Stepping into this role, I'm eager to listen and learn, your thoughts truly help shape the future of our library.

FAREWELL FROM LISA KOTHE

Serving the Safety Harbor community and library patrons from across the county has been a privilege and honor for the past 17 years. As I step away, I am proud of what our dedicated staff has accomplished. I thank them for supporting my sometimes out of the box projects and programs, the Tool Library being one of them. In 2016, when I asked Mallory our Adult Services Manager about this idea, she said, "Yes, that's great. We need to do this," and we created one of our most popular programs, with over 250 tools checked out monthly.

Our library has transformed into a vibrant hub, not only providing popular books and media, but a place for community and connection. During my tenure, some highlights include installing 14 Little Free Libraries, graduating 23 students from Career Online High, and adding a StoryWalk in the Art Park. We have two vibrant adult book clubs, implemented Home Delivery and a Seed Library, a Book Bike, named Bookin' Betty, courtesy of the Friends of the Library, and secured a grant for a local history Walking Tour. We've added murals inside and outside the library, have a new Reading Nook Tree in the Children's Wing, and yes, we even added a second floor! Our welcoming physical spaces ensure every member of our community feels at home when they walk through our doors. Our programs for all ages are models for other libraries. We have accomplished so much and will continue to thrive and serve under new leadership and our devoted staff.

I am proud of my partnerships with the Friends of the Library and the Library Foundation supporting fundraisers from serving beverages at 4th of July, to Book Sales, Art on Canvas, ChairITY and Flamingo fundraisers, Key Lime Pie and Cupcake Contests, Author Talks, Blues on the Bay, mystery dinner theaters, and countless other events to ensure additional funds were available for programs via the Friends and secured for the second floor addition. The friendships and collaborations developed along the way have been a highlight of my career.

I want to thank you, our very special patrons, volunteers, supporters, and our city commission for your belief in the importance of public libraries. You are the force behind all that we've achieved. As I step away, I have the utmost confidence in the talented and innovative staff who will continue to drive our library into its 88th year and beyond.

While I am stepping down from my official role, I will never be far from the library. I look forward to joining the community as a patron, neighbor, and advocate of this wonderful institution. I will carry the memories and relationships with me always. Thank you for allowing the privilege of serving you. I am proud to say I Live, Worked, and will continue to Play in our great little city.

Children's Programs

Wee Discoveries: (Ages 5 and under)

11/4, 11:00am

Story Tots: (Ages 2-5 yrs.)

11/3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19 & 12/1, 3, 8, 10, 10:30am

Baby & Me Story Time: (Ages 2 and under)

11/7, 14 & 12/5, 10:30am

★ICRE8-Art Class: (Ages 5-95 yrs.)

11/10 & 12/8, 5:30pm

★Puppets, Tunes 'n Tea for Tots: (Ages 2-5 yrs.)

11/18 & 12/2, 11:00am

Baby Stars: (Ages 3 mos.-2 yrs.)

11/21 & 12/12, 10:30 am

Ukulele Sing-Along in the Art Park:

(Ages 7 and under)

11/22 & 12/13, 10:30 am

★Baby & Me Yoga: (Ages 1 and under)

12/9, 10:30am



★ REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT: EVENTS.SAFETYHARBORLIBRARY.ORG

Teen Library Programs

Ages 12-18

Teen Creative Writing Cafe 11/5 & 12/10, 5:00 PM

*Teen Book Bags 11/10-11/15

*Teen Cooking - Walking Tacos 11/12, 5:00 PM

Rainbow Room 11/19 & 12/17, 5:00 PM

Teen Library Advisory Board 11/20, 4:00 PM

*All Ages Holiday Houses 12/3, 5:00 PM



*Registration required at events.safetyharborlibrary.org

TWEEN LIBRARY PROGRAMS AGES 8-12

NOVEMBER

Family Movie: 11/1,

11:00 a.m.

*Tween Craft: 11/4,

5:30 p.m.

*Tween Creative

Writers Group: 11/5,

6:00 p.m.

*Tween Graphic

Novel Book Club:

11/18, 5:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

*Holiday Houses:

(All Ages) 12/3,

5:00 p.m.

*Family Movie: 12/6,

11:00 a.m.

*Tween Graphic Novel

Book Club: 12/9,

5:30 p.m.

*Tween Creative

Writers Group: 12/10,

6:00 p.m.



*REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REGISTER AT EVENTS.SAFETYHARBORLIBRARY.ORG

LIBRARY EVENTS FOR ADULTS

Great Puzzle Exchange

11/13 | 6:30 pm

Fall Plant Swap

11/15 | 10:00 - 11:30 am

SHINE Workshop:

Medicare Part D

11/14 | 11:00 am

Holiday Concert:

A Capella Bay Show Chorus

12/11 | 6:30 pm

ESOL Conversation Club

Weds | 10:00 am

Weds | 6:00 pm

Citizenship Preparation

Class

Weds | 11:30 am

Wholistic Wellness

Lifestyle

11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16

1:15 - 2:45 pm

Saturday Movie

Matinee

11/22 & 12/20 | 2:00 pm

FOL Book Sale

12/13 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Book Clubs

Words & Wine

11/17 & 12/15 | 6:00 pm

Books & Bagels

11/18 & 12/16 | 10:30 am

Visit us at SafetyHarborLibrary.com for a complete listing of events.



REAL FUN IS ALWAYS IN SEASON IN SAFETY HARBOR!

by: Julie Inman, Recreation Director

No one does the Holiday Season quite like Safety Harbor. Whether you crave festive crowds, holiday-themed classes, or peaceful solitude, the “Leisure Services Elves” have something for you!

November 5th, get your groove on at **Gazebo Gatherings** featuring live music by 6 Volt Rodeo! The December **Gazebo Gatherings** is the official kick off to the holiday season featuring the annual **Tree Lighting** and a special guest, the head elf himself, Santa!

Mark your calendar for the annual **Holiday Parade** December 6th on Main Street!

This year's parade will have a holiday twist, the parade will be “backwards” beginning at Main Street and 9th Avenue South and ending at Main Street and Phillippe Parkway. Get ready for a fresh view!

Escape the holiday hubbub and enjoy the glow of **Holiday Lights** as you leisurely stroll with family and friends through the peaceful serenity of Folly Farm Nature Preserve December 1st-January 1st. Visit the “Recreation Elves” and see your favorite places illuminated for the holidays at Rigsby Recreation Center, Museum and Cultural Center, and the Community Center. And for the Pickleball enthusiasts out there, you won’t want to miss the **Paddle Bells Rock! Holiday Pickleball Experience** on December 19th!

Harbor Holiday Nights is December 19th and 20th! Explore the holiday cheer at Folly Farm with music, activities, and visits with the Holiday Herd. Purchase tickets to Jump on the Jolley Trolley and be whisked away to the magical land of **Merry Lane**! (Event parking at Harborside Church.)

Check the website for **Slices with Santa**, **Elves in the Kitchen**, and art classes like **Resin Art Holiday Workshop**, **Holiday Bow Making**, and **Holiday Wreath Decorating**!

The season comes and goes quickly, so no matter how you holiday, be sure to make **REAL Fun!** memories with friends and family. They'll last a lifetime! Happy Holidays!

REAL FUN! EVENTS & PROGRAMS

For full list of Recreation events, classes, and programs: SAFETYHARBORRECREATION.COM

NOVEMBER

Gazebo Gatherings

All Ages, Fri, 11/7, 6-8PM, FREE, Gazebo on Main Street

Pickin' in the Park

All Ages, Fri, 11/7, 6:30-8PM, FREE, Folly Farm

Folly Faire

All Ages, Sat, 11/8, 9AM-12PM, FREE, Folly Farm

School's Day Out

Ages: 5-11, 11/24-11/26, 7:30AM-5:30PM, \$35/day, Community Ctr.

DECEMBER

Gazebo Gatherings: Tree Lighting Ceremony

All Ages, Fri, 12/5, 6-8PM, FREE, Gazebo on Main Street

Folly Faire

All Ages, Sat, 12/13, 9AM-12PM, FREE, Folly Farm

Paddle Bells Rock! Holiday Pickleball Experience

Adults, Fri, 12/19, 7-10PM, \$10, Community Center

School's Day Out

Ages: 5-11, 12/22-12/23 & 12/29-12/31, 7:30AM-5:30PM, \$35/day, Community Ctr.

Holidays *in the Harbor*



TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

12/5 | 6-8 PM

John Wilson Park
& Gazebo



Sip & Shop

12/5 | 5-9 PM

Main Street



HOLIDAY PARADE

12/6 | 10 AM

Main Street



ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Kiwanis Club of
Safety Harbor

12/14 | 9 AM - 4 PM

Main Street



Harbor Holiday



12/19-20 | 6-9 PM

Folly Farm Nature Preserve

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

12/1 - 1/1

Come see your favorite
places lit up for the holidays!



Visit SafetyHarborEvents.com for more details.

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

CITY DIRECTORY

City Hall: 727-724-1555
Community Center: 727-724-1560
Fire Department: 727-724-1520
Farmhouse at Folly Farm: 727-724-1552
Library: 727-724-1525
Museum & Cultural Center.: 727-724-1562
Public Works: 727-724-1550
Rigsby Recreation Center: 727-724-1545

APPLY TODAY!

Finance Advisory Committee

CityofSafetyHarbor.com/boards

City of

SAFETY HARBOR

Home of the Mineral Springs



PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT #6907
TAMPA FL

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

The Finance Advisory Committee is looking for volunteers! This committee is made up of residents who help monitor city budgets, review millage rates, existing fee structures for City services, documented systems of internal control, and make key recommendations to the City Commission.



We're Looking For Houses to Paint

Paint Your Heart Out Safety Harbor (PYHOSH) is a local non-profit organization that enables citizens to lend a helping hand by painting the exteriors of houses, cleaning the yards and doing minor external repairs for homeowners in need.

PAINT DAY IS MARCH 7, 2026.

Do you know a resident in need who could benefit from this free community service?

If you would like to be considered to have your house painted (or know of someone in need), the following criteria MUST be met:

- Own and live in the home as your primary residence
- Live in the City of Safety Harbor
- Have special needs such as age, limited income, or physical disability

EMAIL: PYHOSH@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL: 727-380-0626
OR VISIT:
FACEBOOK.COM/PAINTYOURHEARTSH



Holiday Sanitation Schedule

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving Day falls on Thursday, November 27, 2025. Thursday recycling collection will be collected on Friday, November 28, 2025. Friday's recycling will be collected as usual. There is a recycling drop off location at 1200 Railroad Ave available for residential drop off.

Christmas

Christmas Day falls on Thursday, December 25, 2025. Monday's, Tuesday's, and Wednesday's sanitation collection will occur as regularly scheduled. Thursday's recycling collection will be pushed back to Friday, December 26, 2025. Friday's recycling collection will occur as scheduled.

New Year's Day

New Year's Day falls on Thursday, January 1, 2026. Monday's, Tuesday's, and Wednesday's sanitation collection will occur as regularly scheduled.

Thursday's recycling collection will be pushed back to Friday, January 2, 2026. Friday's recycling collection will occur as scheduled.

Christmas Tree Pickup

Christmas Trees should be put out with yard waste on normal garbage day – January 12, 13, or 14.

