

ON HARDING AVE

Harding Avenue Streetscape Design Approved

At the June 11, 2013 Commission meeting, the Surfside Commission approved the Streetscape Design. With contractors already selected, the comprehensive project will begin later this summer and will include a dramatic make over of the two block section of Harding Avenue, from 94th to 96th Streets.

Designed by the firms of Stantec and Rosenberg Gardner, the Harding Avenue Streetscape plan will transform the downtown area with Medjool palms, colorful tropical shrubs and eight "pocket parks" that will have benches, litter receptacles, pavers and street crossings. Infrastructure upgrades will include a new irrigation system and electrical for permanent and holiday lighting. Most of the funding for the streetscape came from developers involved in other projects in Surfside. For more photos and information, go to the Town website, under Town News for the *Harding Avenue Business District Streetscape Improvement Project*.

Artist renderings show one of the eight "pocket parks" at right and the new palms and landscaping below.



Flanigan's Manager Ties the Knot



Steve Thomas, the General Manager at Flanigans Restaurant on Harding Avenue, was married to Sandra Martinez Thomas on May 18th. Steve proposed to Sandra in a hot air balloon ride. Congratulations to the happy couple.

Long-time Surfside Optician Featured as Successful Business in Miami Herald



Oberle Opticians, a Harding Avenue mainstay for 35 years, was recently profiled in the *Miami Herald Business Monday* in a Small Business Spotlight. Bernie Oberlender, owner and founder, discussed the growth of his business in the article.

Oberle has grown over the decades by adding international designer eyewear, and now features more than 25 luxury brands. It was chosen by Daimler Mercedes to launch Maybach in North America, with prices ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000. Most recently, Oberle began designing its own precious stones custom eyewear, featuring diamonds and sapphires.

Construction Brewing On Harding Avenue



Latte anyone? The transformation of the space at 9530 Harding Avenue into a Starbucks is moving along with an anticipated Fall opening.



Business Improvement District Meeting

On Wednesday, July 17 at 7 p.m. Surfside will hold a public meeting to discuss the possibility of organizing a Business Improvement District (BID) for the Surfside Downtown Business District. BIDs have succeeded in improving commercial districts throughout the nation. BIDs formalizes a process for property and business owners to work together to improve a commercial district. There are BIDs in Coconut Grove and Coral Gables, and, most recently, for the Wynwood area.

Redevelopment Management Associates (RMA) will make a presentation regarding BIDs and how an association could be created for Downtown Surfside. Residents, property owners, and business owners are encouraged to attend.

For more information, contact Duncan Tavares, Tourism, Economic Development & Community Services Director at 305-864-0722.