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DISTRICT MAP

Meetings and events are subject to change. For the most up-to-date calendar please visit TownofSurfsideFL.gov or scan the QR code.

Cover photo: Third Thursdays Block Parties, See page 13 for more details.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

01/01/26	Holiday - Town Hall Offices Closed
01/05/26	Resort Tax Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
01/07/26	Youth Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
01/09/26	Senior Brunch, 11 a.m.
01/10/26	Under The Stars Movie Night, 7 p.m.
01/13/26	Regular Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
01/15/26	Sustainability & Resiliency Meeting, 12 p.m.
01/15/26	Community Relations Board Meeting, 4 p.m.
01/15/26	Third Thursdays, 6 p.m.
01/19/26	Holiday - Town Hall Offices Closed
01/21/26	Special Master Hearing, 10 a.m.
01/21/26	Senior Trip (Wynwood Walls), 11 a.m.
01/21/26	Parks & Recreation Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
01/25/26	Family Fun Day, 1 p.m.
01/26/26	Planning & Zoning Board Workshop, 5 p.m.
01/29/26	Planning & Zoning Board Meeting, 6 p.m.
01/31/26	Snow Moon Soiree, TBA

Subscribe to Town news and notifications at TownofSurfsideFL.gov/subscribe

For all Gazette inquiries, please contact creyes@townofsurfsidefl.gov



TOWN OFFICIALS

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Thais Hernandez, Town Attorney thernandez@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Charles R. Press, Chief of Police cpress@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Sandra N. McCready, Town Clerk smccready@townofsurfsidefl.gov

BUSINESS NUMBERS

Town Hall (305) 861-4863 Police (305) 861-4862 Fire Rescue (305) 861-1115

Emergency 911

TOWN WEBSITE

www.townofsurfsidefl.gov

TELEVISION ACCESS

Surfside Gov't Access Channel (Check local listings or Town website)

TOWN COMMISSION

Charles W. Burkett, Mayor mayor@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Tina Paul, Vice Mayor tpaul@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Ruben A. Coto, Commissioner rcoto@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Nelly Velasquez, Commissioner nvelasquez@townofsurfsidefl.gov

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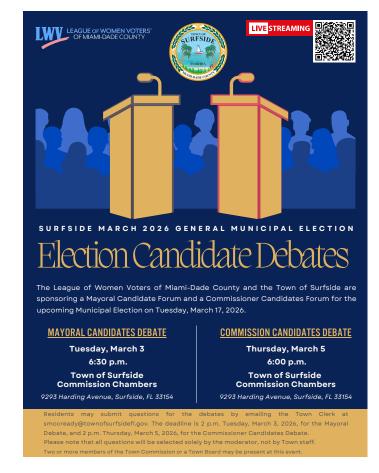
MARCH 17, 2026, ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that an election for the Town of Surfside, Florida, will be held in Town from 7:00 A.M. until 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, the 17th day of March 2026, for one Mayoral seat and four (4) Commissioner seats.

Qualifying period for this election begins on Monday, January 12, 2026 through Monday, February 2, 2026 at noon.

If you wish to run for office or have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk at 305-861-4863 or by email at smccready@townofsurfsidefl.gov

Sandra McCready, MPA, MMC Town Clerk







Resort Tax Board Presents

SNOW MOON SOIREE

Surfside's Sand & Sea Celebration

Surfside Community Center, Jan. 31,- Feb. 1, 2026,

- Professional Sand Sculptures & Workshop
- Live Mermaids, Fire Dancers
- Surfing & Wellness
- Live Music

- Garden BBQ
- Yoga, Activity Stations
- Adults-Only White Party
- Signature Cocktail & More!





For the schedule and more information, please visit the Town website.

Commission Corner



CHARLES W. BURKETT MAYOR

Happy New Year!

Surfside continues to chart its own course apart from all of our neighbors... by doing mostly the opposite of what they are doing.

Take Miami Beach, Sunny Isles, or even Bal Harbour to a lesser degree—they all are adding MORE.

By more I think you know what I'm talking about because you have sat in gridlock traffic, watched in dismay as huge buildings continue to be erected, and listened to feckless politicians chirp about how we just need more police or laws to solve the problem.

Sorry, this is not a police or regulation problem, it is a problem with elected officials taking direction from those who give them life... (campaign contributions). Developers will always want to build more, until it is plainly obvious that the potential profit has been completely squeezed out of an area and it just does not pay to continue to build. Accordingly, the feckless politicians will continue to take the money and follow instructions from their benefactors until the money no longer flows and the 'for hire' politicians then flip and carp about how "bad" developers are. (They have no shame).

What is the lesson?

Most "politicians" are clueless and just trying to get by, while keeping the money flowing and the voters convinced that they are looking out for voters' best interests. The truth is, the politicians simply want to "look" like they are watching out for voters, while continuing to earn their campaign contributions from their big donors.

Let us agree that the foregoing dynamic is just like gravity—it will always exist and there is no way to completely get rid of it.

However, there is a way to manage it.

Demand that candidates clearly outline their position on further development in Surfside. <u>If they won't</u>, then you have your answer.

- Only vote for candidates who have demonstrated in their own lives that they can make good decisions and have succeeded personally.
- Candidates whose lives are shipwrecks, nice as they may appear, will make the same poor decisions for our town as they have for themselves.
- Birds of a feather flock together. Carefully look at whom candidates associate with or run with. The chances are they are similar philosophically and will galvanize their comrades' positions on matters that come before our Commission.
- Is there a group that will put in writing what they will bring to our Town? That's good.
- Is there a group that spouts pleasantries or clichés like "let's make Surfside better" or "bring back decorum" or "limit overdevelopment?"

That's not so good.

Why? Because those vapid statements could mean a thousand different things. Take "limit overdevelopment" as an example; limiting overdevelopment to me means only replacing projects we already have with equal or lesser size and developing undeveloped sites only in ways that keep our beautiful paradise small and cozy.

On the contrary for example, limiting overdevelopment to the Danzinger, Rose & Landsman group meant nothing - zero, as did many of their other misleading assurances.

• Check who gives candidates money, then simply ask yourself, for what and why?

Bottom line?

Surfside is not a one-of-a-kind place to live, but it shares its values with other super-high-quality places to live, like Aspen, Martha's Vineyard, Indian Creek, Jupiter, Zurich, and Vancouver, just to name a few.

What do the foregoing world-class cities share in common? The dogged desire to not let carpetbaggers, big talkers, grifters, high-powered attorneys, or developers sell them a worthless bill of goods.

On the contrary, those places all share a reputation of "being difficult" and not being easily susceptible to being conned out of a quality-of-life residents have built over many, many decades by fast-buck opportunists.

I have spent the last twenty years of my service to Surfside fighting the good fight to preserve our unique, but fragile, way of life. Every single year that we can keep that trend going, and keep the grifters from grifting, means that Surfside will only become more amazing, but paradoxically, at the same time, we become more of a target because the exploiters stand to make ...more money.

Let us keep working together to preserve what we have—that includes all of you who live on Indian Creek too—you are a part of our paradise and have a vested interest in our quality-of-life goals.

The fact is, we are all in this together, and I promise you the results we have achieved and will continue to achieve, are well worth all of the fighting, noise, and criticism that we will be forced to undertake going forward.

Stay strong and ignore the pollyannists. (Those who chirp about decorum and civility to silence opposition in an effort to sell us out and kill our goose who continues to lay golden eggs).

But for us not fighting and struggling for what we want in our Town, on a noisy and regular basis, we would already be Miami Beach (North) and Sunny Isles (South).

Do not let the exploiters, and the "we need more decorum" peddlers tell you anything else!

Surfside is winning, stay the course.

DISCLAIMER: The comments posted by any Elected Official in this publication are the opinions of the commentator and do not represent or reflect the opinions or policies of the Town of Surfside, and do not imply endorsement of, or agreement by, any other members of the Town Commission or Town Administration

Commission Corner



TINA PAUL VICE MAYOR

Greetings Surfside!

We welcome the New Year 2026 together with gratitude for reaching this season filled with opportunities and promise that new beginnings bring. We continue to move forward with important projects and a shared vision for a sustainable future for Surfside.

I hope the holiday season treated you well and that you were able to enjoy our community festivities and celebrations. We have many more events planned to bring us together, and I encourage you to join us for the special Family Fun Day on Sunday, January 25th, from 1–4 p.m. at 96th Street Park. Also, keep an eye out for the return of Third Thursdays and other exciting events to be announced soon.

Surfside's strength comes from the people who serve, and I want to express sincere appreciation to the many volunteers on our boards and committees, as well as our dedicated Town staff. I also want to acknowledge my colleagues who I've had the privilege of serving with. As we enter a new election cycle, it becomes even more important to consider leadership that is consistent, honest, and focused on maintaining the peacefulness of our remarkable community.

Last month, I had the privilege of attending the Best Practices Conference presented by the Miami-Dade County League of Cities. The discussions centered on technology and ways to enhance customer service in permitting and other areas of government services that directly support our residents and businesses.

I was reminded of how special our community truly is when speaking with representatives from other municipalities who expressed their genuine admiration for Surfside. We are a unique community with a rich history, and it is our responsibility to honor and build upon that legacy. Representing Surfside is an honor I cherish deeply, and as always, I remain at your service.



RUBEN A. COTO COMMISSIONER

Dear neighbors,

As we welcome 2026, I want to extend my warmest wishes to all our friends and neighbors in Surfside for a wonderful start to the new year. Our vibrant community shines because of the kindness, spirit, and unity we share.

While we have accomplished many important projects this past year, there is still a lot of work to be done. I would like to thank our amazing Mayor and amazing colleagues on the dais for all that they do and continue to do for Surfside. Working together, we can achieve even more for our Town. We may not always

agree on everything and definitely have different personalities and style, but EVERYONE on this team has our Town's best interest in their hearts and are all about public service and not personal gain!

A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our dedicated Surfside Police Department and all of our incredible Town employees. Your hard work, commitment, and care keep our community safe and thriving every day. We are truly grateful for everything you do.

May this new year bring everyone good health, happiness, and prosperity. Let's continue to support one another and make Surfside an even better place to live.

Thank God for all the blessings we've received, and here's to a joyful and successful 2026!



NELLY VELASQUEZ COMMISSIONER

As we welcome 2026, I would like to extend my warmest wishes to all Surfside residents for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Our community continues to be a special place to live, work, and raise families, and I am deeply grateful for the trust and support you have shown over the years.

It has truly been an honor to serve as a Surfside Commissioner for the past six years. During this time, we have worked tirelessly to protect the character of our Town, strengthen our infrastructure, enhance public safety, and ensure responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Together, we have navigated significant challenges and achieved meaningful accomplishments that will benefit Surfside for generations to come. While much has been accomplished, it is also important to acknowledge setbacks. One of the most significant has been the delay of the

long-anticipated underground utilities project. This important infrastructure initiative was scheduled to begin in September 2025 and reflected years of planning and community input. Unfortunately, a combination of factors—including extended delays by prior leadership and administrative challenges during the tenure of the previous Town Manager—resulted in a substantial and unforeseen increase in projected costs. As a result, the project has been placed on hold and may not move forward.

This outcome is deeply troubling, as undergrounding utilities is essential to the long-term resilience, safety, and aesthetic integrity of Surfside. Our residents deserved better execution, clearer oversight, and responsible leadership on a project of this magnitude.

As we move forward into the new year, it is also important to look ahead to the March Town elections. These elections will play a critical role in shaping the future direction of our Town.

Continued on page 6...

Commission Corner

Continued from page 5... I strongly encourage all eligible residents to stay informed, remain engaged, and make their voices heard by coming out to vote. Civic participation is the foundation of strong local government, and every vote truly matters.

As we enter 2026, I remain committed to transparency, accountability, and advocating for the best interests of our

community. Surfside's future depends on sound leadership, thoughtful planning, and unwavering dedication to the residents we serve.

Thank you for the privilege of allowing me to represent you. I look forward to continuing the work ahead with integrity, determination, and optimism for the year ahead.



GERARDO VILDOSTEGUI COMMISSIONER

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are two of my favorite holidays, and one reason why I like them so much is that they turn something mundane—the passage of time—into something extraordinary. As far as our regular lives go, it's hard to imagine an activity more boring than watching a ticking clock. And yet, when we count down the minutes and seconds to a new year, we somehow discover, collectively, the magic in that activity.

That little bit of magic extends beyond clock-watching, and beyond one fleeting, pivotal midnight. It takes hold of our thinking for several days around the new year, encouraging us to think about the future as open and bright—and as being, to some extent, up to us. If someone were to tell you, on a random day in August, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life" or "Every day is a new beginning," you might roll your eyes at the cliché. But in the dawn of a new year, we can see, with clarity, the profound truth in those refrains.

The new year is a time for looking ahead, and we should take advantage of its magic to look ahead and to deliberate, together, about the future of our Town. The year 2026, like every new year, will bring many fresh starts, some of which are already in the works: a groundbreaking, a rededication, an election. But what other fresh starts do we as Surfsiders want to make?

That question looms large in my thinking as 2026 approaches and as this Commission's term draws to a close. Throughout this term, I've been aware of how much of the critical work in our

Town depends on a continuous project of "paying it forward." I had the privilege, for example, of attending the grand opening of the 96th Street Park, the culmination of a project that many hands and many minds, over many years, worked to complete. I was there, too, to break ground on the Abbott drainage project, and I look forward to breaking ground on the Champlain South Memorial. But the ribbon-cuttings for those finished projects must await a future Commission in a future term.

How else can I, and the 2024-26 Commission, pay it forward? I'm particularly interested in three possibilities. First, the Town's properties in the 9300 block of Harding, including the O'Hagan house at 9333 Harding, present a historic opportunity to stitch together our business district with the municipal buildings on 93rd Street. I would love to see the Town re-imagine that block with something more inspiring, and more full of life, than a surface parking lot. I raised this question as a discussion item at the December Commission meeting, and I want for us to continue the conversation in the upcoming months. Second, in the business district, the alleyways between Collins and Harding create another historic opportunity to create usable public space right in the heart of our Town. We have some grant funding already to help us create something beautiful and vibrant there, but we will need more ideas, more public participation, and more funding to make that project a reality. And, finally, I would like for the Commission to think about what our next big Parks and Recreation project should be. I raised this important question as a discussion item at a Commission meeting last year, and I plan to bring it back at one of our remaining meetings.

In the spirit of this new year and of new beginnings, I would love to hear your thoughts and your wishes for Surfside's future. And, in the meantime, here's to a happy, healthy new year in Surfside.

DECEMBER COMMISSION MEETING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Approval of Resolution Certifying and Declaring the November 4, 2025, Special Election Results
- · Approval of Agreement with Granicus, LLC for Redesigning the Town's Website
- Approval of Agreement with Alves Sports Group LLC for the Youth Soccer Program for Fiscal Year 2025/2026
- Approval of Employee Health Benefits Renewal Contracts for Fiscal Year 2025/2026
- Approval of Professional Services Agreement with LagomHR, Inc.
- Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Town Attorney to Engage Qualified Outside Legal Counsel for Special Projects in Fiscal Year 2025/2026
- Approval of Resolution Ratifying and Approving Agreements with Outside Legal Counsel
- Ordinance Amending Rule 6.06, Section 2-205 Conduct of Meetings, Agenda

SURFSIDE GAZETTE JANUARY 2026

Manager's Message

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING TOWN MANAGER MARIO A. DIAZ

As we welcome 2026, may this new year bring renewed hope for our community and a bright new chapter for the Town. Over the past three months, I have enjoyed getting to know the community and the staff. This truly is a beautiful slice of paradise you have created.

In the year ahead, staff will focus on strengthening our core services, advancing key capital and resilience projects, and improving how we communicate and listen to one another. Our team will work closely with the Town Commission to keep Surfside safe, financially stable, and responsive to the needs of residents and businesses.

January is a time for reflection, renewal, and recommitment to the values that guide our community. It also includes important national observances:

- -New Year's Day, a time to set goals and embrace new opportunities for personal and community growth.
- -Martin Luther King Jr. Day, honoring Dr. King's legacy of civil rights, equity, and service.
- -National Religious Freedom Day (January 16), recognizing the importance of religious liberty, respect, and understanding.
- -National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day (January 9), thanking law enforcement personnel for their dedication and commitment to public safety.

Surfsiders, we have a whole month of celebrations planned. Join us for our Annual Family Fun Day, Under the Stars Movie Night, and more from our Parks and Recreation Department. Our 96th Street Farmers Market also continues throughout January, offering fresh local produce and a chance to connect with neighbors. Please check the Town of Surfside calendar for up-to-date event information.

Wishing you and your loved ones health, hope, and many blessings in the year ahead. Peace be with you in 2026.

TRASH PICK-UP & BULK SCHEDULE

From Code Compliance - The Town of Surfside provides a convenient trash collection schedule for residents. Public Works services the residential district five days a week, Monday through Friday. Vegetation debris is collected only twice a week, on Mondays and Tuesdays, and residents are asked to follow this schedule to avoid fines.

All commercial landscapers are required to haul away all cuttings and trimmings from the Town. In addition, trash bins must be returned to private property after the final pickup on Fridays. The Code Compliance Division will continue issuing notices to properties that are not in compliance.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE CHARLES R. PRESS

As we welcome a new year in the Town of Surfside, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our residents, business owners, and visitors for their continued support of the Surfside Police Department. Your partnership is essential to our mission, and it inspires our team every day.

The past year was one of growth, collaboration, and continued dedication to public safety. Our officers worked tirelessly—whether through community policing efforts, traffic safety initiatives, or interagency coordination—to ensure Surfside remains a safe and thriving community. I am incredibly proud of the professionalism and commitment displayed by every member of this department.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue advancing our goals of enhanced visibility, proactive engagement, and strengthened communication with those we serve. This month, we will begin reviewing new strategies and tools aimed at improving emergency response capabilities and overall efficiency. We will also be reconnecting with our condominium associations, business partners, and community groups to discuss safety needs and upcoming initiatives for the new year.

As always, I encourage you to reach out to us with any questions, concerns, or ideas. Your feedback is invaluable as we work together to create an even safer Surfside. Please email me cpress@townofsurfsidefl.gov.

On behalf of the men and women of the Surfside Police Department, I wish each of you a safe, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

News From Town Hall

COMMISSIONER VILDOSTEGUI HELPS ATALA BUTTERFLY FIND NEW HOME AT SURFSIDE NATIVE GARDEN

The Atala butterfly has found a new home at the Surfside Native Garden, located at 92nd Street and Bay Drive. The garden was recently expanded with plants that historically grew in the area prior to European settlement, highlighting the importance of Florida's native flora. Among the new plantings is the coontie, which shares a mutualistic relationship with the Atala butterfly, making the garden an ideal habitat for the species.

The project was made possible through a 2025 Viva Florida Landscape Demonstration Garden grant awarded to the Town of Surfside. New additions include Florida native wildflowers and shrubs such as beach verbena (Glandularia maritima), Jamaican caper

(Quadrella cynophallophora), and American beautyberry (Callicarpa americana). These plants provide essential habitat for pollinators and local wildlife while educating the public about the ecological value of native species in urban environments.

"Surfside is in a unique position to showcase resilient, sustainable coastal landscaping," said Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui. "This garden helps residents connect with the plants that existed here long before the Town was built while providing crucial habitat for native species like the Atala butterfly."

In addition to its ecological benefits, the park features a pergola, bench, lending library, and sculpture, making it a popular stop for walkers and cyclists. The expanded Native Garden now serves as a demonstration site for environmentally conscious landscaping, illustrating how small urban spaces can support both beauty and biodiversity.





Scan QR code to view video:



SURFSIDE ATTENDS MDCLC'S 13TH ANNUAL BEST PRACTICES CONFERENCE

Surfside participated in the MDCLC 13th Annual Best Practices Conference on Wednesday, Dec. 10, joining municipal leaders from across Miami-Dade County for a full day of policy discussions and professional development. Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui, Acting Town Manager Mario A. Diaz, and Town Clerk Sandra N. McCready represented the Town at the event, which featured sessions on regional resilience, cybersecurity for local governments, mental health support, permitting, and legal and ethical considerations for elected officials. The conference offered an opportunity for Surfside's leadership to engage in meaningful dialogue, exchange best practices, and strengthen partnerships that support effective and transparent local governance.







8 SURFSIDE GAZETTE JANUARY 2026

News From Town Hall

'LET'S ALL DO OUR PART': NEW RECYCLING BINS NOW IN PLACE AT TOWN HALL

Public Works has placed new blue recycling bins and black garbage containers throughout Town Hall and surrounding areas to support the Town's ongoing sustainability efforts. Staff are encouraged to use the blue bins for all recyclable materials and the black containers for regular waste.

"Our goal is simple, to make recycling easier and more accessible for everyone," said André Eugent, Public Works / CIP Director. "Let's all do our part to keep our Town clean and environmentally responsible."



COMMUNITY GATHERS TO HONOR ARYA GRAY AND PROMOTE GUN SAFETY

The Town of Surfside hosted the Remembering Arya: Gun Safety Forum on Thursday, Dec. 11, at 96th Street Park, bringing together residents, Youth Council leaders and Town officials for an evening of reflection, education and action.

The event opened with remarks from the Youth Council, Vice Mayor Tina Paul and Surfside Police Chief Charles Press, followed by a moving remembrance from the Gray family. Attendees also heard a joint presentation on gun safety and violence prevention from Hilary Feldman, Ph.D., and Chief Press.

Throughout the evening, speakers emphasized the importance of community responsibility and youth empowerment.

"We honor Arya by doing everything in our power to protect our children," Chief Press said. "Safety is a shared commitment, and tonight reminds us that when a community comes together, real change is possible."

The event concluded with a call to action "Pledge for Arya" and the introduction of the Arya Gray Higher Education Scholarship. Pizza and refreshments were provided by the Surfside Police Department.









CLEAN CAMPAIGN CLASS FOR FUTURE CANDIDATES

The Town of Surfside held a Clean Campaign Class on Thursday, Dec. 4, to educate those considering a run for local office.

Representatives from the Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust and the Office of the Supervisor of Elections led the seminar, providing guidance on election law, fundraising rules, advertising requirements, and record-keeping procedures.

The two-hour class was free and open to the public. Residents, campaign managers, treasurers, and volunteers attended to learn what it takes to run a transparent and compliant campaign.



Police Beat

POLICE MEET WITH CONDO AND HOTEL MANAGERS TO DISCUSS WINTER SAFETY

Chief Charles Press, Major Jay Matelis and Acting Town Manager Mario A. Diaz met with condominium and hotel association managers and staff to discuss winter-season safety and quality-of-life concerns as part of the Town's community engagement initiatives.

During the meeting, Chief Press emphasized the importance of prevention and situational awareness as visitor traffic increases. "Simple precautions make a major difference," Press said. "We want residents, guests and employees to stay alert, secure their belongings and use extra caution on our streets during this busy time of year."

The Chief urged attendees to remind residents and guests not to leave valuables visible inside vehicles and to avoid returning to their cars mid-shopping trip to place purchases in the trunk, as thieves may be watching. He also noted the increase in delivered packages during the holiday season and encouraged residents to ensure someone is available to receive and secure them when possible. Additionally, he stressed the importance of staying aware while crossing streets—especially avoiding phone distractions—as many drivers are unfamiliar with local roads, and ongoing construction can make conditions more hazardous.

Attendees included representatives from Arts Surfside, Azure Condominium, The Manatee Condominium, Mirage of Surfside, Residence Inn by Marriott Miami Beach Surfside, Solara Surfside Resort and The Waverly. The Town will continue outreach with local associations to promote safety, awareness and an enhanced quality of life for all who live, work and visit Surfside.





SURFSIDE POLICE CONDUCT HOLIDAY TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT TO PROMOTE SAFER ROADWAYS

The Surfside Police Department conducted a holiday traffic enforcement detail in December, deploying officers throughout the Town to remind drivers of the heightened risks associated with careless and distracted driving during the busy holiday season.

The operation focused on educating the public, increasing visibility, and encouraging safe driving behaviors as traffic traditionally increases in December. Officers conducted targeted enforcement in high-volume areas to help reduce crashes and improve roadway safety for residents and visitors.



Chief Press said the effort reflects the department's ongoing commitment to proactive public safety. "Safety is our top priority," the Chief said. "During the holidays, our roads become even busier, and this proactive enforcement is one way we work to protect everyone traveling through Surfside. We are grateful to our partner agencies for standing with us today to keep our community safe."

The Surfside Police Department extended its appreciation to the Florida Department of Transportation and the local law enforcement agencies that assisted throughout the detail.

The department will continue conducting public safety initiatives every month to promote safe driving and reduce traffic-related incidents.

Police Beat

KINDNESS IN ACTION: SURFSIDE POLICE DELIVER HOLIDAY MEALS TO LOCAL FAMILIES

This holiday season, the Surfside Police Department brought holiday cheer directly to local families by delivering turkeys and complete holiday meals. The initiative reflects the department's commitment to supporting the community and honoring those who support law enforcement every day.

Several local law enforcement agencies joined Surfside officers in the project, providing crucial assistance to ensure the deliveries reached families in need.

The department also expressed gratitude to partner organizations that helped organize the event. Special recognition went to Chief Press and Sgt. Cruz, whose organizations, the Chief Press Foundation and Closet of Living Hope, played key roles in supporting the initiative.

Chief Press said, "It's an honor to help our community celebrate the holidays. Being able to provide meals and bring a little joy to families is what this season is all about."

The event is part of Surfside Police Department's ongoing efforts to strengthen community ties and give back during the holiday season.







CHIEF PRESS LEADS 10TH ANNUAL VETERANS THANKSGIVING LUNCH AT LOANDEPOT PARK

Chief of Police Charles R. Press hosted the Miami-Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police 10th Annual Veterans Thanksgiving Lunch at LoanDepot Park, bringing together command staff and chiefs from law enforcement agencies across the county to serve meals to local veterans.

The tradition, launched a decade ago by the Chief Press Foundation, has grown significantly since its early years.

"It's an honor to serve the men and women who have served our country," Chief Press said. "What began as a small idea has become a meaningful annual gathering, and I'm proud to see how it continues to grow."

Law enforcement agencies from across Miami-Dade County participated in the event, assisting with food service and greeting veterans.

The Town extends its gratitude to LoanDepot Park, Royal Caribbean, and Starbucks for providing the venue, meals, and supplies that helped make the event possible.





Uptown FunTown

SINGERFEST! CELEBRATING A LITERARY LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE

Surfside's Community Relations (CRB) and Resort Tax Boards hosted a new event aiming to highlight one of Surfside's most storied residents, Nobel Laureate Author, Isaac Bashevis Singer. The CRB kicked off Singerfest with a packed audience for the Book led by Dr. Itzik Gottesman from the University of Texas at Austin. Readers explored four of Singer's timeless stories—Gimpel the Fool, Alone, Old Love, and The Last Demon—diving into their humor, mysticism, and profound human insight. Outside the Fishbowl room, guests enjoyed a visual exhibition curated by Isaac Pack with the Surfside Youth Council, which shed light on Singer's time in Surfside. Following the Book Club, the Resort Tax Board hosted a festive reception in the Community Center green space, which was transformed by local vendor ReLeaf Designs into a magical space featuring Singer's writing desk, origami birds folded from his books, and an array of ambience lighting and décor which dazzled attendees. The Reception featured a short film screening of Alone in Klezmer, an invited talk by Dr. Gottesman, the joyous sounds of Miami Klezmer band, and Polish-inspired kosher delicacies. Guests enjoyed a warm, outdoor celebration that combined literary exploration with music, community connection, and the rich cultural legacy of Singer's work. A special thank you to Vice Mayor Tina Paul, Commissioner Gerardo Vildostegui, Parks & Recreation staff and all the Board members who supported the event!







HOLIDAY SPIRIT SPARKLES AT SURFSIDE'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Surfside welcomed the holiday season in festive fashion at its 2nd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 7, outside Town Hall. Residents gathered with friends, family, and neighbors to enjoy an evening filled with sparkling lights, seasonal cheer, and heartfelt community spirit. Attendees also enjoyed the brand-new Nativity Scene adjacent to the tree. The celebration featured a joyful visit from Santa Claus, a charming performance by the Ruth K. Broad Children's Orchestra, and an array of hot chocolate, sweet and savory treats, holiday music, and more. The event, produced in house by staff and an array of adult and teen volunteers, was proudly sponsored by the Resort Tax Board, bringing Surfside together for a warm and memorable start to the season.













12 SURFSIDE GAZETTE JANUARY 2026

Uptown FunTown

CELEBRATE COMMUNITY WITH SIGNATURE EVENTS THIS WINTER

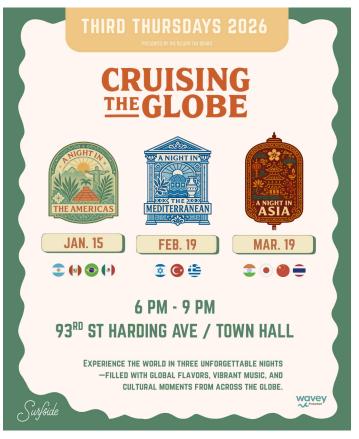
Surfside invites residents to major community events this winter, beginning with the **Snow Moon Soirée**: Surfside's Sand & Sea Celebration, set for Jan. 31–Feb. 1, 2026, at the Surfside Community Center. Presented by the Resort Tax Board in partnership with ReLeaf Designs, the two-day event will feature professional sand sculptures and a workshop, live mermaids, fire dancers, surfing and wellness activities, live music, a garden barbecue, yoga stations, an adults-only white party and a signature cocktail. See back cover for more details.

The Town will also host the 2026 *Third Thursdays* series, "Cruising the Globe," on Jan. 15, Feb. 19 and March 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. at 93rd Street. Each evening will highlight a different region—The Americas, the Mediterranean and Asia—through cultural performances, global flavors and live entertainment.

For schedules and more information, please visit the Town website or follow @VisitSurfside on Instagram.

HARDING AVENUE HOSTS MIDNIGHT MADNESS

Midnight Madness lit up Harding Avenue on Saturday, Dec. 6, as residents and visitors came out for an extended evening of holiday shopping and incentives. Guests strolled the district, supported their favorite local retailers, and enjoyed special discounts, door prizes, and Surfside giveaways at participating stores. Adding to the magical ambience of the night were the vibrant sounds of a live LED light violinist, whose performance brought an extra sparkle to the celebration. It was a festive, feel-good Surfside tradition in the making — all made possible by the Resort Tax Board.











LEARN HOW TO USE THE TOWN APP WITH NEW VIDEO GUIDES

The Town of Surfside has launched a new digital education campaign to help residents become more familiar with the Parks & Recreation app. The short videos feature themes such as an app introduction and a full step-by-step tutorial. Made available to guide residents through registration, verification and popular features such as lap lane reservations at the Community Center pool.

Residents can watch the videos by scanning the QR code below. The tutorials are designed to make the app easier to use and to ensure everyone can take full advantage of Town programs and services.

Scan the QR code to watch and learn how to use the Surfside App.











HUNDREDS GATHER AT FESTIVE WINTER WONDERLAND EVENT AT 96TH STREET PARK

The Town of Surfside's Parks and Recreation Department welcomed families and neighbors on Sunday, Dec. 14, for its annual Winter Wonderland celebration at 96th Street Park, transforming the space into a cheerful holiday gathering filled with seasonal activities and community spirit.

Residents enjoyed a morning of holiday-themed fun, including ice activities, music, and children's entertainment. The event drew strong attendance as Surfside families celebrate the holiday season together. Parks and Recreation staff organized the festivities and provided safe fun for all.

Winter Wonderland is one of the Town's signature seasonal events, designed to bring residents together and celebrate Surfside's sense of community. For more information on future programs, contact the Surfside Community Center at 305-866-3635.















FAMILIES GATHER FOR 'MOVIE UNDER THE STARS' AT 96TH STREET PARK

The Town of Surfside hosted its latest Movie Under the Stars event Saturday, Dec. 6, at 96th Street Park, welcoming residents and hotel guests for an outdoor screening of Disney Pixar's Elio.

Families and neighbors arrived with blankets and lawn chairs as the movie began at 7 p.m. The Parks and Recreation Department provided free popcorn and refreshments, creating a relaxed and family-friendly atmosphere under the night sky.

"We're proud to create spaces where our community can come together and enjoy simple, memorable moments," Parks and Recreation Director Rudy Perez said. "Events like Movie Under the Stars remind us why Surfside is such a special place to call home."

The event is part of the Town's ongoing effort to offer programming that brings the community together in a welcoming outdoor setting. Follow us on social media @SurfsideFlorida to attend the next show!











TOWN OF SURFSIDE **AQUATICS HOURS OF OPERATION** RESERVE A LAP LANE DOWNLOAD THE APP **TOT LOT MONTH BEACH TOWER MAIN POOL POOL** RECREATIONAL SWIMMING 9:00-6:00 9:00-5:00 10:00-5:30 January 7:00-6:00 SCAN QR CODE RECREATIONAL SWIMM 9:00-6:30 9:00-5:00 10:00-6:00 February LAP SWIMMING **AQUATIC XE** PROGRAMS

REFRESH YOUR BEACH SAFETY KNOWLEDGE

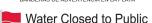
HOW TO BREAK THE GRIP OF THE RIP:

- •Don't fight the current.
- ·Swim out of the current then to shore.
- ·If you can't escape, float or tread water.
- ·Call or wave for assistance.



- Always swim in a lifeguarded area.
- Never swim alone, regardless of your age or level of swimming skills.

BEACH WARNING FLAGS













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*Conditions available during beach tower operations.

For daily beach conditions, contact the Community Center at (305) 866-3635.

- Keep within your fitness and swimming capabilities.
- Be aware of weather and water conditions and heed

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL PARKS & RECREATION AT 305-866-3635 OR VISIT TOWNOFSURFSIDEFL.GOV/PROGRAMS, DATES, TIMES AND CLASSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

TENNIS PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DAYS/DATES	HOURS	AGES	FEES*
Tennis Pee Wee	<u>Mon. & Wed.</u> 1/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	4:30-5 p.m.	4 - 5 yrs.	R - \$120 / NR - \$180
Tennis Champs	<u>Mon. & Wed.</u> 1/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	5-6 p.m.	9 - 11 yrs.	R - \$144 / NR - \$204
Tennis Challenger	<u>Mon. & Wed.</u> 1/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	6-7 p.m.	12 - 14 yrs.	R - \$144 / NR - \$204
Tennis Varsity	Mon. & Wed. 1/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	7-8 p.m.	15-16 yrs.	R - \$144 / NR - \$204
Tennis Pee Wee	Tue. & Thu. 1/6 - 2/19/26	4-4:30 p.m.	4 – 5 yrs.	R - \$140 / NR - \$210
Tennis Champs	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	4-5 p.m.	9 - 11 yrs.	R - \$168 / NR - \$238
Tennis Prodigies	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	4:30-5:30 p.m.	6 - 8 yrs.	R - \$168 / NR - \$238
Girls Tennis Varsity	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	6-7 p.m.	15 - 16 yrs.	R - \$168 / NR - \$238
Tennis Challenger	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	5:30-6:30 p.m.	12 - 14 yrs.	R - \$168 / NR - \$238
Girls Tennis Challenger	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	5- 6 p.m.	12 - 14 yrs.	R - \$168 / NR - \$238
Advanced Adult Clinic	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	7- 8 p.m.	18 & over	R - \$168 / NR - \$238
Tennis Champs	<u>Sat.</u> 1/10 - 2/21/26	11-12 p.m.	9 - 11 yrs.	R - \$84 / NR - \$119
Tennis Prodigies	<u>Sat.</u> 1/10 - 2/21/26	10- 11 a.m.	6 - 8 yrs.	R - \$84 / NR - \$119
Intermediate Adult Clinic	<u>Sat.</u> 1/10 - 2/21/26	9 - 10 a.m.	18 & over	R - \$84 / NR - \$119















YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DAYS/DATES	HOURS	AGES	FEES*
Gymnastics	<u>Mon.</u> 1/5 - 2/9/26 No class: 01/19	4:30-5:30 p.m. 5:30-6:30 p.m.	3-5 yrs. 6-12 yrs.	R - \$60 NR - \$85
Taekwondo	<u>Mon. & Wed.</u> 1/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	6:30-7:25 p.m.	7-18 yrs.	R - \$144 NR - \$204
Snapology	<u>Tue.</u> 1/6 - 2/17/26	4:30-5:30 p.m.	7-14 yrs.	R - \$84 NR - \$119
Tunes for Tots	<u>Wed.</u> 1/7 - 2/18/26	10-11 a.m.	6 month- 5yrs.	R - \$84 NR - \$119
Mommy & Me	<u>Thu.</u> 1/8 - 2/19/26	10-11 a.m.	2 yrs & Under	Registration Via Round Robin Playgroup See Flyer
Gymnastics	<u>Thu.</u> 1/8 - 2/19/26	4:30-5:30 p.m.	3-5 yrs.	R - \$84 NR - \$119
Jazz Dance	<u>Sat.</u> 1/10 - 2/21/26	3-4 p.m.	7-12 yrs.	R - \$84 NR - \$119
Нір-Нор	<u>Sat.</u> 1/10 - 2/21/26	4-5 p.m.	7-12 yrs.	R - \$84 NR - \$119

YOUTH ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DAYS/DATES	HOURS	AGES	FEES*	
Flag Football	<u>Mon.</u> 1/5 - 2/18/26 No Class: 01/19 & 02/16	4:45-5:45 p.m. 6-7 p.m.	5-7 yrs. 8-12 yrs.	R - \$144 NR - \$204	
Youth Basketball	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	4:45-5:45 p.m. 6-7 p.m.	5-7 yrs. 8-12 yrs	R - \$168 NR - \$238	
Coed Soccer	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	4-5 p.m.	4-6 yrs.	R - \$168 NR - \$238	
All Girls Soccer	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/6 - 2/19/26	4-5 p.m.	4-6 yrs.	R - \$168 NR - \$238	
All Boys Soccer	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 1/8 - 2/19/26	6-7 p.m.	7-9 yrs. 10-12 yrs	R - \$168 NR - \$238	
Start Smart Soccer	<u>Sun.</u> 1/11 - 2/22/26	10-11 a.m.	2-4 yrs.	R - \$84 NR - \$119	
Tennis	<u>See Tennis Listing</u>	See Tennis Listing	See Tennis Listing	See Tennis Listing	

ADULT & SENIOR PROGRAMS

PROGRAM	DAYS/DATES	HOURS	AGES	FEES*
Zumba	<u>Mon.</u> 01/5 − 2/9/26 No Class: 01/19	9-10 a.m.	18-54yrs.	R - \$60 NR - \$85
Zumba Gold	<u>Mon.</u> 01/5 - 2/9/26 No Class: 01/19	9-10 a.m.	55 & Over	R - Free NR - \$35
Adult Art Class	See Flyer	See Flyer	See Flyer	See Flyer
Silver Sneakers: Cardio & Strength	<u>Tue. & Fri.</u> 01/6 - 2/20/26	9-10 a.m.	50 & Over	R: Free S.S Members: Free NR / Non-Members: \$10
Dance Fusion	<u>Tue. & Thu.</u> 01/6 - 2/19/26	10:30-11:30 a.m.	18 & Over	R - \$168 NR - \$238
Pilates	<u>Tue.</u> 01/6 - 2/17/26	7:15-8:15 p.m.	16 & Over	R - \$84 NR - \$119
Senior Time	<u>Wed.</u> <u>01/7 - 2/18/26</u>	10−12 p.m.	18 & Over	Free
Self Defense	<u>Thu.</u> 01/8 - 2/19/26	7:15-8:15 p.m.	16 & Over	R - \$84 NR - \$119
Hatha Yoga	<u>Sun.</u> 01/11 - 2/22/26	11 -12 p.m.	16 & Over	R - \$84 NR - \$119
	★R = Residents NR = Non-	For more inforr Surfside Community C		635

Website: www.townofsurfsidefl.gov

SCAN FOR FLYERS

Residents

Featured Properties of the Month



REPRESENTING SELLER

17475 COLLINS AVE, #602 SUNNY ISLES BEACH, FL 33160

4 BEDROOMS | 5.5 BATHROOMS INT: 3,340 SQ FT ASKING PRICE: \$4,895,000



REPRESENTING SELLER

9705 COLLINS AVE, #1402N BAL HARBOUR, FL 33154

3 BEDROOMS | 3.5 BATHROOMS INT: 3,128 SQ FT ASKING PRICE: \$7,200,000



REPRESENTING DEVELOPER

9110 W BAY HARBOUR DR #6 BAY HARBOR ISLANDS, FL 33154

5 BEDROOMS | 5 BATHROOMS | 2 POWDER ROOMS INT: 5,164 SQ FT | EXT: 653 SQ FT ASKING PRICE : \$13,000,000



REPRESENTING BUYER

9349 COLLINS AVE, #303 SURFSIDE, FL 33154

3 BEDROOMS | 4.5 BATHROOMS INT: 3,325 SQ FT SALE PRICE: \$10,000,000



VANESSA FRANK

GLOBAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

305.799.2633 Vanessa@vanessafrankmiami.com

O Vanessafrankmiami I live and work in Surfside. *Contact me today!* We *never* miss a showing!

1 AGENT IN SURFSIDE, ONE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY
TOP #13 AGENT IN ONE SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY SE FLORIDA
TOP #18 AGENT COMPANY-WIDE
TOP AGENT FOR ONE SOTHEBY'S DEVELOPMENTS



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Broker Associate

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Cheers to a New Year filled with light, hope, and joy in your warm and welcoming homes.

> **CASA DE MARIA REALTY** +1 (305) 331-5686 Maria@casademariarealty.com







BEAUTY SALON/BARBER SHOP

20	Surfside No. 2 Barber Shop - 9504 Harding Ave
20	Juli Side 140. 2 Dui bei Shop 750 4 Haranig 744

- 30 D'Nails Lounge 9466 Harding Ave
- 35 Justin Barbershop 9452 Harding Ave
- 36 Alexia + Frankie's Beauty Bar 9448 Harding Ave
- 48 Uni K Wax 9567 Harding Ave
- 50 Femme Coiffure & Spa 9563 Harding Ave
- 64 Extension Dreams Hair Salon 9521 Harding Ave

BOUTIQUES/SHOES/TAILORS

- Penny's Alterations 9532 Harding Ave #104
- 17C Verdile's/Mario The Tailor 9520 Harding Ave
- The Shoppe Miami 9486 Harding Ave
- 27 Bebe Sweeny 9480 Harding Ave
- 32 Tsniout Runway 9458 Harding Ave
- 49 Condotti 9565 Harding Ave
- 50 Lucky Cigar Surfside 9555 Harding Ave
- 55 Iris Alterations & Tailoring 9553 Harding Ave #204
- 70 WoW The Concept 9507 Harding Ave
- 26B Potter Me 9484 Harding Ave

GIFTS/JEWELRY/FLOWERS

- Moon Over Miami Gift Shop 9520 Harding Ave
- 17B Liborio Cigars 9520 Harding Ave
- 26 Miami Gift / Italian J- 9482 Harding Ave
- Gray and Sons Jewelry 9595 Harding Ave
- 43 Amoris Flowers + Events 9577 Harding Ave
- 44 Sunny Toys & Gifts 9575 Harding Ave
- 45 Miamira Jewelers 9573 Harding Ave
- 52 7th Plateau 9559 Harding Ave
- JS Diamond Enterprises 9553 Harding Ave #307
- Yaffa Wigs 9515 Harding Ave.
- 68 Sherels Hats 9513 Harding Ave.
- Jewelers Choice 9501 Harding Ave
- World of Smoke & Vape 9501 Harding Ave
- Tzfasman Jewelers 9425 Harding Ave

REAL ESTATE SERVICES

- ONE Sotheby's International Realty 9588 Harding Ave
- The Agency 9564 Harding Ave
- 17D Infinity BH Real Estate/Goldfarb 9520 Harding Ave
- 19 Estelle Stern Realty 9508 Harding Ave
- 59 The Corcoran Group 9537 Harding Ave
- 95 Surfside Barber Shop 9431 Harding Ave

HEALTH & WELLNESS

- 3 CVS Pharmacy 9578 Harding Ave
- 7 Oberle Opticians 9552 Harding Ave
- 10 Lemel Medspa 9538 Harding Ave
- 12 Surfside Chiropractic 9532 Harding Ave #101
- 14 Veterinary Wellness Center of Surfside 9530 Harding Ave
- Dr. Curson Podiatry 9528 Harding Ave
- 16 SJI Dermatology 9526 Harding Ave
- 33 Dr. Edy A. Guerra Dental Center 9456 Harding Ave
- 58 BH Rx Surfside Pharmacy 9541 Harding Ave
- 73 Surfside Hearing Aid 222 95th St
- 76B Bal Harbour Smiles 260 95th St #202
- 76D Malekin Law PA -260 95th St #206
- 91 TrufaMED Urgent Care -9445 Harding Ave

FINANCIAL/SERVICES

- Flagstar Bank 9592 Harding Ave
- 6 Chase Bank 9556 Harding Ave
- 17D Camissar International 9520 Harding Ave
- 38 Brookville Cabinet & Design (Showroom)
- 47 AT&T Surfside 9569 Harding Ave
- 54B SKF Tech 9553 Harding Ave #302
- 54C SK Worldwide 9553 Harding Ave #303
- 54E Gelb Productions 9553 Harding Ave #311
- 62 CitiBank 9525 Harding Ave
- 76 Barry Cohen Law Firm 260 95th St #201
- 76C Executive Auto Group 260 95th St #203
- 93 T-Mobile 9435 Harding Ave
- 96 The UPS Store 9429 Harding Ave
- 101 Wells Fargo Bank 9401 Harding Ave

RESTAURANT/SUPERMARKET

- 5 Starbucks 9560 Harding Ave
- 8 Cine Citta Cafe^K 9544 Harding Ave
- 11 Subway 9536 Harding Ave
- 17F Holy Toast 9520 Harding Ave
- 18 Flanigan's Seafood Bar & Grill 9516 Harding Ave
- 21 Cafe Ragazzi 9500 Harding Ave
- 22 Big Daddy's Liquor 9494 Harding Ave
- 23 Cafe Vert^K 9490 Harding Ave
- 28 Rustiko^K 9476 Harding Ave
- 31 Street Kitchen^K 9460 Harding
- 36 Panini Grill^K 9460 Harding
- 37 Publix Supermarket 9400 Harding Ave
- 42 Sushi Republic 9583 Harding Ave
- 46 Morelia Gourmet Paletas^K 9571 Harding Ave
- 51 Street Bar^K 9561 Harding Ave
- Bagel Boss Surfside^K 9543 Harding Ave
- 63 The Gifted Crust^K 9523 Harding Ave
- The Carrot^K 9519 Harding Ave
- 66 Josh's Deli 9517 Harding Ave
- 77 Neya Restaurant^K 9491 Harding Ave
- 79 La Vita E Bella Cafe^K 9485 Harding Ave
- 81 Kosh^K 9477 Harding Ave
- The Grove^K 9467 Harding Ave
- Fialkoff's Express Surfside^K 9463 Harding Ave
- 86 Rita's Ice Custard Happiness 9461 Harding Ave
- 87 Moncheese Pizza 9459 Harding Ave
- 88 Serendipity Yogurt Cafe^K 9457 Harding Ave
- 89 OAKBERRY Acaí 9455 Harding Ave
- 92 Roast^K 9441 Harding Ave
- 94 Miami Beach Chocolates Surfside^K 9433 Harding Ave
- 97 The Harbour Gourmet^K 9427 Harding Ave
- 99/100 The Harbour Grill^K (No Deli) 9415-9421 Harding Ave



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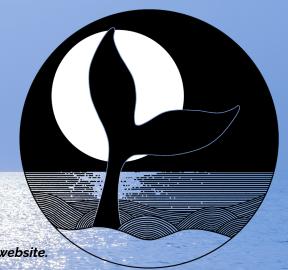


SNOW MOON SOIREE

Surfside's Sand & Sea Celebration

Surfside Community Center, Jan. 31,- Feb. 1, 2026,

- Professional Sand
 Sculptures & Workshop
- Live Mermaids, Fire Dancers
- Surfing & Wellness
- Live Music
- Garden BBQ
- Yoga, Activity Stations
- Adults-Only White Party
- Signature Cocktail & More!



For the schedule and more information, please visit the Town website.