



Islander

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APRIL 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ It has been just over a month since Russia attacked Ukraine. I’ve spent a lot of time thinking about the consequences of the attack and what that will mean for our country and our world. ”



Dana Robin Goldman
Mayor

I’ve also thought a lot about our city. How we could have let this divide us; let our differing backgrounds tear us apart. But instead, our community rallied behind unity and peace. Our residents stood against the unprovoked attack and supported those fighting, fleeing, and surviving in Ukraine. I am humbled by the actions of our residents and all that they are doing for the people of Ukraine. From peaceful protests in our parks to donations to providing direct aid to refugees, I am reminded why Sunny Isles Beach is such a special place to live.

As you know, there is a strong subset of our population from Eastern Europe, including Ukraine and Russia. News outlets and outsiders have deemed our city “Little Moscow.” I’m sure you’ve seen many articles referencing Sunny Isles Beach as such. But when you are here –on the streets, eating in the restaurants, playing in the parks, at the school– it is apparent that we are so much more than this nickname fruitlessly assigned to us. Sure, we have residents from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, and Poland. We also have residents from South America, Central America, western Europe, and North America. Our city is many things, but at the core, we are a multicultural, inclusive community that supports one another.

I am blown away by our residents’ response to the news of the attack. The generosity and unwavering interest in aiding Ukraine that we are witnessing is inspiring. Families are providing safe places for refugees to live. Our young students are welcoming Ukrainian children, who fled the only home they’ve known, to their schools with open arms and a helping

hand. You are gathering and peacefully protesting for what you believe in.

And the City absolutely supports these efforts. At the March Commission Meeting, we expressed support for the democratic government of Ukraine by adopting a resolution, standing in solidarity with the innocent and peaceful people, and condemning Vladimir Putin’s invasion and acts of war. Last month we partnered with Global Empowerment Mission and were able to collect enough provisions, from non-perishable foods to hygiene items to clothing, to fill nearly two SIBshuttle buses. The City also partnered with the Russian American Bar Association of Florida to host two events assisting Ukrainian refugees with the legal process to seek Temporary Protected Status. Our own Chabad Russian Center, led by Rabbi Kaller, is using their network in Ukraine to provide transportation for those of all religious affiliations wishing to evacuate, along with armed security, food and medicine.

I want to wholeheartedly thank everyone who so generously donated and supported the Ukrainian people. If you are interested and have the means, I encourage you to donate to one of a number of non-profits that are providing aid to Ukrainian people. You can find more information on sibfl.net/ukraine.

There is strength in unity. And while we hope and pray that the conflict finds a resolution as soon as possible, I implore our community to continue standing strong together for the people of Ukraine.

Contact Mayor Dana Robin Goldman at mayor@sibfl.net or [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

The World is My Country...

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

It is an honor and privilege to be part of the Sunny Isles Beach community, a small but vibrant city home to immigrants from all over the world. It is with great pleasure and hope that I witness the harmony and tolerance that we demonstrate to one another.

Being an immigrant is not easy. As we embrace the culture of our newfound paradise - "America" - we don't forget our connection to our motherland. We teach our children their ancestors' language, religion, food, history, and culture. As Thomas Paine says in Rights of Man: "Independence is my happiness, and I view things as they are, without regard to place or person; my country is the world, and my religion is to do good."

That is why it's been so difficult to witness the invasion of Ukraine. We feel the pain caused by tyranny, as we know

that it can happen to anyone at any time. As we pray for a peaceful resolution, our community is in sorrow. We are trying to make sense of the senseless.

Sunny Isles Beach can be an example to the world. A place where Ukrainians and Russians, Venezuelans and Colombians, Cubans and Dominicans, and all mankind can respect one another, not because of where we came from but because of who we are. We are proof that real diversity and harmony can coexist. We are building our own unbreakable bond to our new motherland, and by doing this, we are transforming future generations and the world.



Contact Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant at seat3@sibfl.net or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).

Addressing Our Residentially Displaced Population

Commissioner Jerry Joseph

This past month, it was my pleasure to do a ride along with Detective Sasee Morales to understand the issues that face the residentially displaced within Sunny Isles Beach. I understand the concerns raised by our residents so I wanted to see what we could do.

Sunny Isles Beach is not alone amongst cities across the country finding it necessary to address this issue more holistically. Unlike some of our neighboring communities, the City of Sunny Isles Beach has a dedicated police detective assigned specifically to this issue. Detective Morales regularly patrols the entire city and makes frequent contact with every residentially displaced person. While she learns of their backgrounds and offers them assistance, very few accept that assistance. She continues to do what she can within the confines of the law, which places limitations on what she can do.

One example of Detective Morales' work is when she helped a young man who was kicked out of his home and was living on our streets due to drug

addiction. For months he refused treatment when offered. However, one day he accepted and broke down in tears thanking Morales for not giving up on him. He is now reunited with his family and has a job. This is just one of many stories that illustrate the proactive measures our department takes to improve everyone's situation.

I believe we could do even more and am supporting the changes needed to assist Detective Morales in her efforts. I will continue to advocate to increase this division to make our community safer for all.



Contact Commissioner Jerry Joseph at seat1@sibfl.net or [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

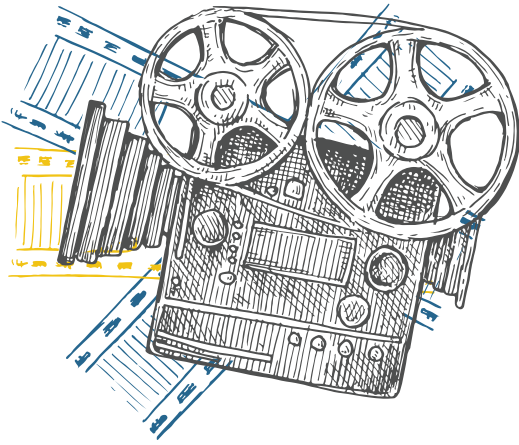
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Golden Era Movie: *Pink Panther*

Tuesday, April 5 | 10 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5



Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening

Thursday, April 7

9:30 - 11 AM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mount Sinai Medical Lecture Series

Thursday, April 7

11 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Light lunch provided after lecture.
Pre-registration required.

Teens Only: Mini Golf

Friday, April 8 | 7 - 9 PM

Pelican Community Park,
18115 N Bay Rd.
FREE

Blood Drive

Tuesday, April 12

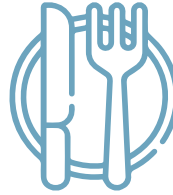
10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.
Presented by OneBlood.
Appointments are required.
Register at oneblood.org/donate-now.

Lunch n' Learn with Florida Historian, Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, April 12
FREE

11 - 11:45 AM
Gateway Center,
151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Snacks will be available for purchase.
Pre-registration required.



Regular City Commission Meeting

Tuesday, April 12

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers
Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.



April 13 & 27

Wednesday | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Egg Scramble

Saturday, April 16

10 AM - 2 PM

Pelican Community Park,
18115 N Bay Road

Open to Sunny Isles Beach
resident ID Cardholders only.

\$5 per person

More details on page 7.



Concert in the Park *Deep Fried Funk Band*

Wednesday, April 20

7:30 - 9 PM | FREE

Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

Mini-FLOW

Florida Licensing on Wheels

Friday, April 22

9 AM - 1 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 N Bay Road
Appointments required.

Mobility & Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 26

10 AM

Government Center 1st Floor Meeting Room,
18070 Collins Ave.

Full Moon Yoga

Tuesday, April 26

7:30 - 8:30 PM

Samson Oceanfront Park (on the beach),
17425 Collins Ave.

Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5
Pre-registration required.

Environment Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 27

12 PM

Government Center 1st Floor Meeting Room,
18070 Collins Ave.

Multi-Agency SHRED-A-THON: *Electronics Recycling & Drug Take Back*

Saturday, April 30

10 AM - 2 PM

Bill Bird Marina, Haulover Park,
10800 Collins Ave.

Residents of participating agencies only.
ID required.

FOR COMPLETE EVENT DETAILS, VISIT

sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

POLICE DEPARTMENT

This past February, Interim Police Chief Mike Grandinetti retired after 24 years of service with the SIBPD. Mike served our City since the Police Department's inception in 1998 and was part of its growth and success. We wish him all the best in his retirement. Captain Edward Santiago was immediately appointed as Interim Chief. Eddie has more than 25 years of experience and also been with our PD from the beginning. Throughout his career in Sunny Isles Beach, he worked his way up the ranks and is fully prepared to succeed in this role.

DISTRACTED DRIVING

Since April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, our Police Department wants to increase awareness of the dangers of distracted driving. According to the Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FHSMV), there were over 56,000 distracted driver crashes in Florida in 2021. When a driver is not focused on the road, it limits their ability to come to a stop and avoid a crash. Whether on the phone or talking to a passenger, distracted driving is unacceptable. The Sunny Isles Beach Police Department will continue to implement a zero-tolerance traffic enforcement policy to keep both drivers and pedestrians safe.

For more information, please visit sibfl.net/trafficsafety.

INSIDE THE Isles

Dune Restoration: A Grassroots Initiative

On February 19, the City hosted two simultaneous dune restoration events in front of Oceania Condominiums and Samson Oceanfront Park, and a beach cleanup at Pier Park. In partnership with Adopt a Dune and the Youth Environmental Alliance at Oceania Beachfront Property, volunteers successfully removed invasive plant species that disrupt the ecosystem of our beach's dunes and replanted native plants. Volunteers also cleaned up debris on land while volunteers from North Miami Squalo Divers cleaned up underwater around the Newport Fishing Pier.

The City donated \$2,500 to the Adopt a Dune organization to assist Oceania with the funding of \$6,000 worth of native plant material. At the event, Mayor Goldman said, "We view this as one of many steps throughout our city to continue to restore the integrity of our beaches. Replanting the dunes is vitally important because it assures the storm surge protection that is so invaluable for our entire coastline and all of our condominiums."

We want to thank all the volunteers for coming out and being a part of the City's #ECOMMITTED effort in maintaining our beaches and natural environment!

For future beach cleanup and dune restorations, check our event calendar online at sibfl.net/events.

SUMMER

CAMP

REGISTRATION

The wait is over – Sunny Isles Beach summer camps are back! Your child can join a General Day Camp grouped by age or a Sport and Specialty camp such as soccer, basketball, lifeguard, or fine art. The best part is that you can mix and match the weeks to best fit your child's interests!

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP OPENS:

APRIL 2 for Residents with a valid City-issued Resident ID Card
APRIL 18 for everyone else

REGISTRATION HOURS:

Monday – Saturday | 8:30 AM – 8 PM
Sunday | 8:30 AM – 4 PM

To register, visit activities.sibfl.net.



SUNNY ISLES BEACH IS ECOMMITTED

For our city, being #ECOMMITTED is not just a phrase or slogan – it's a part of who we are. As a coastal community, we strive to set the standard for others and demonstrate our commitment to being a good steward of our environment. Below are just a few of the ways the City of Sunny Isles Beach takes environmental action and receives recognition for our efforts. We hope you join us in making a brighter, cleaner, and more sustainable future!

Environment Friendly Ordinances

Since 2019, the City has implemented 3 ordinances to protect our beaches, parks, and wildlife.

SKIP THE STRAW

Ordinance 2019-543: The distribution and sale of plastic beverage straws is prohibited in Sunny Isles Beach.

PLEDGE AGAINST POLYSTYRENE

Ordinance 2021-564: The usage or possession of food articles containing expanded polystyrene is prohibited on City property or facilities.

BAN ON BALLOON RELEASES

Ordinance 2022-578: The intentional release of balloons is prohibited anywhere within city limits.

Recognition

In 2021, we were recognized for the 3rd year in a row by Tree City USA for our ongoing commitment to creating and sustaining a network of urban tree cover. The criteria for gaining Tree City USA's designation includes writing a formal policy, financial commitment, and a group dedicated to caring for trees in the community. We celebrate Tree City USA's recognition annually during our Arbor Day Celebration.



To learn more about Tree City USA, visit arborday.org/treecity.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ECOMMITTED INITIATIVES, VISIT SIBFL.NET/ECOMMITTED.

Ways you can be #ECOMMITTED

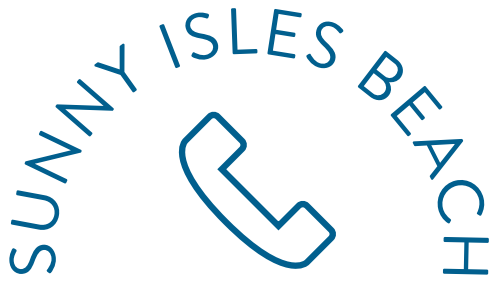
Sea Turtle Season is April 1 to October 31. Since all sea turtles are either threatened or endangered, conservation efforts are incredibly important. That's why we work closely with the Miami-Dade County Sea Turtle Conservation Program to ensure all nests laid on our beaches are marked off, monitored, and protected. Sea turtles are protected by local, state, and federal laws.

DO YOUR PART TO HELP BY:

- 1 Not touching or disturbing nesting sea turtles or hatchlings.
- 2 Avoiding flashlights or flash photography while on the beach at night.
- 3 Closing your blinds to prevent light from shining onto the beach.
- 4 Filling in holes, disposing of garbage, and clearing a path for hatchlings to make their way to the water.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SEA TURTLE CONSERVATION, VISIT SIBFL.NET/SEATURTLES.





SENIOR CONCIERGE SERVICES

The City cares about our senior population and is here to help with any questions you may have.

- Not sure how to pay your electric bill?
- Questions about signing up for Medicare or Medicaid?
- Need help using your smart device?

Give us a call at [305.792.1798](tel:305.792.1798) or visit Gateway Center. We have trained staff available Tuesday – Thursday from 1 - 4 pm to assist with your important questions, and provide you with the resources you need.






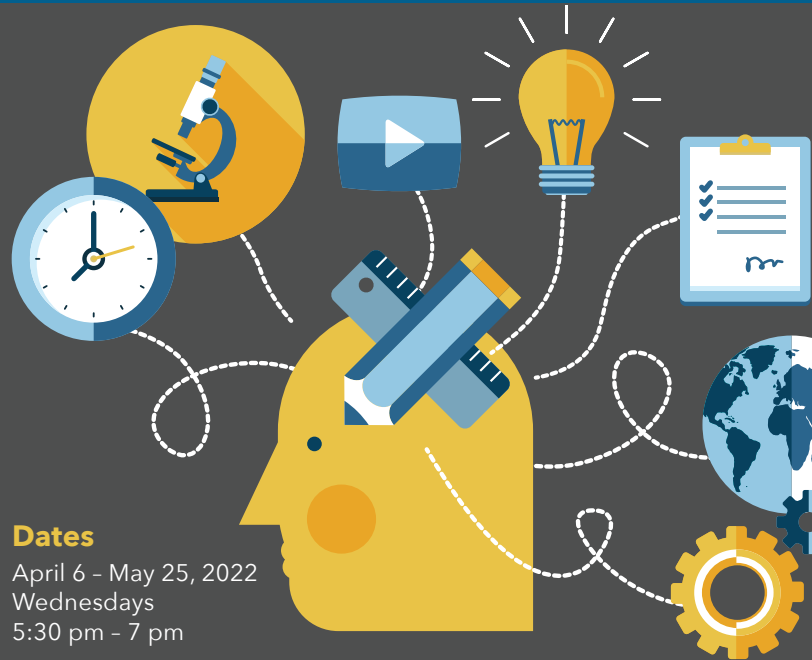
[LEARN MORE AT SIBFL.NET/SENIOR-CONCIERGE-SERVICES.](https://www.sibfl.net/senior-concierge-services)

RESIDENTS' ACADEMY

The Sunny Isles Beach Residents' Academy is a free 8-session course that will introduce residents to the operations of the City of Sunny Isles Beach. The Academy will explain the policy process, public service delivery and describe how our local government addresses some of its most challenging issues.

Course sessions include instruction, conversations, observations, and hands-on activities demonstrating the variety of city services that are provided to residents. Upon completion of this course, participants will:

-  Understand the operations of the City of Sunny Isles Beach and its relationship to public administration, politics, and the policy process more fully
-  Understand the City of Sunny Isles Beach's government structure and the role of residents in the decision-making process
-  Understand procedures for making their opinion and concerns known to local government



Dates
April 6 - May 25, 2022
Wednesdays
5:30 pm - 7 pm

Location
Sunny Isles Beach Government Center
1st Floor Meeting Room
18070 Collins Avenue

Registration, Cost & Eligibility
Participants must be 18+ and live or own a business in Sunny Isles Beach. Residents' Academy is FREE and registration is required.

TO REGISTER, VISIT [ACTIVITIES.SIBFL.NET](https://www.sibfl.net).



SATURDAY, APRIL 16
10 AM - 2 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Road

**RIDES, EGG HUNT, ACTIVITIES,
VENDORS, LIVE MUSIC,
FOOD & PETTING ZOO!**

RESIDENTS ONLY: \$5
WITH VALID CITY-ISSUED RESIDENT ID CARD

Wristbands are required to enjoy all event activities, including the egg hunt. Limited space available so purchase your wristbands in advance to ensure your day of fun!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT SIBFL.NET/EGGSCRAMBLE.

Islander

**PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

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