



Islander

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APRIL 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Meaningful public participation increases organizational effectiveness. The more you engage with your city the better our city runs. ”



Larisa Svechin
Mayor

Past articles have chided residents for not being involved enough. So, what keeps people from participating? A question dogging many municipalities. It is important that good public participation practices are in place so that residents can help the city be more accountable and responsive. If previous attempts proved unsuccessful, we need to do better.

"Every opinion which embodies somewhat of the portion of truth which the common opinion omits, ought to be considered precious, with whatever amount of error and confusion that truth may be blended."

John Stuart Mill

Recently the city was challenged to review current policies so that we can engage citizens in a more significant way. Studies show that community involvement increases when the public is given basic and easily accessible methods of bringing attention to policy issues. Currently the city holds senior roundtables, teen talks, and monthly commission meetings. All three methods aim to capture different demographic groups during days and times convenient for them. Is that enough? We have public forums, surveys,

and direct comments as available mechanisms for engaging residents in the master transit and master parks studies. Have you participated?

As your mayor, it is my job to ensure the taxpayer's money is spent wisely and carefully. Your participation efforts are extremely valuable. However, inadequately designed efforts may simply waste valuable staff time and financial resources. Worse, ineffective efforts can create the inverse effect, which may increase public cynicism if it is perceived that input has not been taken seriously. I urge you to sign up for email blasts, read notices, talk to neighbors, attend one of our town halls, or simply call me.

As the city begins planning the budget for the next fiscal year, I am asking for your input—this input and subsequent participation will help improve the public's perception of governmental performance and the value the public receives from their government. A true test of good government is transparency. It is a core value of governmental budgeting. Developing a transparent budget process advances the government's credibility and trust in the community. Citizen involvement in the budget process will increase public trust and the community's perception of access.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at mayor@sibfl.net or [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

Sunny Isles Beach Center for the Performing Arts Prospect

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

Right now, the City is investing human and fiscal resources into putting together a Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the next 10 years. In order for this plan to represent your ideas and interests, please complete the online survey and participate in the informative events to be held. Visit oursibparksplan.com for more detailed information.

One ambitious idea is the construction of a much needed center for the performing arts in Sunny Isles Beach. I believe the best location for this colossal project would be the “square” piece of land (367 Sunny Isles Blvd.) located between the Netanya Center and the electrical substation on Sunny Isles Boulevard. To push forward such a project, we would need not only the support of our residents but also the authorization and collaboration of different government entities. We must start with a use assessment and environmental review of the

proposed area and extend to the other two vacant lots (farthest west and east areas of Gateway Park) for further use as well.

Another ambitious idea is the proper development and use of the area under the William Lehman Causeway to create an outdoor sports hub with tracks, trails and multi-use paths, basketball, volleyball, tennis, pickleball, outdoor fitness equipment and more. Just imagine having another safe place to stroll, walk and run away from Collins Avenue.

We want Sunny Isles Beach to be recognized not only for the state-of-the-art high-rises and wonderful beaches but also for superb cultural, recreational and sports facilities.



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

Bad Bills Are Risky Business

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

As you may be aware, the 2023 legislative session is underway. This is the period during which the Florida House and Senate introduce, debate, amend, and eventually pass legislation that can impact all of us. This year over 1700 bills have been filed. Many will never get anywhere, some will progress to a committee or two before running out of steam, and some will actually make it to the Governor’s desk.

Two bills that have many cities and municipalities concerned are Senate Bill 682 (sponsored by Senator Nick DiCeglie) and its companion House Bill 671 (sponsored by House Representative Tiffany Esposito). Both bills seek to reshape the process of residential building permits by either shortening the amount of time a city has to respond at different points of the process, adding permissive language for the applicant, or allowing for

automatic approval should a city fail to meet the draconian timelines. In such a case, sub-par work may be automatically approved creating dangerous conditions for those who live in the home as well as for their neighbors in the building.

After the tragedy of the Champlain Towers in Surfside, entertaining anything that loosens standards in our inspection process is unnecessarily risky and, frankly, outright irresponsible. And I haven’t even discussed the staffing, space, and budget increases that these bills would impose on all local governments. Simply put, these are bad bills. I hope you join your voice in opposition to them.



Contact Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra at seat4@sibfl.net or [305.792.1750](tel:305.792.1750).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

Gateway Market

April 5, 12, 19, 26

Wednesdays

5:30 - 10 PM | FREE

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mini-FLOW

Florida Licensing on Wheels
Senior Session 55+

Thursday, April 6

9:30 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

No registration required.

First-come, first-served.

Mount Sinai

Lunch and Learn

Thursday, April 6

12 - 1 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

Historic Preservation

Board Meeting

Thursday, April 6

6 PM

First Floor Meeting Room, Sunny Isles Beach

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave

Full Moon Yoga on the Beach

Thursday, April 6

7:15 - 8:15 PM | FREE

Samson Oceanfront Park (on the beach),

17425 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration is encouraged.

World Health Day: Resource Fair

Friday, April 7

10 AM - 1 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Free gift for those who pre-register.



Egg Scramble

Saturday, April 8

10 AM - 2 PM | FREE

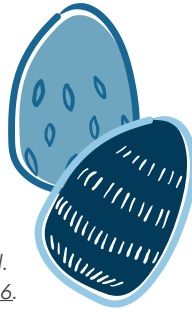
Pelican Community Park,
18115 North Bay Rd.

Residents: \$5

Non-Residents: \$20

Pre-registration is required.

See more details on [page 6](#).



Teen Talk

Tuesday, April 11

6 - 8 PM | FREE

The Spot, 215 185 St.

Spring Fling

Friday, April 14

6 - 9 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: \$10

Non-Residents: \$20

Pre-registration is required.



Beach Cleanup

Saturday, April 15

8 AM - 12 PM

Newport Fishing Pier, 16501 Collins Ave.

Mini-FLOW

Florida Licensing on Wheels

Thursday, April 20

9:30 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 20

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center,

18070 Collins Ave.

Teen Event:

Movie on the Beach

Friday, April 21

7 - 10 PM

Samson Oceanfront Park on the beach

17425 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration is required.

Multi-Agency SHRED-A-THON & Drug Take Back

Saturday, April 22

10 AM - 2 PM

Bill Bird Marina, Haulover Park

10800 Collins Ave.

Midday Movies:

In the Heights

Monday, April 24

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required. Lunch is included.



3D Mammograms

Florida Mobile Mammography

Tuesday, April 25 | 8 AM - 3 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, April 26 | 12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration required.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST
OF EVENTS, VISIT

sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT INITIATIVES

Sustainability is a core value for the City of Sunny Isles Beach. For instance, our Purchasing Division is assisting the city towards a sustainable and resilient future by promoting and fostering eco-friendly and eco-driven adjustments. One of the ECOMMITTED initiatives spearheaded by Purchasing is providing opportunities for our residents to compost.

Residents are encouraged to drop off their compostable household items in the pink bin at Gateway Market every Wednesday evening. We are excited to share that since partnering with Compost for Life, our residents have composted 110 lbs, which translates to 0.7 seedlings planted and 109 miles offset (this is equivalent to not driving 109 miles).

Composting reinforces the City's obligation to protect the planet and create clean, livable spaces that will vitalize our community for generations to come. We thank our Purchasing division for leading the charge.

For more information about composting in Sunny Isles Beach, visit sibfl.net/gatewaymarket.

INSIDE THE *Isles*

Autism Outreach Program

Inclusive community policing is at the core of the Sunny Isles Beach Police Department's mission. The Autism Outreach Program is designed to provide quality responses for those in our community who live with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



Participation in the program is voluntary, but we encourage you to fill out our participation form with pertinent information about the person with ASD so that our PD's Communication Unit may keep these records on hand in the event our officers respond to an incident involving a person with ASD. Our goal through the program is to improve interactions for all parties involved.

Learn more about the program and complete the online submission form by visiting sibfl.net/pd-autism-program.

The Autism Outreach Program is only available for individuals who reside in the City of Sunny Isles Beach. Your information will be maintained in accordance with Florida Public Records law. As such, any information that is confidential or exempt will not be released to the public.

For additional information, please email autism@sibpd.net. Sign up to participate at sibfl.net/pd-autism-program.

ECOMMITTED TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

Taking care of our planet is a responsibility that the City of Sunny Isles Beach is committed to. We are surrounded by beautiful waterfront views, so it is important to be mindful of what ends up in our canals, bays and ocean.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

Household chemicals can become everyday waste, but knowing how to properly dispose of them is essential to protect our fragile environment and drinking water. Items such as oil-based paints, pesticides, solvents, and pool chemicals are unsafe to be placed out for collection with your other household refuse.

Learn more about how to properly dispose of your household hazardous waste at sibfl.net/household-hazardous-waste.

ILLICIT DISCHARGE

An illicit discharge is any discharge into the City's storm sewer system not composed entirely of storm water or uncontaminated groundwater. Examples of illicit discharges include dumping of motor vehicle fluids, household hazardous waste, paint, grass clippings, leaf litter or animal waste. You can prevent illicit discharges by never dumping anything into a storm drain, cleaning up after your pet, and regularly checking your vehicles for leaks.

Report illegal dumping immediately to the City of Sunny Isles Beach at 305.792.1817. Learn more at sibfl.net/illlicit-discharge.

PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE & FERTILIZER APPLICATION

Maintaining your yard is a point of pride, but it requires proper handling of harmful materials like fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides. Always use efficient and safe storage and cleanup methods to minimize the chance of polluting surface water or groundwater.

Rules of Thumb

- Less is best
- Never apply near waterways or before a forecasted heavy rain event.
- Store in their original containers in a dry area.
- Do not pour chemicals down any drain in your home.

Learn more about proper use at sibfl.net/pesticides-herbicides-fertilizer.

Miami-Dade County Home Chemical Collection Centers allow residential customers to safely dispose of your harmful household chemicals including pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, at 8801 NW 58 Street, Doral, FL 33178 and 23707 SW 97th Ave, Homestead, FL 33032.

SUNNY ISLES BEACH IS E^COMMITTED

COMPOSTING AT GATEWAY MARKET

Composting enriches soil, helps it retain moisture, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers, and helps lower your carbon footprint. And we have an opportunity for residents to compost weekly at Gateway Market, every Wednesday evening from 5:30 - 10 PM.

Take the pledge to compost your waste at our Compost for Life tent and receive a free composting bin! The composting bin is perfect to place on your countertop to hold food scraps and waste. See a comprehensive list of compostable items, learn more about composting at Gateway Market and print the pledge online at sibfl.net/gatewaymarket.



BEACH CLEANUPS & FILL-A-BAG STATIONS

Join us every month to come together with friends and neighbors to clean up the beach and surrounding areas. And if you cannot make it to a formal beach cleanup, find one of the Fill A Bag stations along the beach at Samson Oceanfront Park, Pier Park, and the Bill Lone Beach Access to turn your beach visit into a meaningful cleanup experience by picking up plastic and trash with our available buckets. View upcoming beach cleanup dates at sibfl.net/beach-cleanups.

RECYCLING

We encourage all residents to recycle in their homes and when out and about in the city. We have recycling bins located in city parks, along the beach, and at all special events. Learn more about recycling in Sunny Isles Beach at sibfl.net/recycling.

CITY ORDINANCES

Skip the Straw

Prohibits the distribution and sale of plastic beverage straws in Sunny Isles Beach.

Keeping Beach Chair Areas Clean

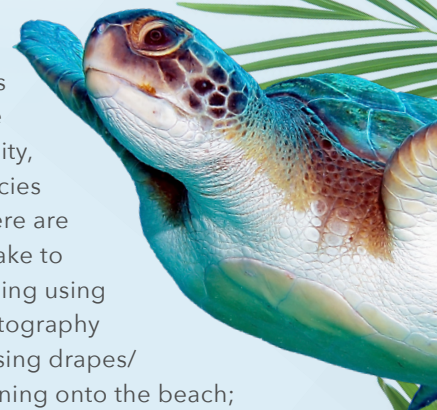
Requires beach chair license holders to maintain their beach chair pre-setting area and the area immediately surrounding the beach chair pre-setting area, free of trash, litter, or other refuse materials.

Polystyrene Ban

Bans the use or carrying of expanded polystyrene food articles, such as bags, containers, bowls, plates, lids, coolers, trays, cups, and straws on City property or facilities, including our beach, parks, or Government Center.

SEA TURTLE SEASON

Sea turtle nesting season begins April 1. Florida is one of the largest nesting aggregations for loggerhead sea turtles in the world and, as a coastal community, protecting this endangered species is of the utmost importance. There are preventative measures we can take to protect sea turtles such as avoiding using flashlights, lanterns or flash photography while on the beach at night; closing drapes/blinds to prevent lights from shining onto the beach; and filling in holes and knocking down sandcastles on the beach.



To learn more about what you can do in your home and on the beach to help protect sea turtles, visit sibfl.net/seaturtles.

TREE CITY USA

As we grow the tree coverage across our urban city, we continue to garner Tree City USA recognition.



EGG SCRAMBLE

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
10 AM - 2 PM

PELICAN COMMUNITY PARK | 18115 N BAY ROAD

WRISTBANDS REQUIRED FOR ENTRY.

REGISTER TODAY!

SIBFL.NET/EGGSCRAMBLE



Islander

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18070 Collins Avenue, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
305.792.1706 | sibfl.net