

SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

August 2019

New Hours for Pelican Community Park



Beginning August 19, Pelican Community Park will be closed to non-program participants at certain times during the school day. This is for the safety and security of After School Program participants.

The park is closed school days:
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
2:30–3:30 pm
Wednesday
1:30–2:30 pm

During these times, entrance will be allowed only at the north gate on 182 Drive to program participants with a valid ID. Additionally, anyone wishing to register for programs will have to do so at the SIB Government Center registration desk or online. Closure is not in effect on days when school is NOT in session, such as teacher planning days and summer, spring and winter break. For more information, visit sibfl.net/ccs.

from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl
Mayor

We discuss pedestrian safety frequently here in Sunny Isles Beach, warning about the perils of distracted driving.

This is because the issue is at the forefront of our Commission and City goals. Through the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan in 2016 and additional City actions, we have made significant long-term strides in keeping our pedestrians and drivers safe and improving quality of life through increased law enforcement and the approval of new pedestrian bridges.

As some of you may know or have seen, I am often driving around the City on my scooter. I cannot count the number of times I have witnessed distracted drivers swerving into my lane or someone else's because they are looking at their phones. Texting while driving is an epidemic; however, a new bill was signed into law last month, which adds an opportunity for our police department to mitigate this issue and improve safety on the streets.

House Bill No. 107 prohibits those operating a motor vehicle from engaging in any nonvoice interpersonal communication, such as texting, emailing or instant messaging. Simply put, law enforcement officers are now allowed to stop vehicles solely for texting while driving. The bill also bans the handheld use of a wireless device while operating a vehicle in school crossings, school zones, and work zones.

Beginning October 1, law enforcement officers may stop vehicles to issue verbal or written warnings to those in violation, and beginning January 1, 2020, officers may begin to issue citations.

The new legislation is designed to improve roadway safety for all drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and other road users. In a city and region as large and crowded as ours, this law will help to reduce the number of crashes, injuries, and deaths due to distracted driving. Everyone deserves to feel safe on our roads and know you will arrive unharmed to your destination whether you are driving to work, riding your bike to the park, or walking home from a day at the beach. I encourage you to learn more about how our Transportation Master Plan is enhancing the City's transit framework on our website at sibfl.net, and read more about House Bill No. 107 at the Florida House of Representatives' website, myfloridahouse.gov.



SIBlife

Back to School Safety

Before the first day of school, families should talk about how to stay safe throughout the school day and what actions to take if something were to go wrong. Parents and children should plan the route to school and make a test run together. Adults should also teach children how to avoid tricks that strangers might use to gain a child's trust.

When walking or riding to school, students should travel in groups, using proper signals, wearing safety equipment and obeying traffic and crossing rules. Students should not play games near traffic or when crossing a street that could get them hurt. Our residents can take advantage of the off-Collins route to school using the Emergency Pedestrian Bridge and the broad sidewalks along North Bay Road.

Families need to establish code words and a meeting place, such as the SIB Government Center, in case of an emergency. All school-age children should know their parents' names and memorize at least one of their phone numbers.

Beach Cleanups

Despite everyone's best efforts, beach trash does not always make it into the cans or get picked up by the sand sifter. This past April on Earth Day, City staff kicked off the first in a series of bi-monthly beach cleanups. This renewed effort is a great opportunity for residents to give back to their community and help keep our city clean. Bring your family or club to help clean up the beach. The next event will be Wednesday, August 7, 5:30-7:30 pm. Participants should meet at Pier Park.

Fall Programs

This fall season, many of your favorite programs are returning including Advanced Cheer and Dance, Recreational Soccer and the competitive SEAS Soccer League. Last year, our programs were taken to new heights when our competitive Select Soccer U12 team won their division against international competition at the Disney at ESPN Memorial Day Soccer Tournament in Orlando. Our Advance Cheer team has multiple trophies under their belt and are always well prepared for regional competition. A dedicated coaching staff is the foundation for the participants' success. Coaches and instructors that give their best while guiding the children have made our recreation programs a cut above the rest. View all your choices by going to activities.sibfl.net. You may also register online if you have obtained your login credentials from Cultural and Community Services. If not, call us at 305.792.1706.

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

It's a new school year, with new opportunities for high school students in Sunny Isles Beach. There are a variety of ways to earn community service hours at City events, programs or activities this fall. Students can also earn service hours by participating in one of the City's bi-monthly beach cleanups. Apply now online at sibfl.net/volunteer, to ensure you receive credit for your hours toward the Sunny Isles Beach Scholarship Program.



A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



If you held up a snapshot of Sunny Isles Beach 22 years ago next to one taken today, the City would almost be unrecognizable. From the replacement of run-down motels with modern high-rises on the east side, to the development of City parks and public facilities on the west side, Sunny Isles Beach has undergone quite a transformation since its incorporation in 1997. We now employ nine code compliance officers, 16 public works personnel, and 27 facilities operations staff who are here every day to maintain the City. But this wasn't always the case.

In the years before Sunny Isles Beach was incorporated, the County was unable to provide adequate code enforcement in the area. When our Code Enforcement department was established in 1998, a handful of the old hotel structures, deemed unsafe, were demolished. The City purchased the land of two demolished motels to make way for the beautiful new beachfront park we now know as Samson Oceanfront Park. For the first time in the area's history, residents on the west side of town had a fully enfranchised, safe access to the beach, along with public restrooms and foot showers, which paved the way for future public

amenities we now offer, including four public restrooms and foot showers along the length of the beach.

In addition to accessing the beach through the park, one City goal was to provide all residents of Sunny Isles Beach the uninhibited ability to walk to the beach through more than just a small, five-foot wide, poorly maintained strip that were the then-beach accesses. Beach accesses used to exist simply as dirt paths or blacktop that were far from groomed, littered with trash, poorly lit, and lined by rusty fences falling into the walkable area. If you have walked to the beach recently, you most likely walked through one of our more than 19 well-maintained, and appealing beach accesses; and we have four more to come.

Our public spaces also amassed an assortment of trash and derelict items before the City was incorporated and enforced by Code. The area under the William Lehman Causeway was considered a "no-go" zone until the space was cleaned up and optimized for parking and the City's public works department. Trash cans around the City were rusted and open, oftentimes spilling out trash on the streets

and the beach. Now, you will see superior trash cans that actually hold the trash thrown inside and are more aesthetically pleasing; and soon they will be upgraded with the completion of the Utility Undergrounding Project.

Our beach sometimes becomes a contentious subject when it comes to trash, seaweed, sand, and other environmental issues. I want to clarify a few points. Miami-Dade County is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of the beach. Each and every morning after sunrise, the County "drags the rack line," which means they drive a tractor across the length of the beach and bury seaweed underneath the sand. Once a quarter, they also send a "sand sifter" to collect garbage through sifting through the sand. For those residents who have been around since before incorporation, the cleaning used to be haphazard at best; it is now completed with much more enthusiasm and vigor.

These are just some of the ways our City has drastically changed since incorporation only 22 years ago. Our Sunny Isles Beach parks, public spaces, and beaches are certainly not what they were; they are tremendously better than ever!

Our Beaches, Our Environment, Our Responsibility

from the desk of Commissioner Dana Goldman



Our most prized possession is the beach. But sometimes litter erodes the beach, pollutes the ocean and affects our residents' quality of life. We can all help keep our city cleaner.

To address this problem, we held the first City Employee Beach Cleanup on April 22 in observance of Earth Day. A group of 17 employees gathered at the Simon Dezer Beach Access and walked north or south, circling back to deposit trash that included straws, plastic utensils, wood with metal attached, towels, clothing, flip flops, beach chairs, bottles, cans, paper wrappers and cigarette butts.

The next Beach Cleanup called on our residents to meet on June 15 at the Ellen Wynne Beach Access. A group of 100 people filled 12 large garbage bags of trash and some items, which did not even fit in the bags. The haul included straws, plastic utensils, coolers, a broken umbrella, towels, clothing, shoes and cigarette butts.

Mark your calendar for future beach cleanups: Wednesday, August 7, 5:30 pm at Pier Park, Sunday, October 6, 8:00 am at Samson Oceanfront Park and Saturday, December 21, 8:00 am at the Ellen Wynne Beach Access.

At the June Commission Meeting we also discussed the possibility of banning straws. Other cities have banned straws, polystyrene and single-use plastics in various ways. Plastics are not biodegradable; they end up in the ocean and in the species inhabiting it. And coastal cities are especially vulnerable. We must attack this environmental problem at both the practical and policy levels. It's our collective responsibility.

For more information, my email is dgoldman@sibfl.net and my direct phone number is 786.512.6364.

Legislative Success

from the desk of Commissioner Alex Lama



Recent legislative action, which falls into the win column for local government, was the defeat of SB 824 (Diaz) and CS/CS/HB 987, Short-Term Rentals. This bill would have taken away the right of local municipalities, including Sunny Isles Beach, to regulate short-term rentals in their communities.

With this bill, the state would have been responsible for the regulation of short-term rentals/vacation rentals. Local governments would not have been able to regulate any type of rentals (not only short-term rentals), impose occupancy limits or require inspection or licensing. This is a success for Home Rule in which the Florida Constitution gives local government the right to enact local laws and solutions that best fit our communities.

Our city has two separate ordinances, which set forth the parameters for short-term rentals. In both cases, registration by the owner with the City is required. Ordinance 2009-339 regulates single family detached dwellings, limiting them to four rentals per year. The single-family home rental license fee is \$100 per instance. Ordinance 2018-522 sets the rules in multi-family buildings. The fee for multi-family building is renewable on a yearly basis by September 30 and starts at \$210 for a basic license if there are no modifications to use or late fees on renewal.

To find out more about this registration and licensing process, please visit sibfl.net/short-term-rentals.

Please contact me with any questions at 305.792.1752 or alama@sibfl.net.

SIBiInformation

Behind the Scenes
with Human Resources



The City's Human Resources Department has a two-fold role. The department oversees personnel functions and handles risk management.

With regards to personnel, Human Resources acts in an advisory capacity to all City departments for employee relations, investigations, and the resolution of employee complaints. The department also directs recruitment and selection, pre-employment physicals and skill tests, unemployment compensation, benefits, training and job classification for new and current employees.

The department organizes for employees a yearly health fair, health screenings, quarterly team-building activities, safety & technology seminars, and service awards. It produces a monthly employee newsletter containing important reminders, special recognition awards and employee shares.

In the risk management area, the department ensures that the City keeps adequate insurance coverage for accidents or unforeseen circumstances; processes insurance claims and assists insurance carriers with claim investigations. This includes employee claims, safety programs and training. In addition, the department is responsible for all facets of the City's property, liability, auto, and workers' compensation insurance programs.

Statistics:

- 283 total employees
- 93 employees with more than 10 years
- 5,175 average job applications received per year



August 6

Tuesday, 9:30 am
Cultural Event: Seminole Casino
Coconut Creek, FL

August 6

Tuesday, 6:00 pm
Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting
SIB Govt. Center
4th Floor Conference Room

August 7

Wednesday, 3:00 pm
Bingo
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

August 7

Wednesday, 5:30–7:30 pm
Beach Cleanup
Pier Park

August 8

Thursday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm
Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

August 9

Friday, 9:00 am–1:00 pm
Mini-FLOW
Pelican Community Park

August 10

Saturday, 5:00–8:00 pm
Beach Bash
Samson Oceanfront Park

August 12

Monday, 10:00 am–12:30 pm
Modern Era Movie: *Father of the Bride*
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

August 15

Thursday, 7:45 pm
Full Moon Yoga
Samson Oceanfront Park

August 16

Friday, 5:00–8:00 pm
Back to School Jamboree
Pelican Community Park

August 21

Wednesday, 7:30–9:00 pm
Sunny Serenade
Samson Oceanfront Park

August 23

Friday, 7:00–10:00 pm
Teens Only Movie Night
Gateway Park

August 24

Saturday, 8:45 am
Cultural Event: Gator Park Airboat Tour
Miami, FL

August 25

Sunday, 11:00 am–1:00 pm
Wiggle and Paint
Samson Oceanfront Park

August 28

Wednesday, 3:00 pm
Bingo
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

MDC-SIB Branch Library Programs

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library: For more information about hours and the offerings below call 305.682.0726. Classes and programs are held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue, unless otherwise indicated.

Summer Reading Program

This year's theme is "A Universe of Stories"

June 8–August 10

For details on summer reading program activities contact your local library.

Programs for Adults

"Ant-in-Your-Pants"

Thursday, August 1
6:00 pm inside the library
Local author and film actor, Peter LaVilla, will perform a one-act skit that incorporates his poetry.

Basic Introduction to Computers for ages 55+

Tuesday: August 20
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

Citizenship Classes

Saturdays: August 3–31
10:00–11:30 am

Poetry Reading

Saturday: August 10
4:00–5:00 pm

Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories

Wednesdays: August 7–28
6:00–6:30 pm
Ages 3–5 yrs.

Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers

Mondays: August 5–26
10:00–10:40 am inside the library
Ages 19 mo.–3 yrs.

Creative Corner Family Program

Saturdays: August 3–31
11:00 am inside the library

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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH
CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

18115 North Bay Road
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160
305.792.1706

August 2019



All persons are invited to attend these meetings. If a person decides to appeal any decision made at such meeting or hearing, they will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in any meeting because of that disability should contact the City Manager at 305.947.0606, no later than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

18070 Collins Avenue • Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

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*The official communication
of the City of Sunny Isles Beach!*



Beach Bash

Relax at this free summer event by the sea with live music, along with food and drinks available for purchase.



Saturday, August 10, 5:00–8:00 pm

Samson Oceanfront Park • 17425 Collins Avenue

Free parking is available in the municipal lot on 175 Terrace behind Walgreens, and on the north side of 174 Street. The SIBshuttle provides free transportation within City limits.

Back to School Jamboree

Learn about what's in store for fall, with information from the NSE/SIB K-8 School, SIB Police Department, uniform shops, and activities for youth and adults.



Friday, August 16, 5:00–8:00 pm

Pelican Community Park • 18115 North Bay Road

Free parking is available in the school parking garage, along 181 Drive and in the SIB Government Center parking garage. The SIBshuttle provides free transportation within City limits.