



# Islander

Follow us @CityofSIB |     YouTube

AUGUST 2024

## A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor



Larisa Svechin  
Mayor

Last month's assassination attempt on former President Donald Trump, along with the tragic death of an innocent supporter, is deeply troubling. Attacking a U.S. president or presidential candidate strikes at the very core of our democracy.

This incident is a reminder that our words and actions carry weight. It is a time for us to recognize the importance of fostering an environment of respect, understanding, and unity.

As your mayor, I urge each one of you to join me in standing united. Let us come together as a community, as a city, and as a nation to ensure the safety and integrity of our country. We must set aside our differences and work collaboratively to build a future that reflects our shared values and aspirations.

The recent events serve as a powerful reminder of the fragility of our democratic system. We must be vigilant in protecting

it, not only through our actions but also promoting a culture of respect and dialogue.

In Sunny Isles Beach, we are fortunate to have a community that values diversity and inclusion. Let us lead by example and show the world that unity is not just a concept but a reality we strive to achieve every day. We can do this by supporting one another and working together.

On that note, I encourage you to participate in community events, engage in constructive conversations, and reach out to your neighbors. Together, we can create a supportive and resilient community that stands as a beacon of hope and unity in these challenging times.

Let us also honor the memory of those affected by this tragedy by committing to a future where respect, compassion, and unity prevail. Together, we can ensure that the principles of democracy and freedom remain steadfast and that our nation continues to thrive.

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

# Your Vote, Your Voice

Vice Mayor Alex Lama

The primary election is on August 20, and the general election will be on November 5. Voters will not only decide who will be our next president, but also cast their votes for federal representatives, state representatives, special state legislation, state Supreme Court, ballot measures, county mayor, and municipal government officials. It seems like a lot and one may even wonder what impact our vote has in guiding the direction of this country at a federal, state, and local level. Constituents must understand that they can influence political matters, and the more involved they are, the more power they wield. It all starts by casting your vote.

According to Statista, voter turnout in this country for the past three general elections ranged between 56% and 61%, which is similar to voter turnout in Sunny Isles Beach. While this is a positive showing, it means about 40% of registered voters are not being heard. The percentage of people not voting is much higher for primary and special elections. One must note that voting matters because it puts pressure on candidates and

elects officials, reminding them that the voter is ultimately in charge. The greater the number of voters, the greater the pressure. The more people who participate in the elections, the more they can influence policies and laws, hold elected officials accountable, decide how their tax dollars are spent, and foster civic engagement.

Voting is not only our right but also our civic duty. It's the most crucial element in maintaining a healthy democratic process. Please vote and be heard.

For election information, key dates, and registration, please visit [sibfl.net/clerk-election](http://sibfl.net/clerk-election) and [miamidade.gov/elections](http://miamidade.gov/elections).

Thank you for voting!

Contact Vice Mayor Alex Lama at [seat2@sibfl.net](mailto:seat2@sibfl.net) or [305.792.1752](tel:305.792.1752).



# Adhering to the New July 1, 2024 Laws: Condo Transparency and Administration

Commissioner Jerry Joseph

Over the past 2 1/2 years, I have heard from and assisted many condo owners throughout Sunny Isles Beach with questions regarding condo records requests, board meeting schedules, insurance, certifications, and assessments. Due to severe assessments in some condos, many elderly residents have sadly become financially stressed and could benefit from simple legal advice.

Many recent contacts with residents have referred to a lack of condo board adherence to certain by-law sections relating to elections, quarterly meetings, and notices thereof. As of July 1, condo managers will need to be more transparent regarding the production of condo documents, meeting notices, adherence to by-laws, and elections. The problem

arises when assessments hit without adequate documentation regarding contracts associated with those assessments, the bidding process, and the qualifications of the contractor doing the work.

I am available to assist any condo manager with pool or spa issues, elevator problems, permit hangups, and other issues involving the City, County, or State.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for an immediate and my sincere attempt to assist, in any way.


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



# CALENDAR

## AUGUST

# OF EVENTS





**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

**BACK TO SCHOOL SPLASH**

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 6**  
**5:30 - 8:30 PM**

Pelican Community Park,  
18115 N Bay Rd.

Don't forget to bring your swimsuits!



[sibfl.net/schoolsplash](http://sibfl.net/schoolsplash)



**August 7, 14, 21, 28**  
**Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**Community Meeting:**  
*Supporting Families Through Life & Educational Milestones*

**Thursday, August 8**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**Teens Only: Laser Tag Tournament**

**Monday, August 12**  
**7 - 9 PM**  
The Spot, 215 185 St.

**Teen Talk**  
**Tuesday, August 13**  
**6 - 7:30 PM**  
The Spot, 215 185 St.

**Helmet Fitting and Giveaway**  
**Saturday, August 17**  
**9 AM - 1 PM**  
First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.



**Full Moon Yoga**  
**Monday, August 19**  
**7:30 - 8:30 PM**  
On the beach by Trump International Beach Resort, 18001 Collins Ave.  
*Pre-registration is encouraged.*

**City Commission Workshop**  
**Tuesday, August 13**  
**10 AM**  
Fourth Floor Conference Room,  
Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

**City Commission Workshop**

**Thursday, August 15**  
**3 PM**  
Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

**Regular City Commission Meeting**

**Thursday, August 15**  
**6:30 PM**  
Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

**Town Hall: Legislative Conversations and How to Make Your Voice Heard**

**Tuesday, August 27**  
**6 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

**Senior Roundtable**  
**Wednesday, August 28**  
**12 - 1 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
*Pre-registration is required.*

**Health Emergency Life Protection (HELP) Training Course**  
**Wednesday, August 28**  
**12 - 2 PM**  
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.  
*Registration is required and limited to the first 25 people.*

**Special Magistrate Hearing**  
**Thursday, August 29**  
Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT [sibfl.net/events](http://sibfl.net/events)**

*Disclosure: Events are subject to change.*



# Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

# AUGUST **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

## Homework Help and Tutoring *(students grades K-12)*

**August 3, 10, 31**  
**Saturdays | 10 AM - 1 PM**

For more information contact  
[tutoring@mdpls.org](mailto:tutoring@mdpls.org) or call 305.375.1413.

## Citizenship Class *(ages 19+)*

**August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**  
**Saturdays | 10 AM - 12 PM**

## Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers *(ages 18 mos. – 3 yrs.)*

**August 7, 14, 21, 28**  
**Wednesdays | 11 AM - 12 PM**

## The Kids Reading Club *(ages 6 – 11)*

**Saturday, August 10**  
**1 - 2 PM**

## Chess Club *(ages 9+)*

**Tuesday, August 20, 27**  
**4 - 6 PM**



## Furry Tales *(all ages)*

**Saturday, August 24**  
**2 - 3 PM**

Read your favorite story aloud to a  
registered therapy dog!

For more information on Miami-Dade  
County Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library  
programs, call 305.682.0726 or email  
[vazquezh@mdpls.org](mailto:vazquezh@mdpls.org). Unless otherwise  
noted, classes and programs are held  
in the First Floor Meeting Room of the  
Sunny Isles Beach Government Center,  
18070 Collins Avenue.



# GETTING READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR



As the new school year approaches, it's important to plan ahead to ensure a smooth transition. Here are some key tips to help you get started on the right foot.

## SAFETY

Ensuring a safe and successful school year for you and your family starts at home. Before the first day of school, parents and guardians should talk with their children about a safety plan.

**Emergency Plans:** Teach your children what to do in case they get lost. Establish a meet-up spot in case of emergencies and make sure they memorize their parent or guardian's full name and phone number. Additionally, parents should educate their children on how to avoid tricks from strangers.

## TRAFFIC & SCHOOL ZONES

Sunny Isles Beach is home to Norman S. Edelcup/Sunny Isles Beach K-8 School, located at 201 182 Drive. The community around the school should anticipate different traffic patterns in this area. Please allow extra time to get around the school during arrival and departure times. Remember to always follow the designated 15 mph speed limit in school zones.



## DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

**Driving:** If driving your child to school, obey school zone speed limits and follow the school's drop off and pick-up procedure. The designated drop-off and pick-up point is on the east side of the school on Atlantic Blvd. Make sure your child exits or enters from the passenger side of the vehicle in a timely manner to keep the line moving efficiently.

**Parking:** Do not park or drop off your child in the school's parking garage or the the RK shopping plaza. Your car could be subject to towing by the private property owner.

**Walking:** If walking your child to school, please use pedestrian crosswalks and obey crossing guards.

**Bicycles and Scooters:** If your child bikes or rides a scooter to school, make sure they always wear a properly fitted helmet.

To learn more, please visit [www.sibfl.net/schooltraffic](http://www.sibfl.net/schooltraffic).



# CONDOMINIUM & APARTMENT SHORT-TERM RENTAL LICENSE RENEWALS

**A short-term rental is any condominium unit rented to guests for a stay of 6 months or less.**

Renew by **September 30** each year to avoid a \$50 late fee.

Renew now at  
[sibfl.net/short-term-rentals](http://sibfl.net/short-term-rentals)  
or scan the QR Code.



For more information, contact the Planning and Zoning Department at 305.792.1740 or [infopz@sibfl.net](mailto:infopz@sibfl.net).

## New Parking Rates For Non-Residents: **Residents Can Register For Discount Program**

Beginning August 1, parking fees at municipal lots around Sunny Isles Beach will increase by \$2 per hour. Beach parking lots at Ellen Wynne and Pier Park will go from \$3 to \$5 per hour. Other municipal lots, including Gateway Park garage and Heritage Park garage, will increase from \$2 to \$4 per hour.

Sunny Isles Beach residents with a valid City-issued Sunny Isles Beach Resident ID Card can apply for a discounted resident rate. Look for more information at [sibfl.net/parking](http://sibfl.net/parking).





# Islander

**PUBLISHED BY**  
**CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH**  
**MEDIA DIVISION**  
18070 Collins Avenue  
Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160

## ELECTED OFFICIALS

**MAYOR** Larisa Svechin

**VICE MAYOR** Alex Lama

**COMMISSIONER** Jerry Joseph

**COMMISSIONER** Fabiola Stuyvesant

**COMMISSIONER** Jeniffer Viscarra

## ARTICLES & EDITORIAL

**EDITOR** Leah Einwalter

**MANAGING EDITOR** Francesca Constantini

## ART & PRODUCTION

**GRAPHIC DESIGNER** Elvira Gatina

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**VIDEO PRODUCTION MANAGER**

Vanessa Viera

**VIDEO PRODUCTION SPECIALIST**

Pablo Rodriguez

The views, opinions, representations, information, or statements made or expressed by any individual contributor in this newsletter are those of the individual contributor only and do not represent the views or beliefs of the City of Sunny Isles Beach or those of the broader community. The views, opinions, representations, information, or statements by individual contributors are provided on an "as-is" basis with no guarantees of completeness or accuracy, and the City of Sunny Isles Beach assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omission therein, or for the consequences of any action or inaction on the basis of any views, opinions, representations, information or statements made or expressed by individual contributors.

## STAY CONNECTED



**EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS**  
Sign up at [sibfl.net/notifyme](https://sibfl.net/notifyme)



**WEBSITE**  
[sibfl.net](https://sibfl.net)



**FACEBOOK, X,  
INSTAGRAM & YOUTUBE**  
[@CityofSIB](https://www.facebook.com/CityofSIB)



**EMERGENCY  
NOTIFICATIONS**  
Sign up at [sibalert.net](https://sibalert.net)



**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
[sibfl.net/events](https://sibfl.net/events)



**SUNNY ISLES BEACH TV**  
Breezeline Channel 662  
Formerly Atlantic Broadband  
Hotwire Channel 1612