



Islander

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DECEMBER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager

— Stan Morris

“ As 2022 comes to a close, I want to reflect on our city’s great accomplishments this year and take a moment to thank the heroes behind all of the work: our staff. ”

This year has not always been easy. We faced some roadblocks, trials, and tribulations; but through it all, our city staff stepped up to the plate and always put the city and residents first. Every department played a crucial role in this year’s successes, and I want to share a few of their triumphs.

This year more than any other, we prioritized safety on and off the road, with the Police Department at the helm. The effort kicked into gear when we promoted Captain Edward Santiago to Chief of Police. Through additional promotions and hires, the Police Department added ten officers to enhance their presence and visibility on the streets. They reinstated community policing efforts, established a full-time dedicated patrol for the beach and added specialized traffic enforcement units.

This year we celebrated the City’s 25th Anniversary. The Cultural and Community Services department did a remarkable job making this celebration special for our residents as we commemorated 25 years of growth and progress in Sunny Isles Beach. The department also

embarked on the tremendous task of creating a Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will take their services to the next level. We will see new developments this coming year with the addition of new parks and park improvements such as new artificial dog turf and new field lights at Senator Gwen Margolis Park.

Maintaining strong financial security has always been a core undertaking for which the Finance Department excels. The department completed the budget for the 2022-2023 fiscal year, reducing the city’s millage rate while sustaining the strongest reserves in our history. This year, Finance strengthened our procurement processes while also placing a stronger emphasis on sustainable procurement in alignment with our city’s core values.

The Building department hosted a Condominium Workshop to inform stakeholders of the possible policy, procedural and protocol changes to the building recertification process to ensure our buildings are designed, constructed and maintained in a safe manner. The department has also been working closely with city

properties to guarantee the proper maintenance and integrity of our buildings.

It has been a busy year for the City Clerk's Office as they managed the special elections in January and February, as well as the General Election in November and the upcoming mayoral runoff election this December.

Human Resources developed a strategy for recruiting and retaining talent during one of the most difficult years for hiring great employees. The department also provided support for the successful recruitment of various Police Department hires and created a hiring bonus to attract new talent. Simultaneously, HR oversaw a comprehensive compensation study that resulted in salary adjustments



for many deserving employees. The IT department is consistently implementing cybersecurity improvements and making progress on the citywide fiber optic network which will benefit our City and residents greatly.

I am thankful for the hard work and dedication of our employees who always maintain the utmost professionalism and proficiency in their expertise. We have made great strides this year and I look forward to all we will accomplish next year. I wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy holidays and New Year.



Contact City Manager Stan Morris at smorris@sibfl.net or 305.792.1701.

Changing For The Better

Commissioner Jerry Joseph

What is happening to our City of Sunny Isles Beach? Since the last election, I have seen wonderful changes around our city that should be evident to most residents. Our new Police Chief, Eddie Santiago, has worked diligently to increase our police force to levels never achieved before. He has moved our department toward full accreditation, which was never considered important to past administrations. We finally have ongoing traffic enforcement and Sunny Isles Beach is becoming respected as a strict enforcement city to drive through, finally!!

I am proud to say that we are mitigating our street flooding, especially in Golden Shores, and will be adding several new sewers at 18520 North Bay Road and 300 189th Terrace. I am watching and listening to residents for other problem areas to be corrected. We are near completion of the Middle Island New Pump Station design and that will mitigate the flooding problems at North Bay

Road and 177th Street and up. Other administrations chose to “kick the can down the road,” but these situations are now being dealt with “HEAD ON” with no delays.

Sunny Isles Beach will finally have its first public tennis and pickleball courts within the next 8-10 months should the administration continue. I cannot understand why in all prior administrations there was never the desire to have even one public adult sport facility.

Things are certainly changing for the better in Sunny Isles Beach. Hopefully after this election on December 6, 2022, we will be able to proceed on course.



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

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

The importance of recycling in our society has been underestimated. Recycling gives us the opportunity to save natural resources including water and energy. It also helps reduce greenhouse emissions. Younger generations are more aware of reducing, reusing and recycling. Older generations are responsible for leaving a better environment for generations to come. As the Proverb says, “We did not inherit the land from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.” And one simple way of collaborating to safeguard our planet is reducing, reusing, and recycling.

In a time when we are experiencing record inflation and an imminent recession, it becomes imperative that we revisit and hopefully adapt to a new wiser consumers era. One that makes more informed decisions about what to get but also about how to waste. And in the spirit of this adaptation, we should demand more opportunities to do the right thing. Anyone that looks inside the garbage bins at the beach can see that they contain a lot of recyclables.

Did you know that the City also has recycling bins on the beach and in our parks? When you look at the actions you can take on an individual level, there are easy ways to “do the right thing” to protect our environment.

List of items allowed to recycle

[miamidade.gov/global/solidwaste/recycling.page](https://www.miamidade.gov/global/solidwaste/recycling.page):

paper products, cardboard, plastic containers (narrow-necks only), aseptic containers, metals

Items not allowed: garbage or other non-recyclable waste; batteries; glass products; plastic bags, foam, trays & containers; home chemicals; medical waste & pharmaceuticals; electronic waste & accessories; other non-recyclables; empty propane or oxygen tanks.



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

Mayoral Run-off Election

Tuesday, December 6

7 AM - 7 PM

Multiple Locations. For more information, visit sibfl.net/clerk-election.

Doc Chats:

Annual Enrollment Period Q&A

Wednesday, December 7

11 AM - 12 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

Bingo

December 7, 14, 21, 28

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Full Moon Yoga

Wednesday, December 7

5:15 - 6:15 PM | FREE

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

Pre-registration required.

Gateway Market

Wednesday, December 7, 14, 21, 28

5:30 - 10 PM | FREE

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mini-FLOW

Thursday, December 8

9:30 AM - 1 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.

Appointments required.

Special City Commission

Meeting: Swearing in Ceremony

Thursday, December 8 | 6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

AARP Smart Driver

Safety Course

Friday, December 9

9 AM - 4 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Members: \$20 | Non-Members: \$25

Pre-registration required.

Adult Game Night:

Holiday Bingo &

Ugly Sweater Contest

Friday, December 9

5:30 - 6:30 PM | \$2 per game

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Beach Cleanup

Saturday, December 10

8 AM - 12 PM | FREE

Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 11

6 - 8 PM | FREE

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch n' Learn with Florida

Historian Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, December 13

11 - 11:45 AM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch is included. Pre-registration required.

Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5



Adult Cooking Classes

December 14, 21 & 28

Wednesdays | 5:30 - 7 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: \$30 | Non-Residents: \$45

Pre-registration required.

Hygiene Pack

Distribution Program

Thursday, December 15

12 - 1 PM | FREE

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents only. Pre-registration required.

Regular City

Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 15 | 6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Holiday Ball

Friday, December 16 | 6 - 9 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: \$10 | Non-Residents: \$20

Pre-registration required.

Teen Event:

Movie on the Beach: Elf

Friday, December 16

7 - 9 PM | FREE

Samson Oceanfront Park, 17425 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration required.

City Holiday: Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

City facilities close at 2 PM.

SIBshuttle will stop running at 12 PM.

Federal Holiday: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25 &

Monday, December 26

City facilities closed.

SIBshuttle will not run on Sunday, Dec. 25.

Winter Break Camp

Week 1: December 27 - 30

Week 2: January 3 - 6

Register at activities.sibfl.net.

Cultural Trips: Cirque Holidayze

Wednesday, December 28 | 6 - 10 PM

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

Residents: \$45 | Non-Residents: \$55

Pre-registration required.

City Holiday: New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31

City facilities close at 2 PM.

SIBshuttle will stop running at 12 PM

Federal Holiday: New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1

& Monday, January 2

City facilities closed.

SIBshuttle will not run on Sunday, January 1.

**FOR A COMPLETE LIST
OF EVENTS, VISIT
sibfl.net/events**

SPOTLIGHT ON...

PLANNING & ZONING

Our Planning and Zoning department is committed to improving the planned urban fabric of our city. From reviewing site plans and transfer of development rights (TDRs) applications, to conducting site visits and preparing zoning recommendations, the department is efficient, resourceful, and always happy to help.

Planning and Zoning also manages the short-term vacation rental (STR) licensing program. An STR is any unit that is leased or rented for less than six months and are commonly advertised online through platforms such as Airbnb or VRBO. All STRs must be licensed through the City and applications are due annually on September 30 with enforcement going into effect on December 1. The department ensures all STR licenses are in compliance with City ordinances in order to protect the safety of all Sunny Isles Beach residents and visitors.

Valid Licenses Issued for 2023: 730

Currently Delinquent Licenses or Pending Renewal: 136

New Applications Pending Review: 51

For more information about the Planning and Zoning department, visit sibfl.net/dept_zoning. Email infopz@sibfl.net or call [305.792.1740](tel:305.792.1740).



GATEWAY MARKET

**There's a new market
at Gateway Park every Wednesday
evening from 5:30 - 10 PM**

Gateway Market offers a variety of on-site vendors selling everything from craft culinary cuisine and local produce to hand-made crafts and jewelry. With live music, games and activities, Gateway Market is fun for the whole family.

Be sure to stop by next Wednesday!

Learn more about Gateway Market at sibfl.net/gatewaymarket.

HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

from Chief Santiago

The holidays are always a joyous time to celebrate with family and friends. But it is also an important time to be cautious and alert. Don't let deceitful and criminal types spoil the season with their bad behavior. Below are some helpful tips to stay safe during the holidays.

- Remember to decorate safely. Use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors.
- Remember the 9 PM routine. Lock your doors and windows at night and when leaving your house or car, even for a few minutes. The Grinch may show up.
- If traveling this season, have a neighbor or family member watch your house and pick up your packages and mail.



- When out shopping, always park in areas that are well-lit. Stay alert and aware of your surroundings when walking, especially if shopping.
- Refrain from carrying large amounts of cash. Lock purchases in your trunk so they are not left in your vehicle in plain sight. You never know when the Grinch is walking by.

The Sunny Isles Beach Police Department is here 24/7 to ensure our residents' and visitors' safety. For non-emergency inquiries, please call [305.947.4440](tel:305.947.4440). I wish everyone a happy holidays and festive New Year.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE CITY

The winter holiday events you know and love are back. We are getting in the spirit as we kick off the holiday season with our annual park lighting ceremony at Winter Fest. Brighter than ever, this year will feature a 32-foot-tall holiday castle the whole family will love. The interactive castle will be the signature piece of our holiday décor throughout the city. Stationed at Gateway Park, the castle is located in a centralized and inclusive location for the entire community to access and celebrate the holiday spirit.

Our holiday décor expands throughout the entire city with decorations lighting up Samson Oceanfront Park and Heritage Park.



WE WANT TO SEE HOW YOU ARE CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS IN & AROUND SUNNY ISLES BEACH!

Use **#HolidaysintheIsles** and tag us when posting on social media.



TOY DRIVE

The holiday season is one of the best times to give back to those in need. We are hosting a Holiday Toy Drive to benefit children who may not otherwise receive gifts for the holidays. We are accepting new and unopened toys such as games, dolls, books, and more at all city facilities including Pelican Community Park, Gateway Center and the Government Center.

Learn more at sibfl.net/toydrive.



HOLIDAY BALL

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

6 - 9 PM | Gateway Center

Celebrate the holiday season with a glamorous evening of dinner and dancing.

The festivities will include raffles, music and surprises!

Resident: \$10 | Non-Resident: \$20

For complete event details, visit sibfl.net/events.

Islander

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