

SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

January 2020

Art in the Park



Sunday
February 2 • 3:00–6:00 pm
Heritage Park
19200 Collins Avenue

Spend your Sunday with friends and family learning new painting techniques. Join the city's Oil Painting Club as we enjoy a beautiful winter afternoon painting in the park.

Registration is free and required to guarantee supplies and participation. Registration is available online at activities.sibfl.net or in person at Pelican Community Park and the SIB Government Center.

Free parking is available at the Heritage Park garage. For more information, visit sibfl.net/events.



from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl
Mayor

I want to welcome everyone to a new year and a new decade full of promise and exciting opportunities in Sunny Isles Beach.

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and were able to spend time with loved ones, perhaps even at one of our many winter activities around the city.

Recently, I've been asked why the city does not put up holiday decorations along Collins Avenue. When driving along the coast, some of our neighboring cities are adorned with lights and seasonal embellishments, but when passing through Sunny Isles Beach, A1A might not seem as festive. This is largely a consequence of the Utility Undergrounding and the Street Light Enhancement projects. Throughout the last several years, the undergrounding project inundated Collins Avenue as we laid conduit, repaved the road, and improved crosswalks, all to enrich the quality of our busiest street. Last year we moved into the next phase of the project, replacing all the existing lamp poles on Collins with decorative street posts. This scope of the project is rather lengthy and projected to reach completion in two years.

On the bright side, once the Street Lighting Enhancement project concludes, all new light posts will be ornamented with power and stations for decorations. While our main road might not light up like some other cities, we have plenty of annual holiday happenings across all of Sunny Isles Beach. In addition to our packed event calendar, you might have seen our holiday tree towering over Heritage Park, also the location for many decorations and lights. Or the holiday sandcastle in the heart of Samson Oceanfront Park. And many of our interior streets are wreathed with lights and snowflakes to help put you in the spirit as you drive home.

I also want to thank all our properties along A1A that decorate their frontages so elaborately. They certainly enhance the festive ambiance. Though you might not see a change next holiday season on Collins Avenue, know that your inquiries are being heard and addressed, and we hope to see more holiday decorations in the years to come.

SIBlife

Sunny Isles Beach is ECOmmitted

As a coastal community, we are aware that taking care of our environment reaps only positive rewards and is imperative for any forward-thinking city. This New Year, the city is promoting more eco-driven adjustments that everyone can make in their daily lives to help save the planet. We're calling it "ECOmmitted." Our employees are leading the way by trading in paper cups for reusable hot/cold tumblers, carrying nylon bags when shopping and recycling in the office. For the last several years, the city has been dedicated to saving electricity and water, as well as finding unique ways to implement renewable resources to provide services for residents and visitors. There are countless small and large steps we can take every day to help make our community and our planet a better, more eco-friendly place to live. We invite you to attend our next Beach Cleanup on February 2 at Pier Park. Learn more at sibfl.net/beachcleanups.

Distracted Driving & Pedestrian Safety

It's peak season here in Sunny Isles Beach, which means the roads are more crowded than ever. It is imperative to take extra precautions when driving and walking around the city. Stay alert, never look at your phone or other electronic devices and remain aware of your surroundings. Always cross at a designated crosswalk and wait for the appropriate signals. Do not assume a driver will always see you and stop for you. Remain vigilant while walking, especially at night, and keep your eyes up instead of on your phone.

Sunny Isles Beach Rebranding

Have you ever wondered how a logo is created or how a tagline is adopted? The City of Sunny Isles Beach is in the process of rebranding. This means we are conducting research to determine how to position the city to best represent our residents, businesses and services. Throughout the next year, we will be conducting studies, surveys, and other public events to gain your feedback and input on how we can brand our city as a collective group. Be on the look out for more information in the coming months!

Spotlight on Adult Programs

We have many adult and senior programs here in the city that enhance the body and mind while also providing a social aspect. One of our most popular programs is Tai Chi, and this is due to our wonderful instructor, Mr. Azat Batakov. He first came to teach Tai Chi in 2017 and has since expanded his program to offer more classes in different locations around the city. And his students are his biggest fans. It is Mr. Azat's love of teaching, patience and rapport with the class that keep his students returning every season. Recently, Mr. Azat participated in the Second Annual Legacy Kung Fu Tournament Integrative Health Expo in November 2019, where he received a bronze medal. Without instructors like Mr. Azat, our programs would not be as successful and popular as they are among our community. For more information and to register, visit activities.sibfl.net.



A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



With the evolution of technology and the environment changing globally, the City of Sunny Isles Beach is focused on preparation for a sustainable future. Since incorporation in 1997, the city is placing long-term infrastructure planning at the forefront of our priorities to ensure a viable future for our vibrant community. In past articles, I have highlighted some of our more visible capital projects, however, we also have two lesser-known, yet significant and innovative studies underway that will help determine the most pragmatic, cost-effective ways to reduce flooding in our city.

The first study, a Flood Adaptation Assessment, identifies flood vulnerabilities and what adaptive measures will be most effective. We were awarded funding through our membership with the American Flood Coalition (AFC), along with the Town of Surfside, as part of a micro-regional flood adaptation assessment with our two municipalities. Our goal is to leverage the study's findings to plan new capital improvement projects and secure funding from the county, state and federal governments. The study is now underway, with expected completion by the end of January 2020.

Simultaneously, another little known study on stormwater retention is underway in the city. This consists of an analysis of Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)-owned stormwater retention areas in Sunny Isles Beach. The idea here is to determine if and how the stormwater holding capacity of these retention areas can be increased. Also, through this unique initiative, we are fostering a stronger collaboration between the City and FDOT while looking at ways to problem solve across jurisdictions by evaluating maintenance schedules to assure that proper maintenance is routinely completed by FDOT.

Studies like this are important to improve our city as stormwater inlets and pipes have shown severe clogging with debris and overgrown vegetation. And inlet grates within these retention areas show excessive corrosion due to saltwater intrusion from high King Tides. The outfalls, which allow water in these basins to flow out to the bay, are not visible, even at low tide. This tells us that they are too low and these areas do not drain as quickly as they should, indicating that regrading of these areas may be necessary. We are also studying the potential for construction of additional drainage structures, deep wells or

injection wells, in these multiple locations, all of which have the potential to provide a higher capacity to hold stormwater, in turn alleviating flooding on our streets more quickly.

Along with these two studies, the city is taking measures to enhance our resiliency in the years to come. We completed four major stormwater improvement projects since incorporation, are planning for the second renovation and upgrade of the Golden Shores stormwater pump station, are reducing our carbon footprint by planting more trees around the city thanks to a grant from Neat Streets Miami, and have seen more than 1,500,000 cubic yards of sand placed on the beach. Over the years, we also adopted policies, which led to the requirement of beach renourishment by developers, and revenue from impact fees. And speaking of impact fees, we may also want to look at updating and evaluating our current impact fees moving into the new decade. The grants we have received from the American Flood Coalition and the Miami-Dade County Neat Streets Program, and the numerous actions we are taking around the city are clear indications of our commitment to improve our environment in a long-term capacity.

The Condominium Registry Ordinance

from the desk of Commissioner Dana Goldman



Current and prospective owners of units in the City should have free, complete and immediate access to the condominium association records and documents of the condominiums that are located here. Despite some notable recent legislative reforms to make condominium associations more transparent and accountable to owners, including new website posting requirements, vexing condominium records and access issues remain.

Last month I introduced a proposed Ordinance, titled “Condominium Registry” which will require associations to register with the City and provide the City with important contact information, physical information and other documentation about the condominium, its manager, total number of units, assigned and unassigned parking spaces, governing documents, current financial statement and approved budget, status of completion of the 40-year recertification, and certificate of insurance, among other items, and the City will make the Condominium Registry available on its website. Full, fair and immediate electronic access to important records and documents will encourage the appropriate management, maintenance and operations of the 100+ condominiums located in our City. Shining a spotlight on issues in condominium living is both a personal passion and a professional mission.

If you would like a copy of the proposed Condominium Registry Ordinance, my email is dgoldman@sibfl.net and my direct phone number is 786.512.6364. Our residents deserve greater transparency, access and ease to information and records.

Municipal Government: A Pillar of Democracy

from the desk of Commissioner Alex Lama



In the U.S. we cherish our beloved republic and its democratic process; and for this process to function, it is important to note that it needs municipal government. Municipal government truly exemplifies the idea of a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

Municipal government is the form of government that is closest to people’s lives. It provides a structure for residents to directly participate and influence decisions that affect their daily lives. Participation by residents is critical for people’s representation to thrive and to make our democratic process stronger.

In the democratic process of our country, the voters are the ultimate source of power at the local, state and federal level. And all of this power starts at the municipal level. For this power to continue in the hands of the voters, as it should, civic engagement is imperative. In this New Year, I invite you to become more involved and acquainted with city affairs. To do so, you are welcome to attend our monthly city commission meetings every third Thursday of each month (except August). Or watch them via SIBTV, sibfl.net, or rebroadcasted on our YouTube page. You can learn about the adopted budget for year 2019-2020 at sibfl.net/budgetmessage19-20 and familiarize yourself with the city charter at sibfl.net/clerk-municipal-charter. Most importantly, I encourage you to make your voices heard. We want to hear from you – hear your ideas, complaints and of course your compliments.

Wishing you a year full of health, joy and success. Please contact me with questions at 305.792.1752 or alama@sibfl.net.

Behind the Scenes with the Parks Division



The Parks Division oversees maintenance of the City’s 11 parks. This division, with 25 employees, operates seven days a week, 14 hours per day, to ensure that these recreational spaces are available for our residents and visitors.

Last summer, we conducted a survey to gather input from residents about areas of concern and needed improvements to learn what we are doing well and what we need to work on. We were pleased to receive almost 500 responses from users of each of our different parks. We received many suggestions along with feedback on current operations. Below are some of the most common suggestions we are working to address within this coming year:

More shade

We recently planted additional trees at Intracoastal Parks with more planned throughout the city.

More light in the evenings

We installed additional lighting at Town Center Park and Senator Gwen Margolis Park, and continue to assess and improve as needed.

Ability for kids to ride bikes and roller skate

We initiated Bike Day at Gateway Park weekly, on Tuesdays, from 4:00–8:00 pm. Children under 12 with safety gear are welcome to practice their bike riding and roller skating.

We always welcome input from our residents and visitors to ensure your quality of life exceeds expectations. Follow updates in our parks division at sibfl.net/parks.

**January 1**

Wednesday, New Year's Day
Federal Holiday: Government Offices Closed
SIBshuttle does not operate

January 3

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

January 3

Friday, 7:00–9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: *Smallfoot*
Heritage Park

January 4

Saturday, 7:00–9:00 pm
Family Movie Night: *Smallfoot*
Town Center Park

January 7

Tuesday, 10:30 am–2:00 pm
Blood Drive
SIB Government Center

January 8

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

January 9

Thursday, 9:00 am–noon
Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening with
Cholesterol
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

January 9

Thursday, 6:45 pm
Cultural Event: *Aladdin*
Broward Center for the Performing Arts

January 10

Friday, 5:30 pm
Full Moon Yoga
Samson Oceanfront Park

January 10

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

January 14

Tuesday, 10:00 am–1:00 pm
Golden Era Movie: *Animal Crackers*
Pelican Community Park

January 15

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

January 16

Thursday, 12:30 pm
Cultural Event: Painting at
Trazos Art Academy
North Miami Beach, FL

January 16

Thursday, 6:30 pm
Regular City Commission Meeting
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

January 20

Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Federal Holiday: Government Offices Closed
SIBshuttle runs holiday schedule
Orange Line #2 only

January 22

Wednesday, 10:00 am
Special Magistrate Hearing:
Code Enforcement Violations
SIB Govt. Center
Commission Chambers

January 22

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.

Programs for Adults

Basic Introduction to Computers for ages 55+
Tuesday: January 21
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

Citizenship Classes
Saturdays: January 11–25
10:00–11:30 am

Poetry Reading
Saturday: January 11
4:00–5:00 pm

Russian Social Club
Saturday: January 18
3:30–5:30 pm

Programs for Children

Bedtime Stories
Wednesdays: January 8–29
6:00–6:30 pm inside the library
Ages 3–5 yrs.

Homework Tutoring
Saturdays: January 11–25
11:00 am inside the library
Registration required.

Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers
Mondays: January 6, 13 & 27
10:00–10:40 am
Ages 19 mo.–3 yrs.

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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 Clerk at 305.792.1703, TTY 305.792.1589 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!*



Family Movie Nights

Bring your kids and your own seat or blanket out to the park to enjoy a screening of the movie *Smallfoot*.



Friday, January 3 • 7:00 pm • Heritage Park
Saturday, January 4 • 7:00 pm • Town Center Park

Don't miss *Smallfoot* themed activities starting at 7:00 pm and the movie begins at 7:30 pm. Admission is free and free parking is available at each park or you can ride the free SIBshuttle.

Sunny Serenade

This concert series is held on the third Wednesday of each month and is a great mid-week break for the whole family.



Wednesday, January 15 • 7:30–9:00 pm
Samson Oceanfront Park • 17425 Collins Avenue

Enjoy music from Stereo Mix. Tasty food and drink are available to purchase. Bring your own chair as available seating is limited. For more information, visit sibfl.net/events.