

# SIB islander

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

July 2019

## NY NY Dueling Pianos at Gateway LIVE!



Saturday, July 27, 7:30 pm  
Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Boulevard

It's a night of piano party madness, as internationally renowned performers take your song requests in a clap-along, crazy party where all things fun can happen!

Tickets are \$10, or free with a valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card. Tickets are available at Pelican Community Park, the SIB Government Center or online at [sibevents.ticketleap.com](http://sibevents.ticketleap.com). Residents must pick up their free tickets in person.

Due to limited seating, guests should bring a chair or blanket. Free parking is available in the Gateway Park garage. Pedestrians can use the Gateway pedestrian bridge to cross westbound 826. The SIBshuttle provides free transportation within City limits.

For more information, call 305.792.1706 or visit [sibfl.net/gatewaylive](http://sibfl.net/gatewaylive).

## from our Mayor



George 'Bud' Scholl  
Mayor

We too often become consumed with our cell phones and computers, a bad habit that is transferring on to our children.

July is Parks and Recreation Month and I challenge our residents to take a break from the screens and get outside. Summer is the ideal time to sample a new sport or class and play at a new park. With one of our 11 parks within walking distance of 98 percent of all residences, this is your chance to explore the outdoors and discover all the hidden gems our City has to offer.

Eight of our parks feature interactive playgrounds and fields for children to get active in a playful atmosphere. Both Heritage and Gateway parks offer a water splash pad to cool off during those sweltering South Florida afternoons. Pelican Community Park is home to the majority of our recreation and athletic programs, as well as a basketball gymnasium and workout center.

One new feature coming to Gateway Park is the interior build out. Construction is scheduled to begin soon and is slated for completion in summer 2020. Once open for business, the state-of-the-art facility will house an array of activities and areas for our residents to connect with the community and bridge the boundaries between generations.

I also want to take a moment to recognize our incredible parks team who work every day to keep our parks open and clean for residents to enjoy. But we should also take it upon ourselves to do our part. Please dispose of trash in the appropriate receptacles and pick up after yourself. It is our civic duty as residents to respect our city and our parks.

Parks are a beacon of play for family and friends, providing a haven for kids to ignite their imagination and parents to connect to the outdoors. We take great pride in our parks and know you do too. Whether it be a playground, soccer field or splash pad, there are countless reasons for you and your family to get out and get active. Read on to hear how the City is celebrating Parks and Recreation Month and how you can participate too!



# SIBlife

## Online Registration

Parents of students from NSE/SIB K-8 School may begin to register for the After School Program online at [activities.sibfl.net](http://activities.sibfl.net) on July 13. It is no longer necessary to line up early on that Saturday morning to reserve your spot in the program. But remember, to do this you must have login credentials and your valid City-issued SIB Resident ID Card. Don't be caught with an expired card; check the expiration date on your card and renew now at [sibfl.net/residentid](http://sibfl.net/residentid). For your login credentials, call Cultural and Community Services at 305.792.1706.

## Parks and Recreation Month

The theme for this July's National Parks and Recreation Month is Game On! The City is challenging you to get outside and get moving. The City boasts 11 premier parks for residents and visitors featuring playgrounds, interactive water features, a baseball field, soccer field, walking paths, and outdoor fitness equipment. Along with various youth, adult, and senior activities, there are countless opportunities in your City to get your Game On! Follow us on social media @CityofSIB to participate in a special parks and recreation contest. One participant will be selected at the end of the month to win a pair of Apple AirPods.

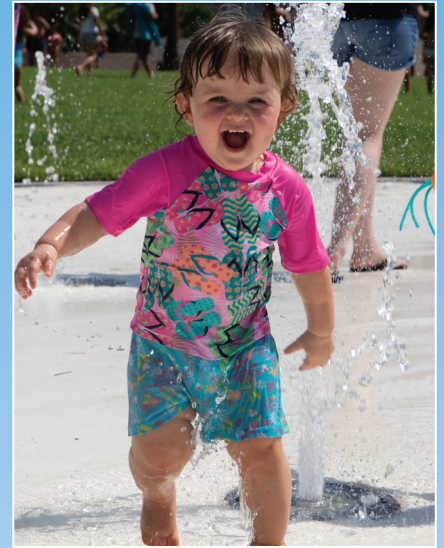
## Photo Contest

Photo Contest submissions for the City's 2020 calendar are due by September 1.

Photos should be taken within the boundaries of the City of Sunny Isles Beach and be at least 300 dpi to be considered for the calendar. Most photos taken with a camera phone will not meet this resolution requirement. For best resolution, a digital camera should be used. Winning images will be published on a non-exclusive basis in the City's desk calendar available at the SIB Government Center reception desk at the end of November. Be sure to go online to upload your 10 best shots and complete the waiver at [sibfl.net/photocontest](http://sibfl.net/photocontest).

## Veterans Wall Nominations

Attention Sunny Isles Beach residents who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces! WE WANT YOU! The City would like to continue recognizing additional residents who served by adding their name to the Heritage Park Memorial Wall. Honorably discharged veterans who live or have lived in the City are eligible. The deadline to nominate a veteran each year is September 1. For consideration, veterans or their relative must complete a nomination form and attach both proof of residency and proof of service. Proof of service includes either an Honorable Discharge Certificate or DD214 Discharge Form. Find and complete the nomination form online at [sibfl.net/veterans](http://sibfl.net/veterans). A printed version of the nomination form may also be picked up at the SIB Government Center or Pelican Community Park. Be sure to join us on November 11, 2019 at 9:30 am as we honor our local Veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.



# A Message from the City Manager

by Christopher J. Russo



This past May I was reminded of another reason why I choose to live in Sunny Isles Beach. For those who do not know, I am not just the City Manager, I am also a proud resident of this great city. It is not a job requirement; I choose to live here.

Among the obvious reasons such as the low tax rate, high-quality services, A-rated public school and plethora of world class parks, the primary reason I, and many people, choose to live in Sunny Isles Beach is the undeniable feeling of safety. Safety is a top factor in one's decision as to where to live and raise a family.

As I'm sure you already know, that feeling of safety came into question this past May. Like so many other communities worldwide, we found ourselves in a drive-by shooting situation that resulted in one death and injuries to others. One difference between myself and some other residents is that I have in-depth knowledge of the qualifications and training of our police officers, as well as the comfort of knowing about our mutual aid agreements. As this awareness puts me at ease, I thought I would take this opportunity to share this information with all of you.

When the City was first founded, the city commission knew having a police department to call our own was a priority. This results in the benefits of quicker re-

sponse times and providing the most interpersonal support. Unlike some other cities that rely on the Miami-Dade County Police Department, we receive the advantage of 24/7 support as our officers are always in the city and know our community well. The value added from this is invaluable for the department to best serve its residents.

One of the key components of a good police department is establishing trust between the officers and the community. Our department is well respected in our community because they take the time to build strong connections with residents. Our officers are always visible: on the streets, in the school, and at events. The department also maintains an open line of communication with the City's hotels, condominiums, and their respective securities, assisting in fortifying the security of their establishments.

But developing relationships with our own community is not the department's only priority. Throughout the years, the SIBPD has established concrete inter-local agreements with neighboring communities, such as the Town of Golden Beach to the north and the City of Aventura to the west. This arrangement allows for reciprocated assistance during times of need.

During the more than 20 years that the police department has been keeping our

city safe, they have won multiple local and national awards, including the National Association of Police Officers TOPCOPS Award®. Our Chief of Police, Dwight Snyder, leads this qualified team with more than 21 years of experience in Sunny Isles Beach alone. One of the first hires in the SIBPD, Chief Snyder has trained and graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy. His expertise has guided this department into a new era of policing and will continue to keep our community safe.

Though we never wish for situations like this to test the effectiveness of the extensive training of our officers, it is reassuring to know that they are prepared. They performed flawlessly, responding quickly and proficiently. They turned initial chaos into calm. In addition to all of the officers that responded on their day off, the utilization of the mutual aid agreements with our neighbors ensured a secure and organized crime scene for Miami-Dade County homicide to conduct their investigation. At times like this, following a tragedy unlike anything our City has experienced before, it is comforting to know more about the men and women that we have protecting us and the resources they have available to them.

## What's the difference between SIB and NSE/SIB K-8 School?

Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin and  
Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra



Throughout the recent years, our small, close-knit community has become increasingly family-oriented. NSE/Sunny Isles Beach K-8, an A-rated school, is a significant factor of this shift in our community. This superior school has increased our property values and therefore attracted families from all over the world. It is a microcosm of our city.

For this reason, many parents and residents are confused by the relationship between the city and the school. Sometimes, residents new to the city, or who are registering their children in City programs for the first time, are frustrated that the City cannot use the same registration that the school maintains. This deserves clarification.

Like all public schools, the district, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in our case, runs the school. The City of Sunny Isles Beach does not hold authority over the school. Unlike the Government Center, public works, parks, and police department, the City does not run the school. This is akin to the library and post office. Although these services are housed within the city and use city land, they ultimately report to outside entities.

It is through a similar agreement of shared space that we are able to support the school so well. It is called a joint use agreement. The city provides support by allowing the school to use city land and resources. This includes the use of Pelican Community Park and its gymnasium during school hours. When it comes to aftercare and camps, the City serves as the sole provider and utilizes the school facilities. It is only during these times that the City can enforce its own rules and are responsible for the registered kids.

Aftercare and camps are run by the City and, therefore, governed by the City. For this reason, there is a very strict proof of residency requirement; we want to ensure that residents receive priority and special benefits. We have an unapologetic code of conduct to maintain an exceptional standard of behavior and respect among residents, children and staff. There are also amenities the City can provide that the school would not normally offer such as air-conditioned buses for field trips, water slides and petting zoos, among many others.

To that end, when school starts in about two months, there are rules set by M-DCPS that the City can neither change nor supersede. For this reason, we ask all parents and residents who are interested to get more involved. There are many organizations that foster community involvement to make public schools stronger. There are the Citizen's Coalition for Miami-Dade County Schools, EESAC (The Educational Excellence School Advisory Council), the SIB PTSA (Sunny Isles Beach Parent Teacher Student Association—not just for parents), Miami-Dade County PTA, The Listeners/Oyentes Program, and several other county organizations.

We were recently asked by State Senator Pizzo, "what makes NSE/SIB K-8, such an exceptional school?" The answer was simple: outstanding parent involvement, extraordinary community support, 'round the clock police presence, fundraising efforts by other non-profits like the SIB Children's Fund, and the symbiotic relationship with local government. Although the per student allocation in each school in the state is exactly the same, \$7,500, NSE/SIB K-8 is one of the most unique and impressive schools in the district of Miami-Dade County.

Though the City and school are two separate entities, we work harmoniously together to elevate the city's standard of living for all residents and children. It takes all of us to maintain these high standards. Do you want to join in the effort? We'd be happy to help you find a fitting opportunity.

## Behind the Scenes with the Parks Division



Residents may not be fully aware of the daily tasks required to keep things running smoothly in the City's wonderful outdoor spaces, our 11 parks. These areas are maintained by a staff of 26, including administration support staff and facility operation workers. 365 days a year, parks staff are the first ones in and the last ones out, securing their zones, even during severe weather. They are on the front line of clean-up after a storm. The staff at each site have a two-fold job that ensures the safety of all patrons using the parks.

Our facility operation workers are the park patrol, the eyes and ears that prevent accidents. They enforce safe use of playgrounds and water features. The team also clears trash, monitors restroom conditions and reports any damage to City property. For the safety of all, they also close the parks when the Thor Guard Lightning Prediction System sounds one long blast.

The second part of their job involves ongoing maintenance and repair of the park including artwork and sculptures, playground equipment, interactive water features, parking structures, elevators, restrooms, walkways, shade canopies and dog parks.

For more information, visit [sibfl.net/parks](http://sibfl.net/parks).



**July 2**

Tuesday, 10:30 am–1:00 pm  
Blood Drive  
SIB Government Center

**July 3**

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

**July 4**

Thursday, Government Offices Closed  
Federal Holiday: Independence Day  
Shuttle bus does not run

**July 5**

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

**July 9**

Tuesday, 10:00 am–1:00 pm  
Golden Era Movie: *Strangers on a Train*  
SIB Govt. Center Commission Chambers

**July 11**

Thursday, 9:00 am–12:00 pm  
Blood Pressure and Glucose Screening  
Pelican Community Park

**July 13**

Saturday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm  
Summer Splash  
Heritage Park

**July 14**

Sunday, 10:00 am  
Cultural Event: The Bass Museum  
Miami Beach, FL

**July 16**

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

**July 17**

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

**July 18**

Thursday, 10:00 am  
City Commission Workshop:  
Operating & Capital Projects FY 19/20 Budget  
SIB Govt. Center 4th Floor Meeting Room

**July 18**

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

**July 23**

Tuesday, 9:30 am  
Cultural Event:  
The Festival Flea Market Mall  
Pompano Beach, FL

**July 24**

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

**July 24**

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

**July 27**

Saturday, 7:30 pm  
NY NY Dueling Pianos  
at Gateway LIVE!  
Gateway Park

**July 28**

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

**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 more details on summer reading program activities contact your local library.

**Programs for Adults**

**Basic Introduction to Computers for ages 55+**

Tuesday: July 16  
10:00–11:00 am inside the library

**Citizenship Classes**

Saturdays: July 6–27  
10:00–11:30 am

**Poetry Reading**

Saturday: July 13  
4:00–5:00 pm

**Programs for Children**

**Bedtime Stories**

Wednesdays: July 3–31  
6:00–6:30 pm  
Ages 3–5 yrs.

**Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers**

Mondays: July 1–29  
10:00–10:40 am inside the library  
Ages 19 mo.–3 yrs.

**Creative Corner Family Program**

Saturdays: July 6–27  
11:00 am inside the library



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CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES

18115 North Bay Road  
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305.792.1706

July 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

## SIB islander

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



### *Summer Splash*

Water rides and games provide summer fun  
in the sun for all ages.



Saturday, July 13, 10:00 am–4:00 pm  
Heritage Park • 19200 Collins Avenue

Admission is free. Free parking is available in the Heritage Park garage or under the William Lehman Causeway. Ride the free SIBshuttle within City limits.

### *Wiggle and Paint*

Each month practice a different dance technique  
or hone your painting skills.



Sunday, July 28, 11:00 am–1:00 pm  
Samson Oceanfront Park • 17425 Collins Avenue

Admission is free, reservations are recommended for painting only. Free parking is available in the municipal lot on 175 Terrace (behind Walgreens) & on the north side of 174 Street.