



Islander

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MARCH 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Civic engagement is necessary for any municipality to succeed. Input from the community helps bring about meaningful change. ”



Dana Robin Goldman
Mayor

That is why I am delighted our city is establishing several advisory committees to work in conjunction with the City Commission and bring forth ideas and suggestions for innovations in pedestrian safety, sustainability, public art, and historic preservation.

It is no secret that pedestrian safety is my top priority. We must do everything we can to keep those on and off the streets alive and safe. The Mobility and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee (MAPSAC) is just one step forward in that pursuit. Consisting of five members who were appointed at the January Commission Meeting, the MAPSAC will be a guiding force in brainstorming new ways to enhance pedestrian safety in our community. Pavel Stoev chairs the MAPSAC, and he comes to us as a professional engineer with over 15 years of experience in intelligent transportation and safety systems development. The other members of the committee have experience in engineering, construction, education, corporate executives, and health services.

We also appointed five members to the Environment Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) in January. Just as important as safety, sustainability is an ongoing concern for our city. As a coastal community we are most at risk of the effects of climate change, including sea level rise and flooding. With the establishment of the ESAC we have a dedicated group of individuals who will evaluate innovative solutions

for green initiatives and sustainable growth and development; protect and preserve our natural resources to support our resilient community; and promote the overall protection of the environment. Christina Miskis serves as the ESAC chair with a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning and experience with vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning for sea level rise, compound flooding, and improved resilience. Other ESAC members have experience in coastal residence management, engineering, and the private and non-profit sectors with an emphasis on sustainability initiatives.

The first meetings for both the MAPSAC and ESAC will be a joint workshop with the Commission to determine priorities and are scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2022 at 9 a.m.

We will also be opening applications for two other committees: the Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) and the Historic Preservation Board; and the deadline to apply is March 11, 2022. The PAAC is an excellent opportunity for our more artistic residents to collaborate and define the future of public art in our city. Members of the Historic Preservation Board consult on an as-needed basis on our historical landmarks.

As a Commission, we value input from our residents and want to see more of it across these important issues. By cultivating open forums for collaboration, we are better preparing ourselves and our city for success moving forward.

Contact Mayor Dana Robin Goldman at mayor@sibfl.net or 305.792.1753.
Mayor Goldman's open office hours are Fridays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager

Stan Morris

The beginning of 2022 brought much change to our city, and with that change, new improvements to our daily operations. Moving forward, the management team will be providing a regular update in the Islander newsletter on the City's most important projects, events, and happenings each quarter.

Most recently, Interim Police Chief Mike Grandinetti retired and I appointed Captain Edward Santiago as Interim Chief. Mike was with the SIBPD since its inception and played a part in its tremendous growth and success. I wish him all the best in his retirement. Interim Chief Santiago has also been with our PD from the beginning in 1998, and I have complete confidence in his ability to succeed. Eddie and I will work closely together to expedite hirings and fill open positions throughout the department. We anticipate a Commission vote on a permanent chief no later than May 2022.

As the Mayor discussed, traffic and pedestrian safety is a top priority and we are prioritizing prevention and mitigation. To bolster education and enforcement efforts on the road, the Police Department added two officers to the patrol traffic unit who will be out patrolling the streets. This is a specialized division that will focus solely on enforcing traffic violations and making our city safer. To gain a better understanding of our resources, the City is consulting with Architects Design Group (ADG), an expert in building police departments. They will conduct a feasibility study of our current building and other city-owned properties to present options for expanding the physical space for our PD now and in the future.

In February, the Mayor and I met with the Florida Department of Transportation to discuss concerns about Collins Avenue and Sunny Isles Boulevard and possible strategies and tactics for improving pedestrian safety. One of which is "scramble" crosswalks, which would adjust select intersections' traffic light settings, allowing for longer lights, but no turns on red. This would give pedestrians the exclusive right of way to cross the street safely, from any direction, even diagonally, at the same time.

We also discussed reducing the speed limit from 35 mph to 30 mph. FDOT supported the idea of a comprehensive speed study and considering the results. The establishment of the Mobility and Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee is another step forward in our endeavors to make the streets of Sunny Isles Beach safer for all pedestrians and motorists. We have also hired a pedestrian safety and roadway consultant to work closely with the committee.

After productive meetings with the Newport, we extended the Pier's hours in February from 7 am - 7 pm to now 7 am - 10 pm. This change was brought about through a citizen request and we are happy our residents are able to enjoy the Pier for longer hours.

A new improvement coming to the Building Department in the coming months is electronic plan review for all permit types. Not only is this environmentally-friendly and in line with our ECOMMITTED pledge, it is

both time and cost effective for City staff.

If you are a Resident ID Cardholder, you should have received the Cultural & Community Services new recreation magazine, Live & Play, in the mail. This is just one more advantage of our Resident ID Card program. If you did not receive the magazine, you can pick up a copy at any City facility or download it online at sibfl.net/liveandplay.

As I'm sure you are aware, last month we welcomed newly elected Commissioner Jerry Joseph, who won the Seat 1 election, and Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant, who was elected to permanently fill her provisional commission appointment for Seat 3. Senior staff and I have met with both Commissioners, and we look forward to working together.

The first quarter of a new year is always important. We establish priorities and set the goals and objectives for the year. My hope is that through regular updates, you will be engaged with your local government and informed on important news. As always, our website and social media platforms are a great resource for factual city information.

“ The beginning of 2022 brought much change to our city, and with that change, new improvements to our daily operations. ”

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

Banning Smoking on our Beaches: An Example of Restoring Home Rule

Vice Mayor Jeniffer Viscarra

In early February, Deputy City Manager Susan Simpson and I joined the Florida League of Cities and other municipal officials in Tallahassee to advocate for self-government / Home Rule. Home Rule is the right to local self-government and involves the authority of a local government to prevent state government intervention with its operations. A perfect example currently under consideration is House Bill 105/Senate Bill 224, which would authorize cities and counties to restrict smoking in any public beach within their boundaries and in parks that are owned by the city or county. Currently, cities are not allowed to ban or regulate smoking in their parks or beaches. HB105/SB224 would restore self-government to cities and counties for this purpose.

As the bills go through the various reviewing committees, they may die or be amended. At the time of the writing of this

article, HB105/SB224 are moving forward but have been amended to allow pipes and cigars. While I don't love the exception, it's a step in the right direction and considerably better than having no regulating authority at all. We'll have to wait and see how it ultimately unfolds.

I want to thank the residents who sent letters and emails to our representatives. Your involvement is key. If these bills don't become law this round, we'll likely see them re-introduced in a future legislative session, and we can take up the Home Rule fight again. The important thing is for us to do our part, lend our support, and make our collective difference as a civically engaged community.



Contact Vice Mayor Jeniffer Viscarra at seat4@sibfl.net or [305.792.1750](tel:305.792.1750).

Leading by Example

Commissioner Alex Lama

Elected officials are public servants chosen by residents to serve the community and make their lives better. Voters have entrusted these elected officials with the honor and privilege to carry out their duties in the most efficient, diligent and professional manner.

As stewards of the community, public servants must always be rational, well-informed, and responsive to the needs of the community. They must also be assertive and willing to stand up to any abuse of power and fight for what is right and conforming with their values and principles. Contentious issues and decisions are the norm and should be handled with the necessary dose of assertiveness and rationality. However, no matter how muddled an issue becomes, it is always easier and more beneficial to find a solution with a professional and factual approach. By being disrespectful, irrational and promoting disinformation, it becomes harder to attain

solutions and effect positive change.

Elected officials, candidates for public office and their supporters have the responsibility to show professionalism and respect to their community. Otherwise, disrespectful behaviors and actions solely based on political gain become detrimental to the residents and themselves.

Leaders need to remind themselves that people, and especially our children, are watching and it is wise to set a good example. This is essential to keeping residents involved in community affairs and to ensuring that our democratic process inspires qualified, well-intentioned and independent thinkers to run for public office.



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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

BINGO

March 2, 16 & 30

Wednesday | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening

Thursday, March 3

9:30 - 11 AM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Mount Sinai Lecture: Colon Cancer Screening and Treatment

Thursday, March 3 | 11 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Light lunch provided after lecture.

Pre-registration required.

Joint Workshop: City Commission and ESAC

Friday, March 4

9 - 9:45 AM

1st Floor Meeting Room

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Joint Workshop: City Commission and MAPSAC

Friday, March 4

10 - 10:45 AM

1st Floor Meeting Room

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Family Movie Night: *The Secret Garden*

Friday, March 4

Heritage Park, 19200 Collins Ave.

Saturday, March 5

Town Center Park, 17200 Collins Ave.

7 - 9:30 PM

FREE

MARCH 2022



All of Us Lecture: COVID-19 Variants, Vaccines, & Boosters with Dr. Olveen Carrasquillo

Tuesday, March 8

10 AM

Facebook Live

@CityofSIB



Lunch n' Learn with Florida Historian, Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, March 8

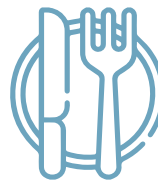
FREE

11 - 11:45 AM

Gateway Center,

151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Snacks will be available for purchase.



Spring Fling

Saturday, March 12

6 - 9 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: \$10

with valid City-issued Resident ID Card

Non-Residents: \$20



Regular City Commission Meeting

Tuesday, March 15

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Concert in the Park Local Live Music

Wednesday, March 16

7:30 - 9 PM

FREE

Samson Oceanfront Park,
17425 Collins Ave.

Full Moon Yoga

Thursday, March 17

7:15 - 8:15 PM

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

Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5

Pre-registration required.

Teens Only: Glow Volleyball

Friday, March 18

7 - 9 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Rd.

Modern Era Movie: Queen of Katwe

Monday, March 21

10 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Residents: FREE | Non-Residents: \$5

Blood Drive

Monday, March 21

10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Presented by OneBlood.

Appointments are required.

Register at oneblood.org/donate-now.

**FOR COMPLETE EVENT
DETAILS, VISIT**
sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

The Building Department consistently goes above and beyond to meet the needs of our residents. In January, the department hosted a Condominium Workshop to explain the 40-year building recertification process, proposed changes by the State, and how the City takes initiative by communicating with condos for repairs.

The City is proactive in the recertification process, notifying property owners and condo boards one year prior to their 40-year recertification requirement in order to get a head start on possible repairs. The current recertification process requires an inspection to take place by an architect or professional engineer and a written report to be submitted to our Building Official 90 days from the receipt of the final notification.

As a result of the Champlain Towers tragedy, state policy makers are re-evaluating the recertification process based on recommendations from the State Attorney's Office. If passed, the new laws will adjust the timeline in the process to make certain that all buildings are designed well, constructed in a safe manner, and are properly maintained. The changes in the proposed bill will affect many of the buildings in Sunny Isles Beach, but the Building Department will be there to work closely with the community to comply with the new standards. According to Clay Parker, the City's Building Official, "Condo associations don't have to wait for a new bill to pass the Florida legislature. Now is the best time to prepare."

To learn more about the recertification process, visit sibfl.net/recertification. To watch the Condo Workshop, visit our YouTube channel @CityofSIB.

INSIDE THE *Isles*

Golden Shores Undergrounding Update

Our Golden Shores Utility Undergrounding & Streetlighting projects are progressing well. In October 2021, the street lighting portion of the project was completed, illuminating the neighborhood with 130 new lights. More recently, our contractor has begun the next phase of the undergrounding project. Residents of Golden Shores started to see some minor work at the end of February, beginning with preliminary saw cuts in the roadway. Work will begin at 191 Terrace and move south. Over the next 15 - 18 months, overhead power lines will be converted underground, utility poles removed, roads repaved, and entranceway sidewalks will be improved.

A new urban walkway from 186 to 191 Street, along Atlantic Boulevard, is also planned to accompany the undergrounding project. It will create an enjoyable path for pedestrians to travel away from traffic. Construction on the urban walkway is expected to begin mid-2022.

We look forward to increasing pedestrian safety, enhancing the beauty and landscape of the neighborhood, and reducing the number of power and utility outages due to adverse weather with the completion of this project.

For more information about the Golden Shores Undergrounding and to receive updates, visit sibfl.net/goldenshores.

2022 TAX RETURN INFORMATION & TAX FRAUD SCAMS

The 2022 tax season has arrived. Protect your hard-earned money and don't be a victim of tax fraud scams. According to the IRS, the following steps will help with your tax filing and reduce the risk of encountering scams.

- 1 File electronically and use direct deposit for the quickest refunds.
- 2 Check IRS.gov for the latest tax information before you file.
- 3 Be aware that the IRS does not call to notify you of any tax filing issues; they only communicate via the U.S. Postal Service regarding any tax owed or refund due.

If you receive a scam phone call or email, never give out personal information. Instead, record their information and follow the IRS's steps to make a report online.



REMEMBER: THE DEADLINE TO FILE YOUR 2021 TAXES IS MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2022!

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women's History Month. To celebrate, we want to highlight the contributions of a few of the influential women in our city's history.



Dr. Connie Morrow

Dr. Connie Morrow was one of the first commissioners elected in 1997. She served on the commission until 2001, also holding the position of Vice Mayor from 1999-2000. As a philanthropist, Connie was very passionate about encouraging children to pursue the arts. She also led the drive to position the City as a destination for fashion, film, and entertainment.



Lila Kauffman

Lila Kauffman was one of the City's first commissioners elected in 1997. One of her greatest accomplishments during this time was leading the creation of the city's cultural events and programs, which would later become known as the Cultural & Community Services Department. She also served as Vice Mayor during her time in office.



Roslyn Brezin

Roslyn Brezin was appointed to the City's Charter Commission in 1997. She was later appointed to the City Commission in 2003, where she was re-elected until terming out in 2012. Of her many achievements, she was most passionate about expanding programming for our senior community and the beautification of our parks. Affectionately called "Roz" by all who knew her, she was an active member of our community until her passing in 2019.



Gwen Margolis

Photo of Senator Gwen Margolis courtesy of the Florida Women's Hall of Fame.

Gwen Margolis, a former Florida Senator, will long be remembered in our city as an integral player in the city's incorporation. She was a strong advocate of the citizen group that wanted to pursue incorporation, and later appointed the City's Charter Commission in 1997. She was also the first woman in the country to become a Senate president and a staunch advocate for women's rights before her passing in 2020.

SPRING PROGRAMS & CAMPS

Registration is now open!



Pick up the spring edition of Live & Play, the City's new recreational magazine, at your closest City facility to conveniently see a full list of programs, activities, and events happening this season.

To the right are just some of the programs offered. See all spring program offerings online at activities.sibfl.net.

You may also view Live & Play online at sibfl.net/liveandplay.

YOUTH

Bomb Squad Baseball
Cheer and Dance
Dance and Move
E-Gaming

Karate
Piano
SEAS Soccer
SEAS Volleyball

ADULT

Art Club
Full Moon Yoga
Yoga
Zumba

SENIOR

Bingocize
Senior Strength
Tai Chi in the Park
Zumba Gold

SPRING break C-A-M-P

MONDAY, MARCH 21 – FRIDAY, MARCH 25

Sunny Isles Beach's Spring Break Camp is a great opportunity for children and teens, grades K – 8, to stay active, explore a variety of fun games and activities, and participate in field trips!

Pelican Community Park,
18115 North Bay Road
Residents \$125 | Non-Residents \$190
No lunch provided.

For questions, please contact the Cultural & Community Services Department at [305.792.1706](tel:305.792.1706).



CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING CAMPS:

General Day Camp
Basketball Camp
Soccer Camp

See complete program details and register online at activities.sibfl.net.

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CULTURAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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