



SIB *islander*

CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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MAY 2020

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) EDITION

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ A new month moves us one step closer to what has been dubbed our ‘new normal.’ We have been trying to find a routine and adjust to our temporary new way of living. Social distancing is no longer a choice; it is the key to defeating the coronavirus. ”



George “Bud” Scholl
Mayor

As the State and County initiate the first phase of reopening, the city reopened select parks last week and will follow suit with Miami-Dade County to reopen restaurants and businesses, anticipated to be May 18. As Florida takes a slow and methodical approach to getting back on our feet, we must ensure that we are taking the smartest efforts to keep our residents safe. Now is the time to come together as a community (while staying six feet apart) to show respect, kindness, and gratitude for each other, for where we are, and for those that are doing what they can to make our lives a little better each day.

I know many of you are focused on the numbers, but we have learned that the numbers do not paint a robust picture of the widespread nature of the virus. We must still operate under the assumption that everyone around us, including ourselves, has the virus. If you do not want to stay distanced for yourself, stay distanced for your parents, grandparents, children, healthcare workers, grocery store employees, and all other front-line essential workers.

Despite the adversities, I know we will make it through this. And there are numerous reasons to be optimistic. Many in our community are making efforts to aid their neighbors by organizing food drives, assisting the elderly with groceries, and most importantly, staying home.

Every day there are new scientific breakthroughs in the battle against coronavirus. As I have mentioned in the past, much of my work with OneBlood has been focused on COVID-19 convalescent plasma (CCP) as a therapy for those fighting the virus. CCP is

collected from people who have recovered from the coronavirus as they developed antibodies to the virus that remain in the plasma part of their blood. When the plasma is transfused, these antibodies can provide a boost to the patient's immune system and potentially help them recover. With so much uncertainty around coronavirus treatments, we are encouraged that CCP will offer a therapeutic remedy for severely ill patients. We are also starting to provide CCP to companies working on blood-derived therapies to assist in developing COVID-19 hyperimmune globulin (COVID-HIG). COVID-HIG is a product developed by concentrating antibodies found in CCP into a therapeutic product. By expanding the treatment options for patients with COVID-19 and the providers caring for them, these blood-derived therapies have the potential to lessen the severity or shorten the length of illness caused by COVID-19.

Though it might seem challenging, we must hold on to hope now more than ever. There will be light at the end of this long and tedious tunnel; we just need to stay positive, continue adhering to CDC guidelines, City, County and State orders, and put the safety of ourselves and our community first. Attitude is a choice. You can focus on the negative or you can choose a more positive approach. Throughout this pandemic I have received a tremendous amount of correspondence; surprisingly, equal parts positive and negative. Unsurprisingly, many of the negative ones choose social media or a more public forum whereas the positive ones more typically choose direct contact. I do appreciate anyone expressing their opinion as there is no one size fits all solution to our situation and we are all learning everyday. But try to keep in mind that we are all in this together. ‘We’ is always stronger than ‘me.’

Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

As you know by now, in-person business operations with the City are still limited to essential services as we work to promote social distancing to protect our residents and our employees. Despite these restrictions, City staff is still working hard to serve our residents in the safest way possible, as we always do.

At the end of April, we initiated screenings for visitors and employees that are required before access to any City facility. These screenings serve as an added protective measure for all doing essential business with the City. The screening consists of a series of questions and a contactless temperature check. Facial coverings are also required when inside City facilities. Building, Code Compliance, Planning and Zoning, and the SIBshuttle services are functioning by appointment only, and all City programs, events and meetings remain canceled until further notice.

On May 6, six City parks reopened with limited hours and new conditions. The select parks are open to residents only, and individuals are required to wear a facial covering upon entering the parks and when social distancing is not possible. To allow all residents the opportunity to enjoy our parks, we encourage everyone to limit their park use to one hour or less.

Even though business is not 'as usual,' we are continuing work on several ongoing capital improvement projects. As I provide you with an update on these projects, know that all sites are required to follow proper CDC guidelines and the City's Emergency Order 04-20 on construction.

The City is putting in two deep drainage wells along 172 Street near the Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue station. These drainage wells should help alleviate the extreme flooding in this area during significant rainstorms. In the same area, we are installing two signalized pedestrian crosswalks, one at the intersection of 172 Street and North Bay Road, and the other at the south end of the "S" curve on North Bay Road by the Porto Bellagio Condominium. These crossings will be very visible and an added safety measure for pedestrians.

Our two planned pedestrian bridges over Collins Avenue are moving forward; the plans for the Government Center bridge are about 70% complete, and we are in the process of reviewing engineering proposals for the 174 Street bridge to Samson Oceanfront Park. The construction of our new Gateway Center is rapidly progressing and we expect this facility to be completed on time by late summer.



The Collins Avenue Utility Underground Project is still underway as we start to energize the underground system at the south end of the city, part of Phase 1. Phase 2 is comprised of the underground wiring and equipment placement from Sunny Isles Boulevard north to 175 Terrace. And Phases 3 and 4 will include the wiring and equipment placement from 175 Terrace to the north end of the city. Once all the equipment and wiring are in place and energized, we begin the process of removing the remaining overhead poles and wires, as well as the restoration of our sidewalks. As you can see, this is a complicated project and work will continue into 2021 before it's completed.

You have probably seen the significant work on the bases for the new streetlights throughout the City. Due to underground conditions, it was necessary to implement a complex procedure called spread footings, which allows for greater stability in approximately 80% of the streetlight bases. As we have reported on this subject previously, this process will be slow to complete.

The Golden Shores undergrounding and street lighting project designs are progressing on schedule. We expect to receive feedback from Florida Power & Light by the beginning of July and, providing the COVID-19 restrictions over the next month or two do not impede the design activity, we will be able to put together final plans and prepare bid documents. Current scheduling anticipates formal bidding of the undergrounding project in the fourth quarter of this year. We accelerated a solution to the street lighting and expect to have the plans completed and out to bid by the end of summer.

The plans for the rehabilitation of the Golden Shores Pump Station are 90% complete and we expect to have them out to bid over the summer. In the interim, we purchased three high capacity diesel pumps on trailers, which are prepared to be used anywhere in the City at any time.

I will continue to provide updates on our City services and capital projects as progress is made. Despite our out of the ordinary current business practices, we are always working to uphold and elevate our residents' quality of life.

Overwhelmed but Not Alone

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

The one thing we can all do to fight this pandemic is to stay home. However, staying home may look different for each household in our community. If you have school-aged children, you are now dealing with distance learning and all that entails – figuring out the technology involved, keeping the kids motivated and on schedule, being more hands-on with the subject matter, and possibly preparing more meals. Cooking for family who are home more also means more shopping and cleaning. If you are among those working from home, you may be expected to perform as if these other adjustments don't exist. If you lost your job, you're worried about making it through the next month. You may even be in a difficult domestic situation concerned about your safety. It can all be overwhelming.

You are not alone. As stressful as these circumstances can be, they also provide us with the opportunity to rise up as a community and as a team. Children can do their part at home, depending on their age, including respecting your time and space during important calls. Fellow classroom

parents can help one another with accessing the assignments and staying on track. Neighbors can buy a few extra items at the grocery store for the elderly or unemployed in our buildings. We can help a friend afraid of domestic violence create a safety plan. We can be creative and resourceful as we stay home and keep one another as safe as possible.

Last but not least – a very big thank you to our first responders and essential workers!

I welcome you to contact me by email at jviscarra@sibfl.net or by phone at 305.792.1750.



Placing Civic Responsibility at the Forefront of Our Agenda

Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin

It is a scary and frustrating time. It seems that the future of our city and country is unknown as it relates to COVID-19. But please know that the City of Sunny Isles Beach is working hard to keep you safe while maintaining our high standard of living – within legal parameters set by the County and Governor. It is our goal to communicate as often as possible, but also accurately and informatively. One question the City has frequently received is why we are not posting the daily case data for Sunny Isles Beach and what building those cases are in. The Florida Department of Health does not disclose the exact location of cases, only the city total. This means we do not know which building or area of the city an individual who tests positive lives in. But more importantly, we do not publicize the daily numbers because our efforts are not driven by that number alone.

It is widely known that there have been far more infected individuals than those who show symptoms and get tested. Many individuals who are asymptomatic CAN spread the virus and do not even know they have the virus. These individuals will never appear in the numbers. Miami-Dade County believes that the actual County numbers may be 16 and a half times the number of those captured through testing

sites and local hospitals alone. For that reason, the County Mayor has said to assume YOU have the virus and assume EVERYONE else has the virus. This is why it is imperative to practice social distancing, wear a face mask, and stay home as much as possible.

I know you miss going to the beach and taking the kids to the playgrounds, (the kids are even missing going to school!). I do too. Now is the time for our community to unite and take care of each other; act as if every elderly person is your grandparent and every vulnerable person is your best friend. We will ride this out and come out BETTER and STRONGER. This is our chance to take personal and civic responsibility. Be strong. Don't let personal desires override your duty to yourself and each other. I hope everyone is staying home and I look forward to seeing you all as soon as it is safe to do so.

I welcome you to reach out to me virtually at 305.792.1754 or by email at lsvechin@sibfl.net.



Show You Care! Wear a Face Mask

Facial coverings are now required when an individual is working in or visiting grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies, construction sites, public transit vehicles, vehicles for hire, and locations where social distancing measures are not possible, per Miami-Dade County Emergency Order 20-20. Facial coverings are also required while at the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center and when visiting one of the select parks now open in Sunny Isles Beach. These facial coverings must adhere to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.



SIBeHealthy Wellness Series

Staying at home has us all feeling restless. The Cultural & Community Services Department wants to help our residents stay active and healthy while staying at home. Each week, the City is broadcasting at-home wellness programs on SIBTV and our YouTube channel. Each week's schedule can be found at sibfl.net/sibehealthy.

Tune in to SIBTV (Atlantic Broadband channel 662) and follow along with wellness classes from home or subscribe to our YouTube channel to get notified when new videos are added. Read more about our SIBeHealthy series at sibfl.net/sibehealthy.

2020 SIB College Scholarship Winners

Each year, a group of students are awarded a college scholarship from the City of Sunny Isles Beach following an application and vetting process. We are happy to announce that this year's scholarship winners are:

Angel Aguilar **Geraldine Garcia** **Jayremay Garcia** **Mateo Reyes**

Pictured below from left to right. Mateo Reyes not pictured.

All four students have exemplified exceptional academic, extracurricular and service records, qualifying them as the top applicants of this award.



Grad-and-Go 2020

The City of Sunny Isles Beach is inviting the Class of 2020 and their family to celebrate at Gateway Park on Tuesday, June 9 with a special drive through graduation event. Middle school, high school or college graduates are invited to attend an individual presentation at the Gateway Park stage.

How will it work?

Graduates and their family will enter Gateway Park in their vehicle via Sunny Isles Boulevard eastbound and will be directed in front of the stage. They are welcome to exit their vehicle to take photos and witness a special presentation. Only one car is permitted per graduate and family.

Graduates who wish to attend this special socially distanced graduation should submit a participation request form online at sibfl.net/graduation no later than Monday, May 25.

More information about the event can also be found at sibfl.net/graduation.

CONGRATULATIONS & HAPPY GRADUATION!

Virtual City Commission Workshops

The May Regular City Commission Meeting has been canceled, but the City is hosting two public virtual workshops.

COVID-19 Update
May 28 | 4 PM

Town Center North District Update
June 4 | 4 PM

The public is invited to watch on SIBTV or the website, or connect via Zoom. Further details about viewing and participating in the virtual workshop will be announced via social media, email blasts, and on our website at sibfl.net/events.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC):
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV

Florida Department of Health (FDOH)
24-hour hotline for questions concerning the Coronavirus:
1.866.779.6121

Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management:
miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/home.page

Individuals in Miami-Dade County who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call the FDOH at 305.470.5660.

City information and updates: sibfl.net/coronavirus

Follow us on social media: @CityofSIB  

For additional information, please email info@sibfl.net or call 305.792.1759.

COVID-19 Testing Locations

There are a multitude of testing sites across Miami-Dade County available for individuals of all ages. For a detailed list of testing sites and details, visit: miamidade.gov/global/initiatives/coronavirus/testing-locations.page

Hard Rock Stadium

Now open to people of all ages; you do not need to be exhibiting symptoms. Open seven days a week from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., with a maximum of 750 tests performed per day. No appointment needed.

Check with your health care provider or the Miami-Dade County Department of Health for a more comprehensive list of testing sites. You can also call the Department of Health 24/7 COVID-19 Call Center at 1.866.779.6121.

Stay at Home Order & Curfew

Stay at Home Order per City Emergency Order 02-20

Individuals are hereby ordered to remain at home other than to engage in essential activities.

Curfew per City Emergency Order 01-20

Between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., no person is allowed outside within the City as a pedestrian or by means of any vehicle.

For complete listing of City closures, cancellations & restrictions, visit sibfl.net/coronavirus.

Closures, Cancellations & Restrictions*

(Until further notice)

CLOSURES

- Beach
- Golden Shores Park, Newport Fishing Pier, and Pelican Community Park (including the office)
- NSE/SIB K-8 School
- Private educational facilities, casinos, and other recreational and entertainment activities
- On-premise service for restaurants, bars, and lounges
- Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library remains closed, but pre-ordered materials can be picked up or dropped off near the book drop on the first floor of the parking garage
- Ellen Wynne Parking Lot and Pier Park Parking Lot
- Sunny Isles Beach Visitor Center

CANCELLATIONS

- City programs
- City in-person meetings
- City events

RESTRICTIONS

- All City parking garages and surface lots are open only to residents
- SIBshuttle service is by appointment only
- Building, Code Compliance & Licensing, and Planning & Zoning Departments services are by appointment only
- Hotels, motels, and short-term vacation rentals shall not accept any reservations, regardless of when they were made, or extend existing reservations, except for essential lodgers
- Only essential construction is permitted in multi-family residential buildings & certain other restrictions are placed on active construction sites
- Facial coverings are required in city facilities, parks, grocery stores, restaurants, pharmacies, construction sites, and when social distancing measures are not possible
- Screenings required for access to all City facilities
- Select City parks open for passive activity for residents only. See sibfl.net/parks for details.

**Conditions are subject to change with Phase 1 reopening, visit sibfl.net/coronavirus for complete updates.*



SIBAlert

Sign up for alerts and City updates on COVID-19 delivered straight to your phone or inbox at:

SIBALERT.NET



SELECT PARKS OPEN

FOR PASSIVE ACTIVITY & LIMITED RECREATION

SUNNY ISLES BEACH RESIDENTS ONLY

HOURS OF OPERATION

DAILY

(CLOSED TUESDAYS)

9 AM - NOON & 4 - 8 PM

SENIOR PRIORITY

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY

8 - 9 AM

OPEN PARKS

Gateway Park

Heritage Park

Intracoastal Parks

Samson

Oceanfront Park

Senator Gwen

Margolis Park

Town Center Park

NEW

Bike Zone under the William
Lehman Causeway

USAGE ENCOURAGED BY ADDRESS

In order to mitigate a large number of residents crowding the parks at the same time, the City is encouraging a usage schedule based on your home address.

RESIDENTS LIVING IN

EVEN NUMBERED

HOUSES OR APARTMENTS MAY VISIT PARKS

Mondays, Thursdays, Saturdays

RESIDENTS LIVING IN

ODD NUMBERED

HOUSES OR APARTMENTS MAY VISIT PARKS

Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays

For more information about the reopening of Sunny Isles Beach parks and for the list of rules and regulations, visit sibfl.net/parks.