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CITY OF SUNNY ISLES BEACH

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OCTOBER 2021

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ There have been some changes in Sunny Isles Beach, which I believe bring opportunities for growth. ”



Larisa Svechin
Mayor

As we know, former Mayor Scholl resigned and I assumed the role of Mayor until the special election that will be held on November 2. Our beloved former Chief of Police Dwight Snyder retired and Captain Michael Grandinetti is now the Interim Police Chief. We have hired new staff and hope to be hiring more as we all do our best to edge out of this pandemic and back to regular programming.

Our peak visitor months of fall and winter bring on a time of celebration and excitement. Everyone is anxious to participate in programs and events in person. I am thrilled that so many new and long residing residents have already met with me to discuss ideas for their vision of Sunny Isles Beach, from Tony who wants more exercise equipment for adults, Dennis who is advocating for seniors, and parents looking for programming for exceptional kids. It is a time of change and progress. We have an opportunity to reflect on our values and adjust our priorities.

Everyone has something important to them, whether that be a cause, an issue, or an idea. There are many resident-sponsored committees that I am fostering, including a safety, environment, parks, arts & culture, and a parent committee. We also have active nonprofits such as the St. Vincent De Paul Society, Russian Club, Social Citizens of

Southeast Dade and the Kiwanis club. I urge you to reach out to me and get involved in any of these or create one of your own.

Come November, there will be two open seats (seats 1 and 3) on the Commission. The mayor will nominate two people to the vacant commission seats, which the Commission approves until a second special election that will be held on January 25.

The City Commission is the legislative body that oversees the 'big picture' of the city. That includes setting policy, approving the budget, determining tax rates, and developing land policies. The City Manager and the staff carry out the day-to-day responsibilities and the policies adopted by the Commission. If you have not attended or watched a Commission Meeting, I invite you to our next one on October 21. You can come in person, tune in on SIBTV, or watch from our website.

Sometimes government may inspire hesitation. Do not let that stop you from dropping in, my door is open. I am proud of the responsive city government we have here and it only works with the participation and feedback of our community.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at mayor@sibfl.net or call [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).

Message from the City Manager

Christopher J. Russo

Under an unprecedented second year of the COVID-19 pandemic and with the continued efforts of our hard-working staff, the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2021-2022 was adopted by the City Commission on September 21.

The filing of the Budget reflects an assessed value of \$12.6 billion, an increase of \$720 million from last year, and a budget that reduces the millage rate to 2.1 mils per \$1,000 of assessed value. This resulted in the ninth year that our City lowered the tax rate, and the fifth year that we proposed a tax rate below the roll back rate. It is important to note that this includes \$577 million of property value decrease due to reassessments and over \$1.2 billion of new construction added to the tax rolls in our city this year. Our city's assessed value will slowly increase over the next few fiscal years as new construction continues at a slower pace than previous years. There are currently nine approved development projects, six of which are under construction, that contribute to our increased revenue.

Despite the hurdles of this past year, we made progress on a number of capital projects. The plans for the pedestrian bridge over Collins Avenue at 180 Street are expected to be completed and out to bid shortly. The completion of the plans for this bridge were delayed by new State requirements and the COVID-19 pandemic. We obtained the necessary easements to commence planning of the pedestrian bridge over Collins Avenue at 174 Street to Samson Oceanfront Park and are ready to award the engineering and design for this project. Gateway Center officially opened and is housing our senior and adult programs, among other activities. It also includes a banquet space and will be available for rentals soon.

Major revenue sources in the Building Fund include fees generated from building permits and inspections. This past year we completed a study regarding Building Department fees, staffing, and the use of these funds for technological upgrades in the Building Department. This includes providing for the filing of plans electronically, the interconnection of building code violations and code compliance, and renovations of the

Building Department physical plant.

The Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) recommended a Public Art Program that was unanimously adopted by the Commission in October 2020. One of

the first projects in their Five-Year Strategic Work Plan is the creation of a meditation garden located in the western area of Town Center Park. The PAAC selected for recommendation to the Commission this fall the creation of a unique sculpture fountain by San Francisco artist Michael Szabo. Recently, a new digital interactive piece, known as Seismic Echo, was approved and is now on display in the Government Center.

The Capital Improvement Program concentrates on the development of parks, infrastructure, and rehabilitation of our facilities including major road resurfacing, sidewalk improvements, pedestrian connectivity to our parks and other facilities. The capital projects, which total approximately \$25.5 million, may continue to have some delays in order to make up approximately a \$4 million shortfall in the capital budget due to both our increase in expenses as a result of the pandemic and possible reduction in revenues and the Capital Fund balance.

We will continue to maintain our high levels of service and our ability to weather the next financial challenge, whatever it may be. I want to express my sincere thanks to our Mayor and Commissioners for their support throughout the lingering pandemic. The work of our dedicated managers and staff has been exceptional. I want to thank all our staff who are involved with putting the budget together, and in particular, our Finance department, under the leadership of Tiffany Neely. This budget will enable the City of Sunny Isles Beach to continue its quality of life as a thriving and safe community that cherishes its location, unites in its diversity, and evolves to meet the continuous challenges that greet us every day.



Contact City Manager Chris Russo at crusso@sibfl.net or [305.792.1701](tel:305.792.1701).

Environmentalism “East of Collins” – Dune Restoration is Underway

Commissioner Dana Goldman

There’s a new environmental movement afoot “East of Collins.” I am proud to have served as the catalyst for a new sustainability measure in our city through the introduction of “Adopt-a-Dune” to our beachfront condominiums. The initial evaluation of the dunes and potential dune restoration initiatives along the city’s coastal construction line is now underway.

Sand dunes that are populated with native vegetation act as natural buffers to protect the shoreline and adjacent properties from the effects of sand inundation, erosion, extreme storm events, and sea level rise. We have identified the growth of an invasive species scaevola (*Scaevola taccada*) plants in some of the dunes along the southernmost beachfront in our city. These single root plants are embedded in certain dunes and are not protective of storm surge events. Continuing to ignore

the spread of this nonnative exotic plant will degrade the effectiveness of the dune to protect your property and the beach.

The goal of Adopt-a-Dune is to implement dune restoration efforts through the planned removal of these single root invasive plants and replacement with multi-tier plants such as sea oats and other native dune species of plants. Dune restoration will improve coastal resilience and enhance our city’s beach renourishment efforts. If you would like to learn more about your building’s sand dunes, the scaevola plant, and the Adopt-a-Dune program, please feel free to contact me.



Contact Commissioner Dana Goldman at seat3@sibfl.net or call [786.512.6364](tel:786.512.6364).

SPOTLIGHT ON... FINANCE

We would like to commend the City of Sunny Isles Beach’s Finance department for successfully developing the Annual Comprehensive Budget and Five Year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2021 – 2022. The Finance department provides overall financial and support services to the City and its departments. The department ensures that your tax dollars, no matter the project, are managed with accuracy, accountability, and transparency.

In the new fiscal year’s budget, the City maintains our fiscal strength and stability while addressing the continued fight against COVID-19. Thanks to the Finance department, the budget enables the City of Sunny Isles Beach to continue its quality of life as a thriving and safe community while evolving to meet the continuous challenges that greet us every day. Thank you to the Finance department — your hard work and dedication propel the City to new heights.

YOU MAY VIEW THE ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE BUDGET & FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM ONLINE AT SIBFL.NET/FINANCIAL-REPORTING.

INSIDE THE *Isles*

BEACH RENOURISHMENT

We are proud to announce that the Beach Renourishment Project is complete! Beach nourishment is the practice of adding large quantities of sand or sediment to beaches to combat erosion, increase beach width, and proactively protect against sea levels rising. It is the preferred way to add sand to an ecosystem as it provides a significant level of storm protection benefits and has the least impact on wildlife. Since beach erosion occurs due to natural events and is common in coastal communities, beach renourishment projects are necessary to maintain healthy sand levels.



Since May 2021, this federal project has been led by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and supported by Miami-Dade County, the City of Sunny Isles Beach, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Over the course of the project, approximately 269,000 cubic yards of sand from the Garcia Mine in Hendry County, Florida were added to the entire stretch of our beach, illustrating our commitment to preserving our natural environment. Thank you to the agencies who made this possible. The completion of this project ensures our world-class standing as a beautiful oceanfront community for years to come.

Message from the City Clerk

Mauricio Betancur

On September 1, former Mayor George “Bud” Scholl’s resignation took effect, resulting in a vacancy on the City Commission. Our city’s charter states that a special election must be held to fill the seat between 45 and 90 days following the vacancy. To that end, a special election is scheduled for November 2 (Mayoral Special Election) and we have four qualifying candidates.

To be elected, one of the candidates must receive 50% of the votes, +1 vote. If no candidate achieves this tally, then a run-off election will take place on November 16 between the two candidates who receive the highest total votes. The deadline to register to vote in the special election is October 4 by 5 p.m. If you wish to vote by mail, the deadline to request a ballot is October 23.

In the interim, per City Charter, Vice Mayor Larisa Svechin became mayor on September 1 and assumed all duties and responsibilities until the special election.

Additionally, Mayor Svechin and Commissioner Dana Goldman resigned from their respective seats, effective Wednesday, November 3, to run in the upcoming Mayoral Special Election. These resignations will create two additional vacancies on the commission, which must be filled following the same

procedures as the mayor’s seat. A second special election to fill these vacancies is scheduled for January 25, 2022, with a run-off, if necessary, on February 8, 2022. The deadline to register to vote in this special election is January 10, 2022, by 5 p.m., and the deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is January 15, 2022.

The official qualifying period for the January 25 special election starts at 9 a.m. on November 16 and concludes at 4 p.m. on November 19. However, anyone who wishes to become a candidate may do so at any time by designating a campaign depository and appointing a campaign treasurer.

Those running for commissioner in the January special election must be a resident of the Residential Area that they are seeking to represent from the time of qualifying throughout the duration of their term in office.

I encourage all registered voters in the city to let your voice be heard and vote.



MAYORAL SPECIAL ELECTION TIMELINE

- QUALIFYING PERIOD**
August 31 - September 3, 2021
- DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE**
October 4, 2021
- DEADLINE TO REQUEST A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT**
October 23, 2021
- MAYORAL SPECIAL ELECTION**
Tuesday, November 2, 2021
- POTENTIAL RUNOFF DATE**
November 16, 2021

COMMISSIONER SPECIAL ELECTION TIMELINE

- QUALIFYING PERIOD**
November 16 - 19, 2021
- DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE**
January 10, 2022
- DEADLINE TO REQUEST A VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT**
January 15, 2022
- COMMISSIONER SPECIAL ELECTION**
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
- POTENTIAL RUNOFF DATE**
February 8, 2022

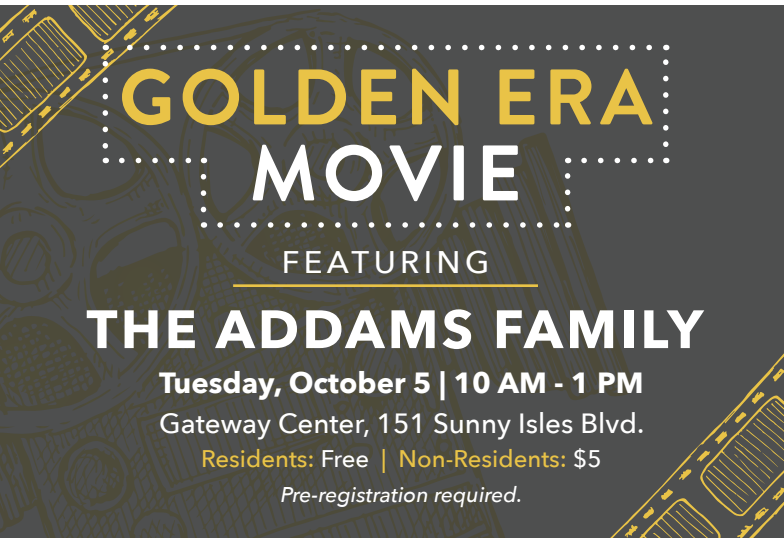
For more information about the special election and to see all candidates, please visit sibfl.net/clerk-election or contact my office at cityclerk@sibfl.net or 305.792.1703.

October Meetings, Activities & Events

City Commission Workshop: Overview of TDRs

Friday, October 1 | 3 PM

SIB Government Center Commission Chambers,
18070 Collins Avenue



**GOLDEN ERA
MOVIE**

FEATURING

THE ADDAMS FAMILY

Tuesday, October 5 | 10 AM - 1 PM
Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents: Free | Non-Residents: \$5
Pre-registration required.

City Commission Workshop: Pedestrian Bridge Over Collins Avenue & 180 Street

Thursday, October 7 | 9 AM

SIB Government Center 1st Floor Meeting Room,
18070 Collins Avenue

Mount Sinai Lecture: Screening & Misconceptions on Cancer

Thursday, October 7 | 11 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration required.

Blood Pressure & Glucose Screening

Friday, October 8 | 9 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Teens Only Heroes & Villains Night

Friday, October 8 | 7 - 9 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Free for teens in grades 7 - 12 only.
Pre-registration required.

Bingo

October 13 & 27

Wednesday | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Public Arts Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 14 | 4 PM

SIB Government Center 4th Floor Conference Room,
18070 Collins Avenue

Blood Drive

Friday, October 15 | 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM

SIB Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue
Presented by OneBlood.

Appointments are required at oneblood.org/donate-now.

Full Moon Yoga

Wednesday, October 20 | 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Samson Oceanfront Park (on the beach), 17425 Collins Avenue

Residents: Free | Non-Residents: \$5

Pre-registration required.

3D Mammogram Day

Thursday, October 21 | 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Appointments are required at FloridaMobileMammography.com.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 21 | 6:30 PM

SIB Government Center Commission Chambers,
18070 Collins Avenue

Mini-FLOW

Friday, October 22 | 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

SIB Government Center 1st Floor Meeting Room,
18070 Collins Avenue

Appointments are required.

Shred-A-Thon

With DEA Prescription Drug Takeback & Electronics Recycling

Saturday, October 23 | 10 AM - 2 PM

Bill Bird Marina at Haulover Park, 10800 Collins Avenue

Special Magistrate Hearing

Wednesday, October 27 | 10 AM

SIB Government Center Commission Chambers,
18070 Collins Avenue

Boogie by the Beach

Saturday, October 30 | 7 - 10 PM

Heritage Park, 19200 Collins Avenue

Pre-registration required. See details on page 7.

CONCERT IN THE PARK

Saturday, October 16

7:30 - 9 PM

Samson Oceanfront Park

17425 Collins Avenue



For complete meeting and activity details, visit sibfl.net/events.

KING TIDES

King tides are the highest predicted high tide of the year for coastal cities. While they occur in both the fall and spring seasons, the highest tides in southeast Florida occur in the fall, in part because the water is warmer, and the seasonal winds drive water levels higher at that time of year. Most of the king tide impacts are felt along the coast and in very low-lying areas near other water bodies.

The City has prepared for king tides by cleaning the stormwater lines, rebuilding the Golden Shores Pump Station, and conducting ongoing assessments and studies to identify vulnerable flooding areas. We plan to install stormwater pumps utilizing existing outfalls in the Central Island area, which should help eliminate flooding in this area. These proactive initiatives will help our community strategize effective adaptive measures and be more resilient to changes in weather conditions.

BE PREPARED

Even though the City takes proactive measures to mitigate flooding by cleaning storm drains, king tides still cause local flooding. Thankfully, king tides are predictable so we urge you to be prepared. Since flooding can obstruct access to roadways, you should map out an alternative route to work or school.



Pedestrians should not walk through flood waters as they can be a health hazard. However, if this cannot be avoided, follow good hygiene practices and wash your hands, clothes, and pets.

In addition, boaters should take into consideration that high tides cause lower clearance under bridges. Please remember to check the tide before leaving the dock.



ANTICIPATED 2021 KING TIDE DATES

October 5 - 11

October 20 - 21

November 3 - 9

December 2 - 7

Since higher tides are also possible on both the new moon and the full moon, additional dates to watch for tidal impacts include:

November 18 - 19

TO LEARN ABOUT KING TIDES, VISIT [SIBFL.NET/KINGTIDES](https://www.sibfl.net/kingtides).

BOOOGIE

BY THE BEACH

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30 | 7 - 10 PM
HERITAGE PARK | 19200 COLLINS AVENUE

Boogie by the Beach is back! Join us for a scary good time filled with your favorite attractions, a spooky trail, costume contest, food for purchase, and live entertainment.

Attractions

Carnival-style games, rides, photo booths, live entertainment and attractions for the whole family.

Costume Contest

Think you're the spookiest witch out there? Enter our costume contest, and you could win a prize.

Haunted Trail

Walk through the Haunted Trail for lots of frights and fun.

Treats

Snacks and refreshments available for purchase to satisfy the hungriest of werewolves.

REGISTER TODAY!

Event wristbands are \$10 per person, free for children ages 4 and under, and only available for SIB residents with a valid City-issued Resident ID Card. Each wristband includes one entry to the Spooky Trail.

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED. WRISTBANDS WILL NOT BE SOLD ON SITE. PRESALE ONLY.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER, VISIT SIBFL.NET/BOOOGIE.