



Islander

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OCTOBER 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor

“ Prevention is key. Fires are often caused by unsafe behavior, either something we do or fail to do. ”



Larisa Svechin
Mayor

Sharing valuable information is of great importance to me, recognizing the scarcity of time in our busy lives. Many of us are concerned about inflation, insurance costs, and taking care of our families. I think we can agree that safety is paramount. Given October is Fire Prevention Month, I want to bring your attention to some critical resources Miami-Dade County provides to help you protect your home, and most importantly, your family and pets. Best part - it is free.

The County offers various options and programs, including safety resources for older adults, training on using a fire extinguisher, and developing an exit plan. However, prevention is key. Fires are often caused by unsafe behavior, either something we do or fail to do. While it is not deliberate, it is a result of not knowing.

Since most residents live in condo buildings, building managers should make general fire safety information available to employees and building occupants. Most fires are directly related to improper use of smoking materials, improper storage of flammable liquids, defective electrical appliances, overloading of electrical outlets and poor housekeeping.

Some basic rules to follow:

- Test smoke detectors monthly and change the batteries twice a year.

- Do not smoke in bed or while resting on a sofa.
- Refrain from smoking in no-smoking areas.
- Properly dispose of smoking materials.
- Contents of ashtrays should be wet before disposal.
- Properly dispose of rags and cleaning solutions.
- Maintain cooking appliances and prevent the accumulation of grease.
- Keep flammable materials stored in metal cabinets.
- Do not plug more than two electrical products into one electrical outlet. Turn off stoves and electrical appliances after use and NEVER leave them unattended.
- Keep maintenance and storage areas clean and free of trash, sawdust, wood shavings, oily rags and other hazards.
- Keep hallways and stairways clean.
- Be sure EXIT signs are always lighted, and that emergency lighting is in working order.
- Never prop open emergency doors; fire doors not only allow people to exit but also prevent the spread of fire.

I urge you to take advantage of this free resource which can be accessed by filling out a form [online](#) or calling the Public Education Bureau at 786-331-4820.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at mayor@sibfl.net or 305.792.1753.

MESSAGE FROM THE City Manager's Office

After months of collaboration between the City Commission, Administration, and our residents, I am pleased to present the budget and five-year Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Our tax base saw an increase in value of \$2.2 billion from last year, prompting the Commission to set a goal to reduce the millage rate from 2.0 to 1.9 mills per \$1,000 of assessed value. This has resulted in an unprecedented 11th year that our city has lowered the tax rate.

As established by the Commission, public safety remains an area of utmost importance. This budget will add two police officers to increase the patrol unit, and a part-time administrative position to establish a Red-Light Camera program, which will improve our ability to enforce red light infractions.

Also, with legislative changes on the horizon, the Building Department added one part-time and four full-time positions to meet the high demand of maintaining and improving our quality of service for our existing buildings and renovations.

In the meantime, future planning will be a significant task for the city this year. First is the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that will be finalized this fall with budgeting and planning of projects. Second is the update to our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. We have budgeted funds in our Planning and Zoning Department to develop the long-term vision for the west side of Collins Avenue.

We are still faced with significant economic issues beyond our control, such as rising costs of ongoing construction and fuel costs, supply chain issues, and staffing impacts due to the increased cost of living.

With the future in mind, we have included a total of \$10 million in our Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fund to allocate for potential land purchases. These are several parcels that have been identified for possible future growth for the city. The CIP also includes high priority projects to resolve flooding throughout the city, which include the Central Island Drainage Project and the Golden Shores Pump Station Project.

The revenue for fiscal year 2023-2024 General Fund is \$48,524,769, which represents an increase of \$625,211 or 1.3% from the fiscal year 2022-2023 adopted budget.

The General Fund expenditures (not including transfers out to other funds)

are budgeted at \$49,548,578.

Our 2023-2024 fiscal year budget is presented with transparency and represents our meetings with elected officials, as well as members of the public to ensure that their needs and requests were heard. Our goal is to maintain fiscal responsibility while providing the greatest level of high-quality services our residents and visitors have come to expect. This work could not have been accomplished without the input and vision of the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Commissioners, the direction of our Finance Director, Tiffany Neely, and the Finance Department, and our department directors. On behalf of Deputy City Manager Susan Simpson, and Assistant City Manager Audra Curts-Whann, we express our sincere thanks and gratitude.

To read City Manager Stan Morris' complete Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Message, and to review the entire budget book, visit sibfl.net/financial-reporting.

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Knowing & Trusting the Word of People Voted into Office

Vice Mayor Jerry Joseph

“I think that probably the only way that we can rebuild trust between politicians and the general public is by integrity, honesty, by being exemplary in the way in which you carry out your duties, and of course, being tremendously honest, open and above everything, being really transparent about what you’re doing, what you aim to do, and what your views are.”

-UK Member of Parliament

Residents are far more likely to form accurate impressions of a politician’s trustworthy characteristics if they get a chance to interact with them. When Residents can see that pledges have been met and public services are working well, they are more likely to believe that a certain politician can be trusted.

In political discourse, the temptation to manipulate truths for strategic gain is all too prevalent. Some politicians, and their allies, employ narrow perspectives, take statements out of context, cherry-pick data, edit videos to benefit their particular position, or rely on anecdotal evidence, all of

which can distort the truth and mislead the public.

These deceptive practices are a direct assault on Good Faith and democracy. When Residents finally discover that this is occurring, the person responsible will be penalized by the smart voters whom have been deluged by the deceptive practices, emails and mailings.

As your Commissioner and Vice-Mayor, I have fulfilled every promise, that was within my ability to achieve. Anyone who knows me personally, or has met me, can vouch for my dedication to follow through on what I say and to put my full efforts into completing any task to the benefit of Sunny Isles Beach and all of its Residents.

Stay tuned as I have many more wonderful plans and ideas to promote in the coming years.

Contact Vice Mayor Jerry Joseph at seat1@sibfl.net or [305.792.1754](tel:305.792.1754).



Tax Relief – Lowering the Millage Rate & Fiscal Responsibility

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

“We must consult our means rather than our wishes.”

- George Washington.

It was a big accomplishment to have led and spearheaded the reduction of the Millage Rate by our City Commission, giving our residents a must needed break.

We adopted the final ad valorem Tax Millage Levy Rate of 1.9000 Mills Per \$1,000 of Taxable Assessed Value, continuing what has been a historical reduction trend in the past decade interrupted only during COVID times.

Now, step two has to be to ensure a culture of fiscal responsibility when it comes to our city’s General and Capital expenses by being cautious and conscious when approving such expenditures. The fact that we CAN does not mean that we SHOULD spend exorbitant amounts of money. We must use our resources vigilantly focusing on having the biggest community impact while protecting our resident’s goals and upholding our standards of high-quality services.

Despite the challenges posed by the country’s inflation, there is often an intrinsic inclination within government to increase the budget every fiscal year. That is why I will look for opportunities to share the costs associated with city events, programs, activities, constructions, etc., among other expenses each year. This transparency will provide a perspective of how and why we should consider these expenditures and investments, enabling our residents to stay informed and to be part of the decision-making process.

Information is power but disinformation is a disease. I urge you to disregard the deceptive propaganda promoted by bad actors that seek to confuse and create panic; and to not hesitate to reach out directly to members of the commission for accurate information, we are here for you.

Contact Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant at seat3@sibfl.net or [305.792.1751](tel:305.792.1751).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER



October 4, 11, 18, 25
Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM
 Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Gateway Market

October 4, 11, 18, 25
Wednesdays | 5:30 - 10 PM | FREE
 Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Lunch n' Learn with Mount Sinai



Thursday, October 5
11 AM - 1 PM
 Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration is required.

Family Night Out: Movie on the Beach

Friday, October 6
7 - 9 PM | FREE
 On the Beach by Samson Oceanfront Park,
 17425 Collins Ave.

Teen Talk



Tuesday, October 10
6 - 8 PM | FREE
 Pelican Community Park, 18115 N. Bay Rd.

Doc Chats: Depression Awareness Month

Wednesday, October 11
11 AM - 1 PM
 Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration is required. Lunch is provided.

Beach Cleanup



Saturday, October 14
8 AM - 12 PM | FREE
 Newport Fishing Pier, 16501 Collins Ave.

City Commission Workshop

Tuesday, October 17
10 AM
 Fourth Floor Conference Room, Government
 Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Condominium Resource Event

Wednesday, October 18
6 PM
 First Floor Meeting Room,
 Government Center

City Commission Workshop

Thursday, October 19
3:00 PM
 Commission Chambers, Government Center,
 18070 Collins Ave.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 19
6:30 PM
 Commission Chambers, Government Center,
 18070 Collins Ave.

Cultural Trip: Into the Woods

Friday, October 20
6 - 11 PM
 Broward Center for the Performing Arts,
 201 SW 5th Ave, Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Bus departs from Gateway Center at 6 PM
Residents: \$55
Non-Residents: \$80
Pre-registration is required.

Teen Costume Party

Friday, October 20
7 - 9 PM | FREE
 Pelican Community Park, 18115 N. Bay Rd.

Midday Movies: The Haunted Mansion



Monday, October 23
11 AM - 1 PM
 Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Residents: FREE
Non-Residents: \$10
Pre-registration is required.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, October 25
12 - 1 PM
 Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.
Pre-registration is required.

Boogie by the Beach

**Friday, October 27 &
Saturday, October 28**
7 - 10 PM
 Pelican Community Park,
 18115 North Bay Road
Price: \$20
Special Price for Sunny
 Isles Beach Resident ID
 cardholders ONLY: \$5



Multi-Agency SHRED-A-THON Electronics Recycling & Drug Take Back

Saturday, October 28
10 AM - 2 PM
 Bill Bird Marina, Haulover Park, 10800 Collins
 Avenue, Miami, FL 33154

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT sibfl.net/events

SPOTLIGHT ON...

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

This month, we spotlight our Finance Department, which has recently completed the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024. The budgeting process extends over several months, including information gathering from all departments, rigorous planning, and coordination. Led by Director Tiffany Neely, the team engaged in extensive meetings with each department and division, as well as elected officials, to deliberate on the budget, City objectives, and priorities for the new fiscal year.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

2023-2024: \$184,865,244

Reduced the millage rate to 1.9 mills per \$1,000 of assessed value

Taxable value: \$15,968,407,601

We're also pleased to announce that our City has been honored with the Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for our fiscal year 2022-2023 annual budget. To earn this prestigious award, the City produced a budget document that successfully fulfills the criteria of serving as a policy document, an operational guide, a financial plan, and a communication tool.

You can find the Adopted 2023-2024 Budget at sibfl.net/financial-reporting

INSIDE THE *Isles*

Parks and Recreation Master Jam

In an ongoing commitment to enhance our Sunny Isles Beach parks and recreational facilities, the City is hosting the "Parks and Rec Master Jam." This engaging event will serve as a platform for residents to dig deeper into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This strategic plan outlines the priorities set for the community's parks and recreational facilities over the next 10 years.

During the Parks and Rec Master Jam, residents will have a chance to gain insights into the city's future plans for parks, recreation facilities and amenities. Most importantly, it's an occasion for residents to share their thoughts and ideas, actively contributing to shaping the city's parks services in a way that aligns with their vision.

While parents learn about the Master Plan, kids can look forward to enjoying a variety of engaging games, inflatables, and fun on the Pelican Community Park baseball field.

Here are the event details:

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Time: 3 - 7:30 p.m.

Location: Pelican Community Park, 18115 North Bay Road

For more information, please visit oursibparksplan.com

Follow us on Social Media @CityofSIB    

BOOOGIE BY THE BEACH

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27 & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 | 7 - 10 PM

Price: **\$20**

Special Price for Sunny Isles Beach
Resident ID cardholders **ONLY: \$5**

Details: sibfl.net/booogie

*Haunted House, games, rides,
a photo booth, costume contest
and much more!*

Pelican Community Park
18115 North Bay Road