



Islander

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APRIL 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE Mayor



Larisa Svechin
Mayor

Sunny Isles Beach is gearing up for a month filled with exciting events and activities for residents of all ages. This April, the city is focusing on enhancing community engagement and providing residents with opportunities to connect with each other and the city.

One of the highlights of April is the annual Spring Fling event, scheduled for Friday, April 5 at Gateway Center. This year, attendees can look forward to a spring tea party brunch, complete with delightful treats and a serene garden atmosphere. The event starts at 11 a.m. and promises surprises that attendees won't want to miss.

Another event aimed at increasing civic engagement is the first-ever Community Resource Night, scheduled for Thursday, April 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. This free event, suitable for the whole family, will showcase various services offered by the city. Residents will have the opportunity to interact with representatives from each city department and learn more about how these departments work to benefit the community. Additionally, residents will get a firsthand look at the city's new

mobile app, My Sunny Isles Beach, which provides easy access to information and the ability to report service requests or issues.

On Sunday, April 14, the Police Department will host Casting with a Cop at the Newport Fishing Pier at 9 a.m. This event offers kids a chance to interact with local law enforcement officers and the crew of Ocean Rescue. It's a great opportunity for kids to learn about safety and build positive relationships with law enforcement.

April 15 marks World Art Day, and Sunny Isles Beach will be celebrating with the unveiling of the Sunny Spaces art exhibit at the new Gateway Artway at Gateway Center. This exhibit features artwork from a contest held in celebration of the city's 25th anniversary, where local artists were asked to create pieces incorporating the theme of a sun. The public is invited to join us for the unveiling, which will take place at 6 p.m.

You can find a full list of events happening in April on page 3 of the Islander newsletter or by visiting the city's website sibfl.net/events.

Contact Mayor Larisa Svechin at lsvechin@sibfl.net or [305.792.1753](tel:305.792.1753).

April Is Autism Acceptance Month

Commissioner Jeniffer Viscarra

My first full time job after graduating college was with a private school as a special education teacher. It was in that role that I became more familiar with autism and grew to appreciate all the dedication that families pour into every victory, however small. That experience influenced many of my future decisions, including choosing to practice family law and mediation. Over the years I have seen the "spectrum" of need across families and will continue to support efforts to enhance the city's services to become a more inclusive city during Autism Acceptance Month and throughout the other 11 months as well.

Since 2021, when the city partnered with the University of Miami-Nova Southeastern University Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) program, Sunny Isles Beach has made great strides improving services for families with autistic children. For starters, our parks have been inspected for appropriate autism-friendly features, spaces, and sensory-friendly activities. The city will factor in autism inclusivity as we rethink our parks going forward. At our big events, you may have seen our sensory tent or special secluded spaces, which are intended as safe and soothing environments for children with sensory processing disorders, such as autism or ADHD, who can become overwhelmed in stimulating settings.

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

Access to our school and children is a privilege, not a right.

Commissioner Fabiola Stuyvesant

Shouldn't the privilege to operate in our schools come with parents' fundamental financial oversight RIGHTS?

According to MDCPS Policy, the PTSA is an allied organization that can operate in the school at the "discretion of the principal". Florida Statute 1014.05.10 states the right of a parent to participate in parent-teacher associations; and organizations that are SANCTIONED by a district school board or the Department of Education.

MDCPS policy 9210 states in parts: *The School Board supports ALL organizations of parents whose objectives are to promote the educational experiences of District students. In using the name of the District or its schools and in organizing a group whose identity derives from a school of this District, a parental organization SHARES RESPONSIBILITY WITH THIS BOARD for the welfare of participating students. The Board will not tolerate any undue pressure, harassment, or intimidation designed to coerce parents or teachers into membership in any organization.*

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



Furthermore, our police department has trained in effective strategies when interacting with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), of whom there are approximately 50,000 in Miami-Dade County. This training helps them promptly identify behavior related to ASD and avoid potentially tragic consequences. SIBPD has hosted other agencies in this effort, and most recently Teresa Becerra and her adult autistic son, Robert, provided training just for our department. As an added bonus, all this training has been at no cost to the city. Our Police Department has also instituted a decal program, offering decals to registered participants for placement on their vehicles and homes. This voluntary use of decals serves to alert law enforcement that they are approaching the vehicle or the home of an individual on the ASD spectrum. Decals can be picked up at the records unit window in the Police Department at the Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue, Monday - Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sunny Isles Beach is committed to becoming a more inclusive city and more welcoming for citizens of all abilities.



MDCPS policy 9211 states in part: *Each group [PTSA] will submit its bylaws to the Principal for review and APPROVAL. ALL ACTIVITIES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PRINCIPAL. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited.*

SIBPTSA K-8 Bylaws Article IV.h states: *All charges [expenses] MUST adhere to the budget adopted by the Association. Any charges NOT APPROVED BY THE BUDGET, must be approved by the membership PRIOR to the payment.*

In Miami-Dade County, although the School Board may make suggestions regarding PTSA's financial controls, the PTSA has the ultimate authority to decide and implement its own financial practices. There is no apparent oversight, hence a lack of financial transparency and accountability.

CALENDAR

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

APRIL

OF EVENTS

AARP Tax Aide: Tax Return Preparation & Filing

April 1, 8

Mondays | 10 AM - 1 PM

Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration is required.

Lunch n' Learn with Cesar Becerra

Tuesday, April 2

11 AM - 12 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.



April 3, 10, 17, 24

Wednesdays | 3 - 4 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Gateway Market

April 3, 10, 17, 24

Wednesdays | 5:30 - 10 PM

Gateway Park, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Spring Fling

Friday, April 5

11 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Price: \$20

Resident ID cardholders: \$10

Pre-registration is required.



Cultural Trip: Sunday Brunch at Shooters Waterfront

Sunday, April 7

9:15 AM - 2 PM

Bus departs from Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Price: \$60

Resident ID cardholders: \$40

Pre-registration is required.

Teen Talk

Tuesday, April 9

6 - 7:30 PM

The Spot, 215 185 St.

All Day Fun Zone

Wednesday, April 10

8 AM - 6 PM

Pelican Community Park, 18115 N Bay Rd

Price: \$45

Resident ID Cardholders: \$30

Ages 5 - 12

Doc Chats: Oral Health Awareness

Wednesday, April 10

11 AM - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.

Community Resource Night

Thursday, April 11

5:30 - 7 PM

First Floor Parking Garage, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Teens Only: World Art Day - Paint Party

Friday, April 12

7 - 9 PM

The Spot, 215 185th St.



Beach Cleanup

Saturday, April 13

8 - 10 AM

Pier Park, 16501 Collins Ave.

Casting with a Cop

Sunday, April 14

9 AM - 1 PM

Newport Fishing Pier, 16501 Collins Ave.

Price: \$5

Residents only. Pre-registration is required.

Sunny Spaces Art Unveiling

Monday, April 15

6 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

City Commission Workshop

Tuesday, April 16

10 AM

Fourth Floor Conference Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

City Commission Workshop

Thursday, April 18

3 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Regular City Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 18

6:30 PM

Commission Chambers, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Full Moon Yoga

Tuesday, April 23

7 - 8 PM

On the Beach by Trump International Beach Resort, 18001 Collins Ave.

Pre-registration is encouraged.

Senior Roundtable

Wednesday, April 24

12 - 1 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Pre-registration is required.

Helmet Giveaway

Sunday, April 28

9 AM - 1 PM

First Floor Meeting Room, Government Center, 18070 Collins Ave.

Disclosure: Events are subject to change.

Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch

APRIL **LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

Chess Club (ages 9+)

April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
Tuesdays | 4 - 6 PM

Talking is Teaching – Talk, Read, Sing for Toddlers (ages 18 mos. – 3 yrs.)

April 3, 10, 17, 24
Wednesdays | 11 AM - 12 PM

Citizenship Class (ages 19+)

April 6, 13, 20, 27
Saturdays | 10 AM - 12 PM

Homework Help and Tutoring (students grades K-12)

April 6, 13, 20, 27
Saturdays | 10 AM - 1 PM

For more information contact
tutoring@mdpls.org or call 305.375.1413.

The Kids Reading Club (ages 6 – 11)

Saturday, April 13
1 - 2 PM

Russian Social Club (ages 19+)

Saturday, April 20
3:30 - 5:30 PM

Commission Chambers,
Government Center

A Conversation with World War II Veteran Sidney Levit (all ages)

Wednesday, April 24
11:30 AM - 1 PM

This is a hybrid event that will be
livestreamed at the Sunny Isles Beach
Branch library via Zoom.

Furry Tales (all ages)

Saturday, April 27
2 - 3 PM

Read your favorite story aloud to a
registered therapy dog!

For more information on Miami-Dade County Sunny Isles Beach Branch Library programs, call 305.682.0726 or email vazquezh@mdpls.org. Unless otherwise noted, classes and programs are held in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 18070 Collins Avenue.



SPOTLIGHT ON...

PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT DIVISION

This month, we turn the spotlight on the Purchasing and Procurement Division, a vital component of our city's operation. This division is responsible for ensuring the integrity of our procurement process, and it plays a crucial role in maintaining supply continuity and obtaining the best quality price of goods and services.

Throughout this fiscal year, the division continued to demonstrate their commitment to enhancing our city's operations. During this time, they were able to host a business workshop, which provided valuable resources and insights to local entrepreneurs who are interested in doing business with the city.

Additionally, the division manages surplus items by utilizing platforms like GovDeals to sell surplus vehicles and other items. The process benefits both the city and the buyers, ensuring transparency and fairness in transactions.

The division also prioritizes internal development by conducting regular training sessions for staff. This ensures that everyone remains up to date with the latest practices and regulations.

Genesis Cuevas, our Purchasing Manager, was named as the Chair of the South Florida Public Purchasing Co-operative Group. This group meets monthly with procurement professionals from across South Florida to discuss state statutes, best practices, and cooperative contracts.

To learn more about the Purchasing and Procurement Division, visit sibfl.net/procurement.

INSIDE THE *Isles*

SUNNY SPACES

Gateway Center is set to burst in color on April 15, coinciding with World Art Day, as the winning art of the Sunny Spaces Art Contest is unveiled. This unveiling marks the debut of the new art installation, Gateway Artway, showcasing the works of 25 talented local artists.

The Sunny Spaces Art Contest was established in honor of the City's 25th Anniversary and driven by the Public Art Program. The initiative aims to unite the community through visual arts by creating artistic spaces curated by locals.

In addition to the unveiling at Gateway Center, the top five winning pieces are on display at various locations across the city. To further engage residents and visitors, the city has organized a Sunny Spaces Art Quest, encouraging participants to find these winning artworks at different locations.

The public is invited to join us at the unveiling at 6 p.m. The event promises to be a celebration of creativity, community, and the vibrant cultural scene in Sunny Isles Beach.

For more information, visit sibfl.net/sunnyspaces.

Follow us on Social Media @CityofSIB



2024 SUNNY ISLES BEACH COMMUNITY RESOURCE NIGHT

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 / 5:30 - 7 PM

Connect with your local government! Join us for a free event that showcases our City's services and builds civic awareness, with activities for the whole family.



Sunny Isles Beach Government Center, 1st Floor Parking Garage



Learn all about our new mobile app
My Sunny Isles Beach.

SUNNY

SPACES

SUNNY SPACES

Art Unveiling

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

6 PM

Gateway Center, 151 Sunny Isles Blvd.

Join us for the unveiling of
Gateway Artway, featuring
the artwork of 25 local artists.





Islander

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COMMISSIONER Jerry Joseph

COMMISSIONER Fabiola Stuyvesant

COMMISSIONER Jeniffer Viscarra

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